

## 4.19 Utilities and Service Systems

This section describes the utilities and service systems in the area of the IC Project Alignment, as well as the potential impacts that may result during construction and operation of the IC Project and its Alternatives.

### 4.19.1 Environmental Setting

This discussion describes the existing utilities and service systems (water, sewage and wastewater treatment, landfills, and other utilities) in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment.

#### 4.19.1.1 Water

##### 4.19.1.1.1 Segment 1

Segment 1 and the northern portion of Segment 2 in Kern County are located within the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region. Multiple water districts, large and small, public and private, exist in the IRWM Region and in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment. The purpose of the IRWM is to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. (Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group [IMRWMG] 2014) Water demand along Segment 1 is predominately for agricultural purposes, export to Los Angeles, and for environment mitigation; residential and industrial uses are a very small portion of the approximately 710,000 acre-feet used per year. (IMRWMG 2014)

None of the lands crossed by the IC Project Alignment in Segment 1 or the northern portion of Segment 2 in Kern County are served by a central water supply system. In the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment, the City of Bishop's water system produces and delivers water for consumption, irrigation, and fire suppression from three wells through almost 22 miles of water mains to about 1,100 service accounts, including some outside of the city limits. All the water is ground water produced through two production wells. A third well is held in standby. (City of Bishop 2018) The Sierra Highlands Community Service District provides water to approximately 530 residential customers in the vicinity of Bishop. The water provided is ground water sourced from three wells.

Other water providers in the Bishop area include the Bishop Paiute Tribe, Highland Mobile Home Park, Indian Creek / Westridge Community Services District (CSD), Meadowcreek Mutual Water Company, and Sierra Highlands Community Services District. A large section of west Bishop is served by individual wells. (IMRWMG 2014)

Water is supplied to Big Pine by the Big Pine Community Services District and Rolling Green Utilities, Inc. Inyo County supplies water to the communities of Laws, Independence, and Lone Pine; the Cartago Mutual Water Company is the water supplier for Cartago. The Indian Wells Valley Water District and the Inyokern Community Services District provide water in the vicinity of the community of Inyokern. (IMRWMG 2014)

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

Those portions of Segments 2, 3N, 3S, and 4 located in San Bernardino County are located in what is referred to as the Desert Region of the County. The Desert Region is comprised of 41 water purveyors and approximately 120 privately-owned single sources. Most of the single sources in the rural portions of the Desert Region are for commercial businesses or private properties. The Mojave Water Agency is the

primary water basin agency, but there are also water districts and CSDs that provide distribution services for water supplies. (San Bernardino County 2007)

The Mojave Water Agency (MWA) is a regional wholesale provider responsible for managing groundwater resources and for ensuring a reliable water supply within its service area boundaries. Segments 2, 3N, 3S, and 4 are located within the MWA service area boundary. Water supply in the MWA service area comes from numerous sources, which include natural surface water flows, wastewater imports from outside the MWA service area, State Water Project imports, and return flow from pumped groundwater not consumptively used. (MWA 2014) Almost all of the water use within the MWA service area is supplied by pumped groundwater.

Annual water supply in 2010 was 179,438 acre-feet; demand was 145,875 acre-feet. Forecast supply in 2020 is 192,339 acre-feet, with demand estimated to be 159,544 acre-feet. Similar surpluses are projected through at least 2035. (MWA 2014)

#### **4.19.1.2 Sewage/Wastewater Treatment**

##### **4.19.1.2.1 Segment 1**

The cities, towns, and larger communities within the Inyo-Mono IRWM Region have wastewater collection and treatment systems, while smaller communities and isolated homes do not and rely on septic tanks and leach fields for sewage disposal. (IMRWGMG 2014) The City of Bishop and Eastern Sierra CSD provide wastewater services to the City. The City's sewer system collects, treats, and disposes of wastewater for most of the city. The ESCSD treatment plant and the city's treatment plant are adjacent to one another. Flow to the city plant averages about 800,000 gallons per day which is about half of the 1.6 million gallon per day capacity. (City of Bishop 2018)

Other agencies that provide wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services in Inyo County include Big Pine Community Services District, East Independence Sanitary District, Lone Pine Community Services District, and Inyo County. The Inyokern CSD provides sewer services in the vicinity of the community of Inyokern. (IMRWGMG 2014)

