

3.14 Public Services

Table 3.14-1 Public Services Checklist

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 Incorporation	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"/>

3.14.1 Setting

This section discusses public services including fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities, which are provided and maintained by a variety of local and/or regional entities. The environmental setting and evaluation of impacts to park and recreational facilities are discussed in Section 3.15, Recreation. The project route traverses Butte, Yuba, and Sutter counties. In Butte County, the City of Oroville is near the project route. Details related to the various jurisdictions are outlined below.

Fire Protection

Butte County

The Butte County Fire Department operates 42 fire stations, two of which would serve the portions of the project route located in Butte County (Butte County 2008a).

Station 72, Palermo

Station 72 is located at 2290 Palermo Road in the unincorporated town of Palermo and would serve the portion of the project route within the vicinity of Palermo. Station 72 is staffed with two firefighters 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The station houses one engine that is often used to assist Station 74 with its duties. The estimated response time to the portion of the project route served by Station 72 would be 4 minutes maximum (Butte County 2008a).

Station 74, Gridley

Station 74 is located at 47 East Gridley Road in the unincorporated town of Gridley and would serve the project route from south of Palermo to the Yuba County border. The Station is staffed by four personnel: two are assigned to each of the station's two engines 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Station 72 assists Station 74 with calls, meaning that three engines often arrive on site to high-priority incidents. Station 74's response time to service areas along the project route would be approximately 9 to 10 minutes (Butte County 2008a).

City of Oroville

Although the City of Oroville (City) has its own fire department, fire service for certain portions of the City are provided by Butte County. Specifically, the portion of the project route within the City of Oroville would receive fire protection services from the Butte County First Station 72 (Palermo) described above. The estimated response time of Station 72 staff to the portion of the project route within the Oroville service area would be between 2 and 5 minutes (City of Oroville 2008b).

Yuba County

The following fire stations would serve the areas of Yuba County crossed by the project route:

Olivehurst Fire Department

The Olivehurst Fire Department (Department) is located at 1962 Ninth Avenue in the unincorporated town of Olivehurst. The Department is staffed by four captains, a chief, and seasonal employees. The Department is charged with protecting the small portion of the project route that traverses the unincorporated town of Olivehurst. The Department estimates a response time of 30 seconds for the portion of the project route for which it is responsible (Olivehurst Fire Department 2008).

Linda Fire Department

The Linda Fire Department provides fire protection and emergency medical services to a 52-square-mile area, covering the unincorporated towns of Linda, Arboga, and Plumas Lake. Station 5, located at 1286 Scales Avenue, Marysville, would be responsible for providing fire protection to areas along the project route that traverse the Linda Fire Department's service area. The estimated response time to service areas along the project route is 3 minutes (Linda Fire Department 2008).

Wheatland Fire Department

The Wheatland Fire Department has three stations that serve the southern portion of Yuba County. Station 1, located at 4514 Darry Road in Wheatland, would serve areas along the project route that pass through the Wheatland Fire Department's service area. The estimated response time to service areas along the project route would vary between 4 to 9 minutes depending on the distance from the Station (Wheatland Fire Department.2000).

Marysville Fire Department

The Marysville Fire Department serves an 85-square-mile area that includes Marysville, Hallwood, and surrounding areas. The station located at 107 Ninth Street in Marysville serves areas along the project route north of Marysville to the Butte County border. Response time to these areas is estimated to be 15 minutes (Marysville Fire Department 2008).

Sutter County

The East Nicolaus Fire Department, located at 1988 Nicolaus Avenue in the unincorporated town of East Nicolaus, would serve areas along the project route in Sutter County. The station is staffed by 12 volunteer firefighters. None of these volunteer firefighters staff the station on a regular basis but instead are on-call, responding to incidents as needed. One paid firefighter is staffed at the station during harvest season, which runs from June to the end of October. During this period, this firefighter is on duty from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Response time would vary depending on the call's location. The maximum estimated response time is 16 minutes. Certain volunteer firefighters could arrive at the incident sooner if they live close to the incident.

