

Sacramento Cogeneration Authority

P.O. Box 15830, Sacramento, CA 95852-1830 • 916/732-5218

Procter & Gamble Cogeneration Project

SCA 93-079

December 28, 1993

**DOCKET
93-AFC-2**

DATE: DEC 28 1993

RECD: DEC 30 1993

Mr. B. B. Blevins
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
Attn: Dockets Unit

**FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE PROCTER AND GAMBLE COGENERATION PROJECT
AFC (DOCKET NO. 93-AFC-2) -- REALIGNMENT OF A PORTION OF THE 230kV
TRANSMISSION LINE**

Dear Mr. Blevins:

Please find enclosed 12 copies of the first amendment to the Procter and Gamble Cogeneration Project AFC. The amendment proposes the realignment of a portion of the preferred transmission line alignment. If you have any questions regarding the amendment, please telephone Diana Parker at (916) 732-6540.

Sincerely,

Susan Strachan
Manager, Project Permitting and Licensing

Enclosures

cc: Ron Sims, Walsh Construction
Rich Chapman, Black & Veatch

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

State Resources Conservation
and Development Commission

In the matter of:)	Docket No. 93-AFC-2
)	
Application for Certification)	PROOF OF SERVICE
of the Sacramento Cogeneration)	(rev. 12/3/93)
Authority's Procter & Gamble)	
Cogeneration Project)	
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PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Evangeline Parchamento, declare that on December 30, 1993, I deposited copies of the attached Amendment of the Procter & Gamble AFC (93-AFC-2) Realignment of a portion of the 230kV Transmission Line route in the United States mail at Sacramento, California, with first class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the following:

APPLICANT

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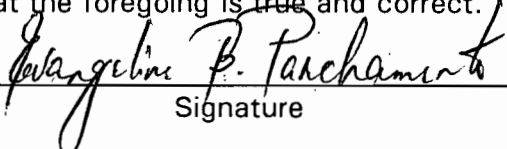
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
(Docket Unit - 12 copies required)

