

## 4.12 Public Services

This section analyzes the impact of the Proposed Project and alternatives on the provision of public services in unincorporated Tulare County and the cities of Visalia and Farmersville, and identifies adverse physical impacts to the environment that could result from a need to provide new or physically altered public facilities resulting from the Proposed Project and alternatives. This analysis reviews fire protection and emergency medical response, police services, schools and other public facilities. Park and recreational facilities are discussed in Section 4.13, *Recreation*.

### 4.12.1 Setting

#### Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire [formerly CDF]), the Tulare County Fire Department, the City of Visalia Fire Department, and the City of Farmersville Fire Department provide fire protection and emergency services in the study area.

##### **State**

Cal Fire is responsible for State Responsibility Areas (SRAs), and primarily fights wildland fires; Cal Fire is not responsible for structural fires. The Cal Fire Tulare Unit, which serves the study area, is comprised of eight stations in the following locations: Badger, Fountain Springs, Hot Springs, Porterville, Springville, Three Rivers, Visalia, and Woodlake, as well as additional crews at Mountain Home Camp. The Unit is equipped with 11 engines, two bulldozers, and an Air Attack (small airplane) and tanker on contract. In addition to station personnel, office staff, and administrators, the Cal Fire Tulare Unit is comprised of: one Unit Chief, four Division Chiefs, eight Battalion Chiefs, five Apparatus Engineers, and 30 Fire Captains. The Unit hires additional staff during summer months, including limited term engineers and captains. The Cal Fire Tulare Unit responded to 101 fire calls in the first 10 months of 2008, in addition to other assisting calls (Granillo, 2008).

##### **Local**

##### **Tulare County**

The Tulare County Fire Department (TCFD) provides services to the residents and visitors of Tulare County. Its services include responding to fires, medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, technical rescues and other life threatening or dangerous conditions as the lead agency, or in support of that agency having jurisdiction. The TCFD consists of 28 fire stations; Battalion 1 covers the northern portion of the County with 13 fire stations, while Battalion 2 covers the southern portion of the County with 15 fire stations. Equipment includes 84 vehicles ranging from light duty utility vehicles to large aerial fire fighting apparatuses. Field personnel is comprised of six Battalion Chiefs, 21 Fire Captains, 51 Fire Lieutenants and approximately 400 reserve fire fighting personnel. Staffing at the County's 28 fire stations varies from one staff person supported by reserve firefighters to all reserve staffing. The TCFD adheres to staffing and response time goals of the National Fire Protection Association Standards. Fire protection

services within the vicinity of the Proposed Project are provided by Visalia Fire Station #1, Exeter Fire Station #11, and Lemon Cove Fire Station #13 (TCFD, 2008).

The TCFD's Emergency Fire Communication Center (Fire Com) performs emergency dispatching services for numerous fire departments and districts within Tulare County including: the TCFD, City of Farmersville Fire Department, City of Exeter Fire Department, Woodlake Fire Protection District, City of Lindsay Fire Department, Three Rivers Volunteer ambulance, the California Hot Springs Ambulance, and Camp Nelson Volunteer Ambulance. Fire Com is staffed with eight full-time employees and a varying number of extra help dispatchers. On average, Fire Com dispatches approximately 14,000 incidences per year (TCFD, 2008).

### **City of Visalia**

The City of Visalia Fire Department provides services to approximately 35 square miles, and 118,000 residents. Its services include fire suppression, emergency preparedness, emergency medical services, fire prevention and public education to the community of Visalia. Equipment includes five fire engines, one ladder truck, two Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) apparatuses, one hazardous materials response vehicle, three reserve fire engines, and one reserve ladder truck. The Visalia Fire Department has five fire stations throughout the City, which collectively are staffed by one Fire Chief, two Administrative Battalion Chiefs, two Fire Inspectors, two support staff, three Battalion Chiefs, 18 Captains, 18 Fire Engineers, and 24 firefighters (City of Visalia Fire Department, 2008).

