### 4.15 Public Services

This section of the PEA describes the public services in the area of the IC Project Alignment, as well as the potential impacts from the IC Project and its Alternatives.

# 4.15.1 Environmental Setting

The sections below describe the existing public services in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment. Public services were identified through review of general and comprehensive plans, county and city websites, school district websites, and aerial imagery. Information in this section is organized by public service type and the provider(s) of those services. Information on parks is provided in Section 4.16. Figureset 4.15-1 displays the locations of public services in relation to components of the Project.

### 4.15.1.1 Fire Protection

# **4.15.1.1.1** Segment 1

Volunteer Fire Departments provide fire protection services to Inyo County and the City of Bishop. The fire protection districts (FPD) present within Inyo County in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment include the Bishop FPD, Big Pine FPD, Independence FPD, Lone Pine FPD, and Olancha-Cartago FPD. The Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) also provides fire protection services in the vicinity of Segment 1. Stations associated with these FPDs and the KCFD in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment are listed in Table 4.15-1.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bishop Field Office fire organization is combined with the Inyo National Forest fire organization into one Interagency Fire Management Organization. The management area combines the public land of the Inyo National Forest and Bishop Field Office in Inyo and Mono counties in California. The Interagency Fire Management Organization maintains 8 fire stations with 9 engines, 7 fire prevention patrol units, 2 water tenders, a 10-person hand crew, a 20-person hotshot crew, an air tanker reload base and a helitack base. Of these, the following are located along the IC Project Alignment:

- White Mountain Ranger Station. This station, located in Bishop, has a Type 3 wildland engine, two fire prevention patrol units, one 20-person hotshot crew (the Boundary Peak Hotshots), a District Fire Management Officer and an Assistant District Fire Management Officer, all from the FS. In the summer, a BLM fire prevention unit also works out of this station. Also located in Bishop are various "Fire Overhead" personnel—fire planners, Forest Fire Management Officers, Interagency Mitigation/Education Specialist, etc. These employees are a mixture of FS and BLM, and manage the overall direction of the interagency fire program for the area.
- Bishop Air Tanker Reload Base. At the Eastern Sierra Regional Airport is the Bishop Air Tanker Base, capable of reloading nearly all air tankers in service today, except for the Very Large Air Tankers (VLATs) such as the DC-10 and 747. The tanker base is operated on an as-needed basis, but also hosts a Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) during the summer.
- Independence Helitack Base. The home to Helicopter 525, a Type 3 ship, the helitack base is located at the north end of Independence.

A portion of Segment 1 parallels the Naval Air Warfare Center China Lake. The China Lake Federal Fire Department (CLFD) provides mutual aid firefighting services to KCFD and the State of California when needed. (Commander, Navy Installations Command [CNIC] 2017)

# 4.15.1.1.2 Segments 2, 3N, 3S, and 4

The Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) and San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCFD) provide fire protection services along the majority of Segments 2, 3N, 3S, and 4. The SBCFD provides fire, safety, and emergency medical services to more than 60 communities and cities and all unincorporated areas of the county. (SBCFD 2018a)

Segment 3S is routed through the City of Barstow; fire services within the City are provided by the City of Barstow Fire Protection District (CBFPD). (City of Barstow 2018)

Segments 3N, 3S, and 4 cross a portion of the Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Barstow, Yermo and Nebo annexes. Emergency services on MCLB are provided by the Fire and Emergency Services Division (FMSD); the FMSD serves the MCLB along with local community residents and travelers on I-40 and I-15. (MCLB FMSD 2018) Table 4.15-1 provides a list of the fire stations in the vicinity of Segments 2, 3N, 3S, and 4.

