

3.13 Public Services

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
13. PUBLIC SERVICES— Would the project:				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of 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 following public services:				
i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3.13.1 Environmental Setting

Fire Protection

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire [formerly CDF]), the San Benito County Fire Department and the North County Fire Protection District of Monterey County provide fire protection services within the project area.

Cal Fire

Cal Fire is responsible for State Responsibility Areas (SRAs), and primarily fights wildland fires; Cal Fire is not responsible for structural fires. The San Benito-Monterey Unit serves the project area. This unit is operationally divided into two fire divisions and twelve battalions or programs. The Unit has eleven state-funded fire stations, six local government stations, thirteen volunteer companies, one air attack base, and one Helitack base. The unit has cooperative fire protection agreements with seven local fire protection agencies (Cal Fire, 2009).

San Benito County

The San Benito County Fire Department (SBCFD) staffs one fire engine at the Cal Fire station on Fairview Road in Hollister, which provides year-round 24 hour coverage with two permanent fire fighters per shift (one engineer and one fire fighter). A recent study showed that response times within the County are generally about 15 minutes, which is not considered adequate. In fact, the County's fire resources are severely below any recognized standard of response (Avila, 2010).

Monterey County

A portion of the Hollister Tower Segment falls within the jurisdiction of the North County Fire Protection District (NCFPD) of Monterey County which is a special district detached from County government. This District covers 164 square miles of predominantly rural land with a population of approximately 45,000. The District has three fire stations located in Castroville, Prunedale, and the Royal Oaks area. The Prunedale station, located at 17639 Pesante Road in Prunedale, would be the closest station to the southern end of the Hollister Tower Segment (NCFPD, 2006). This station has two Type 1 Engines which respond to most fires and one Type 3 engine which is a four-wheel drive engine that typically responds to wildland fires. The number of staff at the Prunedale station fluctuates between two and three firefighters per shift. Additional fire support may be provided by the other two stations within the NCFPD as well as the Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District on an as needed basis (Pastore, 2010).

Police Protection

San Benito County

The San Benito County Sheriff's Department is located at 451 Fourth Street in Hollister, California. Patrol Division personnel are the first to respond to emergencies within the County. These personnel handle enforcement of criminal and vehicle code regulations and investigate misdemeanors and felony crimes. They are also responsible for enforcement of some ordinances of the County Code (San Benito County Sheriff's Office, 2010).

Monterey County

The Monterey County Sheriff's Patrol Division provides law enforcement and related emergency response services to the unincorporated areas of Monterey County. The Sheriff's Patrol Division operates out of three stations: the Central Patrol Station (Salinas), the Coastal Station (Monterey), and the South County Station (King City). Services in the project area would be based out of the Central Patrol Station in Salinas which supplies coverage to approximately 1,400 square miles including all of North County. Patrol areas include agricultural, industrial, residential, recreational and undeveloped rural areas. The Central Patrol Station is the largest and busiest patrol station, fielding the most calls for service (Monterey County, 2010).

Schools

School districts serving the study area include the Aromas-San Juan School District, the Hollister School District, the North County Joint Union School District, the Cienega Union School District, the San Benito High School District, and the Southside School District (San Benito County Office of Education, 2010). The Proposed Project would be located within 2,000 feet of Anzar High School and Lagunita Elementary School.

Parks

See Chapter 3.14, *Recreation*, for a discussion of recreational facilities, including parks, in the vicinity of the Proposed Project.

3.13.2 Regulatory Setting

There are no federal or State regulations related to public services that apply to the Proposed Project. Additionally, the Monterey County, San Benito County and City of Hollister general plans do not include applicable goals, objectives, and/or policies related to public services that would be directly applicable to the Proposed Project.

3.13.3 Applicant Proposed Measures

PG&E proposes the following applicant proposed measure (APM) to minimize impacts on public services from the Proposed Project. The impact analysis in this MND assumes that this APM would be implemented to reduce impacts to public services as discussed below.