Docket Unit, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


Signature

Attachment

SACRAMENTO COGENERATION AUTHORITY

**PROPOSED
PROCTER AND GAMBLE COGENERATION FACILITY**

**REALIGNMENT OF A PORTION OF THE 230 kV
TRANSMISSION LINE FOR THE PROCTER AND
GAMBLE COGENERATION PROJECT.**

**AMENDMENT 1
DECEMBER 23, 1993**

**PRESENTED TO THE
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

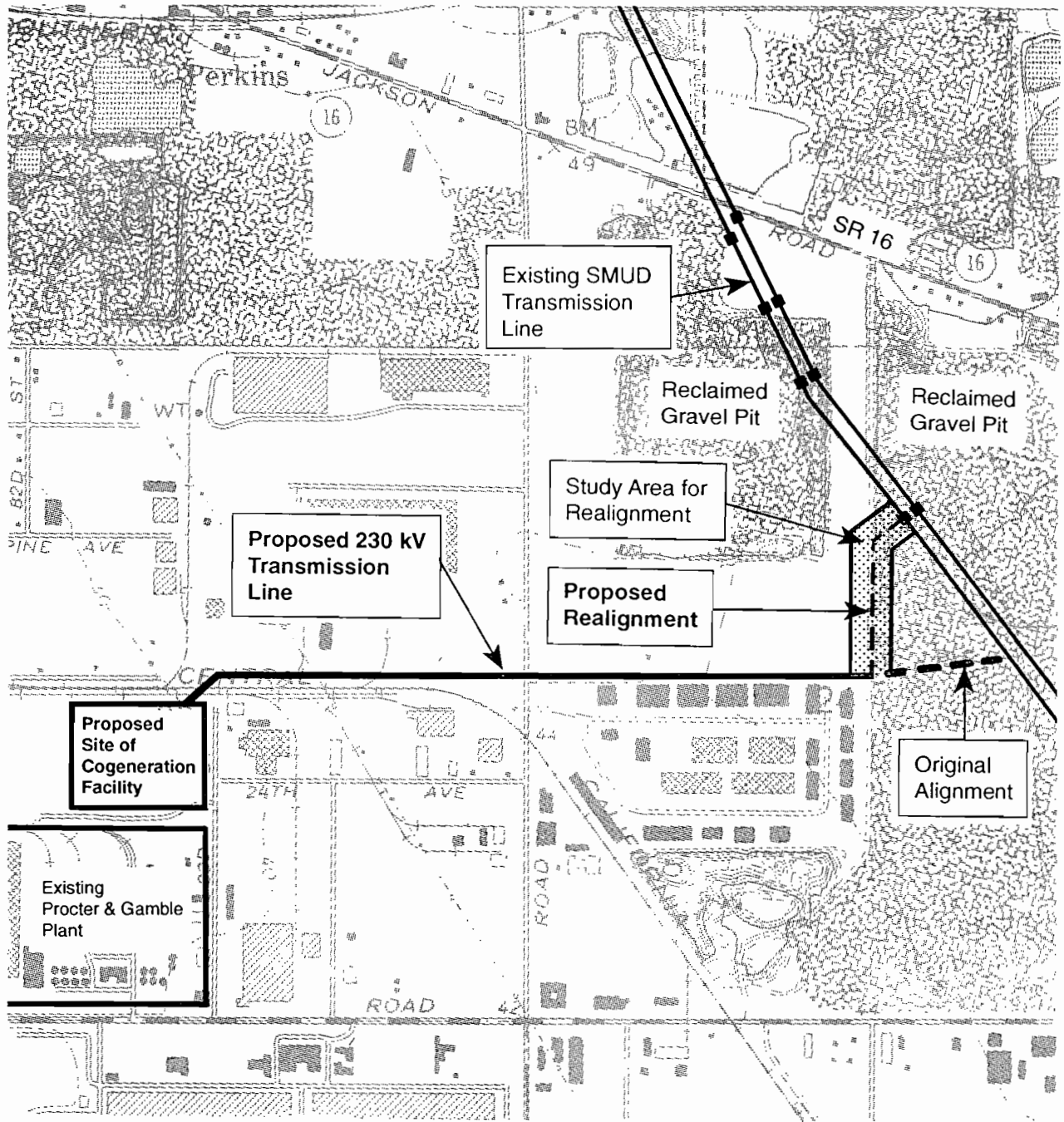
1.0 INTRODUCTION

The proposed Procter and Gamble Cogeneration Project would be interconnected with Sacramento Municipal Utility District's (SMUD) existing electrical system by a 1.2 mile double-circuit transmission line as described in Section 3.15.2.13 of the Procter and Gamble Application for Certification (AFC). In response to a property owner request SMUD has evaluated a proposed realignment of the transmission line's eastern terminus. The purpose of this report is to document the environmental resources potentially affected by the proposed realignment. This report is an amendment to the Procter and Gamble Cogeneration Project AFC submitted to the California Energy Commission (CEC) in September 1993. Unless stated otherwise, the environmental resources, potential impacts, and necessary mitigation do not deviate from the descriptions presented in the project AFC.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A proposed transmission line would connect the Procter and Gamble Cogeneration Facility with the existing SMUD 230 kV Hedge to Hurley transmission line approximately 1.3 miles east of the project site (Figure 1). The proposed route of the transmission line occupies an east-west corridor between the existing SMUD transmission line right-of-way and the proposed cogeneration facility. The proposed alignment would cross to the north side of the railroad tracks immediately north of the project site. The transmission line would then turn east, cross Florin-Perkins Road, parallel the north side of an industrial park and cross a reclaimed aggregate quarry to intersect the 230 kV Hedge to Hurley transmission line.

Approximately 0.2 mile at the eastern end of the original alignment described in the AFC would be realigned. The new alignment would make a 90-degree turn to the north approximately 1.1 mile east of the project site, and would intersect the Hedge to Hurley 230 kV transmission line approximately 0.3 mile north of the point of deviation from the original route. The realignment would have a 60 foot wide right-of-way.



Project No. 92C0016A	Procter & Gamble AFC Amendment	PROPOSED 230 kV TRANSMISSION LINE REALIGNMENT	Figure 1
Woodward-Clyde Consultants			

1.2 STUDY AREA

The study area for the proposed realignment was a corridor approximately 0.3 mile (1600 feet) long and 200 feet wide (the Land Use study area was 500 feet wide). Approximately 1500 feet of the proposed realignment is bound on the west side by property for which the property owner will not allow access at this time. The southern end of the study corridor lies at the northeast corner of an industrial park development. Other adjacent land uses include agriculture and former aggregate quarries that have been reclaimed and are now farmed. The northern two-thirds of the study corridor is approximately 15 feet lower than the original ground surface due to the extraction of gravel and subsequent reclamation.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Environmental concerns that were evaluated for this report included biological resources, cultural resources, land use constraints, visual resources, geology and soils. Evaluations consisted of a field reconnaissance, and reviews of readily available environmental and land use information. Other environmental considerations were not addressed since the proposed realignment does not significantly change the analysis already provided in the AFC.

