C.11 Public Services

This section addresses the environmental setting and impacts to public services resulting from the proposed Project and alternatives. This analysis focuses on the capabilities and capacities of existing public services and examines how the proposed Project and alternatives would affect these services. For purposes of both the proposed Project and alternatives public services analysis, potential impacts are analyzed for the area including the City of Santa Clarita, City of Lancaster, City of Palmdale, the Angeles National Forest, and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Because government and public service agencies have recently categorized data pertaining to public services (including their capacity, staffing, and type) as sensitive critical information, public access to these data are often restricted for security reasons. As such, only information that is readily and publicly accessible is presented in this section. While additional data would provide a better picture of the existing public services serving the proposed Project and alternative areas, in large part, this level of detail is unnecessary for the level of analysis needed to determine the impacts generated by the proposed Project.

Please note that while this section describes the potential for the proposed Project and alternatives to create demands on fire protection services, Project issues related to fire safety and fire hazards, particularly on National Forest System (NFS) Lands, are discussed in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities).

C.11.1 Affected Environment

C.11.1.1 Los Angeles County Fire Department

The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) provides fire protection for the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and has contracts with the Cities of Santa Clarita, Lancaster, and Palmdale. In addition, the USDA Forest Service, which manages NFS lands, has a Mutual Aid agreement with the LACFD to provide fire services and the California Department of Forestry has contracts with the LACFD to protect privately owned forestlands, watersheds, and rangelands referred to as State Responsibility Areas (SRAs).

The LACFD consists of more than 3,700 sworn and civilian personnel and is divided into three Regional Emergency Operations Bureaus, consisting of: North Operations Bureau, Central Operations Bureau, and the East Operations Bureau. The proposed Project is located within the North Operations Bureau area of the LACFD; however, in the event of a fire emergency all fire stations in the County would respond as needed in accordance with the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement, Section 8561 of the California Government Code. The LACFD operates 9 divisions, 20 battalions, 158 fire stations, and 11 fire suppression camps in the 2,296 square mile service area, and answers over 234,000 emergency calls annually. Specifically, LACFD is comprised of the following (LACFD, 2005):

- 1,170 total firefighters;
- 158 Fire Stations;
- 162 Engine Companies;
- 29 Trucks;
- 61 Paramedic Squads;
- 3 Hazardous Materials Squads;
- 2 Search and Rescue (USAR) Squads;
- 5 Emergency Support Teams; and
- 3 Paramedic Air Squads (LACFD, 2005).
- 215 Rescue Squads (swiftwater rescues, jaws of life, defibrillators, etc.);
- 63 Paramedic Units;
- 12 Hazmat Units;
- 22 Airtankers;
- 9 Helicopters; and
- 12 Airtactical Planes (CDF, 2005).

C.11.1.2 USDA Forest Service

The USDA Forest Service has primary wildland fire suppression responsibility on National Forest System Lands. The Southern California Geographic Coordination Center (GACC) has responsibility for the mobilization of federal resources with the sphere of influence of the ANF. This geographic area runs from the Stanislaus National Forest (in the Sierra Nevada) to Cleveland National Forest (east of San Diego) and the staffing noted below is based on fire season (averages 5-6 months per year). During extended attack wildland fires, federal resources may be mobilized from across the nation in support of these incidents; however, for the purposes of evaluating local capabilities to respond to a local wildfire, only resources within the GACC are considered. These resources include:

- 154 Fire Engines;
- 24 Hand Crews;
- 3 Dozers;
- 15 Helicopters (5 Type I Helitankers; 8 Type II helicopters; 3 Type III helicopters);
- 7 Airtanker Bases; and,
- 5 Airtactical Planes.

C.11.1.3 Police Protection Services

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LACSD) provides protection for the Cities of Santa Clarita and Lancaster as well as the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The LACSD Lancaster Station, located at 501 West Lancaster Boulevard, is staffed by 189 sworn personnel and 74 civilian personnel. Station personnel cover an area of more than 600 square miles, including the City of Lancaster, and the communities of Lake Los Angeles, Quartz Hill, and Antelope Acres. Law enforcement services are provided for over 190,000 residents (LACSD, 2005a)

The LACSD Santa Clarita Valley Station, located at 23740 Magic Mountain Parkway in the City of Santa Clarita is staffed by over 140 Deputy Sheriffs and serves a population of over 130,000. The station contains 20 patrol units including: Detective Bureau, Cobra Unit, Search and Rescue, Community Relations, Patrol Deputies, and Traffic Investigators (LACSD, 2005b).

The LACSD Palmdale Station, located at 1020 East Palmdale Boulevard in the City of Palmdale is contracted to serve the City of Palmdale and over 700 square miles of unincorporated Los Angeles County from Wrightwood Ski Area to Lake Hughes. The station is staffed by 141 Deputy Sheriffs (LACSD, 2006).

Unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County are serviced by LACSD Units within Field Operations Region I. The Region is comprised of the following Sheriff's stations: Altadena, Crescenta Valley, East Los Angeles, Lancaster, Malibu/Lost Hills, Palmdale, Santa Clarita Valley (which includes Gorman Substation & Pyramid Lake), and Temple Station. These units are primarily responsible for providing basic police services to the contract cities and unincorporated county areas that fall within the geographical boundaries of this Division (LACSD, 2005c).

C.11.1.4 Schools

The Lancaster Elementary School District (LESD) serves the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the High Desert Region, including the City of Lancaster. The LESD operates 12 elementary schools and five middle schools, and has an enrollment of 15,576 (SCE, 2004). In addition, the Antelope Valley School District (AVSD) serves the Lancaster area. The AVSD serves 1,100 square miles of Los Angeles County, including the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the High Desert region from the Ventura County line east to the

San Bernardino County line and south to Palmdale. The District operates seven high schools and has an enrollment of 21,087 (SCE, 2004).

The City of Palmdale and neighboring districts are served by the following three school districts:

- The Palmdale School District (27 schools);
- The Westside Union School District (11 schools and an enrollment of 8,250); and
- The Antelope Valley Union High School District (14 schools) (City of Palmdale, 2006).

The City of Santa Clarita and unincorporated areas of the project area in Los Angeles County are served by the following four school districts:

- The Newhall Elementary School District (nine schools and an enrollment of 6,555);
- The Saugus Union School District (14 schools and an enrollment of 10,060);
- The Sulfur Springs School District (eight schools and an enrollment of 5,700); and
- The William S. Hart Union High School District (six junior high schools, eight high schools and an enrollment of 20,058) (SCE, 2004).

C.11.1.5 Hospitals

The High Desert Medical Center is the primary hospital in the City of Lancaster. The City of Palmdale is served by the Antelope Valley Hospital and Lancaster Community Hospital. There are no major hospitals within the City of Santa Clarita. The closest hospital to the City of Santa Clarita is Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital in Valencia (SCE, 2004).

C.11.2 Regulatory Framework

C.11.2.1 Federal

There are no applicable federal regulations associated with public services for the proposed Project. Please see Section C.7, Forest Management Activities, for a discussion on guidance for firefighting and fire suppression activities in the National Fire Plan and Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan.

C.11.2.2 State

There are no applicable state regulations associated with public services for the proposed Project.

C.11.2.3 Local

City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element. The following General Plan goals are applicable to the proposed Project within the City of Santa Clarita:

- Goal 1: Work with utilities and other service providers to ensure adequate and safe public infrastructure and public services for City residents, including upgrading and expansion of existing deficient systems.
    - Policy 1.15. Maintain law enforcement and fire protection personnel and service standards to ensure that all residents, businesses, and visitors to the City are protected.
    - Policy 1.18. Work and cooperate with school districts, developers, and the County to ensure appropriate means to facilitate the development of school facilities to accommodate growth and ensure that the school districts can meet future needs.

There are no applicable City of Lancaster, City of Palmdale, or Los Angeles County public services plans or policies applicable to the proposed Project.

C.11.3 Significance Criteria

Impacts to public service providers could potentially occur when an increase to the size of the population and geographic area served, the number and type of calls for service, physical development, or a conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency responsible for provision of public services would occur that could result in capacity constraints to existing public service providers.

Public services impacts would be considered significant if the proposed Project:

- Criterion PS1: Increased demand for public services that could not be readily met by existing public service providers

C.11.4 Applicant-Proposed Measures (APMs)

SCE did not propose any APMs for public service resources.

C.11.5 Impact Analysis: Proposed Project/Action

Increased demand for public services that could not be readily met by existing public service providers (Criterion PS1)

Neither construction nor operation of the proposed Project is expected to result in a direct increase in the local population, leading to long-term demands to local public services (refer to Section C.12 (Socioeconomics) and Section E.1.4 (Growth-Inducing Effects) for a complete discussion of population impacts). Nor is the proposed Project expected to result in any long-term requirements that would place a permanent increased demand on emergency service providers that would result in new or expanded facilities. Because of the large available labor pool in Los Angeles County and nearby areas, few construction workers are expected to temporarily relocate to the area. As indicated in Section B, Project Description, Table B.2-2 (Project Labor Force Requirements), the workforce necessary for construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to range from approximately 20 to 120 personnel, with an estimated average daily workforce of 50 personnel. Because no new operational employees would be needed at the Antelope and Pardee substations, operation of the substations would not generate any additional population that could exceed the capacity of local public service providers. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase any demands on schools or lower the level of service for fire protection or police protection in the long term. There would be no operational impacts to existing schools, fire, or police department service capabilities due to an increase in population and no mitigation measures are recommended.

