

D.13 Public Services and Utilities

This section addresses the environmental setting and impacts of public services and utilities for the Project. This analysis focuses on the capacities and capabilities of existing public services and utilities and examines how the Project would affect their availability and performance. The utilities services analyzed include electrical service distribution, water treatment and distribution, sewer facilities, solid waste disposal, stormwater drainage, natural gas, and landfill, while the public services analyzed include fire protection, law enforcement, school districts, libraries, and hospitals.

D.13.1 Environmental Setting

The Project’s purpose is to expand the Applicant’s existing electrical service; however, in doing so, public service and utility systems within Riverside County and the Cities of Lake Elsinore and Perris will potentially be affected. The following public service and utilities systems analysis examines the utility and service provisions along the proposed subtransmission line route, providing an overview of the types and general locations of utilities and services in relation to the route and specifically evaluates the utilities and services required by the Project.¹

A variety of local purveyors in this area provide and maintain utility and service system facilities associated with electricity, water, stormwater and wastewater, solid waste, communications, and natural gas. Public utilities such as these are intertwined within the project area. Each municipality has its own fire and police departments as well as school districts, parks and recreational areas, and other public services. This section has been divided into utilities and public services due to significant overlap between services and utilities along the proposed subtransmission line, telecommunications system, and Fogarty Substation as well as the existing Valley and Ivyglen Substations.

D.13.1.1 Utilities

The Project would be part of the existing electrical system that serves the Valley-Ivyglen and Fogarty Electrical Needs Areas. The Project is located in southwestern Riverside County and crosses land within the cities of Lake Elsinore and Perris primarily along the Applicant’s existing transmission, subtransmission, and distribution lines. The exact location of the proposed subtransmission line route and Fogarty Substation would be determined during the development of the detailed construction plans. Table D.13-1 identifies the jurisdictions crossed by the Project and the utility and service providers within each jurisdiction. Where necessary, encroachment permits would be obtained for installation in the public right-of-way (ROW).

Table D.13-1 Summary of Utilities Providers

Utilities	County of Riverside	City of Lake Elsinore	City of Perris
Electrical Service Distribution	SCE	SCE	SCE
Water Treatment and Distribution	Western Municipal Water District and Eastern Municipal Water District	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	Eastern Municipal Water District
Sewer Facilities	Septic Systems	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	Eastern Municipal Water District

¹ While additional data on underground utilities might provide a more detailed picture of utilities in the region, this level of detail is unnecessary for the level of analysis needed to determine the impacts generated by the Project.

Table D.13-1 Summary of Utilities Providers

Utilities	County of Riverside	City of Lake Elsinore	City of Perris
Solid Waste Disposal	Riverside County Waste Management Department	Riverside County Waste Management Department	CR&R Disposal
Storm Water Drainage	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Natural Gas	Southern California Gas Company	Southern California Gas Company	Southern California Gas Company
Landfill	Badlands and El Sobrante Landfills	El Sobrante Landfill, Corona; Lamb Canyon Landfill , Beaumont	Badlands Landfill, Moreno Valley

Source: Riverside County Website (2008), Western Municipal Water District Website (2008), Eastern Municipal Water District Website (2008), Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Website (2008), CR&R Waste Services (2008), City of Lake Elsinore Website (2008), City of Perris Website (2008).

The Project would require potable or reclaimed water to be purchased from local water districts for dust suppression during construction activities, consumption during construction, and site restoration. Water service is provided to cities within the proposed project area by a variety of water purveyors as shown in Table D.13-1. The Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD), a sub-agency of the Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) currently provides water and wastewater treatment services to the City of Lake Elsinore. The WMWD is a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Additional information on water sources, water treatment, and wastewater disposal can be found in D.8 Hydrology and Water Quality.

The Applicant and the Southern California Gas Company (SCG) provide electrical services and natural gas services respectively to Riverside County and the Cities of Lake Elsinore and Perris as shown in Table D.13-1. The Project would expand the Applicant’s existing electrical service.

