

3.17 Utilities and Service Systems

Table 3.17-1 Utilities and Service Systems Checklist

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.17.1 Setting

The project route would pass through Butte, Yuba, and Sutter counties including the City of Oroville. This section describes existing water and solid-waste utility and service systems in these jurisdictions. Table 3.17-2 provides a summary of existing water and solid waste services in the regional area.

Butte County

Wastewater

Wastewater service in the Butte County project area is provided to residences by private septic systems. The nearest municipal system is the Oroville Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) owned and operated by the Sewerage Commission—Oroville Region. The WWTP is a regional treatment plant, which provides wastewater service to the City of Oroville, Thermalito Irrigation District, Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District, California Parks and Recreation Department, and California Department of Water Resources. The Oroville Regional WWTP treats approximately 3.2 million gallons per day (mgd) with a design average dry weather flow capacity of 6.5 mgd.

Table 3-17-2 Utilities and Service Systems Summary by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Wastewater Service	Potable Water	Water Service	Solid Waste Company/Landfill Site
Butte County	Approximately 50,000 on-site sewage disposal systems (septic systems)	Miners Ranch Reservoir; 14.5 mgd capacity	South Feather Water and Power	Neal Road Landfill; maximum disposal approximately 1,500 tons per day; capacity approximately 20,217,600 cubic yards (13,141,300 tons)
City of Oroville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Oroville • Thermalito Irrigation District • Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District 	Sewerage Commission, Oroville Region (SCOR) Plant	Calwater—Oroville (a private supplier); the project area served by the South Feather Water and Power Agency	Norcal Waste Systems
Yuba County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda County Water District • Olivehurst Public Utilities District • Individual Septic Systems 	Yuba County Water Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olivehurst Public Utility District • Brophy Water District • Cordua Irrigation District • South Yuba Water District • Linda County Water District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yuba-Sutter Disposal, Inc. • Ostrom Road Landfill
Sutter County	Private Septic Systems	Private Wells*	South Sutter Water District	N/A

Note:

*Most Sutter County residents and businesses pump potable water from privately owned wells. Several municipal and community systems operate within Sutter County, but the project area is not served by any of them.

Potable Water and Water Service

The nearest municipal water system to the in the Butte County project area is located in the City of Oroville. Residents in this project area use potable water supplied by a surface water diversion from a spring. The spring ties into the Oregon Gulch, which then ties into the South Fork of the Feather River downstream of Lake Oroville. A portion of the project route located in unincorporated Butte County is supplied with water by the South Feather Water and Power Agency (Agency). Areas not served by the Agency extract water from groundwater basins through privately owned wells (Butte County 2007).

Stormwater Drainage

Butte County does not maintain a stormwater drainage system in the vicinity of the project route. Stormwater drainage is handled by the individual incorporated cities.

Solid Waste/Landfills

The management of non-hazardous solid waste in Butte County is mandated by state law and guided by policies at the state and local levels. Solid waste services are not currently utilized at the project site. There are four hauling companies that service unincorporated Butte County. The nearest transfer station is Oroville and is operated by Norcal Waste Systems. Solid waste is transferred to the Neal Road Landfill. The landfill is located in Paradise, California on 190 acres with 140 acres available for disposal. As of July 2005, approximately 22 million cubic yards of disposal capacity were remaining out of a total 25

million cubic yards. On average, the landfill receives 700 to 800 tons per day and is permitted to receive 1,500 tons per day (Butte County 2009).

City of Oroville

Wastewater

The City of Oroville provides wastewater collection services to approximately 13,500 individuals. Current wastewater flows are 1.9 mgd and are expected to grow to approximately 3.2 mgd over the next 20 years. The city collection system is sufficient to meet current demands; however, the pipelines for transporting the city's wastewater are not large enough to support additional growth. To support expected growth, new developments will be required to upgrade the existing collection system infrastructure to accommodate additional capacity.

The Thermalito Irrigation District of the City provides wastewater collection services to approximately 1,985 customers. Wastewater flows currently average 0.37 mgd and are expected to grow to 0.67 mgd within the next 20 years.

Potable Water and Water Service

Refer to the Butte County section.

Stormwater Drainage

The Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District provides sewer collection services to approximately 12,000 individuals. Their service area is primarily in unincorporated areas east and south of the City of Oroville. The district's population is expected to grow to more than 20,000 individuals by 2025. The District collects an average of 384 million gallons of wastewater annually. The current demand of 0.81 mgd is expected to grow to 1.35 mgd over the next 20 years. Currently, no capacity issues exist with collection volumes, and there are no plans for capacity expansion. New development in the District's service area may be required to upgrade existing collection systems if additional capacity is required (City of Oroville 2008).