2.1 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

2.1.1 Environmental Setting

Baseline biological resources were assessed in the study corridor based on a field reconnaissance of the site, a records search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and a review of local and regional environmental documents and reports. The field reconnaissance of the study corridor was conducted on December 2, 1993. Access restrictions prevented a walking survey of the western half of the study corridor, however it was visually surveyed from the adjacent fenceline. Two transects of the accessible portion of the study corridor were walked and examined for the presence of special-status plant and wildlife species or the habitats indicative of these species. Tables 6.4-2 and 6.4-3 from the project AFC list the special-status plant and wildlife species known to occur in Sacramento

County. The corridor was also examined for indicators of jurisdictional wetlands based on the methods described in the 1987 Army Corps of Engineers delineation manual (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1987).

The study corridor habitat consists of agricultural fields and a variable mix of non-native annuals. Agricultural crops that are grown on the fields adjacent to the study corridor include corn and alfalfa. Annual grasses and herbs are the dominant vegetation at the margins of the fields, beneath the transmission line centerline, and at the northern terminus of the realignment. Species observed at the site include ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), wild oats (*Avena fatua*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), peppergrass (*Lepidium latifolium*), and star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). A drainage/irrigation ditch approximately 20 feet east of the corridor's centerline was dominated by dallis grass (*Paspalum dilatatum*). More than 20 black-tailed jackrabbits (*Lepus californicus*) were observed in the study corridor during the site reconnaissance.

The entire study area has been subject to moderate to severe levels of surface disturbance. No natural micro-topography was observed in the study corridor. The study area contains no jurisdictional waters of the U.S. or natural plant communities. Additional detailed descriptions of the regional and local environments are found in the AFC submitted to the CEC in September 1993.

2.1.2 Potential Environmental Impacts

Significance Criteria. Significant impacts to biological resources were assessed using the criteria outlined below.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) defines a significant impact as any substantial adverse effect of a project on the environment. Biological impacts considered here include:

- Adverse impacts to special-status species or their habitat,
- Disruptive changes to wetlands, and

- Cumulative changes or disturbance of critical habitats.

Significant impacts to a special status species would include the harassment, pursuit, injury, death, or collection of such a species or the destruction/degradation of its critical habitat. Wetlands would be considered significantly impacted if the project resulted in the loss or degradation of wetland functions and values. CEQA guidelines require adequate mitigation or compensation for all significant environmental impacts.

Impacts on Special-Status Species. No habitat suitable for special-status plant species was observed in the study corridor during the site visit. The study area contains no natural wetlands, or riparian habitats. No valley oaks, black walnut or large trees are located in the study area. Two small cottonwoods (15 to 25 feet tall) are located near the northern terminus of the study area, however no nests were observed. A search of the California Natural Diversity Data Base records of known special-status species occurrences was negative for the realignment study corridor (CNDDDB 1993).

A single, apparently inactive burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) burrow was observed adjacent to the fenceline approximately 600 feet north of the industrial park. The remains of pellets and white-wash were observed around the entrance to the burrow. No burrowing owls were observed at the site or nearby.

Impacts on Wetland Habitats. No wetland habitats will be affected by the proposed realignment. An irrigation ditch that parallels the proposed transmission line alignment is dominated by dallis grass (*Paspalum dilatatum*), a facultative (FAC) wetland species (Reed 1988). However this ditch is not a jurisdictional water since it was excavated from an upland area and it will not be affected by the proposed transmission line.

2.1.3 Mitigation Measures

No special-status species were observed in the study area. The observed agricultural fields and annual herbaceous habitats adjacent to the proposed transmission alignment will not be significantly affected by the proposed project.

The potential burrowing owl burrow should be visited during the nesting period (February to June) prior to construction to determine if it is active. If it is determined that owls are actively using the burrow, the burrows should be avoided. Avoidance could include one or both of the following:

- scheduling construction during a non-nesting period (July to January), and/or
- careful siting of the transmission towers/poles to avoid the nest site, clearly marking the nest site, and placing snow fences to prevent encroachment by persons or equipment.

