

5.14 Public Services

PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project 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:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Significance criteria established by CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G.

5.14.1 Setting

Fire and police departments as well as school districts, parks and recreation services, and other public services are provided by Kern County, the Bureau of Land Management, special districts, and State agencies. See Figure 5.14-1 for public services in the Proposed Project vicinity.

Fire Protection and Emergency Services

The Proposed Project is located in an area of Kern County that has been designated as having a moderate to high fire potential (SCE, 2014). There are three fire stations in the area comprising the Greater Tehachapi Area (GTA) and the City of Tehachapi.

Kern County Fire Department

The Kern County Fire Department provides primary fire protection to unincorporated areas of the county and on regional transportation corridors, in addition to providing fire protection services to the City of Tehachapi. Kern County Fire Department has 46 fire stations throughout the county and is divided into seven battalions for operational management. Each battalion covers a large geographical area and includes between seven and nine fire stations. The county has a total of 546 uniformed firefighter personnel (Kern County, 2010). Stations #12, #16, and #18 are closest to the Proposed Project.

- Station #12: Tehachapi Station is located at 800 South Curry Street in Tehachapi, approximately 11.7 miles from the proposed substation site.
- Station #16: Bear Valley Station is located at 28946 Bear Valley Road, approximately 9.4 miles from the proposed substation site.
- Station #18: Stallion Springs Station is located at 28381 Braeburn Place, approximately 3.2 miles from the proposed substation site.

Sheriff and Police Protection

There are three law enforcement agencies serving different parts of the project area. These include the Kern County Sheriff's Office, the California Highway Patrol, and the Tehachapi Police Department. Two

police other police departments are in the general area: the Stallion Springs Police Department and the Bear Valley Police Department. The Banducci Substation site is under the jurisdiction of the County Sheriff's Office.

Kern County Sheriff's Office

The Kern County Sheriff's Office is the primary provider of police services throughout the GTA, with the exception of the Bear Valley Springs and Stallion Springs areas, which have their own police departments. The Sheriff's Office operates one substation in the Tehachapi area, located at 22209 Old Town Road approximately 10 miles from the proposed substation site.

California Highway Patrol

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is a statewide law enforcement organization that provides traffic enforcement along state highways, including State Route (SR) 58 and SR-202 both in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. The nearest office is in Mojave, approximately 22 miles east of Tehachapi.

Tehachapi Police Department

The City of Tehachapi Police Department, located at 129 East F Street, provides police services within the incorporated city.

Schools

The Proposed Project is located in the Tehachapi Unified School District, which encompasses 522 square miles and operates three elementary schools, one middle school, one alternative education school, and one comprehensive high school. These include:

- **Cummings Valley Elementary School:** Located at 24220 Bear Valley Road, approximately 4 miles from the proposed substation site, this school serves approximately 690 students.
- **Golden Hills Elementary School:** Located at 20215 Park Road, approximately 10 miles from the proposed substation site, this school serves approximately 700 students.
- **Tompkins Elementary School:** Located at 1120 South Curry Street, in the City of Tehachapi, approximately 11 miles from the proposed substation site, this school serves approximately 690 students.
- **Jacobsen Middle School:** Located at 711 Anita Drive, in the City of Tehachapi, this school is approximately 13 miles from the proposed substation site and serves approximately 1,135 students.
- **Tehachapi High School:** Located at 801 South Dennison Road, in the City of Tehachapi, this school is approximately 12 miles from the proposed substation site and serves approximately 1,478 students.
- **Monroe Continuation High School:** Located at 20569 Eumatilla Street, this school is approximately 16 miles from the proposed substation site and serves approximately 175 students.

Private and charter schools in Tehachapi include: Heritage Oak School (K-12) at 20915 Schout Road; Valley Oaks Charter School (K-12) at 20705 South Street; Carden School of Tehachapi (PK-8) at 20419 Brian Way, New Life Christian School (PK-K) at 920 W Valley Blvd; Sunshine Place Preschool at 19016 Highline Road; Good Shepard Preschool at 329 S Mill Street; and Covenant Christian (1-12) at 21800 Oak Summit Court.

