

Section 3.16

3.16 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

This section describes existing conditions and the potential utilities and service systems impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Project and alternatives.

3.16.1 Existing Conditions**3.16.1.1 City of Banning**

The City of Banning Public Works Department houses several divisions that provide utility services to the area. These include wastewater treatment services and electric service. Additionally, the City provides domestic water service to most of the planning area. The Banning Heights Mutual Water Company provides domestic water services to the northern half of the planning area. The City purchases electrical energy from Southern California Edison (SCE), and distributes it to its service area. Other utilities service providers include the Gas Company, Verizon, Time Warner Cable, and Waste Management Inland Empire. Major utility buildings and facilities include the City wastewater reclamation plant, a SCE-owned electrical substation, and a Verizon switching office.

3.16.1.2 City of Beaumont

SCE provides basic electrical service for all residential and non-residential customers within the City of Beaumont. The Gas Company provides basic residential and business natural gas services. Verizon provides home and business phone service, as well as offering fiber optics capabilities. Video and data lines are also possible for each residence via an existing network.

The City of Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plant was recently expanded to accommodate up to 4.0 million gallons per day of effluent. The City estimates that up to 2,240 acre-feet of recycled wastewater are made available to the community through this plant's operation on an annual basis.

The Beaumont/Cherry Valley Water District provides service in the City and portions of the surrounding sphere of influence. The District draws groundwater from shallow wells in Little San Gorgonio Canyon, which is located in the southern foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains and from deeper wells that extract water from the Beaumont Storage Unit (City of Beaumont, General Plan, 2005).

3.16.1.3 City of Calimesa

A variety of utility services support the needs of the residents of the City of Calimesa. Utilities service providers include SCE, the Gas Company, Yucaipa Valley Water District, South Mesa Water Company, Verizon, Adelphia Cable, and CR & R Solid Waste Management.

3.16.1.4 City of Yucaipa

The Yucaipa Valley Water District collects and treats wastewater generated within the City of Yucaipa. The District currently operates a wastewater treatment plant that can currently accommodate 4.5 million gallons per day. The facility is being upgraded to handle 8 million gallons per day with further potential expansion of the facility to 11 million gallons per day.

Three water purveyors provide water service to the City of Yucaipa. These purveyors include the Yucaipa Water District, South Mesa Mutual Water Company, and Western Heights Mutual Water Company.

Electrical services are provided by SCE. The Southern California Gas Company provides natural gas services to the City. Cable television is provided by Charter Communications and Adelphia Communications. Telephone services are provided by Verizon Communications.

3.16.1.5 City of Redlands

The City of Redlands Municipal Utilities Department provides water and wastewater service, as well as solid waste service. The Redlands Wastewater Treatment Facility is located on approximately 50 acres. The facility currently employs a staff of 17 and operates on a continuous basis. The facility has the ability to process 9.5 million gallons of wastewater per day, and is currently processing about 6 million gallons per day. The City also operates a certified environmental laboratory for monitoring its drinking water supply and wastewater effluent. The laboratory is certified by the State of California, Department of Health Services.

Electrical services are provided by SCE. The Southern California Gas Company provides natural gas services to the City. TCI Cablevision provides cable television service. Verizon Communications provides telephone service.

3.16.1.6 Riverside County

Utilities service providers within the unincorporated areas of Riverside County include SCE, the Gas Company, Yucaipa Valley Water District, South Mesa Water Company, Verizon, Adelphia Cable, and CR & R Solid Waste Management.

Seven active landfills currently operate within the unincorporated area of Riverside County. Of the seven landfills, six are operated by the Riverside County Waste Management Department (RCWMD), while El Sobrante Landfill is privately owned and operated under an agreement with the County of Riverside. Additionally, the Eagle Mountain Landfill, while non-active, is fully permitted to operate. Table 3.16-1, Riverside County Landfill Information, identifies the capacity information, remaining capacity and estimated closure year for each of the RCWMD active landfills as identified by the California Integrated Waste Management Board Website.

**TABLE 3.16-1
RIVERSIDE COUNTY LANDFILL INFORMATION**

Landfill Sites	Maximum Permitted Capacity	Remaining Capacity	Estimated Closure Year
Badlands	30,386,332 cubic yards	21,866,092 cubic yards	2016
Blythe	4,633,000 cubic yards	2,325,796 cubic yards	2034
El Sobrante	184,930,000 Tons	172,531,000 Tons	2030
Lamb Canyon	34,292,000 cubic yards	20,908,171 cubic yards	2023
Mecca II	372,480 cubic yards	34,786 cubic yards	2007
Desert Center	117,032 cubic yards	23,300 cubic yards	2011
Oasis	870,000 cubic yards	128,171 cubic yards	2186

Source: California Integrated Waste Board. Solid Waste Information. <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/SWIS/>

Commercial and residential municipal waste from incorporated and unincorporated areas within Riverside County is delivered by private haulers to the various active RCWMD landfills. Disposal of the municipal waste generated within the area is ultimately the responsibility of the RCWMD. As such, the RCWMD may elect to direct municipal waste to any of the available landfills rather than the landfill that is in the closest proximity to the municipal area.

3.16.1.7 San Bernardino County

Utilities service providers within unincorporated San Bernardino County include: SCE for electric service, the Gas Company for natural gas, the City of Redlands for water and wastewater, Verizon for telephone service, Empire Disposal for trash disposal service.

The nearest landfill is San Timoteo Landfill, located in the City of Redlands. It generally accepts up to 1,000 tons per day, and is permitted through the year 2016.