Wastewater, stormwater, sewer, and waste management service providers for each of the jurisdictions are shown in Table D.13-1. EVMWD and Eastern Municipal Water District operate lines that provide sewer services in each of the jurisdictions along the proposed project route. Unincorporated areas of Riverside County in the project area use septic systems and associated leach fields for sewage disposal. As outlined in Section A.1 Objectives of the Proposed Project, the Project would utilize the Applicant’s existing property for location of the Project. However, as the proposed subtransmission line route would potentially require acquisition of property used for existing leach fields, the Applicant would need to utilize the appropriate legal channels in order to avoid rendering an existing property’s septic system and leach field unusable.

Stormwater flows are conveyed by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Each jurisdiction provides waste management services through regional landfills and permitted treatment and disposal facilities. In addition, the City of Lake Elsinore Public Works Recycling and the Household and Hazardous Waste Disposal Department manage recyclable materials and hazardous waste in the City of Lake Elsinore. Because there are no landfills located in the project area, solid waste is taken by Riverside County Waste Management Department and CR&R Disposal to El Sobrante Landfill south of the project area in Corona and the Badlands Landfill north of the project area in Moreno Valley.

The proposed subtransmission line route is located primarily along the Applicant’s existing transmission, subtransmission, and distribution lines and would primarily follow existing utility, roadway, and ROW corridors from the Valley Substation to the Ivyglen Substation. Utilities of various types would parallel and cross the transmission line throughout almost the entire length of the route. The proposed subtransmission line route would cross one natural gas pipeline that runs from Lake Elsinore to the

northwest in the same general direction as I-15. The proposed subtransmission line route crosses the existing natural gas pipeline in five locations, including two locations in Segment W-1, two locations in Segment W-10, and one location in Segment W-4. Exact locations of other utilities would not be determined until final preparation of the final subtransmission line and substation designs and development of the detailed construction plans.

D.13.1.2 Public Services

The Project has potential to place a demand on or cause a disruption to public services during construction and operation. Construction of the Project could create a demand for, or disruption to, public services in the immediate vicinity of the proposed subtransmission line route and Fogarty Substation as construction may disrupt major access roads to schools and hospitals or impact emergency service response time. In addition, construction activities could increase the potential risk of fire from vehicle traffic and construction equipment, increasing the demand on emergency services. During operation, an increased public service demand could be placed on emergency service providers in the event of a major accident including a fire or vandalism act. Table D.13-2 lists the public service providers for each jurisdiction in the project area and follows with a brief discussion of each service’s size, proximity to the project area, and general capabilities, if applicable.

Table D.13-2 Summary of Public Service Providers

Service	County of Riverside	City of Lake Elsinore	City of Perris
Fire Protection	Riverside County Fire Department	Riverside County Fire Department	Riverside County Fire Department
Police Protection/ Law Enforcement	Riverside County Sheriff's Department	Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station, Riverside County Sheriff's Department	Perris Sheriff's Station, Riverside County Sheriff's Department
School Districts	Corona-Norco Unified School District; Menifee Union School District; Romoland School District; Perris Union High School District	Lake Elsinore Unified School District	Perris School District; Perris Union High School District
Libraries	Riverside County Library System	Riverside County Library System	Riverside County Library System
Hospitals	Inland Valley Regional Hospital, Murrieta	Inland Valley Regional Hospital, Murrieta	Inland Valley Regional Hospital, Murrieta; Vista Hospital of Riverside, Perris; and the Riverside County Regional Hospital, Moreno Valley

Source: Riverside County Fire Department (2008)

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) provides fire protection services to the entire project area, including unincorporated Riverside County, through administration of the Riverside County Fire Department (RVCFD). The RVCFD consists of 93 stations in 17 battalions. In 2005, the RVCFD responded to 110,224 incidents (RVCFD 2008). The City of Perris has contracted with the RVCFD for fire and emergency services since 1983 and has eight firefighters assigned to one fire station at 210 West San Jacinto Avenue (RVCFD website 2008). The City of Lake Elsinore has 18 firefighters assigned to three fire stations located at 410 West Graham Avenue, 29405 Grand Avenue inside McVicker State Park, and 22770 Railroad Canyon Road. Battalion 2 of the Southwest Division of RVCFD services the City of Lake Elsinore. A new fire station is scheduled to open in the City of Lake Elsinore in July 2008 (RVCFD 2008).