Parks

The nearest park to the proposed substation site is the Brite Valley Aquatic Recreation Area, located 3 miles northeast of the site. There are three public parks located within 1 mile of the proposed telecommunications routes. These recreational facilities include the Brite Lake Aquatic Recreation Area, Meadowbrook Park, and Philip Marx Central Park, which are described in Section 5.15 Recreation (SCE, 2014). In addition to these, there are a number of public parks, open spaces, and recreational areas located in the City of Tehachapi (including West Park, Tehachapi City Park, Dye Natatorium, Tehachapi Mountain Park) and the region (including Kern River State Park, Sequoia National Forest, Fort Tejon State Historical Park, and Red Rock Canyon Recreation Area).

Institutions

Correctional institutes exist in several locations under various jurisdictions in Kern County. The California Correction Institution is operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and is located approximately 1.5 miles from the proposed substation site.

Hospitals

The Tehachapi Valley Healthcare District is approximately 12 miles from the proposed substation site and provides a 24-bed critical access facility with over 70 physicians. The Tehachapi Valley Healthcare District Hospital is located at 115 West E Street in the City of Tehachapi.

Regulatory Background

Federal

There are no federal laws or regulations related to public services that are applicable to the Proposed Project.

State

Fire Protection. The California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 9 is known as the California Fire Code. This code provides for planning, precautions, and preparations for fire safety and fire protection during various activities, including, but not limited to, construction and demolition, as well as requirements for buildings and guidelines for working with flammable chemicals and materials. The Proposed Project would be located in an area that has a moderate to high fire hazard potential.

California Public Resources Code (CPRC) Section 4292 states:

[A]ny person that owns, controls, operates, or maintains any electrical transmission or distribution line...shall, during such times and in such areas as are determined to be necessary by the director or the agency, has primary responsibility for fire protection of such areas, maintain around and adjacent to any pole or tower which supports a switch, fuse, transformer, lightning arrester, line junction, or dead end or corner pole, a firebreak which consists of a clearing of not less than 10 feet in each direction from the outer circumference of such a pole or tower.

CPRC Section 4293 states:

[A]ny person that owns, controls, operates, or maintains any electrical transmission or distribution line upon any mountainous land, or in forest-covered land, or grass-covered land shall, during such times and in such areas as are determined to be necessary by the

director or the agency which has primary responsibility for the fire protection of such area, maintain a clearance of the respective distances which are specified in this section in all directions between all vegetation and all conductors which are carrying electric current:

- (a) For any line which is operating at 2,400 or more volts, but less than 72,000 volts, four feet*
- (b) For any line which is operating at 72,000 or more volts, but less than 110,000 volts, six feet*
- (c) For any line which is operating at 110,000 or more volts, 10 feet*

In every case, such distance shall be sufficiently great to furnish the required clearance at any position of the wire, or conductor when the adjacent air temperature is 120 degrees Fahrenheit, or less. Dead trees, old decadent or rotten trees, trees weakened by decay or disease and trees or portions thereof that are leaning toward the line which may contact the line from the side or may fall on the line shall be felled, cut, or trimmed so as to remove such hazard.

Local

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order No. 131-D, Section XIV B states that “local jurisdictions acting pursuant to local authority are preempted from regulating electric power line projects, distribution lines, substations, or electric facilities constructed by public utilities subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction. However, in locating such projects, the public utilities shall consult with local agencies regarding land use matters.” As a public utility project that is subject to jurisdiction of the CPUC, the Proposed Project is exempt from local regulation and discretionary permits. As such, the regional and local regulatory standards are provided in this analysis for informational purposes only.