### **City of Farmersville**

The City of Farmersville Fire Department provides services to the City of Farmersville and surrounding Tulare County areas for approximately 10,500 residents in a two and a half square mile area. Its services include fire suppression, emergency preparedness, emergency medical services, fire prevention and public education. The Department has a fire station located at 909 West Visalia Road in the City of Farmersville and is equipped with two fire engines. The Department is staffed by two full-time fire officers and 22 volunteer firefighters, including one Fire Chief, one Lieutenant, and four engineers. At least one fire officer is on duty 24 hours per day. On average, the Department responds to approximately 900 alarms per year (Crivello, 2008).

## **Police Protection**

### **Tulare County**

The Tulare County Sheriff's Department has five divisions: Operations, Operations-Administration, Investigations, Detentions-Operations, and Detentions-Administration/Court Services. Each division is commanded by one captain, and is divided into units made up of lieutenants, sergeants and civilian supervisors (Tulare County Sheriff's Department, 2008). The Department includes five Captains, six Lieutenants, 18 Sergeants, 95 Deputies, 20 dispatchers, and a number of Reserve Deputies (Douglas, 2008).

The central headquarters for the Sheriff's Department is located at 2404 West Burrel Avenue in Visalia. This location also houses the Department's Visalia Substation, Records, Dispatch and

Main Jail facilities. Operating through a decentralized patrol plan, the Department has four substations located within the County. The substations are located in Visalia, Pixley (161 North Pine Street), Porterville (379 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street) and Cutler (40765 Road 128). The Department provides court security to all County courts, maintains all County jails and provides law enforcement services to unincorporated areas in Tulare County. The Department does not have contract cities, since cities in the County that are incorporated, including Porterville, Lindsay, Exeter, Woodlake, Dinuba, Visalia, Tulare and Farmersville, have their own full law enforcement agencies. However, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department does provide assistance to these cities on an as-needed/requested basis (Douglas, 2008).

Agriculture-related crime is addressed through two venues: the Tulare County Sheriff's Department's Agricultural Crimes Investigation Unit, and the Office of the Tulare County District Attorney's Agricultural Crime Technology Information and Operations Network (ACTION). ACTION is comprised of agencies from the eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley, including local District Attorney's Offices, Sheriffs Offices, Agricultural Crime Units and Agricultural Commissioners.

### **City of Visalia**

The City of Visalia Police Department provides law enforcement services within the City limits. The Police Department has two stations: District 1 located at 204 North West 3rd Street, and District 2 located at 4100 South County Center Drive. Department headquarters are located at 303 South Johnson Street. Calls for service are dispatched by the Dispatch Division, which is staffed with 18 full-time Public Safety Dispatchers and four hourly Call Takers. The Dispatch Center answers and processes seven emergency (911) lines, 15 non-emergency lines and several radio frequencies, and is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year (City of Visalia Police Department, 2008). The City of Visalia Police Department provides police protection services on a 24-hour per day basis with a minimum of six sworn officers on duty (Badge #381, 2008). The City of Visalia Police Department patrols residential and business areas, responding to, and investigating reports of crime. Additionally, the Department conducts community-oriented policing including running a coed youth and young adult vocational and leadership development program, and adhering to its Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) policy (City of Visalia Police Department, 2008).

### **City of Farmersville**

The City of Farmersville Police Department provides law enforcement services within the City limits. The Police Department has one station located at 909 West Visalia Road. Calls for service are dispatched by the City of Farmersville Police Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Evening calls are dispatched by the Tulare County Sheriff's Department. The City of Farmersville Police Department provides police protection services 24 hours per day with a minimum of two sworn officers on duty, one sergeant, and two detectives. The City of Farmersville Police Department patrols residential and business areas, responding to, and investigating reports of crime. Additionally, the Department conducts community-oriented policing including providing proactive patrols, and conducting informational seminars and education programs (Rosales, 2008).

## Schools

There are nine school districts and one community college within the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Table 4.12-1 provides a list of school districts, the area each district serves, grades served, and each district's average daily attendance.

