Section 4.13

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4.13 PUBLIC SERVICES/UTILITIES

This section describes existing conditions and the potential impacts to public services and utilities associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Project and alternatives.

4.13.1 Significance Criteria

Impacts to public services are considered potentially significant if the project would:

- 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 following public services: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities

Potential impacts related to parks and recreation are discussed in Section 3.14, Recreation, of this PEA.

Impacts to utilities and service systems are considered potentially significant if the project would:

- Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB
- 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
- Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects
- Have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or require new or expanded entitlements
- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments
- Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs
- Not comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste

Potential impacts related to stormwater drainage facilities are discussed in Section 3.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of this PEA.

4.13.2 Applicant Proposed Measures

The following APMs would be applied prior to and during construction, in association with the Proposed Devers-Coachella Valley 220 kV Transmission Line Loop-In portion of the Proposed Project. These APMs address potential construction issues with the three high-pressure,

natural-gas pipelines owned and operated by the Southern California Gas Company. These APMs are summarized below as Public Utility Services (PUSVCs) 1 and 2.

PUSVC-01. Work Around High Pressure Gas Lines. No mechanical equipment will be permitted to operate within 3 feet of the Southern California Gas Company high-pressure pipelines, and any closer work must be done by hand.

PUSVC-02. Monitoring by the Southern California Gas Company. A representative of the Southern California Gas Company must observe the excavation around or near their facilities to insure protection and to record pertinent data necessary for their operations.

4.13.3 Environmental Setting

SCE provides basic electrical service to residential and non-residential customers within most of the Electrical Needs Area. IID also provides electric service within the area, including Thousand Palms. Southern California Gas Company provides natural gas services and facilities within the project area. Verizon (formally GTE) provides telephone services, and Time Warner provides cable television services to the City of Palm Springs and Thousand Palms (City of Palm Springs General Plan 2006, City of Palm Desert Comprehensive General Plan 2004).

Water is supplied to Palm Springs by the DWA and by the CVWD. CVWD provides water services to Thousand Palms as well. The City of Palm Springs provides sewer services within the City. The DWA and CVWD provide sewer services in the project area outside the City of Palm Springs. Solid waste collection and disposal in Palm Springs is provided by Palm Springs Disposal Services, contracted by the city. Waste Management of the Desert provides solid waste collection and disposal in Thousand Palms.

The Palm Springs Police Department provides law enforcement services to the City of Palm Springs. The police station is located at 200 South Civic Drive, in Palm Springs. The Palm Springs Fire Department provides firefighting services to the City. The fire department headquarters are located at 300 North El Cielo Road. There are currently five fire stations serving the area. Both the police and fire department provides emergency services primarily through 911 responses (http://www.pspd.com and http://www.psfire.com).

Police protection services for the Thousand Palms community are provided by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, through a contract with the City of Palm Desert.

Schools in the area are shown on Figure 4.13: Schools. The project falls within the Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD). PSUSD includes 15 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 3 high schools, a continuation high school, 1 independent study program, 8 headstart/state preschools, 3 full-day Head Start programs, 4 childcare programs, and an adult education program. The district serves more than 22,000 students and employs more than 1,800 administrators, certificated staff, and classified staff. The district includes the City of Palm Springs and Thousand Palms. The nearest schools to the Proposed Garnet-Farrell 115 kV Subtransmission Line (Route 1) are Palm Springs Independent Studies (elementary school) and Palm Springs Independent Studies (high school), both located approximately 0.5 mile south of Farrell Substation. Other schools located within the Farrell-Garnet Project Area include Vista

Figure 4.13
Schools

LEGEND

- Farrell - Garnet Project Area
- Mirage - Santa Rosa Project Area
- School (TBM, 2006)

Proposed Project

- SCE Substations - Proposed Modification
- Subtransmission Line Reconfiguration
- Farrell-Garnet 115 kV Route #1
- Mirage-Santa Rosa 115 kV Route #4
- Devers-Coachella 220 Kv Loop-In

