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CHAPTER 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.13 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or the 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.13.0 Introduction

This section describes the public services in the vicinity of the Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPCo) 625 and 650 Line Upgrade Project (project). Existing conditions for fire and emergency services, police and protective services, hospitals, schools, and other public services are presented and potential impacts from construction and operation of the project are assessed. The project will not significantly impact public services nor the distribution of public services.

4.13.1 Methodology

Information for the public services analysis was gathered from local government websites and personal communication with public service providers. The Tahoe Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD) website was consulted, as was the Tahoe National Forest website. Internet searches were conducted to obtain information regarding fire and police services, parks, hospitals, and other public facilities. Aerial photographs were reviewed to confirm adjacent site conditions and uses.

4.13.2 Existing Conditions

Fire Protection

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Tahoe National Forest Service manages fire services within the Tahoe National Forest. Outside of USDA jurisdiction, fire, rescue, and pre-hospital emergency medical services are provided by 16 fire departments within Placer County and 13 fire departments within Nevada County. There are four Fire Department locations within 1 mile of the project area, including the Alpine Meadows Fire Department, North Tahoe Fire Protection District, Truckee Fire Protection District, and Northstar Fire Department.

Table 4.13-1: Placer County Fire Departments and Table 4.13-2: Nevada County Fire Departments list the names and locations of the fire departments found in Placer and Nevada counties.

Police Protection

The Placer County Sheriff's Department has approximately 120 uniformed officers that provide law enforcement services to all of Placer County's unincorporated areas, including the project area. The Sheriff's Department main office is located in the City of Auburn at 2929 Richardson Drive. The nearest north Lake Tahoe sheriff service center is located at 8645 North Lake Boulevard in Kings Beach, and the nearest sheriff substation is located at 2501 North Lake Boulevard in Tahoe City.

The Nevada County Sheriff's Department has approximately 75 uniformed officers that provide patrol services to Nevada County. The Sheriff's Department main office is located in Nevada City at 950 Maidu Avenue. An additional sheriff's office is located in the Town of Truckee at 10879 Donner Pass Road. The Town of Truckee also has a police department, which currently has 24 sworn officers. The Truckee Police Department is located at 10183 Truckee Airport Road.

Hospitals

There are two major hospitals in the north Lake Tahoe area, the Tahoe Forest Hospital and the Incline Village Community Hospital. The closer of the two to the project—the Tahoe Forest Hospital—is located in Truckee, approximately 1 mile from the Truckee Substation. The facility provides acute inpatient care, a 24-hour emergency department, surgical services, and hospice care. The Incline Village Community Hospital, located in Incline Village, Nevada, also provides health care services for the north Lake Tahoe area. The facility provides a 24-hour emergency department, acute inpatient care, and outpatient surgical services. It is located approximately 4 miles east of Kings Beach. There are no nursing homes, mental health, or other medical facilities within 0.5 mile of the project area.

Schools

The project area is served by the TTUSD, which oversees 12 schools, including five elementary schools, two middle schools, three high schools, one alternative school teaching both middle and high school students, and one adult school.

Table 4.13-1: Placer County Fire Departments

Name	Address
Alpine Meadows Fire Department	270 Alpine Meadows Road Tahoe City, CA 96145
Auburn Fire Department	1225 Lincoln Way Auburn, CA 95603
City of Roseville Fire Department	401 Oak Street Roseville, CA 95678
Higgins Area Fire Protection District	10106 Combie Road Auburn, CA 95602
Lincoln Fire Department	770 6th Street Lincoln, CA 95648
Newcastle Fire Protection District	9211 Cypress Street Newcastle, CA 95658
Penryn Fire Protection District	7206 Church Street Penryn, CA 95663-0219
Placer Hills Fire Protection District	16999 Placer Hills Rd Meadow Vista, CA 95722
Foresthill Fire Protection District	20540 Foresthill Road Foresthill, CA 95631
South Placer Fire Dist	6900 Eureka Road Granite Bay, CA 95746
Iowa Hill Fire Dept.	3350 Iowa Hill Road Iowa Hill, CA 95713
Loomis Fire Protection District	5840 Horseshoe Bar Road Loomis, CA 95650
North Tahoe Fire Protection District	300 North Lake Boulevard Tahoe City, CA 96145
Placer Consolidated Fire Protection District	11645 Atwood Road Auburn, CA 95603
Rocklin Fire Department	4060 Rocklin Road Rocklin, CA 95677
Squaw Valley Fire Department	1810 Squaw Valley Road Olympic Valley, CA 96146