3.16.2 Significance Criteria

Impacts to utilities and service systems are considered potentially significant if the project would:

- 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 insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or require new or expanded entitlements
- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments
- Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs
- Not comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste

Potential impacts related to stormwater drainage facilities are discussed in Section 3.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of this PEA.

3.16.3 Proposed Project Impacts

3.16.3.1 Construction Impacts

3.16.3.1.1 Water Use and Wastewater Generation. Construction of the Proposed Project would not increase the demand for public water supply, nor would it jeopardize the water quality of the public water system, or impact sewer services. The only demand for water would be for use by construction workers and water brought in for dust control. Potable water for drinking and portable restrooms would be brought in for construction and disposed of accordingly. Non-potable water would be transported to the various construction areas for dust suppression purposes.

The Proposed Project would not require wastewater disposal, and thus, construction activities would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements. Construction of the Proposed Project would not require the construction or expansion of water or wastewater treatment facilities.

In summary, impacts to water use and wastewater generation due to construction of the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

3.16.3.1.2 Electrical Infrastructure. Construction activities could potentially disrupt services provided by underground and other overhead utilities. Prior to construction, surveys would be conducted to locate all underground and overhead utilities in the project area. Before any subsurface ground disturbance occurs (e.g., foundation work), SCE would contact Underground Service Alert to verify the location of existing underground utilities to avoid impacts. SCE would also design construction activities and methods to avoid disruption of overhead utility lines owned by third parties.

In summary, impacts to electrical infrastructure due to construction of the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

3.16.3.1.3 Solid Waste Generation. Construction of the Proposed Project would require limited use of hazardous materials, including fuel, lubricants, and cleaning solutions. All hazardous materials would be stored, handled, and used in accordance with applicable regulations, including the Construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan(s).

Construction of the Proposed Project would result in the generation of limited waste materials, including materials associated with the construction of subtransmission lines and substation modifications. Following installation of the new steel poles, the existing wood poles would be completely removed (including the portion below ground surface). Depending on their condition and chemical treatment method, the wood poles to be replaced would be reused by SCE, returned to the manufacturer, disposed of in a Class I hazardous waste landfill, or disposed of in the lined portion of a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)-certified municipal landfill.

The construction of the 12 kV distribution line getaways would utilize drilling mud associated with the horizontal drilling of the conduit. Precautions would be taken to insure that drilling fluid does not enter roadways, streams, municipal storm or sanitary sewer lines, and/or any other drainage system or body of water. Additionally, excess drilling mud generated as a result of the drilling of the conduits would either be used as fill material or disposed of at local landfills.

It is anticipated that either the Lambs Canyon Landfill, located south of Beaumont, or the Badlands Landfill, located south west of the project area, would be utilized for waste generated from the construction of the Proposed Project. As noted in Table 3.16-1, both landfills are permitted, operational and have sufficient capacity to accept waste generated from construction activities.

Non-hazardous waste materials generated during construction would be either recycled or disposed of at approved landfills. Scrap metal and wood poles generated during removal of the existing subtransmission towers and overhead lines would be recycled to the extent possible as noted above. Construction of the Proposed Project would comply with all federal, state, and local standards relating to solid waste.

In summary, impacts to solid waste generation due to construction of the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

3.16.3.2 Operational Impacts

Operation of the Proposed Project would not impact other utilities or services. The new El Casco Substation would be equipped with portable restrooms on the site. As a result,

connection to an existing municipal wastewater distribution system is not necessary. Further, no running water would be available at the substation site. As a result, the new substation site would not be required to be connected to an existing municipal water distribution system.

The Proposed Project would not require any new connectors or use of water, wastewater, gas, or electric supply during the operational phase. Additionally, the operation of the Proposed Project would not result in the generation of waste material as all elements of the Proposed Project would operate as unattended facilities.

In summary, operation of the Proposed Project would not impact utilities and service systems.

3.16.3.3 Applicant Proposed Mitigation Measures

Because impacts to utilities and service systems would be less than significant, no mitigation measures are required.

3.16.4 Alternatives

3.16.4.1 Northerly 115 kV Subtransmission Line Route Alternative

The northerly 115 kV subtransmission line route would also require the removal of existing wood poles for replacement with new steel poles. The wood poles would be handled and disposed of in the same manner as for the Proposed Project. The solid waste generated from the construction of the northerly 115 kV subtransmission line route could be accommodated by existing landfills in the area. Because the 115 kV lines would operate as unattended facilities, the route would not require the connection to municipal water, wastewater, gas or electric services for either construction or operation. While the construction of the northerly route would create temporary (but less than significant) impacts, operation of the route would not impact public services and utilities. In summary, impacts to utilities and service systems due to construction and operation of the subtransmission line route alternative would be less than significant.

3.16.4.2 Site 38 (Alternate Site)

The construction of the El Casco Substation at Site 38 would generate limited solid wastes. As with the construction of the substation at the Preferred Site, waste generated by construction activities at Site 38 could be accommodated at RCWMD landfills. The substation at Site 38 would utilize portable restrooms during construction activities. However, due to the availability of water and wastewater lines in close proximity to the site, the substation may include a restroom facility with water and wastewater connections once the substation is operational. The substation at Site 38 would operate as an unattended facility. Therefore, the usage of water and wastewater facilities would be minimal. In

summary, impacts to utilities and service systems due to the construction and operation of the substation at Site 38 would be less than significant.