Kern County General Plan. The goals of the General Plan’s Safety Element include assisting in the allocation of public resources in Kern County to develop a systematic approach toward the protection of public health, safety and welfare within the county and assure the continuity of vital public services and functions (Kern County, 2009). These goals and policies include the following:

- Safety Policy 1: Require discretionary projects to assess impacts on emergency services and facilities.
- Safety Policy 4: Ensure that new development of properties have sufficient access for emergency vehicles and for the evacuation of residents.
- Safety Policy 6: All discretionary projects shall comply with the adopted Fire Code and requirements of the Fire Department.

In addition, the goals of the General Plan’s Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element include ensuring the provision of adequate public services, including fire and police protection. These goals and policies include the following:

- Public Facilities and Services Policy 6: The County will ensure adequate fire protection to all Kern County residents.
- Public Facilities and Services Policy 7: The County will ensure adequate police protection to all Kern County residents.

Greater Tehachapi Area Specific and Community Plan. The Greater Tehachapi Area (GTA) is a term used to describe the collection of unincorporated communities located in eastern Kern County along SR-58

between the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert (Kern County, 2010). The GTA generally encompasses the rural communities of Alpine Forest, Bear Valley Springs, Brite Valley, Cummings Ranch, Cummings Valley, Golden Hills, Mendiburu Springs, Monolith, Old Towne, and Stallion Springs. Kern County has adopted a GTA Specific and Community Plan (GTASCP) that sets forth a land use plan and goals, policies, and implementation measures designed to ensure that future development in the GTA is consistent with the goals and policies of Kern County's General Plan while recognizing the uniqueness of the region. The proposed Banducci Substation would be located within the GTASCP, as would portions of the telecommunications routes.

Applicant Proposed Measures

There are no Applicant Proposed Measures for public services.

5.14.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Would the project 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:

a) Fire protection?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. The Proposed Project would be located in an area that is designated as having a moderate to high fire potential. Construction activity would be temporary and occur over the course of approximately one year. Construction activity would not be anticipated to require new or physically altered fire protection emergency services. The Proposed Project area would continue to be adequately supported by the existing fire protection services. Once constructed, the substation would be unmanned and operated remotely. It would not pose any unusual fire risks that would result in the need to construct new fire facilities. Therefore, construction of the Proposed Project would be expected to result in less than significant impacts related to fire protection services.

b) Police Protection?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. Construction of the Proposed Project would not require police protection beyond routine patrols and response. The Proposed Project site and the staging and equipment yards, would be enclosed and locked when crews are not at work. The majority of construction-related activities would be located away from major emergency access routes and not be expected to significantly interfere with emergency police. Therefore, construction of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts related to police protection.

c) Schools?