Source: Placer County Fire Agencies, 2009

Table 4.13-2: Nevada County Fire Departments

Name	Address
Nevada County Consolidated Fire District	11329 McCourtney Road Grass Valley, CA 95949
Truckee Fire Protection District	10049 Donner Pass Road Truckee, CA 96161
Pike City Volunteer Fire Department	100 Pike City Road Pike City, CA 95960
Peardale - Chicago Park Fire Protection District	15057 Colfax Highway Chicago Park, CA 95712
Grass Valley Fire Dept	125 East Main Street Grass Valley, CA 95945
Donner Summit Fire Dept	53823 Sherritt Lane Soda Springs, CA 95728
Northstar Fire Department	910 Northstar Drive Truckee, CA 96160
Graniteville Volunteer Fire Company	35401 Graniteville Road Nevada City, CA 95959
Nevada City Fire Department	317 Broad Street Nevada City, CA 95959
North San Juan Fire Protection District	13200 Tyler Foote Crossing Road North San Juan, CA 95960
Ophir Hill Fire Protection District	12668 Highway 174 Cedar Ridge, CA 95924
Penn Valley Fire Protection District	10513 Spenceville Road Penn Valley, CA 95946
Rough & Ready Fire Protection District	11042 Rough And Ready Road Rough And Ready, CA 95975

Sources: Nevada County Fire Agencies, 2009; Town of Truckee Fire Department, 2009

In the north Lake Tahoe area, there are several schools in the vicinity of the project. The Kings Beach Elementary School and Kings Beach Preschool are approximately 0.2 mile southeast of the Brockway Substation. A Head Start Preschool Program is located approximately 0.2 miles southeast of the Brockway Substation. The Tahoe Lake Elementary School is approximately 0.5 mile northeast of the Tahoe City Substation. St. Thomas Aquinas School is approximately 0.5 mile south of the Tahoe City Substation.

In the town of Truckee, the nearest school in the vicinity of the project is the Forest Charter School, located approximately 0.2 mile southwest of the North Truckee Switching Station. The Church of the Mountains Preschool is located 0.2 mile southwest of the Truckee Substation.

The Squaw Valley Academy is a boarding school located in Olympic Valley approximately 0.2 mile southwest of the Squaw Valley Substation. It accommodates students in 6th through 12th grade.

Parks

The 650 Line crosses the Martis Creek Lake National Recreation Area for approximately 1.4 miles, and the Northstar Staging Area is located within the recreation area. In addition, three parks are located within 0.3 mile of the project area; the Truckee River Regional Park, North Tahoe Regional Park, and Burton Creek State Park. Three golf courses are also located within 0.25 mile of the project, including the Northstar-at-Tahoe Golf Course (private), Tahoe City Golf Course (public), and Old Brockway Golf Course (private). For more information regarding these facilities, refer to Section 4.14 Recreation.

Other Public Facilities

Three libraries are located within 5 miles of the project area. The Truckee Branch Library is located at 10031 Levone Avenue in Truckee, approximately 1 mile from the Truckee Substation. The Tahoe City Branch Library is located at 740 North Lake Boulevard in Tahoe City, approximately 0.8 mile from the Tahoe City Substation. The Kings Beach Library is located at 301 Secline Street in Kings Beach, approximately 0.5 mile from the Brockway Substation.

4.13.3 Impacts

Significance Criteria

A determination of impacts was derived from Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. Impacts to public services are considered potentially significant if they result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives.

Question 4.13a – Governmental Facility Alteration

Construction – Less-than-Significant Impact

Construction is not likely to directly affect the use of any nearby public services or facilities, including fire and police protection services, hospitals, schools, parks, or other services, as described further in this section.

Fire Protection

Several fire departments are located in the vicinity of the project, but none are immediately adjacent to or within 0.25 mile of the project. Therefore, no fire or emergency service providers will be directly affected by construction.

