

4.14 PUBLIC SERVICES/UTILITIES

4.14.1 Introduction

This chapter describes pertinent public services and utilities that could be affected by the proposed project. Public services include fire and police protection and maintenance of public facilities such as schools and hospitals. Utilities and service systems include power, natural gas, water treatment and distribution, sewer facilities, storm water drainage, solid waste disposal, and local and regional water supplies.

4.14.2 Segments 2 and 3

The Segment 2 T/L alignment proceeds generally in a southeasterly direction from the existing Antelope Substation located in the western portion of the City of Lancaster and terminates at the Vincent Substation near Acton (refer to Figure 3-1). The proposed Segment 2 500 kV T/L route also passes through the western portion of the City of Palmdale and unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County between the Antelope and Vincent Substations. Segment 2 parallels an existing T/L corridor over much of its length.

The proposed Segment 3 T/L route alignment (and its alternatives) proceeds northerly from the Antelope Substation in western Lancaster through unincorporated portions of northern Los Angeles and southern Kern Counties to proposed Substations One and Two. Refer to Figure 4.14-1 for the locations of public services (i.e., fire stations, police stations, hospitals, and schools) along the proposed T/L routes and substations for Segments 2 and 3 (including alternatives).

4.14.2.1 Fire Protection

The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) provides protection for the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and has contracts with the City of Palmdale and City of Lancaster (Koller, 2004). The Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) provides protection for the unincorporated areas of Kern County (Dunn, 2004).

4.14.2.2 Police Protection

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provides protection for the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and has a contract arrangement with the City of Palmdale and the City of Lancaster. The Palmdale station has a total of 175 staff, including 86 staff that specifically serve the City of Palmdale (Hill, 2004). The Lancaster station has a total of 185 staff, including 77 staff that specifically serve the City of Lancaster (Low, 2004).

The Kern County Sheriff's Department provides protection for the unincorporated areas of Kern County and has a contract arrangement with the Rosamond area, Mojave, and Tehachapi. The Rosamond Station has 8 deputies, 2 investigators, and 1 sergeant (Price, 2004). The Mojave Station has 9 deputies, 1 senior deputy, 2 sergeants, 5 detention officers, and 2 bailiffs (Perlis, 2004). The Tehachapi Station has 8 deputies, 2 investigators, and 1 sergeant (Rodrigues, 2004).

4.14.3 Schools

The Lancaster Elementary School District serves the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the High Desert Region. The District operates 17 schools and has an enrollment of 15,576 (www.greatschools.net).

The Antelope Valley School District serves 1,100 square miles of Los Angeles County including the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the High Desert region from the Ventura County line east to the San Bernardino County line and south to Palmdale. The District operates 7 high schools and has an enrollment of 21,087 (Freeze, 2004).

The Southern Kern Unified School District serves the unincorporated areas of Southern Kern County. The District operates 19 schools and has an enrollment of 16,000 (Nancy, 2004).

There are no schools located within 0.25 mile of the proposed or alternative Segments 2 and 3 T/L routes or substations.

4.14.4 Hospitals

The Palmdale Hospital Medical Center is the major hospital in the City of Palmdale. The High Desert Medical Center is the major hospital in the City of Lancaster. The Tehachapi Hospital is the major hospital in the Kern County area.

4.14.5 Utilities

Significant infrastructure located along or near the proposed T/L routes for Segments 2 and 3 (including alternatives) is depicted on Figure 4.14-1. Southern California Gas Company (SCG) provides gas service and SCE provides electricity for the City of Lancaster, City of Palmdale, Los Angeles County, and Kern County. Water service for the City of Lancaster and City of Palmdale is provided by L.A. County Water Works and sewer service is provided by L.A. County Sewer Maintenance.

4.14.5.1 Segment 2

The proposed Segment 2 T/L route passes between the Antelope Substation, located in a sparsely developed portion of western Lancaster, and the Vincent Substation, located in unincorporated Los Angeles County. Segment 2 parallels existing T/L corridors over much of its length. Two 30-inch gas pipelines, owned by Southern California Gas intersect Segment 2 near MP 15.6 (refer to Figures 3-2 and 4.14-1).

The East Branch of the California Aqueduct alignment along the northeastern margin of the San Gabriel Mountains delivers State Water Project water to the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) and to the Mojave Water Agency further east. Segment 2 crosses the California Aqueduct near MP 4.5 (refer to Figures 3-2 and 4.14-1).

4.14.5.2 Segment 3 and Alternatives

The proposed Segment 3 T/L route (and alternatives) connect between the Antelope Substation, located in the City of Lancaster, and Substations One and Two, located in unincorporated Kern County (refer to Figures 3-1, 3-3, and 4.14-1).

An existing 500 kV T/L follows along or near the route for Segment 3 (proposed and alternative routes) between MP 0.0 (Antelope Substation) and MP 1.8. Segment 3 crosses two existing 220 kV T/Ls near MP 1.5. The Segment 3 proposed route also parallels 800 kV and 230 kV T/Ls within the LADWP easement, between MPs 11.9 and 13.1. Alternative routes A and B cross this LADWP easement at MP 13.9 and MP 11.6, respectively.

The Los Angeles Aqueduct conveys water from the Owens Valley/Mono Lake area to the City of Los Angeles. The proposed Segment 3 T/L crosses the Los Angeles Aqueduct near MP 20.1. Alternative A traverses the aqueduct near MP 20.9, and Alternative B at MP 19.2.

Based upon available data, the northern portions of the proposed Segment 3 T/L route and Alternatives A, B, and C cross and/or are located near several large natural gas transmission pipelines. The primary gas pipelines consist of two Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) 34-inch pipelines, one Kern River Gas Transmission Company 42-inch pipeline, and a Mojave Pipeline Company 12-inch diameter pipeline. Data from USGS topographic maps also indicate that gas pipelines cross through the proposed sites for alternate Substations 1A and 1C (refer to Figure 3-3).

Based upon further assessment by SCE, the originally identified sites for Substation One and Substation Two have been relocated to avoid these gas pipelines as well as other utilities. Refer to Section 5.14 for additional discussion. The relocation of both substation sites was also due to other considerations, such as natural drainage patterns, ease of access, and topography.