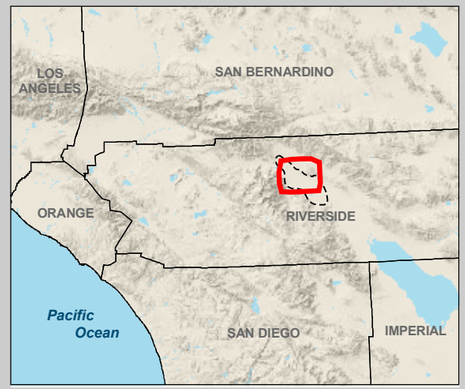
Alternative Subtransmission Line Routes

- Farrell-Garnet 115kV Route #1 Option A
- Farrell-Garnet 115 kV Route #2
- Farrell-Garnet 115 kV Route #3
- Mirage-Santa Rosa 115 kV Route #5

Transportation (TBM, 2006)

- Interstate Highway
- State Highway
- Major Road
- Railroad

0 0.5 1 2
Miles



Project ID: 2006LE7177
Custodian: John Le
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Mapping Prepared by:
Corporate Real Estate Department
Real Estate Operations
Survey and Mapping

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Del Monte Elementary School, Katherine Finchy Elementary School, Cahuilla Elementary School, and Raymond Cree Middle School. The nearest schools to the Proposed Mirage-Santa Rosa 115 kV Subtransmission Line (Route 4) include Della S. Lindley Elementary School, Palm Desert Middle School, and Palm Dessert High School, although the elementary school is the only one located within the Mirage-Santa Rosa Project Area.

The Xavier College Preparatory High School has acquired multiple parcels of land north of I-10 and west of the Proposed Mirage-Santa Rosa 115 kV Substransmission Line (Route 4). Xavier College Prep is currently constructing a campus on 75 acres, approximately 0.5 mile west of the proposed subtransmission line route. PSUSD has acquired 20 acres of land near the proposed subtransmission line reconfiguration at the corner of Portola Avenue and Gerald Ford Drive; however, there are no current plans to develop a school there at this time.

Schools located in the vicinity of existing substations associated with the Proposed Project are shown on Figure 4.13: Schools.

4.13.4 Impact Analysis

4.13.4.1 Construction Impacts

Public Services

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would not unduly burden local police or fire services. At the completion of the work day, construction crews would lock up and secure each worksite to prevent theft or vandalism associated of work equipment and supplies. Additionally, SCE would utilize private patrols to monitor all elements of the Proposed Project. Work crews also would minimize potential fire hazards through the implementation of standard SCE work plans. If required, public services, such as police and fire, would be provided by the City of Palm Springs and/or the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. However, construction of the Proposed Project would not significantly affect police and fire protection response times or create higher demand for these public services. Therefore, construction of the Proposed Project would not require the provision of new or additional local police or fire services.

Construction of the Proposed Project may require the limited use of existing medical facilities in the area, in the unlikely event of an accident. However, as medical emergencies are expected to be minimal, potential medical emergencies among construction crews would not unduly burden the local hospitals or medical facilities. Therefore, construction of the Proposed Project would not require the provision of new or additional medical facilities.

As discussed in Chapter 3 of this PEA, the construction of the Proposed Project would not cause a direct or indirect increase in the local population in the area, because the construction work force primarily would consist of local workers. Further, construction activities would be temporary and short-term. Accordingly, the Proposed Project would not affect the enrollment or capacity of the schools within the surrounding area. Therefore, construction of the Proposed Project would not require the provision of new or additional school facilities.

In summary, construction impacts related to public services would be less than significant.

Utilities

Water Use and Wastewater Generation

Construction of the Proposed Project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB. It would not require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities, new storm-water drainage facilities, or expansion of existing facilities. The Proposed Project would not require wastewater disposal, and thus construction activities would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements.

Construction of the Proposed Project would not have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or require new or expanded entitlements and would not result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves the project that it has inadequate capacity to the serve the Proposed Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's commitments. The only demand for water would be for use by construction workers and water brought in for dust control. Potable water for drinking and portable restrooms would be brought in for construction and disposed of accordingly. Non-potable water would be transported to the various construction areas for dust-suppression purposes.

