

3.13 Population and Housing

Table 3.13-1 Population and Housing Checklist

| Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

3.13.1 Setting

The project route would extend just over 40 miles and pass through unincorporated and incorporated areas of Butte, Yuba, and Sutter counties. The regional area is presently experiencing population and housing increases due to a regional transition from agricultural use to major residential and commercial development use. As a result, there has been substantial population growth in the region, which has created a need to meet immediate and future electrical power demand. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) prepares long-term job, population, and household projections based on U.S. Census data in 5-year increments to 2050. The 2000 U.S. Census reported that the population of Butte County was 204,065, Yuba County 60,598, and Sutter County 79,632 (U.S. Census Bureau 2000).

Projections from the California Department of Finance (CDF) and SACOG forecast that current growth will continue at an increasing rate based on national and state data (Table 3.13-2). By 2030, the populations of Butte, Yuba, and Sutter counties are projected to increase by 47 percent, 129 percent, and 69 percent, respectively. The projected increase in housing needs for the region is expected to correlate to increased population projections. The report, *Projections of Employment, Population and Household Income in the SACOG Region for 2000–2050*, includes data projections for Sutter and Yuba Counties (SACOG 2005). Butte County data was extracted from the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) Regional Growth Projections report. Tables 3.13-3 and 3.13-4 present U.S. Census information on housing units, vacancy, total employment, and construction trade employment in the regional area for the three counties.

Table 3.13-2 Regional Population Trends

| | 2000 Census | 2010 Projection | Projected Growth 2000–2010 | | 2020, Projection | Growth, 2010–2020 | 2030, Projection | Growth, 2020–2030 |
|---|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | | Number | Percent | | | | |
| Regional Population and Growth Projections | | | | | | | | |
| Butte County | 204,065 | 230,116 | 26,051 | 13% | 281,442 | 51,326 | 334,842 | 53,400 |
| Yuba County | 60,598 | 80,411 | 19,813 | 33% | 109,216 | 28,805 | 137,322 | 28,106 |
| Sutter County | 79,632 | 102,326 | 22,694 | 28% | 141,159 | 38,833 | 182,401 | 41,242 |

Table 3.13-2 Regional Population Trends

| | 2000 Census | 2010 Projection | Projected Growth 2000–2010 | | 2020, Projection | Growth, 2010– 2020 | 2030, Projection | Growth, 2020– 2030 |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------|---|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | Number | Percent | | | | |
| Household Projections | | | | | | | | |
| Butte County | 85,523 | 99,655 | 14,132 | 17% | 118,271 | 18,616 | 137,266 | 18,995 |
| SACOG ¹ (Yuba) | 58,885 | 71,668 | 12,783 | 22% | <i>Regional household growth projection increase of 500,000 or 70% between 2000 and 2030.</i> | | | |
| (Sutter) | 77,547 | 95,041 | 17,494 | 23% | | | | |

Sources: BCAG 2006, CDF 2007, CDF 2009, SACOG 2005

Note:

¹ SACOG data for 2000 and 2009.

Table 3.13-3 Housing in the Project Area

| Location | Housing Units (U.S. Census 2000) | | Housing Units (SACOG 2009) ¹ |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|--|
| | Total Units | Vacancy Rates | Total Units |
| Butte County | 85,523 | 7% | N/A |
| Yuba County | 22,636 | 11.4% | 28,016 |
| Sutter County | 28,319 | 6.8% | 33,681 |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2000; SACOG 2005

Note:

¹ Projected for 2009.

Table 3.13-4 Employment in the Project Area

| Location | Employment (Year 2000) | | |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | Total Employed | In Construction Trades | Unemployment Rate |
| Butte County | 91,098 | 5,226 | 5.3 % |
| Yuba County | 32,227 | 3,430 | 10.9% |
| Sutter County | 43,080 | 3,611 | 10.6% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000

The general plans of Butte, Yuba, and Sutter Counties include policies that address housing, employment, and growth management and the adequate provision of facilities and services. The Butte County General Plan Land Use Element includes a number of goals and policies to encourage continuous analysis of population trends that allow sites and facilities for population growth of the counties, encourage development in and around existing communities with public facilities, and encourage expansion, construction and efficiency of hydroelectric power plants (Butte County 2007).

The BCAG Final Regional Housing Needs Plan describes the impact of projected job growth for an increased amount of housing to meet the needs of present and future employees in Butte County (BCAG 2007). The Yuba County General Plan Housing Element goal addresses the identification of adequate sites with appropriate zoning, development standards, services and facilities to encourage the development of a variety of types of housing and includes land use zoning changes to encourage residential use in former commercial and agricultural zones (Yuba County 2008). The Sutter County General Plan includes goals for the County to require that adequate public facilities and services be available to serve new development and policies that address the direction of new urban and suburban residential development where adequate public facilities and services are available (Sutter County 2008).

