

# **Horizon West Transmission, LLC Wildfire Mitigation Plan**

R.18-10-007: CPUC Informational Workshop & WMP Presentations

**February 18, 2020** 

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## **Agenda**

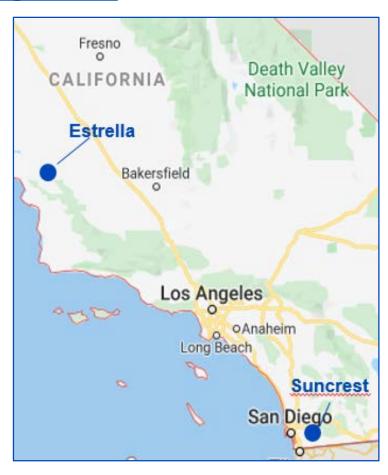
- Horizon West Transmission Overview
  - Background
  - Facilities (Suncrest SVC Project)
- Metrics
- Strategy Summary
- Objectives
- Efforts to Date



# Horizon West Transmission, LLC (HWT) is a newly certificated public utility and electrical corporation in California (U-222E)

## **HWT Background**

- Transmission-only utility
- First non-incumbent to be awarded two competitive projects by CAISO
  - Suncrest SVC Project
  - Estrella Substation Project (currently in permitting)
- Actively pursuing FERC Order 1000 and other opportunities in the CAISO region





# HWT is currently developing its first project, the Suncrest SVC Project, expected to be operational by March 2020

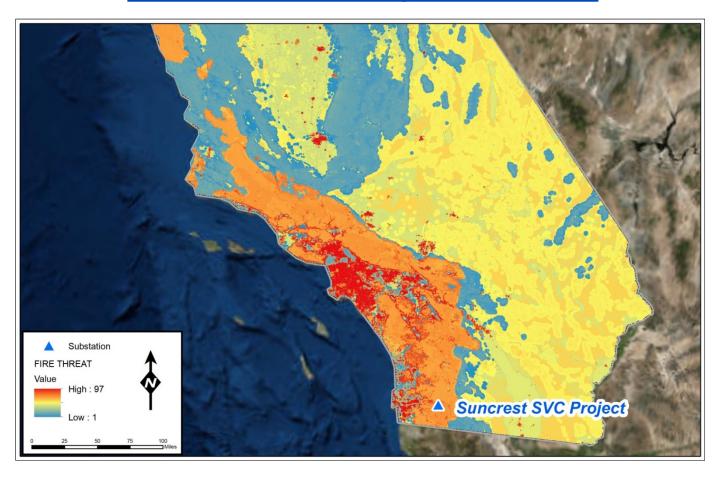
## **Suncrest SVC Project**

- Commenced construction in February 2019
- Expected to be in service by March 2020
- The 230 kV Suncrest SVC Project consists of:
  - +300/-100 MVar SVC substation
  - Approximately one-mile 230 kV transmission line installed underground
  - Above ground infrastructure includes:
    - -- One riser pole and one intermediate pole
    - -- 115 feet overhead span between the riser and intermediate poles
  - Interconnects to SDG&E-owned Suncrest Substation via 185 feet overhead line, also owned by SDG&E
- Provides voltage support to:
  - Increase delivery of renewable generation from the Imperial Valley
  - Additional system resilience



# The Suncrest SVC Project is located ~30 miles east of San Diego in a High Fire Threat District area (HFTD)

## **Suncrest SVC Project Location**

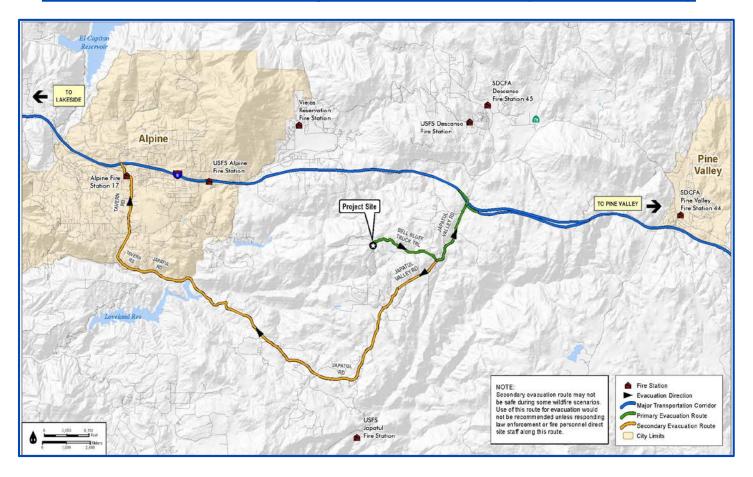


Source: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire).