Impact P-1: Construction activities would temporarily increase demands on fire and police protection.

As described in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities), temporary construction activities would result in an increase for potential fire hazards and could increase the need for emergency services due to accidents caused by construction personnel or equipment. The presence of construction equipment (vehicles, generators, tools, etc.) may increase the likelihood of a wildland fire. Overgrown and untended vegetation may be present in or near the construction areas and could be ignited by a spark or heat-related incident due to the operation of construction equipment or construction activities. In addition, the presence of construction personnel increases the potential for wildland fires through the increase of human influenced ignition (use of smoking paraphernalia, flammables, etc.). This increase in potential fire hazards resulting from construction would increase temporary demands for fire protection services along the proposed Project construction route.

While a temporary increase in demand for fire protection would occur off NFS lands, the majority of the area at risk from wildland fires resulting from the proposed Project would be on NFS lands. As discussed above in Section C.11.1.2, the USDA Forest Service is expected to have existing adequate equipment and facilities to accommodate this short-term increase in potential fire calls on NFS lands during project construction. Additionally, as discussed in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities), SCE has proposed a FPRP to reduce the likelihood of a wildland fire. Details of the FPRP are presented in C.7 (Forest Management Activities). Due to the particular nature of wildland resources on NFS land traversed by the proposed Project, however, the FPRP does not sufficiently address the fire protection concerns of the ANF, particularly with regard to the potential for a wildland fire associated with Project construction to draw firefighting resources from other critical areas. Consequently, this would be considered a significant impact on NFS lands. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-1 (Develop a Fire Plan with the Forest Service) described in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities), however, this impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level (**Class II**).

Although the FPRP would reduce the impact of demand on fire protection services on NFS lands, the FPRP would not apply to non-NFS lands affected by the proposed Project. During construction, it is likely that fire hazards associated with construction activities would also occur within the sections of the Project route located in the City of Santa Clarita, the City of Lancaster, and unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County. Construction through these areas would traverse substantially less wildland than on NFS lands. The potential increase in risk of wildland fires and the associated demand on fire protection services in the Cities of Santa Clarita and Lancaster and unincorporated Los Angeles County would be considered be considered significant, but implementation of Mitigation Measure P-1 (Expansion of the Southern California Edison Fire Prevention and Response Plan), which would ensure that the components of the SCE FPRP apply to construction activities along the entire Project route, would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels (**Class II)**.

Mitigation Measure for Impact P-1:

P-1 **Expansion of the Southern California Edison Fire Prevention and Response Plan (FPRP).** SCE's FPRP shall apply to the entire length of the Antelope-Pardee 500-kV Transmission Line ROW, including the portions of the route in unincorporated Los Angeles County, and the Cities of Lancaster and Santa Clarita. SCE shall modify its plan to include the entire Project route, and shall notify the construction contractor(s) that the SCE FPRP and all measures contained within shall be applicable to the entire Project route and be in effect during the entire Project construction phase. SCE shall provide the revisions to the plan to CPUC for review and approval prior to the start of construction.

Impact P-2: Operational activities could increase demands on fire and police protection.

Increased demands on emergency services would occur if operation of the proposed Project would increase the risk of wildland fires. As described in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities), operation of the proposed Project would pose a potential fire risk if transmission lines were to contact vegetation or other potentially combustible materials. Routine maintenance activities could result in fire if a vehicle's catalytic converter were to ignite vegetation.

Regular maintenance of the transmission line corridor by SCE would ensure adequate brush clearance of the proposed facilities and transmission line route to ensure vegetation would not occur near potential fire hazards. Modification and expansion of the Antelope Substation would occur within the existing substation footprint which contains adequate vegetation buffer zones and on-site fire suppression equipment. Brush clearing main-

tenance activities conducted by SCE within the proposed Project route would also ensure that the Project would not result in increased hazards that could expose people or property to wildfires. With the regular maintenance proposed by SCE, the potential for risk of fire would not substantially increase and result in a corresponding increased demand for fire protection on non-NFS lands. Consequently, impacts to non-NFS lands would not be significant (**Class III**) and no mitigation is recommended.

Due to the amount of NFS land traversed by the proposed Project, the wildfire history of the ANF (as described in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities)), and the sensitive nature of the habitat within the ANF, however, the maintenance proposed by SCE would not be sufficient to reduce the risk of wildland fires. The increased risk of fire associated with the proposed Project on NFS lands could require the reallocation of firefighting and fire prevention resources from other critical areas on NFS lands. As such, impacts on NFS lands would be significant, but with the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-2 (Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan with the Forest Service) which would specify additional measures to reduce the risk of fire, the demand for fire protection services on NFS lands would not be significant (**Class II**).