The applicant estimates that approximately 160 construction workers over the full phased construction period would be required for approximately 12 to 18 months. The applicant intends to hire project construction workers from the regional labor pool. The applicant does not expect that relocation and permanent housing options will be required for project workers (PG&E 2009).

Construction of the proposed steel towers and replacement of the conductors would result in an increase in the existing rating of the transmission lines to 825 amps normally and 975 amps under emergency conditions. The applicant has stated that the location of distribution facilities have been designed to allow for future population growth and has assessed that current load increases are due to greater customer demand within the region. The reconductoring and replacement of existing infrastructure would be conducted in response to future growth.

Additionally, SACOG acknowledges that increased urbanization of rural areas and population growth increases are a result of both natural increases and migration into the area. Regional household projected growth is expected to increase by 70 percent between 2000 and 2030 (SACOG 2005). The projections report acknowledges the need to increase infrastructure facilities and services to support population growth.

3.13.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

- a. Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?*

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. The project is an upgrade to existing infrastructure. The intent of the project is to increase the reliability of existing electrical supply to accommodate existing and planned growth projected by the jurisdictions of Butte, Sutter, and Yuba counties. It would not induce population growth in the region but would be growth accommodating. The availability of electrical capacity does not normally ensure or encourage growth. Other factors such as economic conditions, population trends, availability of public services (e.g., water and sewer) have a more direct effect on growth. Growth is anticipated and planned in the project area through applicable local planning policies and zoning ordinances. Reconstruction of the transmission lines would allow the applicant to continue to provide safe and reliable electrical services and to meet existing peak load demand requirements.

Construction of the proposed steel towers and replacement of the conductors would require approximately 160 construction workers over the full phased construction period of approximately 12 to 18 months. Construction work is expected to provide short-term employment opportunities to the present population base. Additional employees would not be required for operation of the project. During the construction phase, the need for temporary accommodations would be met within the regional area.

As shown in Table 3.13-4, a relatively large construction workforce is available within the regional area. Most project construction workers are expected to originate from the regional labor pool and would not generate a permanent increase in population levels or result in a decrease in the availability of permanent housing. Operation of the project is not expected to result in a significant increase in the local population or housing market and would not indirectly induce growth by creating permanent new opportunities for local industry. Therefore, a less than significant impact would result from construction of the project and no impact would result from operation of the project under this criterion.

b. Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

NO IMPACT. The project would traverse entirely through existing transmission line easements. No existing housing would be displaced. The project work would take place entirely within existing and/or acquired right-of-ways. The project represents improvements to existing transmission lines and would strive to increase the reliability of the existing electrical supply. No existing housing would be displaced at the proposed staging areas, work sites, or locations along the transmission alignment. Implementation of the project would not result in the displacement of housing nor would it necessitate the construction of any replacement housing; therefore, no impact would result from construction and operation of the project under this criterion.

c. Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

NO IMPACT. As previously stated, the project would not result in the displacement of any housing or businesses because there is no housing currently located within the applicant's easements. Implementation of the project would not result in the displacement of people, nor would it necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere; therefore, no impact would result from the construction and operation of the project under this criterion.

References

- Butte County. 2007. Butte County General Plan Settings and Trends Report Public Draft. Prepared by Design, Community & Environment. August 2.
- Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG). 2006. BCAG Regional Growth Projections 2006–2030. <http://www.bcag.org/Demographics/Growth-Projections/index.html>. Accessed June 15, 2009.
- _____. 2007. 2007 Regional Housing Needs Plan. <http://www.bcag.org/Planning/2007-Regional-Housing-Needs-Plan/index.html>. Accessed August 5, 2009.
- California Department of Finance (CDF). 2007. *Population Projections for California and its Counties 2000–2050*. Sacramento, California. July. <http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/projections/p-1>. Accessed June 15, 2009.
- _____. 2009. *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2009, with 2000 Benchmark*. Sacramento, California. May. <http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-5/2009>. Accessed June 15, 2009.
- PG&E (Pacific Gas and Electric Company). 2009. Proponent's Environmental Assessment, Palermo-East Nicolaus 115 kV Transmission Line Reconstruction Project. Prepared for Land Planning and Routing Technical and Land Services, by ICF Jones & Stokes. February.
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). 2005. Projections of Employment, Population and Household Income in the SACOG Region for 2000–2050. Sacramento, California. September 15. <http://www.sacog.org/demographics/projections>. Accessed June 4, 2009.
- Sutter County. 2008. Sutter County General Plan Update Technical Background Report: Housing Element. Prepared by PBS&J. February.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2000. American Fact Finder, Fact Sheet, Census Demographic Profile Highlights. Population and other statistics for Butte, Yuba, and Sutter Counties, California.
<http://www.factfinder.census.gov>. Accessed August 7, 2009.

Yuba County. 2008. Yuba County General Plan Update Background Report: Housing Element. December.

This page intentionally left blank