# The Suncrest SVC Project is built in unincorporated San Diego County on a previously disturbed 6-acre site

## **Suncrest SVC Project Location (continued)**





# The Suncrest SVC Project consists of 230 kV SVC substation and one-mile underground interconnection line

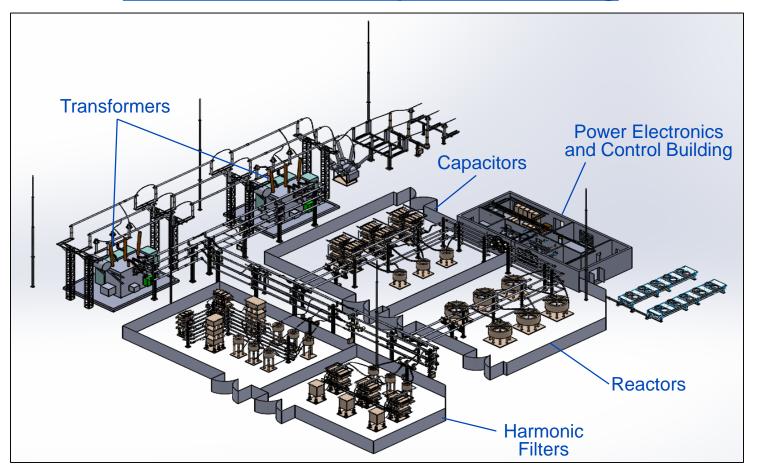
## **Suncrest SVC Project Location (continued)**





# The Suncrest SVC substation consists of transformers, reactors, capacitors, harmonic filters and power electronics

## **Suncrest SVC Project Rendering**





# Because HWT's facilities are new, HWT does not have prior Operations performance data; 2019 WMP targets achieved

## **HWT WMP Performance Metrics and Monitoring**

HWT Wildfire Prevention Performance Metrics			
Category	Metric	Responsible	Frequency
Design and Construction	<ul> <li>Number of reportable ignition incidents on RFW days (Zero incidents occurred in 2019 and 2020 YTD during Suncrest SVC site construction)</li> </ul>	Engineering and Construction Project Manager	Monthly (during construction)
Inspection and Maintenance	<ul> <li>Vegetation Caused Ignitions in HFTD on Elevated or higher FPI</li> <li>Vegetation Caused Outages in HFTD on Elevated or higher FPI</li> <li>Equipment Caused Ignitions in HFTD on Elevated or higher FPI</li> <li>Overhead Faults on Circuits in HFTD on Elevated or higher FPI</li> <li>Energized Wire Down events in HFTD on Elevated or higher FPI</li> </ul>	Senior Director HWT Operations	Monthly
Operations	Number of Non-CAL FIRE Rated Fuse Operations within the HFTD on elevated or higher FPI	Senior Director HWT Operations	Monthly
Situational Awareness	Number of undetected ignition incidents when Fire Potential Index (FPI) – elevated or higher	Senior Director HWT Operations	Monthly



# HWT assesses wildfire risk and implements site-specific wildfire prevention strategies and programs

## Wildfire Prevention Strategy Summary

- HWT's strategy includes the application of a fire risk assessment and reduction methodology
  - Asset-level risk assessment process focused on fire probability, severity and detection, and implementation of effective risk reduction measures
- Develop site-specific Fire Prevention Plans in close coordination with local fire authorities
  - San Diego County Fire Authority (SDCFA) and CAL FIRE reviewed and approved Suncrest SVC's Fire Prevention Plans prior to construction
- HWT's WMP incorporates fire prevention strategies and measures in the following primary categories:
  - (1) Facility Design and Construction
  - (2) Inspection and Maintenance
  - (3) Operational Practices
  - (4) Situational/Condition Awareness
  - (5) Response and Recovery



# HWT's WMP overarching objective is to build, operate, and maintain its facilities to minimize wildfire risk

## **HWT Wildfire Mitigation Plan Objectives**

- Comply with applicable provisions of SB 901 and CPUC's Wildfire Safety Division Guidelines
- Before the Next WMP Plan Filing:
  - Build, operate, and maintain Suncrest SVC Project per established fire prevention procedures and strategies
  - Evaluate and implement identified fire-hardening measures at Suncrest SVC Project (e.g. additional undergrounding, site-perimeter wall)

#### Within the Next Three Years:

- Build, operate and maintain HWT's facilities according to established fire prevention procedures and strategies to minimize wildfire risk
- Identify, evaluate and implement wildfire mitigation measures in HWT facilities, as applicable (e.g. Estrella)
- Evaluate new technologies, materials, and methods for further reducing fire risk at HWT facilities
- Achieve planned level of Wildfire Mitigation Maturity



