Sunrise Powerlink Adaptive Weed Control Strategy:
A New Approach to Weed Treatment for Linear Projects

To address this issue, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), in consultation with RECON Environmental, developed an Adaptive Weed Control Strategy (AWCS) for the Sunrise Powerlink Project that takes a holistic weed management approach by focusing on enhancement of large, biologically significant parcels of land as opposed to traditional weed control specificity within the ROW. The AWCS is intended to be a dynamic document which allows the project proponent in conjunction with state, federal, and local jurisdictions to utilize resources suited for non-effective weed control in a manner that benefits not only the natural environment but assists stakeholders in meeting long-term natural resource goals.

THE ADAPTIVE APPROACH
The AWCS serves as a mechanism for evaluation of financial resources to meet weed control objectives in areas that may be outside of the ROW but are significant to project stakeholders. The treatment areas proposed by the AWCS target the highest intensities of weed species within large contiguous parcels. Complete suppression of local livestock and invasive weed species populations provides a greater ecological and wildlife prevention benefit to the region compared to treatment of weeds within the confines of the ROW. AWCS treatment areas were determined using the following six key variables:

1. Species categorized by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) as High or Moderate
2. Presence of sensitive biological resources
3. Presence of wildlife promoting non-native species in high-risk areas
4. Relative distance to residential/populated locations
5. Association with project structures/impact areas
6. Connectivity to undisturbed lands

The AWCS approach to weed control as the source of problem species is treated first. The goal is to remove the source of problem species before impacting sensitive areas. After completion of the above steps, a baseline assessment of the project’s impact on native species, habitats, and other natural resources will be completed. The results of the baseline assessment will be used to develop a site-specific weed management plan. The plan will be implemented through the following methods:

- Biological control of invasive species
- Physical control of invasive species
- Chemical control of invasive species
- Non-chemical control of invasive species
- Monitoring of invasive species
- Education and outreach to project stakeholders

The AWCS is designed to be a dynamic document that allows for the addition of new treatment areas as needed. The AWCS will be updated annually to reflect changes in the project’s environmental conditions.

Planned and Proposed Treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment Area</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eichenlaub (Phases 1-4)</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeside</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suncrest (Phases 1-4)</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional sites</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>801</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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