**TABLE 4.12-1  
STUDY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

<b>District</b>	<b>Area Served</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>Average Daily Attendance</b>
College of the Sequoias	Visalia	13-14	11,158 (full time equivalent students)
Cutler-Orosi Unified School District	Cutler, Orosi, Badger, Yettem	Kindergarten-12	3,784
Exeter Union Elementary School District	Exeter	PreKindergarten-8	2,000
Exeter Union High School District	Exeter	9-12	1,139
Farmersville Unified School District	Farmersville	9-12	2,297
Sequoia Union Elementary School District	Lemon Cove	Kindergarten-8	352
Stone Corral Elementary School District	Visalia	Kindergarten-8	130
Visalia Unified School District	Visalia, Goshen, Ivanhoe	PreKindergarten-12/ Adult	26,368
Woodlake Union Elementary School District	Woodlake	PreKindergarten-8	1,650
Woodlake Union High School District	Woodlake	9-12	750

SOURCE: Tulare County Office of Education, 2008.

Three schools are located within one quarter mile of the Proposed Project. Kaweah High School, Community Day School, Independent Study, and Adult Education School is located at 21215 Avenue 300 in the City of Exeter, approximately 600 feet from the Proposed Project. Union Elementary School is located at 28050 Road 148 in the City of Visalia, approximately 800 feet from the Proposed Project. Sequoia Union Elementary School is located at 23958 Avenue 324 in the community of Lemon Cove, approximately 1,160 feet from the Proposed Project (SCE, 2008).

## Other Public Facilities

### ***Daycare Facilities***

There are no registered or non-registered daycare/childcare facilities located within one quarter mile of the Proposed Project or alternative alignments.

## **Library**

Exeter Branch County Library, at 230 East Chestnut in the City of Exeter, is located approximately two miles south of the Proposed Project.

## **Medical Facilities**

Visalia Nursing and Rehab Center, at 1925 East Houston Avenue in the City of Visalia, is located approximately 1.5 miles west of the Proposed Project. Kaweah Delta Health Care District Dialysis Center, at 316 South Dunworth Street in the City of Visalia, is located approximately one mile west of the Proposed Project. Memorial Hospital, at 215 Crespi Avenue in the City of Exeter, is located approximately two miles south of the Proposed Project.

## **Regulatory Context**

### **Local**

#### **Tulare County General Plan (Proposed Project and Alternatives 2, 3 and 6)**

The Safety Element of the Tulare County General Plan contains the following goals and policies that would be applicable to the Proposed Project and alternatives:

*Goal 3.A:* To reduce the loss of life, and damage to or loss of personal property due to crime, fire, earthquakes, flooding and other disasters, natural and man-made.

*Policy 3.J.13:* Require that proposed developments or uses in wildland areas be subject to review by local fire agencies responsible for protecting development after they are constructed. After a thorough study of the possible hazards and risks that would be associated with completion and the use of the development, the local fire agencies should require that fire prevention and possible suppressions standards be met.

(Tulare County, 2001).

#### **Cal Fire Tulare Fire Management Plan (Proposed Project and Alternatives 2, 3 and 6)**

The Cal Fire Tulare Fire Management Plan does not reference transmission lines or utility lines, and it does not contain specific goals or policies applicable to the Proposed Project and alternatives (Cal Fire, 2005).

#### **City of Visalia General Plan (Proposed Project and Alternatives 2, 3 and 6)**

The City of Visalia General Plan does not include any goals or policies applicable to the Proposed Project and alternatives (City of Visalia, 1975).

#### **City of Farmersville General Plan (Proposed Project)**

The City of Farmersville General Plan does not include any goals or policies applicable to the Proposed Project and alternatives (City of Farmersville, 2002).

## 4.12.2 Significance Criteria

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project impact would be considered significant if it would:

- a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the 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 following public services:
  - i. Fire protection;
  - ii. Police protection;
  - iii. Schools;
  - iv. Other public facilities.

## 4.12.3 Applicant Proposed Measures

No Applicant Proposed Measures have been identified by SCE to reduce project impacts on public services.

## 4.12.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

### Approach to Analysis

This impact analysis considers the potential public service impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of Proposed Project.

The proposed modifications at the Springville, Vestal, and Big Creek 3 Substations consist solely of electrical system and safety upgrades. All substation work would occur on previously disturbed, un-vegetated areas within the existing fence line of the substations. Since project activities at the substations would be limited in duration, require a small construction crew and not require the need for additional permanent staff, they would not result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, and performance objectives. Consequently, there would be no impacts to public services due to the activities proposed at the substation locations.