Solid Waste/Landfills

The City of Oroville contracts for solid waste collection and recycling services to be provided by Norcal Waste Systems. Waste generated within the city limits gets collected and processed at the Oroville Transfer Station. This station receives more than 200 tons of material per day on average and is permitted to receive 975 tons per day. This permitted volume is greater than the City of Oroville's needs for the foreseeable future, and no plans now exist for expansion of this facility. Once processed, waste that cannot be recycled is transported to the Ostrom Road Landfill. The landfill is expected to reach its capacity of 41.8 million cubic yards in 2066, and there are no planned expansions or deficiencies at the landfill at this time (City of Oroville 2008).

Yuba County

Wastewater

Portions of the project route that would not lie within serviced areas of Yuba County do not receive central wastewater treatment. These areas rely on septic systems. Septic systems are located on individual properties and provide treatment of wastewater onsite. Septic systems are allowed in most areas of the county only if no public sewer system exists nearby. Property owners must maintain their own septic systems in these areas. Approximately 9,000 septic systems exist throughout Yuba County (Yuba Local Agency Formation Commission 2008).

Potable Water and Water Service

Yuba County has adequate water supplies on the whole. Yuba County Water Agency and Browns Valley Irrigation District are major water rights holders whose future water supplies are affected by increased flow requirements of the Lower Yuba River Accord. The North Yuba Water District and Nevada Irrigation District are also among the major water suppliers to Yuba County. In the long term, there may be inadequate groundwater supplies to serve future development in the county.

Stormwater Drainage

In the unincorporated areas of Yuba County, the drainage system consists of roads with drainage systems, catch basins, water basins, detention basins, constructed wetland, artificial channels, aqueducts, curbs, gutters, ditches, sumps, pumping stations, storm drain inlets, and storm drains. The county plans on developing a master underground drainage system in Linda and Olivehurst to address problems with their current system. Improvements identified in the plan will be funded and constructed by developers.

Yuba County prepared a drainage master plan for southwest Yuba County in 1981 and issued an update to the plan in 1992, identifying drainage improvements for the area. With the exception of the Eastside Interceptor Canal, all of the major improvements have been made since the publication of the plan, including the Olivehurst Interceptor Canal, Olivehurst Detention Basin, Eastside Interceptor Canal, and the County Regional Detention Basin (Yuba Local Agency Formation Commission 2008).

Solid Waste/Landfills

Yuba-Sutter Disposal, Inc. collects more than 100,000 tons of materials and serves more than 43,000 residential customers and 3,000 commercial customers (YSD 2009). The amount of trash collected from Yuba and Sutter counties has increased from 127,289 tons in 1995 to 139,649 in 2006.

Ostrom Road Landfill is the only active solid waste landfill in Yuba County. A Class II landfill, the facility is owned and operated by Norcal Waste Systems, Inc., and has a total disposal area of 225 acres. The Ostrom Road Landfill has a permitted capacity of over 41.8 million cubic yards. More than 97 percent of its capacity is still available. The landfill can accept a maximum of 3,000 tons of waste a day. The estimated closure date of the landfill is December 31, 2066. According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, the Ostrom Road Landfill has adequate capacity to accommodate current and projected service demands (Yuba Local Agency Formation Commission 2008).

Sutter County

Wastewater

The South Sutter Water District is a public agency that provides irrigation water to 52,000 acres of land including the project area. Located on the eastern side of Sutter County, the South Sutter Water District's surface water is obtained from the Camp Far West Reservoir, located within their service area. South Sutter Water District has also purchased surplus water from the Nevada Irrigation District in the past (Sutter County 2008).

Wastewater in Sutter County is treated at individual parcels with septic systems (onsite treatment facilities) or at community or city wastewater treatment plants. The project area would not be within the service area of any community or city wastewater treatment plants and would be entirely served by private septic systems (Sutter County 2008).

A portion of the project route in southeast Sutter County would be located in the Reclamation District 1001 watershed. The District watershed encompasses an area of approximately 54 square miles and drains south to the Verona Pump Station, which has a total capacity of 577 cubic feet per second and pumps the water into the Cross Canal. Reclamation District 1001 also has three small pump stations that lift stormwater from the northern portion of the watershed into the Yankee Slough (Sutter County 2008).