C.11.6 Alternative 1: Partial Undergrounding of Antelope-Pardee Transmission Line

C.11.6.1 Affected Environment

Alternative 1 would place sections of the proposed 500-kV transmission line underground in specific high-impact segments of the proposed route. Alternative 1 would deviate from the proposed Project route in two locations, but modifications to the route would occur in the same jurisdiction as the proposed Project routes that would be replaced. Therefore, the affected public service agencies potentially impacted by this alternative would be identical to those presented for the proposed Project in Section C.1.1 (Affected Environment).

C.11.6.2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Increased demand for public services that could not be readily met by existing public service providers (Criterion PS1)

Neither construction nor operation of Alternative 1 is expected to result in an increase in the local population, leading to long-term demands to local public services. Because no new operational employees would be needed as a result of Alternative 1 construction, this alternative would not generate any additional population which could exceed the capacity of local public service providers. Therefore, as with the proposed Project, Alternative 1 would not increase any demands on schools or lower the level of service for fire protection or police protection in the long term. There would be no impacts to existing schools, fire, or police department service capabilities due to an increase in population resulting from the construction or operation of this alternative.

As described in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities), temporary construction activities would result in a potential increase in fire hazards and could increase the need for fire protection services as the result of a personnel or equipment accident (Impact P-1). Because underground construction activities associated with Alternative 1 would occur over 29 months rather than the 13-month construction duration of the proposed Project, Alternative 1 would increase the amount of construction equipment, construction activities, and construction personnel, and increase the possibility of a spark or heat-related incident during construction and human influenced ignition (use of smoking paraphernalia, flammables, etc.). This increase in potential fire hazards resulting from construction would increase temporary demands on fire protection services along the alternative route. Refer to Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities) for a full discussion of potential fire hazard impacts.

The majority of impacts would occur on NFS lands, with particularly intense construction activities occurring during the underground installation of the transmission line along Del Sur Ridge (approximately Mile 11.0 to Mile 15.0). Although SCE has submitted the FPRP to reduce the likelihood of a wildland fire, due to the particular nature of wildland resources on NFS land traversed by the proposed Project, the FPRP does not sufficiently address the fire protection concerns of the ANF, particularly with regard to the potential for a wildland fire associated with Project construction to draw firefighting resources from other critical areas. Consequently, this would be considered a significant impact on the NFS lands. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-1 (Develop a Fire Plan with the Forest Service) described in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities), this impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level (**Class II**).

Underground installation would also occur in the Santa Clarita area between Mile 22.7 and 26.2. To ensure that fire hazards and corresponding demands on fire protection services are minimized during Alternative 1 construction, Mitigation Measure P-1 (Expansion of the Southern California Edison Fire Prevention and Response Plan) would be required for Alternative 1 to ensure that the components of the SCE FPRP apply to the entire alternative route, including areas of underground construction activities proposed for Alternative 1 both on NFS lands and in the Santa Clarita area. The potential increase in risk of wildland fires and associated demand on fire protection services in the Cities of Santa Clarita and Lancaster and unincorporated Los Angeles County would be considered significant, but implementation of Mitigation Measure P-1 (Expansion of the Southern California Edison Fire Prevention and Response Plan), which would ensure that the components of the SCE FPRP apply to construction activities along the entire Project route, would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels (**Class II**).

As described in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities), operation of Alternative 1 would pose a reduced potential fire risk as compared to the proposed Project and so would have a reduced demand for fire protection services (Impact P-2). The addition of underground sections of the transmission lines would reduce potential contact with vegetation or other potentially combustible materials. Routine maintenance activities could also result in accidental heat-related ignition of vegetation. On non-NFS lands, regular brush clearing maintenance activities would be required of SCE for both the underground and remaining aboveground portions of the transmission line to ensure that Alternative 1 would not result in increased hazards that could expose people or property to wild fires. With the regular maintenance proposed by SCE, the potential for risk of fire would not substantially increase and result in a corresponding increased demand for fire protection on non-NFS lands. Consequently, impacts to non-NFS lands would not be significant (**Class III**) and no mitigation is recommended.

Although burying approximately 4.0 miles of transmission line along Del Sur Ridge would reduce fire hazard risks on NFS lands, as the rest of the route on NFS lands would be overhead, this portion would pose the same risk of wildfire as the proposed Project. Due to the amount of NFS land traversed by the proposed Project and the sensitive nature of the habitat on NFS lands, the maintenance required of SCE would not be sufficient to reduce the risk of wildland fires. The increased risk of fire associated with the proposed Project on NFS lands could require the reallocation of firefighting and fire prevention resources from other critical areas within the ANF. As such, impacts on NFS lands would be significant, but with the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-2 (Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan with the Forest Service), which would specify additional measures to reduce the risk of fire, the demand for fire protection services on NFS lands would not be significant (**Class II**).