In addition, if the incident is close to the Yuba County border, the East Nicolaus Fire Department could ask for assistance from the Wheatland Fire Department, which might also reduce response time (East Nicolaus Fire Department 2008).

Police Protection Services

Butte County

The Butte County Sheriff serves that portion of the project route within unincorporated Butte County. The Sheriff's main office is located at 33 County Center Drive in Oroville. Although a sheriff substation is also located in the vicinity of the project route at 2094 Palermo Road in Palermo, service calls are not handled at the substation. Depending on an incident's proximity to the City of Oroville, the Butte County Sheriff's Office may contact the Oroville Police Department to assist with a call.

The number of officers patrolling the area in the project vicinity would depend on the time of day. Four deputies and a sergeant patrol the County during the day. After 3 a.m., staffing drops to two deputies and a sergeant. Call response time is difficult to predict because the patrolling officers' locations vary widely. The response time to calls from service areas along the project route could be several minutes or longer, depending on the location of the patrol officers when the calls are received and whether officers are already handling a call when a new call is received (Butte County 2008b).

City of Oroville

The Oroville Police Department provides police protection services within the portion of the project route within the Oroville service area. The Oroville Police Department headquarters is located at 2055 Lincoln Street in Oroville and is staffed by 23 sworn police officers, although it is budgeted for 27 police officers. Support staff are also housed in the department's headquarters. Response times to service areas along the project route would depend on the number of other calls already being handled, proximity of a patrol to the project route at the time, and the nature of the call (City of Oroville 2008a).

Yuba County

The Yuba County Sheriff provides police protection to service areas along the project route within Yuba County. The Sheriff's Department is headquartered at 215 Fifth Street, Suite 150, in Marysville, and is staffed by 55 patrol personnel. The estimated response time depends on the type of call received. If the call is the highest priority—a priority-one call—average response time is approximately 9 minutes. Response time for the lowest priority call could be as long as 30 minutes (Yuba County 2008a).

Sutter County

Areas along the project route in Sutter County would be served by the Sutter County Sheriff. The Sheriff's Department headquarters, located at 1077 Civic Center Boulevard in Yuba City, is staffed by 30 law enforcement deputies and K-9 units. Because the deputies patrol throughout the county, response times to service areas along the project route would depend on the number of patrols on-duty at the time of the incident, the nature of the incident, and the incident's proximity to Yuba City because the Sheriff's Office sometimes uses Yuba City Police officers to assist with calls. Given these factors, response times could vary from 15 to 30 minutes (Sutter County 2008).

Schools

The regional area is served by five school districts within Butte, Sutter and Yuba counties, including:

- Oroville Elementary District
- Oroville Union High School District,
- Marysville Joint Unified School District,
- Palermo Union School District, and
- Plumas Lake Elementary School District.

Each school district includes a number of schools that provide educational services for grades K through 12 students. The school nearest the project route in Sutter County is East Nicolaus High School (0.25 mile). Within Yuba County, the schools nearest the project route include Plumas Lake Charter School (0.25 mile), Linda Elementary School (0.125 mile), and Yuba Gardens Intermediate School (0.125 mile).

From north to south, the following schools would be within 2 miles of the project route: Las Plumas High School, Helen M. Wilcox Elementary School, Abright Start Preschool, Goldman Adventure Bible School, Honcut School, Cordua School, Kynoch Elementary School, Kynoch Preschool, McKenney Intermediate School, Anna Bell Karr School, Marysville Charter Academy for the Arts, Marysville High School, Linda Elementary School, Edgewater Elementary School, Ella Elementary School, Yuba Gardens School, Lindhurst High School, Olivehurst Elementary School, Arboga Elementary School, Plumas Lake Charter School, Rio Del Oro Elementary School, Riverside Intermediate School, Browns Elementary School, Three Rivers High School, Marcum-Illinois Union Elementary School, South Sutter Charter School, and East Nicolaus High School.

Applicant Proposed Measures

The applicant has incorporated the following applicant proposed measures (APMs) into the project to minimize or avoid impacts on public services. See Chapter 1.0 for a full description of each APM that the applicant has incorporated into the project to avoid or minimize impacts on all resource areas.