The California Highway Patrol, with additional support from the Sheriff's Department, provides traffic and law enforcement for Riverside County in the project area. The cities of Perris and Lake Elsinore contract with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department (RVCSD) for municipal police services. The City of Perris has contracted with the RVCSD since 1996. One captain commands the Perris Station at 403 E. 4th Street. The Perris Sheriff's Station also serves the City of Canyon Lake, as well as unincorporated areas of Glen Valley, Mead Valley, Woodcrest, Romoland, and Sun City. The Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station is located at 333 Limited Avenue, approximately four miles from the Fogarty Substation site. The station also serves the communities of Alberhill, El Cariso, Glen Eden, Glen Ivy Hot Springs, Good Hope Lakeland Village, Quail Valley, Sedco Hills, and Wildomar.

Schools, hospitals, parks and recreation facilities, and other public services are provided throughout the project area. The following school districts are in and around the project area:

- Corona-Norco Unified School District
- Lake Elsinore Unified School District
- Perris Union High School District (includes the following elementary districts: Perris Elementary School District, Menifee Union School District, Romoland School District)

The Lake Elsinore Unified School District and the Perris Union High School District each currently operate 22 schools, while Corona-Norco Unified School District operates 40 schools (Riverside County Office of Education 2008). Not all of these schools are in the immediate vicinity of the project area. Table D.13-3 identifies the schools within two miles of the proposed subtransmission line and/or Fogarty Substation.

Table D.13-3 Schools Within Two Miles of the Subtransmission Line and Substations

School	Street Address	Distance (miles)
Temescal Canyon High School	28755 El Toro Road, Lake Elsinore	0.4
Romoland Elementary	25890 Antelope Rd, Romoland	0.6
TriValley Community Day School	565 Chaney St # F, Lake Elsinore	0.7
Luiseno Elementary School	13500 Mountain Rd, Corona	0.8
Lake Elsinore Unified School	545 Chaney St, Lake Elsinore	0.8
Valley Adult School	528 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore	0.9
Ortega High School	520 Chaney St, Lake Elsinore	0.9
Kid's Cottage	16527 Lakeshore Dr, Lake Elsinore	1.0
Terra Cotta Middle School	29291 Lake Street, Lake Elsinore	1.0
Jean Hayman Elementary School	21440 Lemon, Lake Elsinore	1.0
Elsinore High School	21800 Canyon Dr, Lake Elsinore	1.1
Harvest Valley Elementary School	29955 Watson Rd, Sun City	1.3
Machado Elementary School	15150 Joy Street	1.4
Elsinore Elementary School	512 W Sumner Ave, Lake Elsinore	1.5
Rice Canyon Elementary	29535 Westwind Drive, Lake Elsinore	1.5
Elsinore Middle School	1203 W Graham Ave, Lake Elsinore	1.6
Lake Elsinore Head Start	411 Heal Street, Lake Elsinore	1.6
Withrow Middle School	30100 Audelo Street, Lake Elsinore	1.8
Tuscany Hills Elementary	23 Pointe Russo Street	2.0
Pinacate Middle School	1990 South A Street	2.0

Source: Lake Elsinore Unified School District website (2008), Perris Union High School District website (2008)

The Riverside County Library System provides library services to the Cities of Lake Elsinore and Perris. The libraries nearest to the project area are the Lake Elsinore Library (located on W. Graham Avenue), the Lakeside Library (located on Riverside Drive), and the Perris Library (located on 163 E. San Jacinto).

