

5.15 Public Services

This section analyzes the impact of the Proposed Project and alternatives on the provision of public services within southeastern Ventura County, including unincorporated areas and the cities of Thousand Oaks and Moorpark. This section also identifies adverse physical impacts on the environment that could result from a need to provide new or physically altered public facilities, resulting from the Proposed Project and alternatives.

5.15.1 Setting

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

State

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is responsible for fire protection within State Responsibility Areas (SRAs), including 31 million acres throughout California. In most cases, SRAs are protected directly by CAL FIRE. However, in some counties, such as Ventura County, fire protection within the SRA is provided by the county under contract with CAL FIRE. Contract counties are responsible for providing initial response to fires in the SRA. Depending on the scale and circumstances of the fire, CAL FIRE responds with firefighting resources to assist the county (CAL FIRE, 2012).

Local

The Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) provides fire protection and medical services over 848 square miles and serves more than 480,000 residents and visitors including the unincorporated areas of Ventura County, as well as the cities of Moorpark and Thousand Oaks. Comprising 32 fire stations and 1,202 department employees, the VCFD responds to over 35,500 incidents a year providing fire protection, medical aid, rescue, hazardous materials response, and a variety of other services to the public. VCFD assets include 141 vehicles ranging from light patrol vehicles and fire engines to heavy equipment and specialized vehicles such as paramedic squads and search and rescue watercrafts. In 2013, VCFD responded to 25,653 emergency medical calls, 1,297 fires, 2,368 rescue calls, 3,921 public service calls, 1,515 alarms, and 737 calls involving hazardous materials, averaging 97 calls a day (VCFD, 2014a).

The nearest fire stations to the Proposed Project area include: Fire Station 42, located at 295 E. High Street in the City of Moorpark, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Moorpark Substation; Fire Station 40, located at 4185 Cedar Springs Street in the City of Moorpark, approximately 1 mile southeast of Moorpark Substation; and Fire Station 35, located at 2500 W. Hillcrest Drive in the community of Newbury Park, approximately 0.7 mile south of Newbury Substation (VCFD, 2014b).

Police Protection

The Ventura County Sheriff's Department (VCSD) provides law enforcement services to unincorporated Ventura County and five contract cities including Moorpark and Thousand Oaks. Staffed by approximately 1,200 personnel, including 700 sworn positions, the VCSD comprises four primary divisions, including Patrol, Detention, Special Services, and Support Services (VCSO, 2014a). The Patrol Division includes a Mounted Unit, K-9 Unit, Sheriff's Communications Center, and the Office of Emergency Services. Service areas are patrolled by deputies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. An additional overlapping patrol deputy is provided during peak hours (11:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.) 7 days a week (VCSO, 2014b).

The Proposed Project area would be served by three VCSD police stations. Segments 1 and 2 would be served by the Moorpark Police Station located at 610 Spring Road in the City of Moorpark, approximately 1.7 miles east of the Moorpark Substation. The City is divided into two primary beats which are patrolled by deputies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to providing police services to the City of Moorpark, the Moorpark Police Station also provides police services to the unincorporated areas of Santa Rosa Valley, Moorpark Home Acres, Happy Camp, Fruitvale, Santa Susanna Knolls, Box Canyon, Tapo Canyon, Balcom Canyon, Bradley, Stockton, and Grimes Canyon. Segments 3 and 4 would be served by the East County Patrol Station and the City of Thousand Oaks Police Department, both located at 2101 East Olsen Road in the City of Thousand Oaks, approximately 6.5 miles northeast of Newbury Substation. While the City of Thousand Oaks Police Department is responsible for providing services within the city (VCSO, 2014b), the East County Police Station provides police services to unincorporated areas such as Lynn Ranch, Casa Conejo, Kelley Estates, Hidden Valley, Oak Park, and Bell Canyon (VCSO, 2014b and 2014c).

Parks

Parks and other recreational facilities within the Proposed Project area are managed by the Ventura County Parks Department; the Conejo Recreation and Park District; the Moorpark Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department; the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA); and the Pleasant Valley Park Department. See Section 5.16, *Recreation*, for additional discussion of recreational facilities, including parks in the vicinity of the Proposed Project.