The Proposed Project could result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the 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 public services, as described below.

#### ***a.i) Fire Protection.***

Fire protection services for the Proposed Project would be provided by Cal Fire, the Tulare County Fire Department, the Visalia Fire Department, and the Farmersville Fire Department as well as other fire protection districts in the area that participate in automatic aid agreements. The Proposed Project would not introduce any new uses to the project area that would generate long-

term changes to fire protection services. Once constructed, the transmission line would require routine maintenance trips, inspection, and vegetation management activities to be provided by SCE. Maintenance activities would increase slightly above existing levels that are employed to maintain the existing transmission lines to include 17.4 miles of transmission line located in new right-of-way (ROW).

Increases in long-term demand for fire protection services are typically associated with substantial increases in population. Construction activities in the project area are expected to last approximately nine to 12 months, beginning in October 2011 and concluding in late 2012. During peak construction activities, approximately 50 crew members per day would be required to construct the Proposed Project. It is expected that at least 30 to 40 of the craft personnel would be from the contractor's pool of experienced personnel, with the remaining construction personnel coming from local sources (SCE, 2008). The temporary nature of the construction period and workforce would not result in a substantial population increase that would increase the long-term demand for fire protection services. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increased long-term demand for fire protection services (No Impact).

Construction of the Proposed Project could affect the temporary demand for fire protection and emergency response services, as discussed below.

**Impact 4.12-1: Project construction activities could temporarily increase the demand for fire protection services. *Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)***

Proposed Project construction would include construction of 18.5 miles of new transmission line, 1.1 miles of which would be constructed in existing SCE ROW. Proposed Project construction could involve emergency situations related to worker injury that would require emergency response services. Additionally, because a majority of the Proposed Project traverses largely undeveloped areas, emergency situations could result that would require fire suppression services and emergency response. Construction activities would be temporary, lasting approximately nine to 12 months. Implementation of the Mitigation Measures 4.12-1a and b (see below) would be required to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

**Mitigation Measure 4.12-1a:** SCE shall implement Mitigation Measure 4.7-1c (see Section 4.7, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*) which requires preparation of a Health and Safety Plan. In addition, this Plan shall address emergency medical services in the case of an emergency. The Plan shall list procedures and specific emergency response and evacuation measures that would be required to be followed during emergency situations. SCE shall submit the Plan to the CPUC for review prior to construction of the Proposed Project. Additionally, the Plan shall be distributed to all construction crew members involved in the project prior to construction and operation of the project.

**Mitigation Measure 4.12-1b:** Implement Mitigation Measure 4.7-8.

**Significance after Mitigation:** Less than significant.

**Impact 4.12-2: Project construction activities in proximity to public roadways could potentially affect vehicle access and fire department response times. *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II)**

Construction related to the Proposed Project would generally parallel local, county and State roads. Several roadways, including State Route 198 (SR 198), Farmersville Boulevard, Anderson Road, and State Route 65/245 (SR 65/245), would be crossed by the Proposed Project and would likely need to be temporarily closed during transmission line stringing activities (see Section 4.14, *Traffic and Transportation*, for further discussion on impacts related to road closures and potential impacts to public roadways).

**Mitigation Measure 4.12-2:** SCE shall coordinate with the Tulare County and the cities of Visalia and Farmersville emergency service providers prior to construction to ensure that construction activities and associated lane closures would not significantly affect emergency response vehicles. SCE shall submit verification of its consultation with emergency service providers to the CPUC.

**Significance after Mitigation:** Less than Significant.

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***a.ii) Police Protection.***

Police protection services in the project area would be provided by the Tulare County Sheriff's Department, the Visalia Police Department, and the Farmersville Police Department. The Proposed Project would not introduce any new uses to the project area that would generate long-term changes to police protection services. Once constructed, the transmission line would require monitoring in the form of police response to potential trespassing. Operational activities would increase above existing levels that are employed to maintain the existing transmission line to include 17.4 miles of transmission line located in new ROW. However, as stated in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, gates would be installed where required at fenced property lines to restrict general and recreational vehicular access, thereby reducing opportunities for trespassing, and the need for police response.