Table 4.15-1: Fire Stations Proximate to the IC Project Alignment

Project Segment	Name	Location	Approximate Distance to the IC Project Alignment (miles)	
1	USFS White Mountain Ranger Station	798 N Main Street, Bishop	2.0	
1	USFS Bishop Air Tanker Reload Base	Bishop Airport	2.5	
1	City of Bishop Volunteer Fire Department  – Station 2 West Ridge	209 W Line Street, Bishop	2.4	
1	Big Pine Volunteer Fire Department	190 North Main Street, Big Pine	0.8	
1	USFS Independence Helitack Base	760 North Edwards Street, Independence	2.5	
1	CAL FIRE San Bernardino Unit – Independence	103 Clay Street, Independence	2.4	
1	Independence Volunteer Fire Department	200 South Jackson Street, Independence	2.5	
1	Lone Pine Volunteer Fire Department	130 North Jackson Street, Lone Pine	0.9	
1	Olancha Cartago Volunteer Fire Department	Highway 395, Olancha	0.8	
1	Kern County Fire Department – Station 73	6919 Monache Mountain Avenue, Inyokern	1.6	
2	Kern County Fire Department – Station 73	6919 Monache Mountain Avenue, Inyokern	1.6	
2	Kern County Fire Department – Station 75	26804 Butte Avenue, Randsburg	0.2	
3N	MCLB Barstow Fire Station 2	F Street and 13 <sup>th</sup> Street, MCLB, Yermo	0.9	
3S	MCLB Barstow Fire Station 1	C Street and 6 <sup>th</sup> Street, MCLB, Barstow	0.9	
3S	Barstow Fire Protection District	861 Barstow Road, Barstow	1.7	
3S	Barstow Fire Protection District, Station #363	2600 West Main Street, Barstow	0.1	
4	MCLB Barstow Fire Station 2	F Street and 13 <sup>th</sup> Street, MCLB, Yermo	1.4	
4	San Bernardino County Fire Department Fire Station 53	72734 Baker Boulevard, Baker	0.7	

### 4.15.1.2 Law Enforcement

The Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) and Inyo County Sheriff's Office (ICSO) provide public safety service to unincorporated Inyo and Kern counties, including along the IC Project Alignment. The KCSO employs more than 1,400 people and has 14 substations (KCSO 2017); none of the substations are in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment. The ICSO employs more than 96 people. (Inyo County 2001) The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBCSD) employs 3,800 people and has 15 patrol stations and serves over 2.1 million people in San Bernardino County. (SBCSD 2018) The Barstow Police Department serves 40 square miles serving 60,000 people from one police station and with 40 police officers. (City of Barstow 2018) The IC Project Alignment also crosses through the MCLB Barstow Yermo and Nebo annexes, and is served by the Marine Corps Police Department (MCPD). Table 4.15-2 provides a list of law enforcement stations that are proximate to the IC Project Alignment.

Table 4.15-2: Law Enforcement Stations Proximate to the IC Project Alignment

Project			Distance to the IC Project
Segment	Name	Location	Alignment (miles)
1	Inyo County Sheriff's Office, Bishop Operations Headquarters	Bishop	~3.0
1	Lone Pine Operations Headquarters	Lone Pine	~1.0
3S	Barstow Police Department	Barstow	~2.0
3S	Marine Corps Police Department	Barstow	~1.0
3S	SBCSD Barstow Patrol Office	Barstow	~2.0

### 4.15.1.3 Schools

Kern County has 47 school districts, two of which are crossed by the IC Project Alignment; no schools in Kern County are located within 1 mile of the IC Project Alignment. (Kern County Superintendent of Schools [KCSS] 2017) There are five school districts in Inyo County, four of which are crossed by the IC Project Alignment; several schools in Inyo County are located within 1 mile of the IC Project Alignment. San Bernardino County has 33 school districts, three of which are crossed by the IC Project Alignment. (San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools [SBCSS] 2018) Table 4.15-3 lists the schools that are proximate to the IC Project Alignment.