The transmission line will not adversely affect other existing wildlife species or plant communities observed on or adjacent to the corridor, and additional mitigation will not be necessary.

2.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES

2.2.1 Environmental Setting

A description of the cultural resources background in the general vicinity of the proposed realignment for the 230kV transmission line for the Procter & Gamble Cogeneration Project is presented in the Procter & Gamble Cogeneration Project AFC. In December 1992 a records search was conducted for an unrelated project that encompasses lands that are part of the subject amendment. This records search was for previously recorded archaeological sites and previous cultural resources surveys in, and adjacent to, the proposed realignment of the 230kV transmission line for the Procter & Gamble Cogeneration Project. The records search was conducted at the North Central Information Center of the California Archaeological Inventory at California State University, Sacramento. This records search was augmented by a review of the cultural resources report prepared in support of the Procter & Gamble Cogeneration Project. The review of existing information indicates no previously recorded prehistoric sites exist within 0.5 mile of the proposed realignment. One historic site,

the Central California Traction Railroad trackage is situated 1000 feet south of the proposed realignment.

An intensive cultural resources field survey of a 200 foot wide corridor of the proposed alignment was conducted in December 1993 (Hatoff 1993). Due to landowner denial of property access, the western 100 feet of the proposed alignment to the point where the proposed line pivots and runs in an east-northeasterly direction, were not surveyed. However, 1200 feet of the 1600 foot realignment are within lands previously mined for aggregate and reclaimed. There is little to no potential for cultural resources to be present that retain contextual integrity. No sites were identified during the field survey (Hatoff 1993).

2.2.2 Potential Environmental Impacts

Significance Criteria. A description of the significance criteria used to assess potential project-related impacts to cultural resources is presented in the AFC and is outlined below.

Appendix K, Section III of CEQA Statutes and Guidelines states that "if a project may cause damage to an important archaeological resource, the project may have a significant effect on the environment." Following this, the threshold of significance for cultural resources would be any action which would cause damage to an archaeological resource which meets one or more of the criteria outlined in Appendix K, Section III. These criteria are:

- A. It is associated with a person or event of recognized historical or scientific (prehistoric-period) significance;
- B. It can provide information of demonstrable public interest or which can be used to address important research questions;
- C. It is unique in being the oldest, best example, largest, last surviving example of its kind, etc.;

- D. It is at least 100 years old and retains substantial integrity; or
- E. It "involves important research questions that historical research has shown can be answered only with archaeological methods."

Appendix K, Section VIII, also assigns special importance to the remains of Native Americans and specifies procedures to be used when human remains are discovered.

In addition, AB 2881, signed into law in 1992, creates a presumption of impact significance for impacts on historic resources listed in a local register, or listed or eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Places.

Impacts on Known Cultural Resources. No known cultural resources will be impacted as a result of implementation of the realignment of the 230 kV transmission line for the Procter & Gamble Cogeneration Project. The Central California Traction Railroad may qualify as a historic property because it is more than 50 years old. However, the railroad is beyond the area of potential effect from the proposed project.

Impacts on Unknown Cultural Resources: Although no cultural resources have been identified within the realignment corridor, it is possible that historic activities or natural deposition of alluvial soils may have obscured evidence of them. Subsurface construction activity may reveal and/or impact a cultural resource for which no surface evidence exists.

2.2.3 Mitigation Measures

If unanticipated cultural resources (historic or prehistoric artifacts, concentrations of bivalve shell, burnt or unburnt bone, stone features, etc.) were to be uncovered during construction activities, work should be halted and a qualified archaeologist should be consulted for an on-site evaluation. If human remains are found on the site, the California State Legal Code mandates that the County Coroner and the Native American Heritage Commission be

contacted immediately. A detailed description of the proposed monitoring program is presented in the AFC.

2.3 LAND USE

This land use analysis assesses the potential for the construction or operation of the Procter & Gamble transmission line north-south realignment to affect existing or proposed land uses in the proposed transmission line corridor. Specifically, the analysis focuses on two key issues: 1) the conformity of the proposed transmission line realignment with local land use plans, ordinances, and policies; and 2) the potential for the proposed transmission line realignment to conflict either directly or indirectly with existing or proposed land uses.