Schools

According to the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), Ventura County's 21 public school districts provide education to a pre-kindergarten through 12th grade student population that currently exceeds 140,000 (VCOE, 2014). Public schools in the vicinity of the Proposed Project are operated by the Conejo Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) and the Moorpark Unified School District (MUSD). There are also a number of private schools in the area, including the following three within 0.25-mile of the Proposed Project:

- Conejo Adventist Elementary School, located at 12 Academy Drive in Thousand Oaks, approximately 0.19 mile southwest of Newbury Substation;

- Newbury Park Adventist Academy, a private high school located at 180 Academy Drive in Thousand Oaks, approximately 0.15 mile south of Segment 4, west of Newbury Substation; and,
- Passageway School, a special education school, located at 1153 Lawrence Drive in Thousand Oaks, approximately 0.08 mile south of Newbury Substation.

Moorpark Unified School District

The MUSD operates preschool programs, as well as five elementary schools, two middle schools, one comprehensive high school, and one alternative high school (MUSD, 2014). Segment 1 and portions of Segment 2 are located within the MUSD service area.

Conejo Valley Unified School District

The CVUSD operates several early childhood programs, as well as 17 elementary, five middle, three comprehensive high, and two alternative high schools (CVUSD, 2014). Segment 4, including Newbury Substation, and portions of Segment 3 are located within the CVUSD's service area.

Other Public Facilities

Libraries

The nearest libraries to the Proposed Project are the City of Thousand Oaks Newbury Park Branch Library, located at 331 Borchard Road in the community of Newbury Park, approximately 1 mile south of Newbury Substation, and the Moorpark City Library, located at 699 Moorpark Avenue in the City of Moorpark, approximately 1.3 miles east-northeast of Moorpark Substation.

Medical Facilities

There are two medical facilities serving the Proposed Project area that are located in the City of Thousand Oaks: the Los Robles Hospital and Medical Center is located at 215 West Janss Road, approximately 2.8 miles east of Newbury Substation; and the Newbury Park Urgent Care facility is located at 2080 Newbury Road in the City of Thousand Oaks, approximately 1 mile southeast of the Newbury Substation.

Regulatory Setting

Local

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order No. 131-D explains that local land use regulations would not apply to the Proposed Project. However, for informational purposes, the goals and policies of local general plans pertaining to public services that would otherwise be relevant to the Proposed Project and alternatives are described below.

Ventura County General Plan

The Ventura County General Plan identifies goals pertaining to protection of the public through effective law enforcement and emergency services, but does not contain goals or policies that set forth service ratios, response time goals, or other performance standards for public services that are relevant to this analysis (Ventura County, various dates).

City of Moorpark General Plan

The Moorpark General Plan does not include any goals or policies pertaining to public services that are relevant to the analysis of the Proposed Project or alternatives (City of Moorpark, various dates).

City of Thousand Oaks General Plan

The following policies identified in the Safety Element of the City of Thousand Oaks General Plan would be relevant to the analysis of public services (City of Thousand Oaks, 2014):

Policy D-2: Continue to provide adequate fire protection and prevention services to meet the needs of the community and continue to support inter-jurisdictional fire protection agreements.

Policy D-6: Continue to strive for 5-minute response time to all fire and life safety emergency responses.

Policy D-13: Discourage the location of public facilities and above-ground utilities in extreme fire hazard areas. When unavoidable, special precautions should be taken to minimize potential impacts.

5.15.2 Significance Criteria

According to Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, a project would result in significant public services effects on the environment if it would:

- a) 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 following public services:
 - i. Fire protection;
 - ii. Police protection;
 - iii. Schools;
 - iv. Parks; or
 - v. Other public facilities.

5.15.3 Applicant Proposed Measures

Southern California Edison (SCE) has not identified any applicant proposed measures to reduce impacts on public services.

5.15.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Result in substantial adverse physical impact 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:

i) *Fire protection. (No Impact)*

Proposed Project construction could result in emergency situations that require emergency response services, including fire protection. However, the Proposed Project would not introduce any new uses to the area that would generate long-term changes to or demand for fire protection services. SCE anticipates that construction of the Proposed Project would take approximately 10 months and require approximately 217 workers on any given day during peak construction activities. It is anticipated that all temporary positions would be filled from the local labor pool available in Ventura County, with workers expected to commute to the site rather than relocate. Since construction activities would be limited in duration and would require a small, local construction workforce, they would not increase long-term demand for fire protection services or impede the City of Thousand Oaks' general plan goal of achieving a 5-minute response time to calls for emergency service.