Table 4.15-3: Schools within One Mile of the IC Project Alignment

Project Segment	Name	Location	District	Grades	Distance to IC Project Alignment (miles)
1	Cerro Coso Community College	Bishop	Bishop Joint Union High School District	College	~0.9
1	Big Pine K-8 Elementary School and Big Pine High School	Big Pine	Big Pine Unified School District	K-8 9-12	~0.6
1	Lone Pine High School	Lone Pine	Lone Pine Unified School District	9-12	~0.9
1	Lo-Inyo Elementary and Middle School	Lone Pine	Lone Pine Unified School District	K-8	~0.9
3N	Silver Valley High School	Yermo	Silver Valley Unified School District	9-12	~0.4
3S	Barstow Community College	Barstow	Barstow Unified School District	Two- year College	~0.6
4	Yermo School	Yermo	Silver Valley Unified School District	K-8	~0.8
4	Baker Elementary School	Baker	Baker Valley Unified School District	K-5	~0.2
4	Baker Junior High and High School	Baker	Baker Valley Unified School District	6-12	~0.3

#### 4.15.1.4 Parks

There are a number of parks and recreational areas located in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment; these are described in detail in Section 4.16, Recreation and Table 4.16-1. Kern County Parks and Recreation Department manages approximately 4,726 acres of parks and open space. (Kern County 2010) The Inyo County Parks and Recreation operates fifteen parks and campgrounds. (Inyo County 2017) In San Bernardino County, the Regional Parks Department manages and maintains nine regional parks totaling approximately 9,200 acres.

#### 4.15.1.5 Other Public Facilities

Additional public services along the IC Project Alignment include medical facilities and libraries. The hospitals closest to the IC Project Alignment are shown in Table 4.15-4.

Table 4.15-4: Other Public Facilities in the Vicinity of the IC Project Alignment

<b>Project Segment</b>	Name	Distance from IC Project Alignment (miles)
1	Ridgecrest Regional Hospital	7.0
1	Northern Inyo Hospital	3.0
1	Southern Inyo Hospital	0.6
2	Ridgecrest Regional Hospital	7.0
3S	Barstow Community Hospital	2.0

Public libraries are located in Bishop, Lone Pine, and Barstow. These public facilities are depicted in Figureset 4.15-1, Public Services.

# 4.15.2 Regulatory Setting

The regulatory framework that is discussed below in this section identifies the state, regional, and local statutes, ordinances, or policies that were reviewed during the preparation of this analysis and would be considered during the decision-making process in order to determine the potential for the IC Project to result in significant impacts related to public services.

### 4.15.2.1 Federal

No federal regulations related to public services are applicable to the IC Project.

#### 4.15.2.2 State

## 4.15.2.2.1 California Fire Code

The California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 9 is known as the California Fire Code. This code provides provisions 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 IC Project Alignment is located in areas that range from moderate to high fire hazard potential. (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection [CAL FIRE] 2007) As such, the California Fire Code was reviewed for this analysis.

### 4.15.2.2.2 California Public Resources Code Sections 4292 and 4293

California Public Resources Code (PRC) 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, lightening 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.

#### PRC 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.

# 4.15.2.2.3 Red Flag Fire Warning and Weather Watches

Like PRC Sections 4292 and 4293, red-flag warnings and fire-weather watches aim to prevent fire events and reduce the potential for substantial damage. When extreme fire weather or behavior is present or predicted in an area, a red-flag warning or fire-weather watch may be issued to advise local fire agencies that these conditions are present. The National Weather Service issues the red flag warnings and fire weather watches and the CAL FIRE has provided safety recommendations for preventing fires, including clearing and removing vegetation, and ensuring the proper use of equipment.

### 4.15.2.3 Local

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has sole and exclusive state jurisdiction over the siting and design of the IC Project. Pursuant to CPUC General Order 131-D (GO 131-D), Section XIV.B, "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 CPUC's jurisdiction. However, in locating such projects, the public utilities shall consult with local agencies regarding land use matters." Consequently, public utilities are directed to consider local regulations and consult with local agencies, but the counties' and cities' regulations are not applicable as the counties and cities do not have jurisdiction over the IC Project. Accordingly, the following discussion of local land use regulations is provided for informational purposes only.