# HWT's WMP long-term objective is to be a world class standard in wildfire safety for the protection of ratepayers

## **HWT Wildfire Mitigation Plan Objectives (continued)**

#### Within the Next Ten Years:

- Achieve and sustain the highest applicable level of Wildfire Mitigation Maturity, and world class performance in wildfire protection
- Leverage new wildfire safety technologies as determined applicable and necessary to HWT facilities for the protection of California ratepayers
- Sustained collaboration with relevant industry groups and stakeholders
- HWT is committed to the ongoing achievement and continuous improvement of its wildfire prevention goals



# To date, HWT has implemented appropriate fire safety measures during construction of the Suncrest SVC Project

## Implemented Strategies and Measures

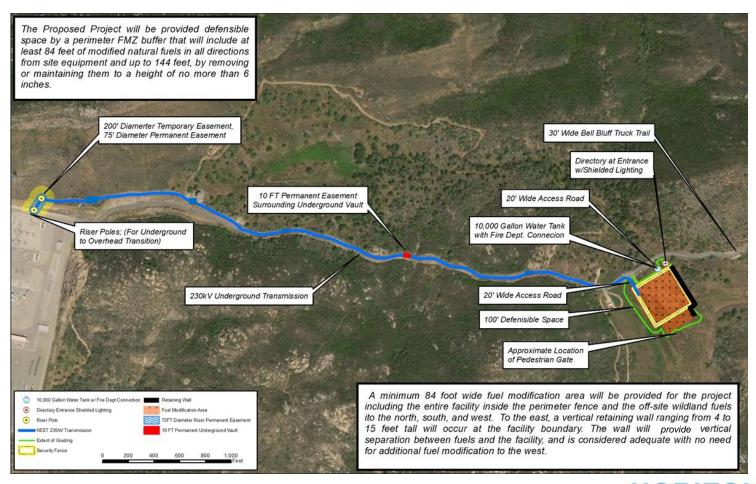
#### (1) Facility Design and Construction

- Facility hardening during design, including through the use of:
  - -- Steel poles
  - -- Undergrounding transmission lines in High Fire Threat District areas
  - -- Fuel-free vegetation setbacks
  - -- Mechanical connectors instead of weld joints where possible
- Project located on previously disturbed site with minimal shrub fuels
- Early installation of on-site water tank with Fire Department connection
- Contracted fire support (fire-brigade services and fire engine)
- Third-party compliance monitor on-site during construction
- No smoking allowed on site during construction
- Red Flag Warning (RFW) protocol limit activities during RFW days
- Hot Work fire safety program
- Fire safety training for all personnel on site, including contractors



# Suncrest SVC substation includes multiple design measures to minimize wildfire risk

## **Suncrest SVC Site Design Measures**





## HWT has operational measures in place to limit wildfire risks once the Suncrest SVC site is in service

## <u>Implemented Strategies and Measures (continued)</u>

#### (2) Inspection and Maintenance

- Maintenance plan includes 24/7 real-time monitoring
- Monthly inspections of facility, equipment, and fuel modification areas
- Bi-annual vegetation patrols (ground and/or aerial)
  - -- Includes removal of all vegetation within perimeter fenced area
  - -- Establishment of modified fuel zone outside fence
- Annual fuel modification inspection by third party
- Maintenance practices will be approved and audited by CAISO

#### (3) Operational Practices

- RFW protocol limits activities during RFW days
- Hot Work fire safety program
- Monthly operations meetings will include WMP oversight and review
- Fire safety training for all personnel, including contractors



# HWT has situational awareness and emergency response measures in place to limit wildfire risks at Suncrest SVC

## <u>Implemented Strategies and Measures (continued)</u>

#### (4) Situational/Condition Awareness

- Site security cameras and 24/7 remote monitoring with automatic alerts
- Periodic inspections of equipment condition
- On-site personnel during site inspections and maintenance periods
- Ongoing weather monitoring

#### (5) Response and Recovery

- Training for local fire agency (SDCFA) and CAL FIRE and HWT personnel
- Implement Emergency Response Plan during emergency
- Private Industrial Fire Brigade exclusive for the Suncrest SVC Project
- Stakeholder communications during emergencies
  - -- HWT does not serve direct, end-use customers
  - -- Defined communications protocols with stakeholders (CAISO, CPUC, SDG&E, SDCFA, and CAL FIRE)
- Public safety power shut-off protocol



# HORIZONWEST TRANSMISSION.