5.17 Utilities and Service Systems

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☑	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☑	☐	☐
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☑	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☑	☐
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☑	☐
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Significance criteria established by CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G.

5.17.1 Setting

Utility and services system facilities associated with electricity, domestic (potable) water, stormwater, solid waste, communications, and natural gas are provided and maintained by a variety of local purveyors, including cities, counties, special districts, water agencies, and private companies. Table 5.17-1 lists utility providers in the area.

Table 5.17-1. Utility Providers

Natural gas – SCE, PG&E

Electricity – SCE

Water – Tehachapi – Cummings County Water District

Wastewater – City of Tehachapi Wastewater Treatment Facility, Bear Valley Community Services District, Stallion Springs Community Services District, and Golden Hills Sanitation Company

Telephone – AT&T

Solid Waste – Kern County Waste Management Department, Stallion Springs Community Services District, and Bear Valley Community Services District, Benz Sanitation

Sources: Kern County, 2010; SCE, 2014.

Utilities

Water Supply

Water supply sources in the Greater Tehachapi Area (GTA) and the City of Tehachapi include groundwater basin sources, imported water supply (State Water Project), stored water sources, recycled/ reclaimed water sources, and conjunctive use recharge sources.

The Proposed Project is located within the Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District. Groundwater is the primary source of water supply. Four groundwater basins in the GTA (Bear Valley, Brite Valley, Cummings Valley, and Tehachapi Valley Basins) provide water supplies to current users. In total, the four basins provide approximately 10,714 acre-feet of water. Of this total, 9,948 acre-feet of groundwater is being used for consumptive uses, leaving approximately 766 acre-feet of unused or unexercised water (Kern County, 2010).

The allocation of State Water Project water is through the Kern County Water Agency and State Department of Water Resources (SEC, 2014).

Electricity and Natural Gas

Electricity and natural gas within the vicinity of the Proposed Project are provided by SCE. The proposed Banducci Substation site is located within an Electrical Needs Area bounded by Woodford-Tehachapi Road to the east, El Camino Drive to the north, the Pacific Gas & Electric service territory to the west, and High Gun Drive to the south. In the Bear Valley area, Pacific Gas & Electric provides natural gas.

Service System

Sewerage/Wastewater

Sanitary sewer collection and treatment services are available in select areas in the area and, depending on location, are operated by the Bear Valley Community Services District, the Stallion Springs Community Services District, and the Golden Hills Sanitation Company (Kern County, 2010).

Approximately 90% of the existing lots within the Proposed Project area are on septic systems (SCE, 2014). Sewer service is not currently available at the proposed Banducci Substation site. A stand-alone, permanent restroom would be installed within the substation perimeter wall, which would be equipped with self-contained water and waste holding tanks. The restroom would be maintained by an outside service company.

Solid Waste Disposal

The Kern County Waste Management Department operates seven landfills, five transfer stations, four transfer bins, and two special waste facilities sites in the County. The Tehachapi landfill is located at 12001 Tehachapi Boulevard, approximately 18 miles from the proposed Banducci Substation site. The Mojave-Rosamond landfill is approximately 60 miles distant (Kern County Waste Management Department, 2014).

Table 5.17-2. Landfill Capacities

Landfill Name	Total Capacity (cu.yd.)	Remaining Capacity (cu.yd.)	Remaining Capacity (percent)	Maximum Throughput (tons/day)
Tehachapi Sanitary Landfill (Cease operation estimated 2016)	3,388,723	874,874	25.8	1,000
Mojave-Rosamond Sanitary Landfill (Cease operation estimated 2123)	78,000,000	76,310,297	97.8	3,000

Source: CalRecycle 2014

Regulatory Background

Federal

Clean Water Act Section 402: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Section 202 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program to regulate point source discharges of pollutants of Waters of the United States. Discharges or construction activities that disturb 1 or more acres, which includes the Proposed Project, are regulated under the NPDES stormwater program and are required to obtain coverage permit under a NPDES Construction General Permit. The Construction General Permit establishes limits and other requirements such as the implementation of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, which would further specify best management practices to avoid or eliminate pollution discharge into the nation's waters. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issues both general and individual permits under this program. The SWRCB delegates much of its NPDES authority to nine regional water quality control boards. The Proposed Project's NPDES permits are under jurisdiction of Region 5, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Region 6, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

State

General Order No. 131-D. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is the regulatory agency for General Order 131-D. This General Order provides guidelines and measures for public utility providers to plan and construct substations, electric generation, and transmission, power, and distribution line facilities in California. This General Order identifies the process, documentation, and measures required to ensure compliance. The Proposed Project would be subject to comply with this order.

Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989. The Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 created the authority and responsibilities of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). The Act, which is administered by the CIWMB, requires all local and county governments to adopt a waste reduction measure designed to manage and reduce the amount of solid waste sent to landfills. This Act established reduction goals of 25 percent by the year 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000. The CIWMB has continued to encourage reduction measures through the continued implementation of reduction measures, legislation, infrastructure and supporting local requirements for new developments to include areas for waste disposal and recycling on-site.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) regulates hazardous waste, cleans up existing contamination, and identifies ways to reduce the hazardous waste produced in California. The DTSC operates programs that respond to incidents and prevent releases; performs research such as evaluations; and enforces the appropriate handling, transport, storage, treatment, disposal, and cleanup of hazardous wastes.

California Code of Regulations (Title 27). Title 27 (Environmental Protection) of the California Code of Regulations defines regulations for the treatment, storage, processing, and disposal of solid waste. The State Water Resources Control Board maintains and regulates compliance with Title 27 (Environmental Protection) of the California Code of Regulations. The compliance of the Proposed Project would be enforced by the Central Valley and Lahontan RWQCB.

Senate Bill (SB) 610. SB 610 requires preparation of a Water Supply Assessment for any development which meets the definition of "project" under the Water Code section 10912. The Proposed Project does not meet the definition of "project", which applies to large residential, commercial, and industrial project that require a substantial ongoing water supply.

Local

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order No. 131-D, Section XIV B states that "local jurisdictions acting pursuant to local authority are preempted from regulating electric power line projects, distribution lines, substations, or electric facilities constructed by public utilities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. However, in locating such projects, the public utilities shall consult with local agencies regarding land use matters." As a public utility project that is subject to the jurisdiction of the CPUC, the Proposed Project is exempt from local regulation and discretionary permits. As such, the regional and local regulatory standards are provided in this analysis for informational purposes only.

Kern County General Plan. The goals of the General Plan's Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element include assisting in the allocation of public resources in Kern County and assure the continuity of vital public services and functions. These goals and policies include the following:

- Public Facilities and Services Goal 9 Serve the needs of industries and Kern County residents in a manner that does not degrade the water supply and the environment and protect the public health and safety by avoiding surface and subsurface nuisances resulting from the disposal of hazardous wastes irrespective of the geographic origin of the waste.
- Public Facilities and Services Goal 11: Reduce residential contamination of groundwater by encouraging sanitary sewer systems.
- Public Facilities and Services Policy 12: All methods of sewage disposal and water supply shall meet the requirements of Kern County Environmental Health Services Department and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Environmental Health Department shall periodically review and modify, as necessary, its requirements for sewage disposal and water supply, and shall comply with any new standards adopted by the State of implementation of Government Code Division 7 of the Water Code.
- Public Facilities and Services Policy 13: The County shall ensure landfill capacity for the residents and industry of Kern County.
- Public Facilities and Services Policy 15: Prior to the approval of any discretionary permit, the County shall make the finding, based on information provided by CEQA documents, staff analysis, and the applicant, that adequate public and private services and resources are available to serve the proposed development.
- Industrial Policy 1: Locations for new industrial activities shall be provided with adequate infrastructure (water, sewage, disposal systems, roads, etc.) to minimize effects on County services.
- Resource Policy 11: Minimize the alteration of natural drainage areas. Require development plans to include necessary mitigation to stabilize runoff and silt deposition through the utilization of grading and flood protection ordinances.

Greater Tehachapi Area Specific and Community Plan. The Greater Tehachapi Area (GTA) is a term used to describe the collection of unincorporated communities located in eastern Kern County along state route (SR) 58 between the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert. The GTA generally encompasses the rural communities of Alpine Forest, Bear Valley Springs, Brite Valley, Cummings Ranch, Cummings Valley, Golden Hills, Mendiburu Springs, Monolith, Old Towne, and Stallion Springs. Kern County has adopted a GTA Specific and Community Plan (GTASCP) that sets forth a land use plan and goals, policies, and implementation measures designed to ensure that future development in the GTA is consistent with the goals and policies of Kern County's General Plan while recognizing the uniqueness of the region. The proposed Banducci Substation component of the Proposed Project would be located within the GTASCP.

Applicant Proposed Measures

There are no Applicant Proposed measures for utilities and service systems.