C.11.7 Alternative 2: Antelope-Pardee East Mid-Slope

C.11.7.1 Affected Environment

This alternative would generally follow the proposed Project route, but would relocate most of the towers off the top of the Del Sur Ridge, placing the utility corridor on the east side of the ridge facing Bouquet Canyon. The route followed by Alternative 2 would be within the same jurisdictions as the proposed Project. Therefore, the affected public service agencies potentially impacted by this alternative would be identical to those presented for the proposed Project in Section C.1.1 (Affected Environment).

C.11.7.2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Increased demand for public services that could not be readily met by existing public service providers (Criterion PS1)

As with the proposed Project, neither construction nor operation of Alternative 2 is expected to result in an increase in the local population, leading to long-term demands to local public services. Therefore, Alternative 2 would not increase any demands on schools or lower the level of service for fire protection or police protection in the long term. There would be no impacts to existing schools, fire, or police department service capabilities due to an increase in population resulting from the construction or operation of this alternative.

Alternative 2 construction activities could temporarily increase the need for fire protection or police services (Impact P-1). As tower construction activities would be shifted off the top of the Del Sur Ridge on NFS lands between Mile 5.7 and Mile 17.5, the types of construction activities and construction personnel for Alternative 2 would be similar to the proposed Project, but the duration of the types of construction would be different. Short-term fire hazard impacts associated with the presence of construction equipment (vehicles, generators, tools, etc.) in Alternative 2 would be the same those associated with construction of the proposed Project, although due to the location of Alternative 2 route away from access roads, this alternative will require a much greater amount of helicopter construction. The location of the construction sites away from access roads also has the potential to restrict access for emergency providers to the sites. SCE has proposed the FPRP to reduce the potential for wildfire, but due to the sensitive nature of the wildland resources on NFS lands, the FPRP does not sufficiently address the fire protection concerns of the ANF, especially as additional aerial resources may be needed in the event of a fire along the mid-slope portion of the transmission line. Consequently, this would be considered a significant impact on the NFS lands. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-1 (Develop a Fire Plan with the Forest Service) described in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities), this impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level (**Class II**).

On non-NFS lands, the Alternative 2 route would be the same as the proposed Project. Consequently, fire hazards outside the ANF would be the same as the proposed Project and demand for fire protection services would also be the same as for the proposed Project. The potential increase in risk of wildland fires and associated demand on fire protection services in the Cities of Santa Clarita and Lancaster and unincorporated Los Angeles County would be considered significant, but implementation of Mitigation Measure P-1 (Expansion of the Southern California Edison Fire Prevention and Response Plan), which would ensure that the components of the SCE FPRP apply to construction activities along the entire Project route, would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels (**Class II**).

When operational, Alternative 2 would pose a similar risk to the proposed Project for increased wildfire potential, and subsequently, increased demand on fire protection (Impact P-2). Regular maintenance by SCE would reduce the potential for risk of fire and, correspondingly, reduce the demand for fire protection. For non-NFS

lands, this maintenance would be sufficient to ensure that there would be no significant impacts on fire protection resources and no mitigation measures are recommended (**Class III**). Due to the amount of NFS land traversed by the proposed Project and the sensitive nature of the habitat on NFS lands, the maintenance required of SCE would not be sufficient to reduce the risk of wildland fires. The increased risk of fire associated with the proposed Project on NFS lands could require the reallocation of firefighting and fire prevention resources from other critical areas on NFS lands. As such, impacts on NFS lands would be significant, but with the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-2 (Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan with the Forest Service), which would specify additional measures to reduce the risk of fire, the demand for fire protection services on NFS lands would not be significant (**Class II**).

C.11.8 Alternative 3: Antelope-Pardee Single-Circuit 500-kV Towers between Haskell Canyon and Pardee Substation

C.11.8.1 Affected Environment

This alternative is a minor variation of the proposed Project and would include constructing single-circuit 500-kV towers between Haskell Canyon and the Pardee Substation, from Mile 20.3 to Mile 25.6 on the proposed Project route, rather than constructing double-circuit 500-kV towers and removing the existing single-circuit 500-kV towers. The route followed by Alternative 3 would be the same as the proposed Project route. Therefore, the affected public service agencies potentially impacted by this alternative would be identical to those presented for the proposed Project in Section C.1.1 (Affected Environment).

C.11.8.2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Increased demand for public services that could not be readily met by existing public service providers (Criterion PS1)

Similar to the proposed Project, neither construction nor operation of Alternative 3 would result in an increase in the local population, leading to long-term demands to local public services. Alternative 3 would not increase any demands on schools or lower the level of service for fire protection or police protection in the long term. There would be no impacts to existing schools, fire, or police department service capabilities due to an increase in population resulting from the construction or operation of this alternative.