The closest hospital facility to the project area is the Inland Valley Regional Hospital in Murrieta. The hospital serves southwest Riverside County as the region's only trauma center, providing emergency medical services, trauma surgery, intensive care, diagnostic imaging, and rehabilitation. Other hospitals in the area include the Vista Hospital of Riverside, a 40-bed facility at 2224 Medical Center Drive, and the Riverside County Regional Hospital, a 439-bed fully equipped facility at 26520 Cactus Avenue, Moreno Valley, CA.

The Project's impacts to Park and Recreation facilities in the cities of Perris and Lake Elsinore are analyzed in Section D.10 Recreation.

D.13.2 Applicable Regulations, Plans, and Standards

The following section presents the State, regional, and local utility and service system regulations, plans, and standards that are directly applicable to the Project and alternatives. There are no Federal utilities or public services regulations applicable to the Project.

D.13.2.1 State

California Fire Code, Section 902.2.2.1 requires fire apparatus access roads to have a minimum unobstructed width of 20 feet. Other local regulations are related to health, fire, and building safety. These other regulations include the California Health Code, the California Fire Code, and the Uniform Building Code (UBC), which are implemented at the local level by ordinances adopted by Riverside County.

The California Public Utilities Commission regulates intrastate and local natural gas and electrical distribution facilities and services, natural gas procurement, water utilities, pipelines, and production and gathering. Regulations related to natural gas services at the local level include the California Building Code, the California Health and Safety Code, the California Fire Code, and their associated implementing ordinances of Riverside County.

The California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) manages California's water resources. The regulations overseen by CDWR regarding water service availability include the Urban Water Management Planning Act and Senate Bills (SB) 221 and 610. The California Act, adopted in 1983, requires all urban water suppliers within the state to prepare Urban Water Management Plans and update them every five years.

The California Integrated Waste Management Act (California Public Resources Code § 40000 et seq.) requires municipalities to divert 25 percent of their solid waste from landfills to recycling facilities by 1995 and 50 percent by 2000.

D.13.2.2 Regional and Local

The Project lies within the unincorporated areas of Riverside County, and the Cities of Perris and Lake Elsinore. Both City and County jurisdictions manage public services in these areas. The City of Perris General Plan Safety Element outlines specific policies related to man-made or natural disasters (City of Perris 2005). The City of Lake Elsinore has not yet completed their General Plan; therefore, none of the local safety policies are applicable (City of Lake Elsinore 2006a).

Buildings and other structures and equipment owned and operated by a public utility or private utility company are subject to regulation by the California Public Utilities Commission; these projects are exempt from local regulations. The Cities of Lake Elsinore and Perris have no regulations for utilities applicable to the Project.

The Riverside County General Plan Land Use Element includes several policies applicable to the regulation of public services and utilities (County of Riverside 2003):

LU 1.6: Coordinate with local agencies, such as LAFCO, service providers and utilities, to ensure adequate service provision for new development. (AI 4)

LU 5.1: Ensure that development does not exceed the ability to adequately provide supporting infrastructure and services, such as libraries, recreational facilities, transportation systems, and fire/police/medical services. (AI 3, 4, 74)

LU 5.2: Monitor the capacities of infrastructure and services in coordination with service providers, utilities, and outside agencies and jurisdictions to ensure that growth does not exceed acceptable levels of service. (AI 3, 4, 32, 74)

LU 5.4: Ensure that development and conservation land uses do not infringe upon existing public utility corridors, including fee owned rights-of-way and permanent easements, whose true land use is that of “public facilities.” This policy will ensure that the “public facilities” designation governs over what otherwise may be inferred by the large scale general plan maps. (AI 3)

D.13.3 Project Impacts and Mitigation

D.13.3.1 Significance Criteria

For the purposes of the following evaluation, the project would cause a significant impact on geology, soils, and mineral resources if it would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services (fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities)
- Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects
- Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects
- Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed
- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments
- Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs

- Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste

Potential impacts are discussed according to the significance criteria above. Each impact is categorized according to the following classifications:

Class III – Less than significant impact without mitigation measures

Class II – Less than significant impact after mitigation measures are implemented

Class I – Significant impact and no feasible mitigation measures are available

D.13.3.2 Applicant Proposed Measures

There are no specific Applicant Proposed Measures in the Proponent's Environmental Assessment that specifically address impacts on public services or utilities.