Once constructed, the subtransmission line would require routine maintenance, inspection, and vegetation management activities to be provided by SCE, but would not require additional personnel above existing staffing levels. As described in Chapter 3, *Project Description*, Section 3.7, vegetation would be maintained to facilitate emergency access and for fire prevention (e.g., maintenance for poles within wildland fire areas would include clearing of vegetation around the poles). Furthermore, the fire protection facilities and infrastructure required to protect the Proposed Project are already in place, and would not change as a result of the Proposed Project.

For the reasons described above, the Proposed Project would not require construction of new or physically altered fire protection facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance standards (No Impact).

ii) *Police protection. (No Impact)*

For the reasons described under criterion a) i), the Proposed Project would not introduce any new uses to the Proposed Project area that would generate long-term changes to, or demand for, police protection services.

Potential police protection service effects primarily would be limited to the construction period. If temporary lane closures are required for construction activities within public streets, police services may be necessary during closure periods. Temporary lane closures are discussed further in Section 5.17, *Transportation and Traffic*. Additionally, the subtransmission line and substations may require police response to potential trespassing. However, as described in Chapter 3, *Project Description*, exterior lighting and fencing at the construction staging areas at Moorpark Substation would reduce opportunities for trespassing, and the need for police services.

Although Proposed Project construction may result in increased demand for police services, such increase would not likely be substantial and would be temporary. Further, the Proposed Project would not or impede the City of Thousand Oaks' general plan goal of achieving a 5-minute response time to calls for emergency service. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not require construction of new or physically altered police protection facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance standards (No Impact).

iii) Schools. (No Impact)

As previously described, Proposed Project construction is estimated to result in the employment of up to 217 workers, who are expected to commute to the Proposed Project sites from within Ventura County. Therefore, it is not expected that the Proposed Project construction workforce would relocate school-aged children into the service areas of the school districts near the Proposed Project. Also, as discussed in Section 5.14, *Population and Housing*, the Proposed Project would not result in substantial increases in the local population or demand for housing, which typically are associated with an increased demand for public school services. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in demand for school facilities and would not require the construction of a new school or modification of an existing school, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects (No Impact).

iv) Parks. (No Impact)

For the reasons described in Section 5.16, *Recreation*, which describes the Proposed Project's potential impacts with respect to the accelerated deterioration of park facilities and the construction of new park facilities, the Proposed Project would not require the construction of new parks or modification of existing parks, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects (No Impact).

v) Other public facilities. (No Impact)

The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts to other public facilities (e.g., public libraries, hospitals, or other civic uses) because, as discussed above, the Proposed

Project would not result in a significant increase in local population or housing, which would typically be associated with increased demand for such public facilities. Although unlikely, it is possible that Proposed Project construction could result in some increased use of other types of public services such as medical facilities and libraries. However, any such increase is not likely to be substantial and would not require the construction of new public facilities or modification of existing public facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects (No Impact).

5.15.5 Alternatives

No Project Alternative 1

Under No Project Alternative 1, the Proposed Project would not be constructed and the demand for public services described in Section 5.15.1, *Setting*, would remain the same. Therefore, there would be no impact related to public services (No Impact).

No Project Alternative 2

Under No Project Alternative 2, the Proposed Project would not be constructed and the infrastructure already constructed for the Moorpark-Newbury 66 kV Subtransmission line would be removed, with the exception of the previously installed LWS poles and energized conductor. Construction impacts associated with No Project Alternative 2 would be similar to those of the Proposed Project because this alternative would require construction activities within the same SCE right-of-way, and would require a similar, yet smaller, temporary construction workforce as the Proposed Project. Since construction activities would be temporary, lasting for a shorter duration than the Proposed Project, construction would not result in an increase in the local population, which would typically be associated with increased demand for public services and facilities. No Project Alternative 2 would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the need for, new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the previously described public services (No Impact).

References – Public Services

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