As the route for Alternative 3 would be the same as the proposed Project, the demand on fire protection or police services during construction activities (Impact P-1) would be the same as described for the proposed Project. The presence of construction equipment (vehicles, generators, tools, etc.) may increase the likelihood of a wildland fire. The potential increase in risk of wildland fires and the associated demand on fire protection services in the Cities of Santa Clarita and Lancaster and unincorporated Los Angeles County would be considered be considered significant, but implementation of Mitigation Measure P-1 (Expansion of the Southern California Edison Fire Prevention and Response Plan), which would ensure that the components of the SCE FPRP apply to construction activities along the entire Project route, would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels (**Class II)**.

While the FPRP would be sufficient for non-NFS lands, the sensitive nature of the wildland resources within the ANF and the history of wildfire within the ANF require additional measures to ensure that firefighting resources are adequate for Alternative 3 construction activities. Consequently, this would be considered a significant impact on the NFS lands. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-1 (Develop a Fire Plan with the Forest Service) described in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities), this impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level **(Class II)**.

When operational, Alternative 3 would have the same demands on fire and police protection as the proposed Project (Impact P-2). The regular maintenance proposed by SCE would ensure that the potential for risk of fire would not substantially increase and result in a corresponding increased demand for fire protection on non-NFS lands. Consequently, impacts to non-NFS lands would not be significant (**Class III**) and no mitigation is recommended. On NFS lands, however, the maintenance required by SCE would not be sufficient to reduce the risk of wildfires and maintain adequate allocations of firefighting resources. Impacts on NFS lands would be significant, but with the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-2 (Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan with the Forest Service), which would specify additional measures to reduce the risk of fire, the demand for fire protection services on NFS lands would not be significant (**Class II**).

C.11.9 Alternative 4: Antelope-Pardee Re-Routing of New Right-of-Way along Haskell Canyon

C.11.9.1 Affected Environment

This alternative would follow the proposed Project route until Mile 17.5, north of Haskell Canyon Road. At this point, Alternative 4 would divert from the proposed Project route for approximately 3.1 miles, in order to circumvent the Veluzat Motion Picture Ranch. Alternative 4 would rejoin the proposed Project route at Mile 20.3 of the proposed Project, or Mile 20.6 of the proposed route for Alternative 4, which is approximately 25.9 miles long. The route followed by Alternative 4 would be located within the same jurisdictions as proposed Project. Therefore, the public services potentially impacted by Alternative 4 would be identical to those presented for the proposed Project in Section C.1.1 (Affected Environment).

C.11.9.2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Increased demand for public services that could not be readily met by existing public service providers (Criterion PS1)

Similar to the proposed Project, neither construction nor operation of Alternative 4 would result in an increase in the local population, leading to long-term demands to local public services. Alternative 4 would not increase any demands on schools or lower the level of service for fire protection or police protection in the long term. There would be no impacts to existing schools, fire, or police department service capabilities due to an increase in population resulting from the construction or operation of this alternative.

With the exception of the Haskell Canyon re-route which would have the same types of fire risks as the proposed Project, the demand on fire protection or police services during construction activities (Impact P-1) for Alternative 4 would be identical to the proposed Project. The presence of construction equipment (vehicles, generators, tools, etc.) may increase the likelihood of a wildland fire. The potential increase in risk of wildland fires and associated demand on fire protection services in the Cities of Santa Clarita and Lancaster and unincorporated Los Angeles County would be considered significant, but implementation of Mitigation Measure P-1 (Expansion of the Southern California Edison Fire Prevention and Response Plan), which would ensure that the components of the SCE FPRP apply to construction activities along the entire Project route, would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels (**Class II**).

While the FPRP would be sufficient for non-NFS lands, the sensitive nature of the wildland resources within the ANF and the history of wildfire within the ANF require additional measures to ensure that firefighting resources are adequate for Alternative 4 construction activities. Consequently, this would be considered a significant impact on the NFS lands. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-1 (Develop a Fire Plan

with the Forest Service) described in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities), this impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level (**Class II**).

When operational, Alternative 4 would have the same demands on fire and police protection as the proposed Project (Impact P-2). The regular maintenance proposed by SCE would ensure that the potential for risk of fire would not substantially increase and result in a corresponding increased demand for fire protection on non-NFS lands. Consequently, impacts to non-NFS lands would not be significant (**Class III**) and no mitigation is recommended. On NFS lands, however, the maintenance required by SCE would not be sufficient to reduce the risk of wildfires and maintain adequate allocations of firefighting resources. Impacts on NFS lands would be significant, but with the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-2 (Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan with the Forest Service) which would specify additional measures to reduce the risk of fire, the demand for fire protection services on NFS lands would not be significant (**Class II**).