Potential police protection service effects would primarily be confined to construction of the Proposed Project. Further, increases in the demand for police protection services are typically associated with substantial increases in population. As mentioned previously, during peak activities, a 50 person crew with at least 30 to 40 craft personnel from the contractor's pool would be required to construct the Proposed Project. Construction activities would be temporary, lasting approximately nine to 12 months. This would not result in a substantial population increase that would increase the long-term demand for police protection services. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not require new or physically altered police protection facilities (No Impact).

Construction of the Proposed Project could temporarily affect police protection services, as discussed below.



**Impact 4.12-3: Project construction activities could temporarily increase the demand for police services. *Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)***

Proposed Project construction may require police services due to possible theft of construction equipment and/or vandalism that might occur during the construction period. Additionally, Proposed Project construction may, at times, require temporary partial closure of adjacent roadways, requiring traffic control measures, or safety measures that would typically be coordinated with local police. Several private and public roadways, including SR 198, Farmersville Boulevard, Anderson Road, and SR 65/245, that would be crossed by the Proposed Project would likely need to be temporarily closed during transmission line stringing activities (see Section 4.14, *Traffic and Transportation*, for further discussion on impacts related to road closures and potential impacts to public roadways). Mitigation Measures 4.12-3a, b, and c would be required to reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

**Mitigation Measure 4.12-3a:** SCE shall implement standard precautionary measures, such as securing equipment when left unattended, to minimize theft and vandalism.

**Mitigation Measure 4.12-3b:** SCE shall provide traffic control, if necessary, in coordination with the appropriate police agency. For the crossing of any private or public roadways, safety measures such as barriers, flagmen, or other traffic control shall be used for public protection during wire installation.

**Mitigation Measure 4.12-3c:** SCE shall implement public safety measures, including the covering and securing of all open holes once activity at that location is stopped (after hours), and the placement of safety structures adjacent to roadways during overhead wire installation activity to protect vehicles and pedestrians.

**Significance after Mitigation:** Less than Significant.

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**a.iii) Schools.**

**Impact 4.12-4: Increased school enrollments attributable to the Proposed Project could exceed available school capacities. *Less than significant (Class III)***

The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts to school facilities in the project area. The construction crew for the Proposed Project is estimated to be up to 50 crew members, including SCE and contracted construction personnel. It is expected that at least 30 to 40 of the construction crew members would be from the contractor's pool of experienced personnel, and the remaining construction personnel would come from local sources (SCE, 2008). The Proposed Project would not result in a significant increase of local population or housing, which is typically associated with increased demand for public school services. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in demand for school facilities and impacts to public school services would be less than significant.

**Mitigation:** None required.

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**a.iv) Other Public Facilities.**

The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts to other public facilities, such as public libraries or other civic uses, as the Proposed Project would not result in a significant increase of local population or housing, which is typically associated with increased demand for public facilities. For a discussion of impacts related to road closures and potential impacts to public roadways, see Section 4.14, *Transportation and Traffic*. No other public facilities would be adversely impacted by the construction or operation of the Proposed Project (No Impact).

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## 4.12.5 Cumulative Impacts

The geographic scope of this impact is the service area of affected public services, generally limited to within the northwestern portion of Tulare County and the cities of Visalia and Farmersville. As discussed above, the Proposed Project would not result in significant effects on the ability of service providers to provide adequate police services, fire protection and emergency medical services, and public school facilities to the project area. The past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects described in Section 3.6, *Cumulative Projects*, include several large development projects planned in the vicinity of the Proposed Project that may impact public services. These projects include numerous new housing subdivisions and the Yokohl Ranch Project – a master planned community of 10,000 residential units, 550,000 square feet of mixed use space, and infrastructure including roads and utilities. It is likely that this cumulative development would require expansion of existing, or development of new, public service infrastructure to support the planned population growth. If this growth were to occur prior to improvements in public service infrastructure, then there could be significant adverse effects on fire protection and emergency medical services, police protection, schools and other public facilities. However, the Proposed Project's impacts to public services would generally be limited to the construction period of nine to 12 months, after which the Proposed Project's demand on public services would be inconsequential. Additionally, Mitigation Measures 4.12-1a, 1b, 2, 3a, 3b, and 3c would ensure that the Proposed Project's temporary public service impacts during construction would be negligible. Therefore, the effect of the Proposed Project on public services, in combination with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects, would not be cumulatively considerable (Class II).