5.17.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

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

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT DURING CONSTRUCTION. Minimal amounts of wastewater would be generated during construction. Sanitary facilities would be provided and serviced by a private company (SCE, 2014). This would generate a nominal amount of wastewater to be treated. There would be no sewer connection to the Proposed Project. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have less than significant impact related to wastewater treatment requirements.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT DURING OPERATION. Operation of the facility would be automated, with periodic maintenance and servicing by SCE personnel. Sanitary facilities at the substation would be self-contained and would be managed by a private company. Minimal amounts of wastewater would be generated. Therefore, during operation, the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on wastewater treatment requirements.

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 Proposed Project would generate minimal demand for water or wastewater treatment. Construction work crews would bring their own drinking water to the site and portable toilets would be provided. During construction, temporary sanitary facilities would be provided. During operation, the substation would be unmanned and a self-contained sanitary facility at the substation would be maintained by a vendor. Existing wastewater and water treatment facilities are adequate to accommodate the demand generated by the Proposed Project. Thus, the project would have no impact requiring the construction or expansion of water or wastewater treatment facilities.

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 WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED. Construction of the Proposed Project would include grading and removal of existing vegetation from the proposed Banducci Substation site. These site preparation measures would have the potential to reduce water infiltration into the soil, as the existing site is unoccupied and has no paved or impermeable surfaces. The implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and described in Mitigation Measure HYD-1 (Develop Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Implement Best Management Practices) (see Section 5.9 [Hydrology and Water Quality]), as well as stormwater retention facilities (if needed), would contain stormwater discharges during storm events at the site. The Proposed Project would not require the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of such facilities, this impact would be less than significant.

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

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED. Construction work crews would bring their own drinking water to the site or be provided drinking water by SCE or the contractor. During construction, water would be required for dust suppression and cleaning of construction equipment. SCE estimates the Proposed Project's water requirements for construction would be approximately 2,782,000 gallons. Water for dust control would be provided by the construction contractors and would come from an offsite source in 4,000-gallon water trucks. Mitigation Measure HYD-2 (Use Non-potable Water for Dust Control or Soil Compaction) in Section 5.9 (Hydrology and Water Quality) requires use of non-potable water for dust control, if available. Recycled water may be available from the Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District, which operates a tertiary wastewater treatment plant in the area. If non-potable water is unavailable, water for dust control would be obtained from the local water purveyor. The volume of water required for dust control is not known. However, the amount of water for dust suppression during construction is considered to be nominal in comparison to available municipal water supplies, and water use for construction would be periodic and temporary, as required during the construction period. Upon completion, the Proposed Project would generate minimal daily water demand; water would be required only from landscaping irrigation needs at the proposed substation. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not be expected to exceed the existing water supplies available to serve the Proposed Project, and this impact would be less than significant.

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

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. The Proposed Project would generate minimal wastewater during construction. Existing wastewater facilities would adequately accommodate the minor demand caused by project construction while serving existing commitments. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

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

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. A private contractor would collect and transport any construction-related solid waste to a landfill authorized to accept the material. Small amounts of construction debris would be related to use of building materials (such as concrete and metal). Although it is anticipated that Tehachapi Landfill would be closed in 2016, the waste generated during construction would be reused or disposed of one of the other Kern County operated landfills The Mojave-Rosamond Landfill is 60 miles to the east and is not expected to close for over 100 years. Total solid waste generated by construction of the Proposed Project is anticipated to be minor compared to the capacity of existing landfills. Therefore, the impact of solid waste disposal on landfill capacity would be less than significant.

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

NO IMPACT. The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which emphasizes resource conservation through reduction, recycling, and reuse of solid waste guide solid waste management, requires that localities conduct a Solid Waste Generation Study (SWGS) and develop a Source Reduction Recycling Element (SRRE). The Proposed Project would operate in accordance with these applicable Solid Waste Management Policy Plans by including recycling activities where feasible. Construction of the Proposed Project would include replacement of approximately 39 existing treated wood poles. These poles would be reused, disposed of in a Class 1 hazardous waste landfill, or disposed of in the lined portion of

a RWQCB-certified municipal landfill. Hazardous liquid materials, such as mineral oil, would be subject to the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure developed for the Proposed Project. Other solid waste generated during construction of the Proposed Project would be temporarily stored in a designated area of laydown yards and would be reused or disposed in a manner consistent with applicable federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, the Proposed Project would comply with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste disposal limits and landfill capacities. No impact would occur.

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