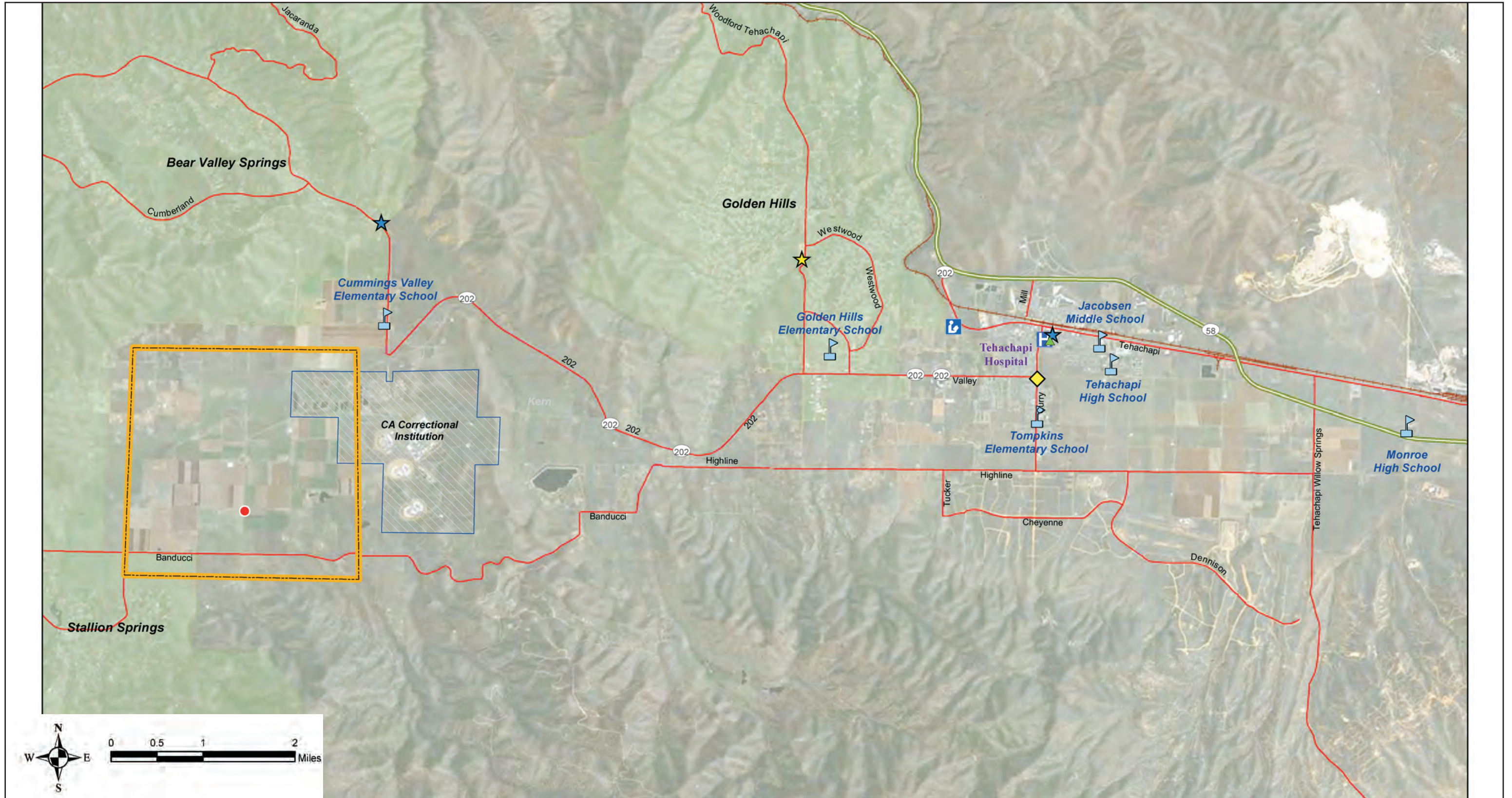
NO IMPACT. The Proposed Project would not be expected to result in an increase in population within the area. Construction of the proposed substation and other ancillary facilities would occur over approximately 12 months and would not require the relocation of workers to the Proposed Project area. There would not be an expected increase in families or in school-age children as a result of the temporary construction activities and workers relocating temporarily to the area. The substation would be remotely operated and would be serviced by existing SCE crews. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in no impact related to requiring expanded schools.

d) Parks?

NO IMPACT. The Proposed Project would not increase the region's population. Construction of project infrastructure would take place over 12 months, requiring up to 50 construction personnel working on any given day. Although some workers may use local and regional park facilities during project construction, increased use would be minimal and temporary and would not contribute substantially to the physical deterioration of existing facilities. Consequently, the project would not increase any long-term demands on existing parks in the project area, and no new or expanded park facilities would be required because of the Proposed Project.

e) Other Public Facilities?

NO IMPACT. The Proposed Project would not increase population and would not affect other governmental services or public facilities so as to require new or expanded facilities to be developed. Therefore, no impact on other public facilities is expected.



Source: SCE, 2014.

- Proposed Banducci Substation
- Substation Study Area
- CA Correctional Institution
- ⚓ School
- H Hospital
- ▲ Post Office
- ★ Police
- ★ Sheriff
- ◆ Fire Department
- b Library
- Freeway / Major Highway
- Major Road / Minor Highway

Figure 5.14-1
Public Services in the Proposed Project Vicinity

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