##### **4.19.1.2.2 Segments 2, 3N, 3S, and 4**

Most residential properties in the Desert Region are on private sewage treatment systems (septic tanks). In and around Barstow, the City of Barstow and the Barstow Heights Community Service District provide wastewater services. (San Bernardino County 2007)

#### **4.19.1.3 Landfills**

##### **4.19.1.3.1 Segment 1**

The Inyo County Integrated Waste Management Department operates three landfills within Inyo County; each are proximate to the IC Project Alignment and are listed below:

- Bishop-Sunland Landfill (Class III). Located south of the City of Bishop, and approximately 0.5 miles from the IC Project Alignment. The Bishop-Sunland Landfill has a permitted capacity of 4.0 million cubic yards, and a remaining capacity of 3.3 million cubic yards. (CalRecycle 2018)
- Independence Landfill (Class III). Located southeast of the Town of Independence, and approximately 1.6 miles from the IC Project Alignment. The Independence Landfill has a permitted capacity of 0.32 million cubic yards, and a remaining capacity of 0.13 million cubic yards. (CalRecycle 2018)

- Lone Pine Landfill (Class III). Located southeast of the Town of Lone Pine, and approximately 0.2 miles from the IC Project Alignment. (Inyo County 2017) The Lone Pine Landfill has a permitted capacity of 1.0 million cubic yards, and a remaining capacity of 0.99 million cubic yards (CalRecycle 2018).

More than 40,000 tons of annual disposal capacity is available at landfills in Inyo County (CalRecycle 2018).

The Kern County Public Works Department regulates seven landfills (Kern County 2017). The nearest landfill in Kern County to the IC Project Alignment is the Class III Ridgecrest Landfill approximately 4.4 miles southeast of the Inyokern Substation and west of the City of Ridgecrest. The Ridgecrest Landfill has a permitted capacity of 10.5 million cubic yards, and a remaining capacity of 5.0 million cubic yards (CalRecycle 2018). More than 2.5 million tons of annual disposal capacity is available at landfills in Kern County (CalRecycle 2018).

#### **4.19.1.3.2 Segments 2, 3N, 3S, and 4**

The County of San Bernardino Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) is responsible for the operation and management of the solid waste disposal system in the county. The disposal system consists in part of five regional landfills; of these, one is located in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment: the Class III Barstow Landfill, located approximately 1.7 miles south of Segment 3S. The Barstow Landfill has a permitted capacity of 80.4 million cubic yards, and a remaining capacity of 71.5 million cubic yards (CalRecycle 2018).

### **4.19.2 Regulatory Setting**

Federal, state, and local regulations were reviewed for applicability to the IC Project. Section 4.10, Hydrology and Water Quality, provides a detailed discussion of regulations related to water quality and stormwater discharge.

#### **4.19.2.1 Federal**

##### **4.19.2.1.1 Clean Water Act**

The CWA was originally enacted in 1948 and has been amended numerous times, with significant expansions in 1972 and 1977. The CWA's main objectives are to maintain and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters through the authorization of standards. Authority for the implementation and enforcement of the CWA lies primarily with the USEPA and its delegated state and local agencies, namely the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and along the IC Project Alignment, the Lahontan RWQCB.

#### **4.19.2.2 State**

##### **4.19.2.2.1 California Health and Safety Code § 25150.7(d)(1)**

If treated wood is developed as a waste product, the California Health and Safety Code requires treated wood to be disposed of in either a Class I hazardous waste landfill or in a composite-lined portion of a solid waste landfill that meets RWQCB-specified requirements.

#### **4.19.2.2.2 Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989**

The Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, also known as Assembly Bill (AB) 939, mandates that California’s jurisdictions divert 50 percent of their solid waste from landfills. CalRecycle is under the umbrella of the California EPA and is responsible for the implementation of AB939.

#### **4.19.2.2.3 California Code of Regulations (Title 27)**

Title 27 (Environmental Protection) of the California Code of Regulations defines regulations for the treatment, storage, processing, and disposal of solid waste. The SWRCB maintains and regulates compliance with Title 27 (Environmental Protection) of the California Code of Regulations. The compliance of the IC Project would be enforced by the Lahontan (Region 6) RWQCB.