In summary, impacts to water use and wastewater generation due to construction of the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

Solid Waste Generation

Construction of the Proposed Project would not be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs. Limited waste materials would be generated, including materials associated with the construction of transmission and subtransmission lines and substation modifications. Following installation of the new LWS poles, the existing wood poles would be removed completely (including the portion below ground surface). Depending on their condition and chemical treatment method, the wood poles to be replaced would be reused by SCE, returned to the manufacturer, disposed of in a Class I hazardous-waste landfill, or disposed of in the lined portion of a RWQCB-certified municipal landfill. Non-hazardous waste materials generated during construction would be either recycled or disposed of at approved landfills. Scrap metal and wood poles generated during removal of the existing LSTs and overhead lines would be recycled, to the extent possible.

Construction of the Proposed Project would comply with all federal, state, and local standards related to solid waste. In summary, impacts to solid-waste generation due to construction of the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

Natural Gas Pipelines and Electric and Telecommunications Lines

Construction activities could potentially disrupt services provided by underground and other overhead utilities. Prior to construction, surveys would be conducted to locate all underground and overhead utilities in the project area. Before any subsurface ground disturbance occurs (e.g., foundation work), SCE would contact Underground Service Alert to verify the location of existing underground utilities to avoid impacts. Construction of the Proposed Devers-Coachella

Valley 220 kV Loop-In would be in the proximity of three Southern California Gas Company high-pressure, natural gas (30- and 36-inch) pipelines. SCE will design the LSTs and associated tower footings to avoid interference or contact with these three pipelines. Accordingly, two APMs (PUSVC-01 and PUSVC-02) are proposed regarding these natural gas pipelines.

SCE also would design construction activities and methods to avoid disruption of other underground and overhead utility lines owned by third parties.

In summary, impacts to natural gas pipelines due to construction of the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

4.13.4.2 Operational Impacts

Public Services

SCE would utilize private patrol services to monitor the facilities to verify that all elements of the Proposed Project are safe and secure. Although unlikely, in the event of an emergency, the private patrol services would contact local police or fire services. Therefore, the need for local police and fire services would be limited, and the Proposed Project would not require the provision of new or additional services. In addition, operation of the Proposed Project would not cause an increase in the local population. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not require the provision of new or additional medical or school facilities. In summary, impacts to public services due to operation of the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

Utilities

Operation of the Proposed Project would not impact other utilities. The Proposed Project would not require any additional connections to an existing municipal wastewater distribution system. The Proposed Project would not require any new connectors or use of water, wastewater, gas, or electric supply during the operational phase. Additionally, the operation of the Proposed Project would not result in the generation of waste material.

In summary, operation of the Proposed Project would not impact utilities.

4.13.5 Alternatives

Construction and operation of the 115 kV subtransmission line route alternatives would result in impacts to public services and utilities that are similar to those identified for the Proposed Project. The need for police or fire services during the construction of the alternative 115 kV subtransmission lines would be minimal, because SCE work crews would secure each worksite on a daily basis and utilize private patrol services. SCE crews also would operate according to standard SCE work plans to limit the potential for fire hazards associated with construction activities. Medical emergencies are expected to be minimal among construction crews and would not unduly burden local medical facilities. In addition, because the construction work force primarily would consist of local workers, the construction of the 115 kV subtransmission line routes would not affect the enrollment or capacity of local schools.

SCE would utilize private patrol services to monitor the 115 kV lines to verify that the lines are safe and secure. Although unlikely, in the event of an emergency, the private patrol services would contact local police or fire services. The 115 kV subtransmission line alternatives would not require the provision of new or additional medical or school facilities. In summary, impacts to public services due to the construction and operation of the subtransmission line route alternatives would be less than significant.

The solid waste generated from the construction of 115 kV subtransmission line route alternatives could be accommodated by existing landfills in the area. Because the 115 kV subtransmission line alternatives would operate as unattended facilities, the routes would not require the connection to municipal water, wastewater, gas, or electric services for either construction or operation. While the construction of the alternative routes would create temporary (but less than significant) impacts, operation of the route would not impact public services and utilities. In summary, impacts to utilities and service systems due to construction and operation of the subtransmission line route alternatives would be similar to the proposed 115 kV subtransmission line routes and less than significant.

4.13.6 References

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