APM PUB-1: Maintain Secured Facilities during construction activities. PG&E will implement the following measures during construction activities:

- All equipment will be locked and secured when left unattended at the most secure locations available;
- Contract security will be used at active pull/tension sites, laydown, and storage areas outside work hours;
- All open holes will be covered and secured once activity at that location stops (after hours);
- Anchor bolts on foundations without structures will be capped; and
- Safety structures will be placed at road crossings during overhead wire installation activity to protect traffic and pedestrians.

3.13.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Operation and maintenance activities associated with the Proposed Project would not result in an increase in residents or employees, given that the existing power line has been in operation for over 70 years and the Proposed Project primarily involves modifying existing infrastructure. Therefore, no change to the existing demand on public services would occur during operation of the Proposed Project. Any impacts to public services would be limited to the construction period.

The number of construction workers that would be required to construct the Proposed Project, at its peak, would be approximately 56 crew members per day. This includes the 10-person crew anticipated for the proposed modifications at the Hollister Substation. The Proposed Project construction activities would be temporary, lasting approximately 15 months, and would not result in additional staffing at the substation or along the proposed power line alignments.

a.i) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of 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 fire protection: *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.*

Construction of the Proposed Project could involve emergency situations (e.g., worker injury) that could require emergency response services. Additionally, because the Proposed Project alignments traverse largely undeveloped areas, emergency situations could arise that would require fire suppression services and emergency response. Implementation of APM HAZ-4 (see Section 2.7, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*) would require PG&E to implement a fire risk management plan, thereby reducing the likelihood of situations requiring fire suppression services. This is especially important for areas within San Benito County given that the SBCFD already suffers from inadequate response times. However, given that construction activities would be temporary in nature, lasting approximately 15 months, increases in demand would not require construction of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios. Impacts would be less than significant.

a.ii) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of 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 police protection: *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.*

The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts to police services in the study area. Proposed Project construction may cause an increase in the existing demand for police services due to possible theft of construction equipment and/or vandalism that might occur during the construction period. Additionally, construction activities may, at times, require temporary lane closures on area roadways, requiring traffic control measures or safety measures, which would typically be coordinated by the police. PG&E has committed to implementing APM PUB-1 that would ensure that facilities are secured during construction. Thus, although construction of the Proposed Project may result in increased demand for police services, such increase is not likely to be substantial and would not require the construction of a new or modification of an existing police station, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered police facilities.

a.iii) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of 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 schools: *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.*

The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts to school facilities in the study area. The construction crew that would be required for the Proposed Project is estimated to be up to 56 crew members during peak construction activities. The Proposed Project would not

result in a substantial increase in the local population or demand for housing, which typically are associated with an increased demand for public school services. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in demand for school facilities and would not require the construction of a new or modification of an existing school, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered school facilities.

a.iv) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of 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 parks: *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT*.

For potential impacts to recreational facilities, including parks, see Chapter 3.14, *Recreation*. Impacts to recreational facilities were found to be less than significant, or to have no impact.

a.v) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of 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 other public facilities: *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT*.

The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts to other public facilities (e.g., public libraries, hospitals, or other civic uses) because, as discussed above, the Proposed Project would not result in a significant increase in local population or housing, which would typically be associated with increased demand for such public facilities. Although unlikely, it is possible that construction of the Proposed Project could result in some increased demand for other types of public services. However, any such increase is not likely to be substantial and would not require the construction of new or modification of existing public facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities for libraries, hospitals or other civic uses.

References

Avila, Paul, 2010. Battalion Chief, San Benito County Fire Department. Phone conversation, March 10, 2010.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), 2009. *San Benito – Monterey Unit, 2009 Fire Plan*, 2009.

City of Hollister Fire Department, 2009. Website (<http://www.hollister.ca.gov/site/html/gov/office/fire.asp>), accessed December 11, 2009.

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Monterey County Office of the Sheriff, 2010. Enforcement Operations Bureau Website (<http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/SHERIFF/patrol.htm>), accessed March 11, 2010.

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