#### **4.19.2.3 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 is 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 discussions of local land use regulations is provided for informational purposes only.

#### **4.19.2.3.1 Inyo County General Plan, Public Services and Utilities Element**

Inyo County General Plan (Inyo County 2013) identifies goals, policies, and implementation measures designed to encourage and allow appropriate development with the adequate provision of public services and utilities. Inyo County will work with utility companies to design and locate appropriate expansion of electric systems, while minimizing impact to agriculture and minimizing noise, electromagnetic, visual, and other impacts on existing and future residents. The Inyo County General Plan’s Public Services and Utilities Element contains the following:

##### **GOALS: PUBLIC FACILITIES AND UTILITIES**

PSU-1. To ensure the timely development of public facilities and the maintenance of adequate service levels for these facilities to meet the needs of existing and future County residents.

PSU-3. To ensure that there will be a safe and reliable water supply sufficient to meet the future needs of the County.

PSU-4. To ensure adequate wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal.

PSU-5. To collect and dispose of stormwater in a matter that minimizes inconvenience to the public, minimizes potential water-related damage, and enhances the environment.

PSU-6. To ensure the safe and efficient disposal or recycling of solid waste generated in Inyo County.

PSU-10. To provide efficient and cost-effective utilities that serves the existing and future needs of people in the unincorporated areas of the County.

#### **4.19.2.3.2 Kern County General Plan, Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element**

Kern County recognizes the importance of environmental and public health and has developed goals and policies to protect the public from health and safety hazards in the Kern County General Plan (Kern County 2009). The Kern County General Plan’s Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element contains the following:

##### GOALS: PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

5. Ensure that adequate supplies of quality (appropriate for intended use) water are available to residential, industrial, and agricultural users within Kern County.
6. Provide a healthful and sanitary means of collecting, treating, and disposing of sewage and refuse for the residents and industries of Kern County.
7. Facilitate the provision of reliable and cost effective utility services to residents of Kern County.
10. Ensure landfill capacity for Kern County residents and industries.

#### **4.19.2.3.3 San Bernardino County General Plan, Circulation and Infrastructure Element**

The Circulation and Infrastructure Element of the County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan contains objectives and policies related to the provision of utilities, including the following:

Promote the implementation of low-impact design principles to help control the quantity and improve the quality of urban runoff.

Coordinate with SCE and other utility suppliers to make certain that adequate capacity and supply exist for current and planned development in the county.

#### **4.19.2.3.4 City of Barstow General Plan, Resource Conservation and Open Space Element**

The Resource Conservation and Open Space Element of the City of Barstow General Plan contains a number of goals, policies, and strategies related to utilities and service systems, including:

GOAL 1: Ensure protection of water quality and quantity for the community by working in cooperation with all water purveyors in the area to preserve, augment, capture and purify all waters in the Mojave River system.

POLICY 1 A: Ensure a water supply system capable of meeting normal and emergency demand through cooperation between the City and water purveyors.

POLICY 1 C: Strive to ensure that adequate water remains available to the community in order to maintain continued growth.

POLICY 1 E: Maintain a storm drainage system adequate to protect the lives and property of Barstow residents.

### **4.19.3 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 would cause a potentially significant impact if it:

- Exceeds wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
- Requires or results in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects
- Requires or results in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects
- Does not have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Proposed Project from existing entitlements and resources, or new or expanded entitlements are needed
- Results in the determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Proposed Project that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the Proposed Project demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments
- Is served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Proposed Project's solid waste disposal needs
- Does not comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste

#### **4.19.4 Impact Analysis**

##### **4.19.4.1 Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?**

###### **4.19.4.1.1 Construction**

**No Impact.** The IC Project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the few wastewater treatment plants serving the IC Project area. Domestic wastewater is the only wastewater that would be generated during construction of the IC Project. Portable toilets would be provided on-site for workers during the construction phase according to California Occupational Safety and Health Act requirements; the portable toilets would be serviced by a licensed contractor who would dispose of the waste off-site and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Thus, no exceedances of wastewater treatment requirements would be realized, and no impacts would occur under this criterion.