The proposed realignment consists of a 0.3-mile, 230 kV double circuit transmission line. The realignment commences approximately 1.1 mile east of the proposed Procter and Gamble cogeneration facility and traverses the eastern edge of a former aggregate mining area, where it turns north to its terminus at the connection with SMUD's existing 230 kV Hedge to Hurley transmission line.

2.3.1 Environmental Setting

For the purpose of this land use analysis, a 500-foot (250 feet on either side of the proposed transmission line corridor) was defined. As detailed in Section 6.6.1.4 of the Procter & Gamble Application for Certification, the realignment study area is characterized by various types of industrial and heavy commercial uses.

For about 0.1 mile from its departure from the original alignment, the transmission line traverses between two parcels of land currently under agricultural production; the parcel on the west side is at original grade, and the parcel on the east side is reclaimed land about 15 feet below grade, having been previously used for aggregate mining. The remaining 0.2 miles of land traversed by the realignment is also below-grade, reclaimed land formerly used for aggregate mining which is currently under agricultural production. All of this land is

privately owned; therefore, private easements would be required to construct the proposed realignment of the transmission line.

Other transmission lines within one mile of the study corridor include PG&E's 115 kV double and single circuit line, PG&E's 230 kV double circuit line, SMUD's 155/230 kV double circuit line, and Western Area Power Administration's 230 kV double circuit line.

The realignment study corridor is located in the City of Sacramento. The City of Sacramento General Plan designates the land traversed by the realignment study corridor for heavy commercial or warehouse uses. The corridor is adjacent to land designated by the General Plan as Industrial--Employee Intensive. No changes to these land use classifications or zoning designations are proposed.

2.3.2 Potential Environmental Impacts

Significance criteria. The criteria used to determine the significance of land use impacts are based on land use regulations and plans, existing and future land uses, and their compatibility with the proposed realignment. Impacts would be considered significant if:

- The proposed project is neither compatible nor consistent with land use plans, regulations, or controls adopted by local, state, or Federal governments.
- Agricultural land is not useable for agricultural purposes after installation.
- Long-term trends in urban growth patterns are altered.

Land use impacts. Neither the General Plan nor the City of Sacramento Zoning Ordinance preclude the construction or operation of electrical transmission lines in these designated land use classifications. Therefore, the proposed realignment will be consistent with the land use plans, regulations, policies, and controls adopted by the City of Sacramento.

Construction of the proposed realignment may temporarily disrupt a relatively small portion of the parcels under agricultural production. However, since no agricultural land would be

permanently altered, there are no significant, long-term impacts to agricultural lands as a result of the realignment.

The proposed realignment will not result in either a long- or short-term alteration of urban growth patterns.

Therefore, the proposed realignment will not cause adverse impacts to existing and planned land uses.

2.4 VISUAL RESOURCES

2.4.1 Environmental Setting

This visual/aesthetic resources analysis describes the existing visual conditions, scenic quality of the project area, and sensitive visual receptors. It then assesses the potential for the proposed transmission line realignment to create a net visual change to existing conditions, resulting in an adverse impact to visual/aesthetic resources in the project area.

The proposed transmission line realignment consists of a 0.3-mile northward alignment from the proposed transmission line serving the Procter & Gamble cogeneration facility to its terminus at SMUD's existing 230 kV Hedge to Hurley transmission line. The most visual aspect of the proposed realignment is the approximately 100-foot to 150-foot steel transmission poles. The realignment would consist of two poles about 600 to 800 feet apart. The steel would be dulled to reduce reflectivity.

The scenic quality and visual conditions of the project area were described in detail in Section 6.9.2 of the Procter & Gamble Application for Certification. The project area is flat and is characterized by primarily industrial and heavy commercial uses, including warehouses, office buildings, and railroads. The proposed realignment would traverse land currently under agricultural production, the majority of which was formerly used for aggregate mining. As a result, these parcels are about 15 feet below original grade. The aggregate mining areas

have been fenced to provide a visual barrier, thus screening this area for motorists traveling on Jackson Road and Folsom Boulevard.

A dominant feature of the skyline is the numerous existing transmission lines within one mile of the proposed realignment study area. Two 115 kV double and single circuit PG&E transmission lines run parallel to Power Inn Road in a north-south direction, west of the Procter & Gamble facility. An existing 230 kV PG&E transmission line traverses the proposed Procter & Gamble cogeneration facility transmission line about 1000 feet east of the Procter & Gamble facility. Parallel to this PG&E line and about one mile to the east, SMUD and Western Area Power Administration share a common north-south corridor. Western Area Power Administration operates a 230 kV double circuit within this corridor and SMUD operates its Hedge to Hurley transmission lines. The transmission towers for all of these lines are about 100 feet tall.

