

## 5.14 Public Services

### 5.14.1 Environmental Setting

#### Fire Protection and Emergency Services

##### *Merced County Fire Department*

Fire protection and emergency services within Merced County are provided by CALFIRE, a California state agency that functions as the County Fire Department under contract with Merced County. The Merced County Fire Department (MCFD) consists of 22 staffed stations, approximately 80 vehicles, and over 300 paid-call and reserve firefighters (MCFD, 2012). The closest stations are:

- Cressey Fire Station 64, 9255 Cressey Way, Cressey
- Livingston Fire Station 96, 1430 C Street, Livingston

The MCFD would be designated as the first responder for all project-related incidents (PG&E, 2011).

#### Police Services

##### *California State Highway Patrol*

Traffic patrol along the SR-99 corridor is provided by the CHP. The CHP building is located at 1500 Bell Drive in Atwater (CHP, 2012).

##### *Merced County Sheriff's Department*

The Merced County Sheriff's Department is the primary agency responsible for law enforcement in unincorporated Merced County, including the project area. The Sheriff's Department is staffed with 72 full-time and 25 part-time sworn officers. The department offices are located at 700 W 22nd Street in Merced (MCSD, 2011).

#### Schools

Merced County has a total of 20 school districts with 90 schools. The Merced County Office of Education oversees public primary education and is a regional agency whose mission is to provide educational leadership, resources, and service to assist school districts to be effective facilitators of learning for all pupils. In addition to the core programs offered, school districts provide many other social, health, and education-related programs and services for children, parents, and educators. There are also several private schools throughout Merced County. As shown in Figure 5.10-1c, Schelby School (a Merced County special education school serving approximately 215 students) is located within the project area (Merced County, 2007; PG&E, 2011). No other schools are located within the project area or 0.5 mile of the project route.

#### Parks

While no parks are located within a half-mile of the project area, Arakelian Park, Lucero Park, Livingston Memorial Park, and Livingston Sports Complex in the City of Livingston are within two miles of the project route. Winton County Park in the community of Winton is approximately 3.3 miles east of the project route. McConnell State Recreation Area is also located approximately 3.1 miles to the north of the project route and provides fishing, picnic, camping, and play areas (California State Parks, 2011).

**Arakelian Park**

Arakelian Park is located approximately 0.7 miles north of the project route. The park includes a playground, covered picnic area, baseball field, and barbeque area (PG&E, 2011).

**Lucero Park**

Lucero Park is located approximately 1.6 miles north of the project route. The park includes a playground, picnic table, and volleyball area (PG&E, 2011).

**Livingston Memorial Park**

Livingston Memorial Park is located approximately 0.7 miles north of the project route. The park includes a playground, covered picnic area, barbeque area, and stage (PG&E, 2011).

**Livingston Sports Complex**

Livingston Sports Complex is located approximately 1.5 miles north of the project route. The park includes picnic tables, a baseball field, and a soccer field (PG&E, 2011).

**5.14.2 Environmental Impacts and Assessment**

**PUBLIC SERVICES**

Would the project 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 public services:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Significance criteria established by CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G.

**Would the project 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 public services:**

**a) Fire protection?**

*LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.* Construction activities are not anticipated to increase the demand for fire protection services in a way that would result in the need for new or altered facilities or that would impact fire protection or fire suppression objectives. The project site does not lie within a fire hazard zone as identified by the 2000 Merced County General Plan (Merced County, 1989). Fire risk would be not greater than at any other construction site.

Following construction, operation of the power line and substations could result in instances requiring fire protection services. However, the project would be built to CCR Sections 1250 through 1258 and GO 95 for fire prevention and safety (see Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials). Fire risk would be comparable to that from other existing electrical infrastructure in the area, and this would not create the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities. Impacts on local or regional fire protection would be less than significant.

**b) Police Protection?**

*LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.* The Proposed Project would not require additional police services during construction or operation and maintenance. As with fire services discussed under Section 5.14.1(a) above, the construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not result in a need for additional police facilities nor would it affect response times or other service performance. The result would be a less than significant impact with regard to police protection.

**c) Schools?**

*NO IMPACT.* Construction of the Proposed Project would last for nine months and would require about 20 workers during peak activity. The only school within 0.25 mile of the project area is the Schelby School. The project would not create a need for new schools. Any construction workers not drawn from the local area would be expected to commute from neighboring areas and would not likely relocate their families. Since the Proposed Project would not increase the local population, no increase in demand for school facilities would occur, and no new school facilities would be required.

Section 5.12 (Noise) addresses noise impacts to sensitive receptors.

**d) Parks?**

*NO IMPACT.* As described in Section 5.14.2(c) above regarding schools, the Proposed Project would not increase the region's population. While it is possible that construction, maintenance, or operation workers traveling to the area may use existing public services or amenities such as parks, this potential increase in demand would be minimal and temporary due to the short duration of construction and small workforce. Consequently, the project would not increase any long-term demands on existing parks in the project area, and no new or expanded park facilities would be required because of the Proposed Project. See Section 5.15 (Recreation) for a complete discussion of the Proposed Project's potential impacts to parks and other recreational facilities.

**e) Other Public Facilities?**

*NO IMPACT.* The Proposed Project would not increase population and would not affect other governmental services or public facilities so as to require new or expanded facilities be developed. Therefore, no impact on other public facilities is expected.

*This page intentionally blank.*