### 4.15.2.3.1 Invo County General Plan

The Inyo County General Plan does not contain any specific goals relevant to the IC Project.

## 4.15.2.3.2 Kern County General Plan

Kern County recognizes the importance of environmental and public health and has developed policies to protect the public health and safety in the Kern County General Plan. Kern County has policies that encourage availability of adequate emergency services and facilities to the residents of Kern County through the coordination, planning, and development of emergency facilities and services. The Safety Element of the Kern County General Plan does not contain any specific goals or policies that are relevant to the IC Project. (Kern County 2009)

## 4.15.2.3.3 San Bernardino County General Plan

The Safety Element of the County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan contains goals and policies for fire protection and emergency response. The Safety Element contains goals to protect residents and visitors from injury and loss of life, and to protect property from fires. The Safety Element of the County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan does not contain any specific goals or policies that are relevant to the IC Project.

# 4.15.2.3.4 City of Barstow General Plan

The City's Safety Element of the General Plan has established goals to maintain optimal levels of service and quality for fire and police protection, expanding police and fire facilities as needed in conjunction with future planned development, and continuing to promote public safety by maintaining and enhancing prevention, education and outreach programs. The Safety Element does not contain any specific goals or policies that are relevant to the IC Project.

# 4.15.3 Significance Criteria

The significance criteria for assessing the impacts to public services are derived from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Checklist. According to the CEQA Checklist, a project causes a potentially significant impact if it would 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: fire protection; police protection; schools; parks; other public facilities.

## 4.15.4 Impact Analysis

4.15.4.1 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?

### 4.15.4.1.1 Construction

**No Impact.** The IC Project would not affect service ratios, response times, or other objectives for public services in the area. Fire, emergency and police services currently serve, and would continue to serve, the areas in which the existing and rebuilt subtransmission lines are located.

The IC Project would not require the expansion of fire protection services. Work areas would be cleared of vegetation, or vegetation trimmed, before staging construction equipment, thus minimizing the

probability of fire during construction. Although the need for emergency services may arise during construction of the IC Project, such a need would not substantially affect the provision of existing emergency services or require the provision of service beyond existing capacities. Construction is not anticipated to affect response times because any lane or road closures, if necessary, would be temporary and would be coordinated with local jurisdictions per APM TRA-1, and traffic control would be implemented as necessary per APM TRA-1.

It is not anticipated that the IC Project would adversely affect the use or operation of any public services or facilities in the vicinity of the IC Project alignment, including schools, fire, and police protection services, emergency services, hospitals, or other services. Construction of the IC Project would not generate the need for new or additional public services such as school or other facilities because it would not result in construction of residential or other land uses that would directly or indirectly induce population growth in the area. Therefore, no impacts on public services are anticipated during construction of the IC Project.

# **4.15.4.1.2** Operations

**No Impact.** As presented in Chapter 3, SCE is currently performing operation and maintenance (O&M) activities, including inspections, along the subtransmission lines that would be rebuilt and reconductored under the IC Project. No material changes in O&M activities or the locations of these activities are anticipated with implementation of the IC Project, and therefore no impacts would be realized under this criterion during operations and maintenance.

# **4.15.5** Applicant Proposed Measures

Because no potentially significant impacts to public services would occur as a result of the IC Project, no avoidance or minimization measures are proposed.

## 4.15.6 Alternatives

Alternatives to the IC Project are addressed in Section 5.2, Description of Project Alternatives and Impact Analysis.