Potable Water and Water Service

Potable water in Sutter County is provided from the Feather River by groundwater and surface water, although most of Sutter County uses groundwater for potable water supplies that are pumped by privately owned wells. Several municipal and community potable water systems operate within Sutter County, but the project area is not served by any of them. The County's groundwater supply is at risk due to a variety of naturally occurring contaminants, which are currently being addressed through the preparation of a groundwater management plan to help protect the county's groundwater resources.

Additionally, several irrigation water companies and districts provide irrigation water within Sutter County. Their main source of water is from the Feather and Sacramento Rivers. When surface water supplies are reduced or not available during the summer, groundwater is also used.

Stormwater Drainage

As mentioned above, a portion of the project route in southeast Sutter County would be located in the Reclamation District 1001 watershed. The District watershed encompasses an area of approximately 54 square miles and drains south to the Verona Pump Station, which has a total capacity of 577 cubic feet per second and pumps the water into the Cross Canal.

Solid Waste/Landfills

No solid waste management facilities or transfer stations are located within Sutter County. Solid waste management for Sutter County is conducted by Yuba-Sutter Disposal, Inc. under a joint agreement with Yuba County; the cities of Marysville and Wheatland in Yuba County; the cities of Live Oak and Yuba City in Sutter County; and the City of Gridley in Butte County. The agreement was made in 1990 to jointly address the provision of waste management services including the planning for the future provision of waste management services. Yuba-Sutter Disposal, Inc. provides for the collection, recycling, and disposal of municipal solid waste in Sutter County.

Applicant Proposed Measures

The applicant has incorporated the following applicant proposed measures (APMs) into the project to minimize or avoid impacts on utilities and service systems. See Chapter 1.0 for a full description of each APM that the applicant has incorporated into the project to avoid or minimize impacts on all resource areas.

APM USS-1: Conduct a pre-construction records search/field survey to identify specific locations of water wells and well fields

APM USS-2: Notify underground service alert at least 14 days prior to initiation of construction activities in the underground portion of the power line

APM AIR-3: Minimize greenhouse gas emissions during construction

APM HYDRO-1: Prepare and implement a storm water pollution prevention plan

3.17.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a. Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

NO IMPACT. Because project construction would only involve replacement of existing steel towers, reconductoring, and minor substation modifications, water use would be minimal and limited to dust control activities and crewmember consumption. Therefore, the project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements established by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Additionally, there are no population growth impacts associated with the project; therefore, wastewater treatment and other utility and service systems along the project route would not be affected. Project construction would negligibly affect wastewater because construction crews would use portable toilets; however, no changes to wastewater treatment facilities would be required due to the small amount of waste generated. PG&E would operate and maintain the new transmission line in the same way they operated and maintained the original line, which did not require water because transmission lines do not require water to operate. Therefore, it would not generate substantial amounts of wastewater, and no impact would occur under this criterion.

b. 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?

NO IMPACT. The water supply and wastewater treatment aspects of the project would be designed such that the project would not require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. The amount and source of water needed for construction would depend on the time of year and the construction location. Water would be primarily used for dust control and fire protection during construction. All water used would be trucked in from an outside source in the project vicinity. The project would use available reclaimed water for this purpose. The amount required for the duration of the project is estimated at 2,000 gallons per day for 100 days (200,000 gallons total). No water would be required for project operation.

Wastewater use for the average transmission line construction workforce would be minimal and temporary (approximately 50 workers maximum per day). Portable restrooms would be used and maintained during construction and removed after the completion of project construction. No impact to local sewer systems would result from the project and no new water or expanded wastewater treatment facilities would be required. Therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion.

c. Would the project require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. The project would not result in a need for new stormwater drainage facilities nor substantially alter existing facilities. Construction of the project would not increase stormwater runoff from roadways. The project route would be accessed primarily via existing access roads, but temporary access roads would still be needed and limited improvements to permanent access roads would be made. Additionally, prior to power line construction, temporary lay down (staging) areas would be prepared to provide space for materials delivery, storage, and preparation; equipment storage; crew parking; and offices prior to installation. In addition, there would be helicopter landing zones, pull sites, and temporary access roads for construction vehicles and workers.

The temporary construction areas and access roads would involve vegetation maintenance such as mowing, trimming, and blading, and may affect drainage temporarily. The effects to vegetation should regenerate naturally with little restorative effort. However, PG&E would obtain the appropriate permits (encroachment permits from Caltrans) for potential drainage impacts due to staging areas. Construction areas and access roads would be temporary and be restored to near preconstruction conditions after project construction is completed. They would not result in a permanent impact to drainage in the area. New or expanded stormwater drainage facilities would not be required.