D.13.3.3 Impacts Analysis

Impact PUB-1: Impact on and demand for public services

The need for public services is largely affected by an area's population. There is a direct correlation between population size and demand for public services such as fire and police protection, schools, and libraries. Construction crews would likely come from either the Applicant's base in Alhambra or contracted from within Riverside County or adjacent areas. No additional staff will be needed to operate the Project as it is unmanned.

Fire, emergency services, and law enforcement would be required to service the project area during construction and operation. Construction and operation of the proposed subtransmission line, telecommunications system, Fogarty Substation, and Valley and Ivyglen Substation improvements would not significantly affect service ratios, response times, or other objectives for public services in the area. The likelihood of an accident requiring a response would be low and would only occur to a level that would not cause a significant adverse effect on the provision of public services. Overall, project construction would not occur in dangerous areas with the largest risk being the potential for sparks to ignite dry grasses from increased vehicle traffic and construction equipment. Aerial fire response times would also not be affected, as discussed in Section D.8 Hazards and Public Safety. Schools and public parks would not be affected by construction of the proposed subtransmission line, telecommunications system or substations.

There would also be no new construction or alteration of government facilities. The proposed subtransmission line and telecommunications system will pass behind the Sycamore Creek Fire Station #64 on Campbell Ranch Road in Corona; however, there will be no construction or alteration of the fire station to accommodate the Project. The proposed subtransmission line will not affect response times from this station.

Therefore, the impacts on public services due to a change in population would be minor and less than significant, and no mitigation measures (MMs) would be required (Class III).

Impact PUB-2: Wastewater treatment requirements

Construction and operation of the proposed subtransmission line, telecommunications system, Fogarty Substation, and Valley and Ivyglen Substation improvements would generate minor amounts of wastewater in the project area and would not exceed local water treatment requirements. Portable toilets would be utilized during construction. The Applicant's best management practices would ensure the proper collection and disposal of wastewater and would not exceed the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality

Control Board treatment requirements as identified in Applicant Proposed Measure HYDRO-SCE-1. Implementation of HYDRO-SCE-1 and MM HYD-1a would reduce the impact to wastewater treatment requirements to less than significant levels (Class II).

Impact PUB-3: Water and wastewater treatment facilities

No new or expanded water, water entitlements, or wastewater treatment facilities would be required for the Project. Existing wastewater treatment facilities would be sufficient to treat the minor amount of wastewater generated from construction and operation in the project area. Wastewater generated on site would be nominal, and portable toilets would be utilized during construction. Water usage would be limited to dust suppression and human consumption during construction. The effect of the Project on existing wastewater treatment facilities would be minor and less than significant, and no MMs would be required (Class III).

Impact PUB-4: Storm water drainage facilities

Construction and operation of the Project would not require new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Construction and operation of the Project would not result in discharges to the local storm drain system or expansion of existing facilities. Water usage for the Project would be limited to dust suppression during construction. Drainage structures would be installed on construction access roads to allow for construction traffic usage as well as to prevent road damage and erosion due to uncontrolled water flow. Drainage structures may include wet crossings, water bars, overside drains, pipe culverts, and energy dissipaters. The specific need for and location of drainage systems or similar improvements would be identified during final engineering in combination with a detailed topographic survey of the proposed subtransmission line route and Fogarty Substation site. The effect of the Project on existing storm water drainage facilities would be minor and less than significant, and no MMs would be required (Class III).

