

Environmental Services

ENVIRONMENTALLY-SENSITIVE ENERGY
INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT



A  Sempra Energy utility®

Natural & Cultural Resources

In compliance with federal, state, and local laws, SDG&E® retains cultural and natural resource specialists to conduct reviews of the company's dirt disturbing activities prior to moving forward with construction. These projects are often done in order to mitigate fire risk. Resource considerations include air, aquatic, biological, water, paleontological, and cultural. These efforts help ensure that the company avoids or minimizes impacts to sensitive, non-renewable resources.

Cultural resource specialists complete record searches using the Geographic Information System (GIS) of the project area using data from the South Coastal Information Center and the San Diego Natural History Museum. Further review may include field visits, pedestrian surveys, testing, or other evaluation to document existing resources or to ensure no resources are within project locations. Natural resource specialists utilize surveys, studies, databases, GIS, and other evaluation methods to identify and assess natural resource concerns within project locations. Our environmental specialists work with our operating groups to minimize release of air contaminants and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. SDG&E engages with agency resource staff to collaboratively protect sensitive resources when our work may affect resources under another agency's jurisdiction.

SDG&E natural and cultural resource specialists develop environmental awareness training to inform personnel on natural and cultural resources laws, awareness, and compliance. Natural, paleontological, and cultural resource consultants and Native American monitors act as observers on site during construction. Monitors help to avoid and minimize potential effects to aquatic, biological, cultural, paleontological, and water resources and to help SDG&E remain in compliance with resource protection laws and regulations. Environmentally sensitive areas are also established in the field where possible.

Wildfire Preparedness & Response

Environmental Services has on-call natural and cultural resource specialists in the event of emergencies 24 hours day, 7 days per week. In an emergency these specialists work to avoid and minimize impacts to resources to the extent feasible, while also ensuring the safety and reliability of continued electric and natural gas service operations. To help prevent wildfires, Environmental Services works closely with various departments, including our Wildfire Mitigation and Vegetation Management team and Climate Science & Fire Adaptation group, to maintain adequate clearances around utility poles and other infrastructure. Arborists, tree trimmers and pole brush experts maintain clearances around 460,000 trees and brush is cleared around 35,000 poles. If a wildfire does occur, Environmental Services works alongside our crews to restore service to customers in a safe, timely manner while also providing awareness and expertise with respect to reducing impacts to sensitive resources.



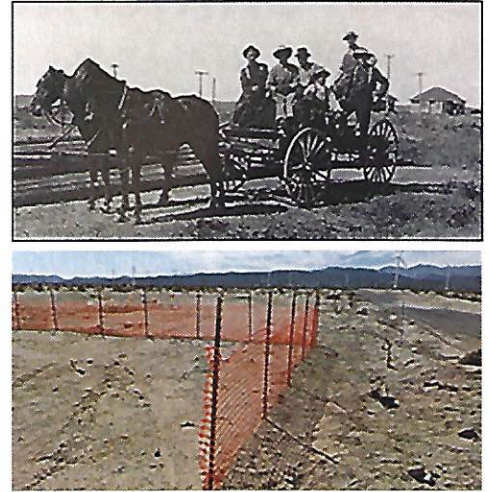
Cultural Resources

San Diego has a rich and varied history, with a multitude of archaeological, historical, tribal and paleontological resources that provide evidence and insight into our region's diverse past. SDG&E complies with all applicable laws and regulations to avoid and reduce impacts to cultural resources.

SDG&E and cultural resources consultants complete studies to support our permitting and compliance requirements. In the event of a fire, post-fire surveys and monitoring are completed to assess resources in the vicinity of affected infrastructure.

Typical project reviews may include:

- Record searches
- Built environmental documentation and evaluation
- Pedestrian surveys
- Native American coordination
- Constraints analysis



Biological Resources



Our region has the unique distinction of containing more sensitive plant and animal species than any comparable area in the continental United States. Over 3,000 species and 200 imperiled species call San Diego home. In 1995, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife approved our Sub-regional Plan and issued a 50-year "Incidental Take" Permit. Adhering to the Plan and Permit involves adopting 61 operational protocols, which protect sensitive animal species and plants and preserve the sensitive habitats we share with them.

Since 1995, SDG&E preserved almost 12,200 acres of high-quality native habitats. These preserved streams, wetlands, grasslands, scrub and woodland habitats cover 28 unique properties and directly support some of the most threatened and endangered wildlife species in our region.

Environmental Project Permitting

The Environmental Project Permitting (EPP) team takes the lead for ensuring SDG&E projects comply with state and federal environmental and utility regulations. The EPP team prepares the environmental documentation that is required for permitting or other regulatory filings with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The EPP team gets involved during the project's design phase and continues through to the construction phase. This helps to minimize impacts to the environment and ensure compliance with permits and regulatory approvals.

About SDG&E

SDG&E is a regulated public utility that provides energy service to 3.6 million people through 1.4 million electric meters and 873,000 natural gas meters in San Diego and southern Orange counties. Our service area spans 4,100 square miles. To learn more, visit [sdge.com/improve-our-environment](https://www.sdge.com/improve-our-environment).