In addition, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be written for the entire project as described in APM HYDRO-1, and workers would receive instruction about the plan. Existing stormwater management procedures would also apply, but the project would not require or result in the need for new stormwater drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant under this criterion.

d. Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

NO IMPACT. Water would only be required for dust suppression purposes or for the concrete for filling the new pole holes, as needed, during construction of the transmission line. Sufficient sources of potable water are available for PG&E to conduct standard dust and fire-suppressant activities, as well as for crew consumption during construction. The amount of water used during the 12 to 18 months construction period would be minimal. Therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion.

e. Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

NO IMPACT. The project would not be served by a wastewater treatment provider. During project construction, portable restrooms would be used. Additionally, water use would be minimal and limited to dust control activities and crew consumption. Because the project involves reconductoring of existing transmission lines and minor substation modifications, the same operations and maintenance activities would resume for the new facilities; therefore, no wastewater treatment would be required as part of the project, and there would be no impact on wastewater treatment providers or their capacities.

f. Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. The Neal Road Landfill is anticipated to be able to continue to receive solid waste until at least the year 2033. Ostrom Road Landfill has adequate capacity to accommodate current and projected demand for service until 2066. The permitted maximum disposal amount at the Neal Road is 1,500 tons per day. Yuba and Sutter counties' Ostrom Road Landfill can accept a maximum of 3,000 tons of waste a day and is estimated to have enough capacity to remain open until the year 2066 with only about three percent in use as of 2006.

The project would have a less than significant affect on landfills because it would generate a small amount of construction waste that can easily be accommodated by the existing landfills within the area. In addition, construction waste will be recycled to the maximum extent possible. Upon completion of tower modifications, reconductoring, and substation modifications, operations and maintenance of the transmission line would continue in the same manner as it did prior to the project. Capacity levels of existing landfills would be sufficient for the continuation of operations and maintenance activities. This disposal activity would have a minimal impact on the capacity of existing landfills and would not require

the development of new or expanded landfills. Additionally, under APM AIR-3, construction waste recycling would be encouraged. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant under this criterion.

g. Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

NO IMPACT. The project would comply with the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), which requires each city and county in California to prepare, adopt, and implement a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE). The purpose of the SRRE is to identify how the jurisdiction would divert through source reduction, recycling, and composting, 25 percent of its solid waste from landfill or incinerator disposal by 1995, and 50 percent by the year 2000. County of Butte Department of Public Works reports that in 2008, the county was diverting more than 51 percent of its solid waste from landfill disposal.

The project would not generate additional solid waste except during the construction period. For the few existing wood poles that would be removed during the course of the project, PG&E would make the poles available for reuse or, if demand does not exist for the poles, would dispose of them in an appropriate landfill with sufficient capacity to accept the material. Other miscellaneous non-hazardous construction materials that could not be reused or recycled would likely be acceptable for disposal at county landfills. Any hazardous materials and wastes will be recycled, treated, and disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local laws.

During project construction, PG&E would dispose of all waste in accordance with published national, state, or local standards relating to solid waste. The same operations and maintenance activities conducted for the previous transmissions lines would be conducted for the new lines. PG&E would adhere to all national, state, or local standards for the disposal of solid waste during operation and maintenance of the line. Therefore, there would be no impact under this criterion.

References

Butte County. 2009. Neal Road Sanitary Landfill.

<http://www.buttecounty.net/Public%20Works/Divisions/Solid%20Waste/Neal%20Road%20Sanitary%20Landfill.aspx>. Accessed June 22, 2009.

CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission). 1995. General Order No. 131-D, Rules relating to the planning and construction of electric generation, transmission/power/distribution line facilities and substations located in California. Adopted June 8, 1994. Decision 94-06-014. Modified August 11, 1995. Decision 95-08-038. August 11.

County of Butte, Department of Public Works. 2008. Butte County to Conduct Recycling Load Checks at the Neal Road Landfill. News Press Releases November 14, 2008.

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.

Sutter County. 2005. General Plan Background Report, CERES.

<http://ceres.ca.gov/planning/genplan/sutter/facilities4.html>. Accessed June 22, 2009.

Yuba Local Agency Formation Commission. 2008. Municipal Service Review: Background Report.. http://www.burrconsulting.com/Yuba_LAFCO/MSR%20Document/Countywide/Final/Final%20Countywide%20Yuba%20MSR%20Background%20Report.pdf. Accessed July 2, 2009.

YSD (Yuba-Sutter Disposal, Inc.). 2009. Yuba-Sutter Disposal, Inc. <http://www.ysdi.com>. Accessed July 2, 2009.

This page intentionally left blank