An emergency could arise as a result of project construction that would require protection or emergency services. However, the probability of such an incident is low and, if one were to occur, it would not tax the existing emergency services beyond their current capabilities. Increased vehicle traffic and brief closures (approximately 10 to 15 minutes) may occur while pulling the conductor across highways and roadways or during the installation and removal of crossing structures. Because this could impact access routes, emergency vehicle movement could be temporarily affected. However, special access provisions will be made to accommodate emergency service providers at all times. Short-term electrical service interruptions could also impact fire and emergency service providers; however, the fire stations that could be potentially affected by a service interruption have temporary generators to provide backup power. As a result, the impact to fire protection and emergency services will be less than significant.

Police Protection

Several police departments are located in the vicinity of the project area, but none are immediately adjacent to or within 0.25 mile of the project. Therefore, police protection service providers will not be directly affected by construction.

Highway patrol and police services may be required to assist with traffic control. Assistance would be limited to short durations of time as construction equipment is delivered, when crossing structures are erected, and/or when the conductor is pulled across highways and roadways. Highway patrol and police assistance is not expected to significantly impact current capacities because of the limited duration and timeframe that services might be required. In addition, SPPCo will be providing staff to manage traffic during construction. Short-term electrical service interruptions could also impact police protection services; however, all police and sheriff stations in the vicinity of the project have temporary generators to provide backup power in the event of outages.

Hospitals

Two hospitals are located in the vicinity of the project, but none are immediately adjacent to or within 0.25 mile of any of the project components. In addition, there are no nursing homes, mental health facilities, or other medical facilities located within the immediate project area. Therefore, no hospitals or other medical facilities will be directly affected by construction.

Due to the relatively small construction workforce, any medical emergencies that may result from project construction could easily be accommodated at one of the two hospitals in the area. The potential need for ambulance services and medical assistance is not expected to burden existing medical and emergency services beyond their current capacities. Short-term electrical service interruptions could impact local hospitals and care facilities; however, all hospitals have temporary generators to provide backup power in the event of power outages. In addition, SPPCo will provide temporary generators if additional backup capacity is required. Therefore, the impact will be less than significant.

Schools

The project will not increase the demand for school enrollment because it will not cause a perceptible increase to the local population during the short duration of construction (approximately 14 months within a 3-year construction period). A maximum of approximately 63 people are anticipated to be on site at any one time during pole removal and installation. Because of the probable limited number of qualified workers within the local population, most workers will likely reside outside of the immediate project area and will commute to the work site. Family relocation will not be necessary. As a result, no impact to school enrollment is expected.

Local schools could be temporarily impacted by short-term electrical service interruptions; however, SPPCo will attempt to plan the necessary outages during non-school hours or supply affected schools with temporary generators to maintain power. Therefore, impacts from planned outages will be less than significant.

Parks

Although the project alignment crosses the Martis Creek National Recreation Area and is located within 0.25 mile of three parks, no impact to parks or other recreational facilities will result from project construction. The 1.4 mile section of the 650 Line that passes through the Martis Creek Recreation Area is existing. While construction may impact the Tompkins Memorial Trail (as discussed in Section 4.14 Recreation), any impact will be temporary and minor given the abundance of alternate recreational trails in the area. The project will not significantly increase the local population, nor will it reduce the number of existing park facilities. Therefore, no new parks will be needed. Section 4.14 Recreation provides more information regarding potential impacts to these recreational facilities.

Other Public Facilities

Five libraries are located in the vicinity of the project, but none are immediately adjacent to or within 0.25 mile of the project. Therefore, no libraries will be directly affected by construction. Construction will not significantly increase the local population, nor will it reduce the number of libraries in the project area. No new libraries will be needed. Therefore, no impact will occur.

Local libraries and other public facilities could be temporarily impacted by short-term electrical service interruptions; however, SPPCo will attempt to plan the necessary outages when facilities are closed or supply affected facilities with temporary generators to maintain power. Therefore, impacts from planned outages will be less than significant.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

The project will not result in the need for additional government or public services, such as schools or parks, because it will not induce population growth (see Chapter 5 – Detailed Discussion of Significant Impacts for more information regarding growth-inducing impacts). Operation and maintenance of the project will be conducted in the same manner as it is for the existing transmission lines and substations. These activities will not impede the use of existing public services nor result in a need for new services because they will not vary from existing practices. As a result, there will be no impact to public services from the operation and maintenance of the project.

4.13.4 Applicant-Proposed Measures

Because the project will have no significant impact on public services, no avoidance or minimization measures are proposed.

4.13.5 References

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