###### **4.19.4.1.2 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 reconducted 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.

##### **4.19.4.2 Would the project 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?**

###### **4.19.4.2.1 Construction**

**No Impact.** The IC Project would not require or result in the construction of new, or expansion of existing, water or wastewater treatment facilities. Water would be used during construction of the IC Project to control dust on access roads and at work areas, in the construction of concrete foundations, for washing equipment, and during restoration purposes, among others. The large majority by volume of water would be dispersed on-site and would either evaporate or be absorbed into the ground or would be incorporated into the foundations. Because only small volumes of wastewater would be generated, the IC

Project would not require or result in the construction of new, or expansion of existing, water or wastewater treatment facilities, and no impacts would occur under this criterion.

#### **4.19.4.2.2 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 reconnected 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.

#### **4.19.4.3 Would the project 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?**

##### **4.19.4.3.1 Construction**

**No Impact.** The IC Project would not require or result in the construction of new, or expansion of existing, storm water drainage facilities. The IC Project includes the reconstruction and reconnection of existing subtransmission infrastructure, with replacement structures to be placed proximate to existing structures. The IC Project does not require the development of large areas of impermeable surfaces that would increase the amount of stormwater discharge from the site that would require construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, no impacts would occur under this criterion.

##### **4.19.4.3.2 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 reconnected 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.

#### **4.19.4.4 Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the proposed project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?**

##### **4.19.4.4.1 Construction**

**No Impact.** Water would be used during construction of the IC Project to control dust on access roads and at work areas, in the construction of concrete foundations, for washing equipment, and during restoration purposes, among others. This water would be supplied through existing entitlements and resources located along the IC Project alignment. Water supplies exceed current local demand along the IC Project alignment, and thus project water use would not require new or expanded water supply entitlements. Therefore, no impacts would occur under this criterion.

##### **4.19.4.4.2 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 reconnected 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.

**4.19.4.5 Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the proposed project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Proposed Project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?**

**4.19.4.5.1 Construction**

**No Impact.** As previously discussed, construction of the IC Project would not generate significant amounts of wastewater. Portable toilets would be provided for on-site use by construction workers and would be maintained by a licensed sanitation contractor. Minimal wastewater would be generated, and constructing the IC Project would not result in discharge of concentrated wastewater or large volumes of wastewater to a wastewater treatment provider. SCE would work with SCE-approved vendors and subcontractors for the handling of wastewater. Because of the excess capacity available at existing wastewater treatment plants, and because of the small volumes of wastewater that would be transported for treatment, no wastewater treatment provider along the IC Project alignment would be asked or would need to make a determination regarding adequate capacity, and therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion.

**4.19.4.5.2 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 reconducted 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.

**4.19.4.6 Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs?**

**4.19.4.6.1 Construction**

**No Impact.** The landfill(s) at which the IC Project’s solid waste and excavated materials may be disposed are not known at this time. However, landfills in Inyo County and Kern County combined have more than 2.5 million tons of surplus annual disposal capacity available, and the Barstow Landfill has more than 71.5 million cubic yards of capacity remaining. Much of the material generated during construction would be diverted from landfill disposal through recycling of steel, aluminum, copper, and other materials. Wood poles would be disposed of as described in Section 3.7.1.9, Reusable, Recyclable, and Waste Material Management. Because of the large volume of material that would be recycled, and the large surplus annual disposal capacity available at landfills along the IC Project alignment, the IC Project would be served by landfills with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the IC Project’s solid waste disposal needs, and therefore no impacts would occur under this criterion.

**4.19.4.6.2 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 reconducted 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.

#### **4.19.4.7 Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

##### **4.19.4.7.1 Construction**

**No Impact.** As previously discussed, solid waste produced during construction would be disposed in one or more licensed landfill(s). Management and disposal of solid waste would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. Thus, the IC Project would not violate any solid waste statutes or regulations. Therefore, no impact is anticipated during construction of the IC Project.

##### **4.19.4.7.2 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 reconducted 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.

#### **4.19.5 Applicant Proposed Measures**

Because no potentially significant impacts to utilities and service systems would occur as a result of the IC Project, no avoidance or minimization measures are proposed.

#### **4.19.6 Alternatives**

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

#### **4.19.7 References**

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