Impact PUB-5: Water supply

Construction and operation of the Project would not require large amounts of water. Any water used for construction would be for dust control and human consumption and would be supplied from existing entitlements and resources. Water for all construction sites would be brought in by tanker truck (for applications involving dust control) and in small containers for human consumption. The amount of water that would be required during project construction is minimal and is also a onetime use, and therefore, there is no anticipated impact to local or regional water supplies or supply delivery systems that would be affected by construction of the Project. Water usage at the project substations would be limited to irrigation of the surrounding landscaping during project operation. Water for irrigation would require a tie-in from a municipal water source but would not use water in volumes sufficient to require construction of new water facilities. Additional information can be found in Section D.8 Hydrology and Water Quality. The effect of the Project on local water supply would be minor and less than significant, and no MMs would be required (Class III).

Impact PUB-6: Wastewater treatment capacity

The Project would not result in a negative determination by the wastewater treatment provider as each wastewater treatment provider, regardless of their jurisdiction, has sufficient capability to meet the demands of the Project. Portable toilets would be utilized during construction. Wastewater generated on site would be nominal, and no restrooms or other facilities that generate wastewater would be utilized during the operation of the Project. Construction and operation of the Project would have no impacts associated with inadequate wastewater treatment capacity in the project area. The effect of the Project on local wastewater treatment would be minor and less than significant, and no MMs would be required (Class III).

Impact PUB-7: Landfill and waste disposal needs

The Project would generate minor amounts of solid waste during construction which would be disposed of appropriately in the Badlands, El Sobrante, and Lamb Canyon Landfills. The proposed subtransmission line includes the transfer of existing lines onto new poles and the removal of 215 to 275 existing poles. The existing poles would be removed and stockpiled for future use or, for those poles that could not be reused, disposed of in a landfill as non-hazardous waste. Local landfills have the capacity to accommodate the poles that would not be reused. The construction of the telecommunications system would be in parallel with the proposed subtransmission line and would, therefore, not have any additional impact on solid waste disposal. The amount of solid waste generated during the operation and maintenance of the Project would be minimal and would not impact landfill capacities in the project area. The Applicant's best management practices would ensure the proper permanent disposal of solid waste according to regulations. The effect of the Project on local landfills would be minor and less than significant, and no mitigation measures would be required (Class III).

Impact PUB-8: Solid waste statutes and regulations

Construction and operation of the Project would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Solid waste generated during operation and construction of the Project, as stated above, would be minimal. Therefore, the construction and operation of the Project would result in no impacts to federal, state, or local statutes related to solid waste. The effect of the Project on solid waste regulations would be minor and less than significant, and no mitigation measures would be required (Class III).

D.13.4 Cumulative

Riverside County, the City of Lake Elsinore, and the City of Perris are expected to experience an increase in population and extensive residential and commercial development over the next twenty years. As described in the cumulative scenario in Section B (Description of the Project), the development and population growth will involve large-scale residential, commercial, and industrial projects that would put new demands on existing public services and utilities in the area.

The geographic scope for the analysis of cumulative impacts on public services and utilities would include the whole of Riverside County as well as the cities of Lake Elsinore and Perris. This includes public services and utilities distributed to these areas and considers impacts to utilities and services provided by both the County and the cities. The Project would substantially contribute to significant cumulative impacts if it disrupted, physically altered, or substantially taxed public services and utilities.

The Project would not increase the demand for public services. Construction of the proposed subtransmission line and the new Fogarty Substation would not require an increase in population nor would it induce population growth; as such, there would be no increase in demand for public services including police, fire, and emergency services. Further, by employing BMPs and APMs outlined in the Hazards and Public Safety section, the Project would not interfere with public services. The Project would not affect water utilities, including disrupting or altering water and wastewater treatment facilities, storm water drainage systems, water supply levels, wastewater capacity levels, and the ability to meet wastewater requirements. Preventative measures are described in D.7 Hydrology to ensure that impacts to water systems and utilities would be less than significant. The Project would not violate waste or landfill regulations as the Project would not generate a large amount of waste. The Project would not substantially contribute to significant cumulative impacts on public services and utilities by disruption or alteration.