The heavy commercial/industrial nature of the area, combined with the numerous electrical transmission lines, create a landscape of poor visual quality. In addition, visual sensitivity is low due to the industrial nature of the land uses in the project area. Sensitive visual receptors could include residents of the neighborhood west of the Procter & Gamble facility and the three parks located west of Power Inn Road--Warren Park, Baer Park, and Sim Park. Motorists travelling on Florin Perkins Road, Fruitridge Road, and Jackson Road would have views of the proposed transmission line realignment. The realignment would also be visible to people in the industrial and commercial areas west and south of the realignment.

While the realignment would be visible to motorists and people working or visiting the commercial/industrial areas near the transmission line, these viewers would not be considered sensitive receptors. The views of motorists travelling along Jackson Highway would be shielded by the existing screening of the aggregate mining operations. Residents in the neighborhood west of the Procter & Gamble facility would be viewing the realignment from a distance (at least 1.5 mile); their existing eastward views contain electrical transmission lines in the foreground and the background. None of the three parks west of Power Inn Road have views of the realignment .

2.4.2 Potential Environmental Impacts

The proposed realignment does not represent a substantial change from the visual impact of the original transmission line analyzed in the Procter & Gamble Application for Certification. Due to the industrial nature of the project area, the poor visual quality, the number of existing transmission lines, and the low viewer sensitivity, the proposed realignment of the transmission line would not represent a net visual change to existing conditions. Therefore, the proposed realignment will not result in an adverse impact to the visual or aesthetic quality of the project area.

2.4.3 Mitigation Measures

Since the proposed realignment will not adversely affect visual resources in the project area, no mitigation measures are proposed.

2.5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The baseline regional geology and soils were documented and described in Section 6.2 of the AFC submitted in September 1993. This report provides specific details of the realignment study area and assesses the potential project impacts related to soils and geology. Information is based on a field reconnaissance, the Soil Survey of Sacramento County, and other pertinent background information.

2.5.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed realignment traverses an alluvial terrace formed by the deposition of sediments derived from the Sierra Nevada. The soils that have formed from these sediments are moderately deep and typically underlain by a cemented hardpan layer that restricts drainage. The stratigraphic profile of the site consists of silt loam to a depth of approximately 2 feet. A calcium-carbonate cemented zone is present at depths below 3 to 5 feet (SMUD 1993). Portions of the study area that have not been mined contain commercially valuable gravel deposits between 35 and 55 feet below the surface (SMUD 1993).

2.5.2 Potential Environmental Impacts

Geologic hazards and potential impacts to soil resources do not differ from the assessment documented in the AFC. Construction of the proposed transmission line realignment will not alter existing cut slopes or alter existing erosion conditions.

2.5.3 Mitigation Measures

The proposed realignment will not result in a significant change of the baseline erosion or water quality of the study area. Erosion control measures would be implemented during construction that conform to the conditions of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, as well as other state and local standards.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

Environmental concerns that were evaluated for this report included biological resources, cultural resources, land use constraints, visual resources, geology and soils. Evaluations consisted of a field reconnaissance, and reviews of readily available environmental and land use information. Other environmental considerations were not addressed since the proposed realignment did not substantially change the analysis already provided in the AFC.

Evaluation of the environmental issues relevant to the proposed transmission realignment did not identify any significant impacts to cultural, land use, visual, or geology and soils. Mitigation is proposed for an inactive burrowing owl burrow observed in the study area that will reduce the potential for a significant biological impact to a less than significant level.

4.0 REFERENCES

Davy, Douglas M. 1993. Cultural and Paleontological Resources, Procter & Gamble application for Certification. Report submitted to Sacramento Municipal Utility District by Ebasco Environmental.

Hatoff, B.W. 1993. Report on the Proposed 230kV Transmission Line Realignment for the Procter & Gamble Cogeneration Project. Report on file with Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Sacramento, California.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1987. Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual. Technical Report Y-87-1, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Reed, P.B. 1988. National list of plant species that occur in wetlands: California (Region 0). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Report 88(26.10). 135 pp.

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Soil Conservation Service. 1991. Soil Survey of Sacramento County, California. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. 446 pp.