## 4.15.7 References

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE). 2007. Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Areas. Adopted by Cal Fire on December 7, 2007.
- California Inter-Utility Coordinating Committee. 2018. California Temporary Traffic Control Handbook. Available at <a href="https://www.sce.com/nrc/aboutsce/regulatory/distributionmanuals/tcm.pdf">https://www.sce.com/nrc/aboutsce/regulatory/distributionmanuals/tcm.pdf</a>
- City-Data. 2017. Ridgecrest, California Data Webpage. Available at <a href="http://www.city-data.com/city/Ridgecrest-California.html">http://www.city-data.com/city/Ridgecrest-California.html</a>
- City of Bishop. 2017. Police Overview Webpage. Available at http://www.cityofbishop.com/departments/police/
- Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC). 2017. Fire and Emergency Services Webpage.

  Available at <a href="https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrsw/installations/naws\_china\_lake/om/fire\_and\_emergency\_services.html">https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrsw/installations/naws\_china\_lake/om/fire\_and\_emergency\_services.html</a>
- Inyo County. 2013. Inyo County General Plan, Land Use Element. Available at <a href="http://inyoplanning.org/documents/Chapter2-LandUse.pdf">http://inyoplanning.org/documents/Chapter2-LandUse.pdf</a>
- Inyo County. 2011. Inyo County Goals and Policies Report for the Inyo County General Plan, Land Use Element. Available at http://www.inyoplanning.org/general\_plan/goals/ch4.pdf

- Inyo County. 2017. Welcome to Inyo County Parks & Recreation Website. Available at <a href="http://www.inyocountycamping.com/index.html">http://www.inyocountycamping.com/index.html</a>
- Kern County. 2010. Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Available at <a href="https://www.kerncounty.com/gsd/parks/pdf/master-plan.pdf">https://www.kerncounty.com/gsd/parks/pdf/master-plan.pdf</a>
- Kern County. 2009. Kern County General Plan, Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element. Available at <a href="http://www.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/kcgp/KCGP.pdf">http://www.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/kcgp/KCGP.pdf</a>
- Kern County Fire Department (KCFD). 2017. Kern County Fire Department About Us Webpage. Available at <a href="http://kerncountyfire.org/about-us.html">http://kerncountyfire.org/about-us.html</a>
- Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO). 2017. Human Resources Webpage. Available at <a href="http://www.kernsheriff.org/human resources.aspx">http://www.kernsheriff.org/human resources.aspx</a>
- Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSS). 2017. ...at a glance Webpage. Available at <a href="http://kern.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2017/02/at-a-glance-Barlow.pdf">http://kern.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2017/02/at-a-glance-Barlow.pdf</a>
- Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Fire and Emergency Services Division (FMSD). 2018. MCLB Barstow Fire & Emergency Services. Available at <a href="https://mclbbarstowfire.wordpress.com/">https://mclbbarstowfire.wordpress.com/</a>
- San Bernardino County. 2014. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan. Available at <a href="http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GeneralPlan/FINALGP.pdf">http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GeneralPlan/FINALGP.pdf</a>
- San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCFD). 2018a. About the San Bernardino County Fire Department Webpage. Available at <a href="http://www.sbcfire.org/about/AboutSBCFire.aspx">http://www.sbcfire.org/about/AboutSBCFire.aspx</a>
- SBCFD. 2018b. Fire Chief Welcome Webpage. Available at <a href="http://www.sbcfire.org/about/Welcome.aspx">http://www.sbcfire.org/about/Welcome.aspx</a>
- San Bernardino County Regional Parks Department. 2018. About Us. Webpage. Available at <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/parks/AboutUs.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/parks/AboutUs.aspx</a>
- San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS). 2018. Fingertip Facts 2016. Available at http://www.sbcss.k12.ca.us/images/Documents/comm/FingerTipFacts 20160129.pdf
- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBCSD). 2018. San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Infographic Webpage. Available at <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/Home/DepartmentInfographic.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/Home/DepartmentInfographic.aspx</a>

(Project #)
Projects\_ENVISCE\SCE\_TLLRNArGIS\_Desktop\PEA\_Figures\IC\Figure4-14-1\_AltVersion\_PublicServicesInProjectVicinity\_IC\_20180705.mxd 1/23/2019 4:48:28 PM Created By: Last Saved By: MGI01044