C.11.10 Alternative 5: Antelope-Pardee Sierra-Pelona Re-Route

C.11.10.1 Affected Environment

Alternative 5 would begin at Antelope Substation, heading south to the Vincent-Pardee ROW, and eventually connecting to Pardee Substation. This alternative would traverse land under the jurisdiction of the BLM; the Cities of Lancaster, Palmdale, and Santa Clarita; and the unincorporated communities of Leona Valley, Agua Dulce, Forrest Park, and Bouquet Canyon in Los Angeles County. With the exception of the addition of the City of Palmdale, the public services potentially impacted by Alternative 5 would be the same as those presented for the proposed Project in Section C.12.1 (Affected Environment).

C.11.10.2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Increased demand for public services that could not be readily met by existing public service providers (Criterion PS1)

Similar to the proposed Project, neither construction nor operation of Alternative 5 would result in an increase in the local population, leading to long-term demands to local public services. Alternative 5 would not increase any demands on schools or lower the level of service for fire protection or police protection in the long term. There would be no impacts to existing schools, fire, or police department service capabilities due to an increase in population resulting from the construction or operation of this alternative.

Because of the longer route and the increased construction duration of Alternative 5, construction activities would have a greater potential demand for fire protection or police services (Impact P-1) than the proposed Project. The types of construction activities with a potential to start fires would be the same as for the proposed Project, although the route would primarily consist of non-NFS lands. Only four percent of the Alternative 5 route would traverse NFS lands. As with the proposed Project, the presence of construction equipment (vehicles, generators, tools, etc.) may increase the likelihood of a wildland fire. The potential increase in risk of wildland fires and associated demand on fire protection services in the Cities of Santa Clarita, Palmdale, and Lancaster and unincorporated Los Angeles County would be considered significant, but implementation of Mitigation Measure P-1 (Expansion of the Southern California Edison Fire Prevention and Response Plan), which would ensure that the components of the SCE FPRP apply to construction activities along the entire Project route, would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels (**Class II**). Although Alternative 5 only traverses approximately 1.5 miles of NFS lands, impacts on these lands would be the same as described for the proposed Project. With the wildfire history of the ANF and sensitivity of NFS lands, an increase in fire risk and demands on firefighting resources would occur even with the implementation of SCE's

FPRP. The impact of the demand on fire protection services would be significant. Implementation of Mitigation Measure F-1 (Develop a Fire Plan with the Forest Service) described in Section C.7 (Forest Management Activities) would reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level (**Class II**).

Although Alternative 5 follows a very different route than the proposed Project, when operational, Alternative 5 would have the same demands on fire and police protection as the proposed Project (Impact P-2). The regular maintenance proposed by SCE would ensure that the potential for risk of fire would not substantially increase and result in a corresponding increased demand for fire protection on non-NFS lands. Consequently, impacts to non-NFS lands would not be significant (**Class III**) and no mitigation is recommended. On NFS lands, however, the maintenance required by SCE would not be sufficient to reduce the risk of wildfires and maintain adequate allocations of firefighting resources. Impacts on NFS lands would be significant, but with the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-2 (Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan with the Forest Service), which would specify additional measures to reduce the risk of fire, the demand for fire protection services on NFS lands would not be significant (**Class II**).

C.11.11 No Project/Action Alternative

Under the No Project/Action Alternative, the proposed transmission and substation upgrades would not be implemented and, therefore, the impacts associated with the proposed Project and alternatives described in Sections C.11.5 through C.11.10 above would not occur. As a result, the No Project/Action alternative would result in no impacts to public service providers or fire hazards.

However, as identified in Section B.4.8.2, in the absence of the Project, other actions would occur. SCE would need to accommodate the power load by upgrading existing transmission infrastructure or building new transmission facilities along a different alignment. Construction methods, resulting impacts, and regulatory requirements associated with other transmission projects would be similar to those identified for the Project; as such, other future projects would require the use of available construction workforce or may result in a population or workforce increase that could impact existing capacities of public service facilities serving the project areas.

C.11.12 Impact and Mitigation Summary

Table C.11-1 presents a summary of the impacts and proposed mitigation measures for public services.

Table C.11-1. Impact and Mitigation Summary – Public Services

Impact	Impact Significance					
	Proposed Project	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt. 3	Alt. 4	Alt. 5
P-1: Construction activities would temporarily increase demands on fire and police protection.	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II
	P-1, F-1*	P-1, F-1*	P-1, F-1*	P-1, F-1*	P-1, F-1*	P-1, F-1*
P-2: Operational activities could increase demands on fire and police protection.	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II
	F-2*	F-2*	F-2*	F-2*	F-2*	F-2*

Class I = Significant and unavoidable impact; Class II = Significant but mitigated to a less-than-significant level; Class III = Less-than-significant impact; Class IV = Beneficial impact.

*** Please see Section C.7.5, Forest Management Activities, Proposed Project/Action, Mitigation Measure F-1 (Develop a Fire Plan with the Forest Service) and Mitigation Measure F-2 (Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan with the Forest Service).