APM PS-1: Maintain secured facilities during construction activities

APM HAZ-5: Prepare a health and safety plan,

APM HAZ-6: Develop and implement a fire risk management plan

3.14.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

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. Construction and operation of the project would not be expected to increase the demand for fire protection services in the regional area. During construction of the project, emergencies could occur within the project vicinity and PG&E would incorporate safety measures into the project as well as coordinate with local agencies. APMs that would address safety include preparation

of a health and safety plan (APM HAZ-5) and development and implementation a fire risk management plan (APM HAZ-6) as described in Section 3.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials. In addition, road closures may occur; however, emergency vehicles would be provided access in the event of temporary freeway or road closures; the APMs associated with transportation are described in Section 3.16, Transportation and Traffic.

During operation of the project, the applicant would continue to implement their existing protection scheme and continue to employ a maintenance crew to provide ongoing inspection of the facilities (APM PS-1). The maintenance crew would look for any vandalism, safety, security, maintenance, and reliability issues along the project route.

The maximum emergency response times for fire services to areas along the project route are as follows: 10 minutes for Butte County, 5 minutes for the City of Oroville, 15 minutes for Yuba County, and 16 minutes for Sutter County, respectively. However, the safety features that would be incorporated into the project would reduce the demand for emergency services during construction and operation. Therefore, impacts on fire protection and response times would be less than significant.

b. Police protection?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. Construction activities associated with the project would not be anticipated to increase the demand for police protection services in the regional area. The existing substation and switching station would remain fenced and locked to prevent unauthorized entry. In order to prevent unauthorized structure access from the ground, the first climbing steps or pegs for the tubular steel poles and the wood poles would be located approximately 10 to 12 feet above the ground. In addition, the applicant would continue to implement the existing protection scheme and continue to employ a maintenance crew to provide ongoing inspection of the facilities. During operation of the project, the maintenance crew would look for any vandalism, safety, security, maintenance, and reliability issues along the project route.

The maximum emergency response times for police services would be up to 30 minutes along the project route. However, the safety features that would be incorporated into the project would reduce the demand for emergency services during construction and operation. Therefore, impacts on police protection and response times would be less than significant.

c. Schools?

NO IMPACT. Construction of the project would require approximately 160 workers during peak activity. These construction personnel would likely commute from within Butte, Sutter, or Yuba counties or nearby counties and would not create a permanent change in local population (Section 3.13, Population and Housing). Upon completion, the project would be automated and require no additional employees for operation and maintenance. Since the project would not result in an increase in population during or after construction and would not increase the demand for school services, there would be no impact on schools.

d. Parks?

NO IMPACT. Park facilities in the regional area are described in Section 3.15, Recreation. The project would not increase population during or after construction that could increase the demands on existing parks, and no new or altered park or recreational facilities would be required. No impacts on parks would result from construction and operation of the project.

e. Other public facilities?

NO IMPACT. The project would not result in an increase in population during or after construction and, therefore, would have no impact on other public facilities.

References

Butte County Fire Rescue. 2009. <http://buttefire.org>. Accessed June 26, 2009.

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Butte County. 2008b. Personal Communication with Andrew Wetter, Butte County Sheriff's Office, ICF Jones & Stokes, October 23.

City of Oroville. 2008a. Personal Communication with Trish Briel, Administrative Assistant, Oroville Fire Department, ICF Jones & Stokes, October 24.

City of Oroville. 2008b. Personal Communication with Ryan Silva, Firefighter, Oroville Fire Department, ICF Jones & Stokes, October 23.

East Nicolaus Fire Department. 2008. Personal Communication with Richard Herrington, Chief, ICF Jones & Stokes, October 29.

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Olivehurst Fire Department. 2008a. Personal Communication with Eric Miller, Captain, ICF Jones & Stokes, October 24.

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Sutter County. 2008. Personal Communication with Ida Loyd, Public Safety Dispatcher, Sutter County Police Department, ICF Jones & Stokes, October 29.

Wheatland Fire Department. 2008. Personal Communication with Arthur Paquette, Captain, ICF Jones & Stokes, October 24.

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