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## **Decision Proposed for Permit to Construct Power Line Replacement on National Forest Land**

SAN DIEGO, CALIF – San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) is proposing to combine over 70 existing special use permits for SDG&E electric facilities within the Cleveland National Forest (CNF) into one Master Special Use Permit (MSUP) which will allow continued operation and maintenance of approximately 102 miles of power lines while restructuring to include fire hardening (wood-to-steel pole replacement), relocation, and undergrounding.

On Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, Forest Service officials, in conjunction with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), announced the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) prepared for the San Diego Gas & Electric Company Master Special Use Permit and Permit to Construct Power Line Replacement Project. The proposed decision to authorize the plan was based on the goal of “selecting the alternative that continues to provide benefits to the public while having the least overall impact to the environment” said Forest Supervisor William Metz. “The primary purpose was to reduce the risk of power line related wildfires while maintaining the scenic and ecological integrity of the Cleveland National Forest.”

The 50-year permit would authorize SDG&E to fire harden certain power lines, relocate other power lines, and operate and maintain existing power lines on National Forest System lands. The Forest Supervisor proposes to authorize a modified design that minimizes impacts to wilderness, wildlife habitat, scenery, and water quality, including removal of 19 miles of access roads, while maintaining electrical service to remote parts of San Diego County. This proposed decision applies only to SDG&E improvements on National Forest System lands.

The proposed decision is subject to the Forest Service predecisional objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Decisions made by other agencies for project components within their jurisdiction are not subject to administrative review under these rules. The Draft Record of Decision outlines the objection process in more detail. The final decision on the MSUP will be made once the objection process is complete.

More information is available on the project website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/CNF/CNF.htm>

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