C.11.13 Cumulative Effects

C.11.13.1 Proposed Project

Geographic Extent

The geographic extent for the analysis of cumulative impacts on public services is northern Los Angeles County. This is defined as the geographic extent or the cumulative impact area because public services are provided by county fire and police services to both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county, as well as within National Forest System Lands.

Existing Cumulative Conditions

Past development and population growth within northern Los Angeles County have impacted the level of service ratios for public services within. As the population increases through an indirect and direct influence of development, public services need to expand to serve the growing population. In addition, continued development creates more infrastructure requiring police and fire service. Existing conditions, Section C.11.1, Affected Environment, describe the available public services for the Project area.

During construction, should construction activities from projects identified in Table B.3-1 occur at the same time as proposed Project construction, cumulative impacts could occur to public services as a result of an influx of construction workers should a local workforce be unavailable to supply the need. The addition of these persons would directly reduce the service ratios established by public services within the area. In addition, an increase in development of the proposed Project in conjunction with those projects identified in Table B.3-1 would increase the overall amount of development requiring police and fire service support, and would be cumulatively considerable.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The potential for the utilities and service systems impacts of the proposed Project described in Sections C.11.5 through C.11.11 to combine with the effects of other projects within the geographic scope of the cumulative analysis are described below.

- **Construction activities could increase demands on fire and police protection (Impact P-1).** Because of the large available labor pool in Los Angeles County and nearby areas, no construction workers are expected to temporarily relocate to the area for construction of the new transmission line and improved substations under the proposed Project and alternatives. As indicated in Section B (Project Description) Table B.2-2 (Project Labor Force Requirements), the workforce necessary for construction of the proposed Project and alternatives is anticipated to range from approximately 20 to 120 personnel, with an estimated average daily workforce of 50 personnel. As indicated in Section C.12, Socioeconomics, the maximum required construction workforce of 120 personnel required for the proposed Project would comprise 0.06 percent of the total Los Angeles County construction workforce. No workers are expected to relocate to the area. Therefore, the incremental contribution of the proposed Project and alternatives to the overall demand for fire and police protection services due to a population increase would be minimal.

  However, temporary construction activities associated with the proposed Project in conjunction with construction of projects described in Table B.3-1 would result in an increase for potential fire hazards and could increase the need for fire and police service due to accidents caused by construction personnel or equipment. While it is not expected that operation of energy and transportation projects listed would substantially increase the need for fire and police services, the large number of residential development projects described in Table B.3-1 would all substantially contribute to increased needs for fire and police services. However, the combined demands of all of these projects on public services would strain the existing capacities of service providers and ultimately contribute

negatively to the adequacy of capacities of public facilities serving the area. This impact would be cumulatively significant (**Class I**).

- **Operational activities could increase demands on fire and police protection (Impact P-2).** Once operational, regular maintenance activities would be required by SCE for the transmission line to reduce potential contact with vegetation or other potentially combustible materials. This action, combined with the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-2 (Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan with the Forest Service) on NFS lands would reduce the proposed Project and alternative demands on fire and police protection services on NFS Lands to a less-than-significant level. The residential, commercial, and industrial projects listed in Table B.3-1 would all require fire and police protection services and the demands on these services by the NFS will only increase as the number of users of NFS lands in the area increase. Consequently, significant (**Class I**) cumulative operational impacts would occur to fire and police service providers

Cumulative Effects on National Forest System Lands

- **Construction activities could increase demands on fire and police protection (Impact P-1).** Because the USDA Forest Service provides fire suppression service exclusively for NFS lands, only development projects within or expansion of NFS lands would contribute to a cumulative impact to service levels of the USDA Forest Service providers' capacity. Because of the sensitive nature of wildland resources within NFS lands and the fire history of the ANF, demands on fire protection, when combined with the proposed Project and alternatives identified above would result in a contribution to the overall demand for fire services of the USDA Forest Service or facilities identified in Section C.11.1.3. Significant (**Class I**) cumulative construction impacts would occur to fire service providers serving NFS lands.
- **Operational activities could increase demands on fire and police protection (Impact P-2).** Once operational, regular maintenance activities would be required by SCE for the transmission line to reduce potential contact with vegetation or other potentially combustible materials on NFS lands. This action, combined with the implementation of Mitigation Measure F-2 (Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan with the Forest Service) would reduce the proposed Project and alternative demands on fire and police protection services within NFS Lands to a less than significant level. The proposed Project and alternatives identified above would combine with recreation and infrastructure-related projects on NFS lands to place demands on fire services of the USDA Forest Service or facilities identified in Section C.11.1.3. While the operation of these projects would be less demanding on fire protection services than many of the residential, commercial, or industrial projects listed in Table B.3-1, the fire history and sensitive nature of NFS lands increase the magnitude of impacts. Consequently, significant (**Class I**) cumulative operational impacts would occur to fire service providers serving NFS lands.