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## 4.12.6 Alternatives

### No Project Alternative

Under the No Project Alternative, the Proposed Project would not be implemented. Demand for electricity in the Electrical Needs Area would not be adequately met, and the unequal distribution of load would continue to result in overloads on the 220 kV lines serving Rector Substation from the Big Creek Hydroelectric Project. This condition would continue to jeopardize SCE's ability to provide safe and reliable electric service to customers within the Electrical Needs Area, creating the potential for increased incidence of brown-outs and black-outs in the future. Such disruptions to electric service could result in indirect impacts to the provision of public services. For example, disruption to traffic signals could result in additional traffic that would slow down response times of emergency service providers. Therefore, the No Project Alternative could potentially result in adverse impacts to public services. Depending on the extent, frequency, and duration of these service interruptions, the effects could be cumulatively considerable resulting in significant impacts that could not be mitigated (Class I).

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### Alternative 2

As with the Proposed Project, implementation of Alternative 2 would increase reliability and accommodate existing and planned electrical load growth, rather than induce growth. Operation and maintenance activities associated with Alternative 2 would be the same as under the Proposed Project. Compared to the Proposed Project Alternative 2 would require the removal of an additional 158 existing towers and the construction of an additional 44 towers and poles; as such, total project construction of Alternative 2 is estimated to be approximately 20 months, which is eight months longer than the Proposed Project. However, the additional time and/or crew necessary for construction of Alternative 2 would not induce substantial population growth directly or indirectly; therefore, the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services, police protection, schools and other public facilities would not be substantially different than under the Proposed Project. Because Alternative 2 would not pass through the City of Farmersville, impacts on public services in that community would be less than for the Proposed Project. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.12-1a, 1b, 2, 3a, 3b, and 3c would be applicable to Alternative 2 and would ensure that potential impacts to public services would be reduced to less than significant (Class II).

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### Alternative 3

As with the Proposed Project, implementation of Alternative 3 would increase reliability and accommodate existing and planned electrical load growth, rather than induce growth. Operation and maintenance activities associated with Alternative 3 would be the same as under the Proposed Project. Compared to the Proposed Project, Alternative 3 would require the removal of an

additional 216 existing towers and the construction of an additional 79 towers and poles. Consequently, total project construction of Alternative 3 is estimated to be approximately 24 months, which is 12 months longer than the Proposed Project. However, the additional time and/or crew necessary for construction of Alternative 3 would not induce substantial population growth directly or indirectly; therefore, the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services, police protection, schools and other public facilities would be the same as under the Proposed Project. Because Alternative 3 would not pass through the City of Farmersville, impacts on public services in that community would be less than for the Proposed Project. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.12-1a, 1b, 2, 3a, 3b, and 3c would be applicable to Alternative 3 and would ensure that potential impacts to public services would be reduced to less than significant (Class II).

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## **Alternative 6**

As with the Proposed Project, implementation of Alternative 6 would increase reliability and accommodate existing and planned electrical load growth, rather than induce growth. Operation and maintenance activities associated with Alternative 6 would be the same as under the Proposed Project. Compared to the Proposed Project, Alternative 6 would require the removal of additional existing towers and poles, though it would require the construction of fewer towers. Total project construction of Alternative 6 is estimated to be approximately 16 months, which is four months longer than the Proposed Project. However, the additional time and/or crew necessary for construction of Alternative 6 would not induce substantial population growth directly or indirectly; therefore, the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services, police protection, schools and other public facilities would be the same as under the Proposed Project. Because Alternative 6 would not pass through the City of Farmersville, impacts on public services in that community would be less than for the Proposed Project. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.12-1a, 1b, 2, 3a, 3b, and 3c would be applicable to Alternative 6 and would ensure that potential impacts to public services would be reduced to less than significant (Class II).

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