

4.14 PUBLIC SERVICES/UTILITIES**4.14.1 Introduction**

This section describes pertinent public services and utilities that could be affected by the proposed project. Public services include fire and police protection and public facilities such as schools and hospitals. Utilities and service systems include power, natural gas, water treatment and distribution, sewer facilities, storm water drainage, solid waste disposal, and local and regional water supplies.

4.14.2 Segment 1 – Antelope to Pardee

Segment 1 of the proposed Antelope Transmission Project includes approximately 25.6 miles of new 500 kV T/L (including removal of the corresponding portion of the existing Antelope – Pole Switch 74, 66 kV line), expansion of the existing Antelope 220 kV Substation, and relatively minor modifications to SCE’s existing Pardee 220 kV Substation. The proposed 500 kV T/L route (and Alternative 1) generally proceeds in a southwesterly direction from the Antelope Substation in the western portion of the City of Lancaster to the Pardee Substation in the City of Santa Clarita. Refer to Figure 4.14-1 for locations of public services (i.e., fire stations, police stations, hospitals, and schools) along the proposed routes for Segment 1 and Alternative 1.

4.14.2.1 Fire Protection

The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) provides protection for the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and has contracts with the cities of Santa Clarita and Lancaster (Coffee, 2004). The USFS, which provides protection for the Angeles National Forest, has Mutual Aid agreements with the LACFD (Faser, 2004). In addition, the California Department of Forestry has contracts with the LACFD to protect State Responsibility Areas (SRAs).

4.14.2.2 Police Protection

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department provides protection for the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and has a contract arrangement with the cities of Santa Clarita and Lancaster. The Santa Clarita station has a total of 177 staff, including 80 staff that specifically serve the City of Santa Clarita (Oliva, 2004). The Lancaster station has a total of 185 staff, including 77 staff that specifically serve the City of Lancaster (Low, 2004).

4.14.3 Schools

The Lancaster Elementary School District serves the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the High Desert Region. The District operates 12 elementary schools, 5 middle schools and has an enrollment of 15,576 (www.greatschools.net).

The Antelope Valley School District 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 7 high schools and has an enrollment of 21,087 (Freeze, 2004).

The City of Santa Clarita and unincorporated areas of the project area in Los Angeles County are served by four school districts. The Newhall Elementary School District has 9 schools and an enrollment of 6,555. The Saugus Union School District has 14 schools and an enrollment of 10,060. The Sulfur Springs School District has 8 schools and an enrollment of 5,700. The William S. Hart Union High School District has 6 junior high schools, 8 high schools and an enrollment of 20,058 (www.greatschools.net).

There are no schools located within 0.25 mile of the proposed 500 kV T/L route or Alternative 1.

4.14.4 Hospitals

The High Desert Medical Center is the primary hospital in the City of Lancaster. There are no major hospitals within the City of Santa Clarita. The closest hospital is Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital in Valencia.

4.14.5 Utilities

Significant infrastructure located along or near the proposed 500 kV T/L route (and Alternative 1) is depicted on Figure 4.14-1. The northern portions of Segment 1, Alternative 1, and the Antelope Substation are located in a relatively undeveloped portion of the City of Lancaster. Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas) provides gas service and SCE provides electricity for the City of Lancaster, as well as Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita. An existing 500 kV T/L traverses the proposed 500 kV T/L route at mile 8.4 (and Alternative 1 at mile 11.8). Water service for the City of Lancaster is provided by the Los Angeles County Water Works and sewer service is provided by Los Angeles County Sewer Maintenance.

The proposed 500 kV T/L route and Alternative 1 cross the California Aqueduct at mile 2.8 and 4.4, respectively. The East Branch of the California Aqueduct alignment along the northeastern margin of the San Gabriel Mountains delivers State Water Project water to the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) and to the Mojave Water Agency further east. The Los Angeles Aqueduct conveys water from the Owens Valley/Mono Lake area to the City of Los Angeles. Alternative 1 crosses the aqueduct at mile 12.2 west of Bouquet Canyon Reservoir. The aqueduct in these reaches is a closed conduit. The proposed 500 kV T/L route crosses the western end of Bouquet Reservoir (LADWP facility) between mile 9.2 and mile 9.7.

Within the City of Santa Clarita, various municipal water, sewer, storm drain, and other existing utilities are located within and adjacent to the R-O-W for the proposed 500 kV T/L route. Water service is provided by Newhall County Water District, Santa Clarita Water Company, Valencia Water Company, and Castaic Lake Water District. A 220 kV SCE T/L follows along or near the proposed 500 kV T/L route for Segment 1 between mile 20.3 and mile 22.3. Two large gas pipelines (26- and 34-inch diameter) owned by SoCal Gas are crossed by the proposed 500 kV T/L route between mile 24.0 and the Pardee Substation (mile 25.6).