4.13 Public Services

This section analyzes the impact of the Proposed Project and alternatives, on the provision of public services in the cities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, Palm Desert, and Indian Wells, and unincorporated areas of Riverside County, including the Thousand Palms community. This section also identifies adverse physical impacts to the environment that could result from a need to provide new or physically altered public facilities, resulting from the Proposed Project and alternatives. This analysis reviews fire protection and emergency medical response, police services, and schools. Impacts to nearby roads that would result from implementation of the Proposed Project and/or alternatives are analyzed in Section 4.15, *Traffic and Transportation*.

4.13.1 Setting

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

Riverside County Fire Department

Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) is one of the largest regional fire service organizations in California. The RCFD operates 95 fire stations, in 17 battalions. Services provided by the RCFD include fire suppression, emergency medical, rescue, and fire prevention services. The RCFD is staffed with approximately 952 career and 1,100 volunteer personnel, and currently serves approximately two million residents in an area of 7,004 square miles. This service area consists of all unincorporated areas in Riverside County, 18 contract cities, and one Community Service District (CSD). Under contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the RCFD is the Operational Area Coordinator for the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System for all fire service jurisdictions in the County of Riverside. As such, RCFD has also been given the authority to enter into several automatic aid agreements with other city jurisdictions, as well as with adjacent National Forests. In terms of the Proposed Project and alternatives, the cities of interest currently under contract with the RCFD include the City of Indian Wells, the City of Rancho Mirage, and the City of Palm Desert (RCFD, 2009).

The Department's service area is organized into six divisions, and the equipment used by each division has the versatility to respond to both urban and wildland emergency conditions. The RCFD's fire suppression inventory includes structural engines, rural engines, brush engines, telesquirts, trucks, paramedic units, a helicopter, a hazardous materials unit, incident command units, water tenders, fire crew vehicles, mobile communications centers, breathing support units, lighting units, power supply units, fire dozers, mobile training vans, and mobile emergency feeding units (RCFD, 2009).

City of Palm Springs Fire Department

The Palm Springs Fire Department (PSFD) provides fire, paramedic, and emergency services within the corporate boundaries of the City of Palm Springs and through mutual agreements in

the City's sphere of influence. In addition, the PSFD is authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of the Fire Code throughout the City, which includes duties such as plan reviews for new construction and additions, coordination with the City for disaster preparedness programs, weed abatement, inspections, and the Hazardous Materials Business Program. The PSFD currently monitors fire hazards in an area of approximately 96 square miles, and manages ongoing programs for investigation and alleviation of hazardous situations.

Firefighting resources in the Palm Springs area include five fire stations located throughout the City that help to ensure that the response time to any resident is less than five minutes, which is the standard used by PSFD for maximum first-response time (City of Palm Springs, 2007). There are a total of 18 on-duty firefighting personnel available during each 24-hour period, and in 2008, the PSFD's five stations responded to approximately 7,057 calls for service. According to the Insurance Services Office, which evaluates fire protection needs and services in communities across the country, the City of Palm Springs currently has a Class 3 Insurance Services Office rating (PSFD, 2009). The ratings are numerically categorized from one through ten. A rating of Class "1" is the highest rating a fire department can receive. Agencies that have automatic- and mutual-aid agreements with the PSFD include the RCFD, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), CAL FIRE, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Cathedral City Fire Department (CCFD).

City of Cathedral City Fire Department

The City of Cathedral City's fire and emergency services are currently provided by the CCFD, located at 32-100 Desert Vista Road. CCFD staff consists of 33 paid firefighters including the Fire Chief, three administrative personnel, three part-time fire inspectors, 10 to 15 reserve firefighters, and four code enforcement officers. As of 2002, staffing levels represented a ratio of approximately 0.77 firefighters to every 1,000 residents. The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) recommends a target ratio of 1.89 firefighters per 1,000 residents. However, due to the fact that development in Cathedral City is predominantly low-density residential, with limited light manufacturing facilities, the City has a relatively low fire hazard risk and thus has not found it necessary to increase its staffing ratio (City of Cathedral City, 2002).

Three fire stations are located within the City limits, including: Station No. 411, located at 36-913 Date Palm Drive; Station 412, located at 32-100 Desert Vista Road; and Station No. 413, located at 27-610 Landau Boulevard (City of Cathedral City, 2002). These stations contain a wide range of firefighting equipment and vehicles, including three front-line engines, two reserve engines, one State Office of Emergency Services (OES) vehicle, one water tender, four ambulances, and one hazardous materials vehicle. In addition to fighting fires, the CCFD provides advanced life support and emergency ambulance services, maintains code enforcement responsibilities, reviews development plans, and performs construction inspections and fire investigations (CCFD, 2008a). The CCFD currently meets the standard of a maximum response time of five minutes, as recommended by the National Fire Insurance Organizations (NFIO) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In addition, the CCFD has been re-certified by the Insurance Services Office, as a Class 3 Department (City of Cathedral City, 2002).

City of Palm Desert

Services provided for the City of Palm Desert under contract with the RCFD include fire fighting, emergency medical services, fire inspections, maintenance of fire stations and vehicles, and review of commercial and housing development plans. Staffing levels represent a ratio of approximately 1.59 personnel per 1,000 residents. Given that much of the development in the City of Palm Desert is relatively new and meets the most recent fire codes, this ratio provides an effective level of department staffing and associated protection (City of Palm Desert, 2004). However, future increases in staffing would enhance emergency medical response and reinforce the City's current Class 3 Insurance Services Office rating.

The Palm Desert Fire Station is equipped with a wide range of fire fighting and emergency medical facilities, which include seven fully equipped paramedic response units with radios, two ladder trucks, five inspector units and one utility unit, eight defibrillators, jaws of life units, helmets, breathing devices, and other equipment (City of Palm Desert, 2004).

The City of Palm Desert currently contains two fire stations (i.e., Palm Desert Stations Nos. 33 and 71), which are considered well-situated to serve the study area within the City limits. Palm Desert Station No. 33 is located on Town Center Way less than one-half mile from the Rancho Mirage city limits. Station No. 33 is staffed with paid personnel and equipped with one 1,250 gallon per minute (gpm) telesquirt fire truck, one 102-foot ladder truck company, one paramedic unit with two paramedic fire fighters, and one mobile air chamber (breathing support) unit manned by volunteers. Palm Desert Station No. 71 is located at the intersection of Portola and Country Club Drives. Station No. 71 is staffed with paid personnel and equipped with one telesquirt ladder truck including a pumping unit and a medic unit with two medics. In addition to these two stations, the City of Palm Desert receives additional fire support, as necessary, from Station No. 55 in Indian Wells, and Stations No. 50 and No. 69 in Rancho Mirage (City of Palm Desert, 2004).

City of Rancho Mirage Fire Department

The RCFD maintains two fire stations with 24 sworn fighters to provide fire protection services to the City of Rancho Mirage and its sphere of influence. Rancho Mirage Station No. 50 is located on Highway 111 between Thunderbird Cove and Thunderbird Heights. Station No. 50 serves the southern portion of Rancho Mirage and is staffed with two firefighters and one paramedic on duty at all times. Rancho Mirage Station No. 69 is located on Gerald Ford Drive. Station No. 69 serves the northern portion of Rancho Mirage and is staffed with three firefighters and two paramedics on duty at all times (RMFD, 2009).

City of Indian Wells

Services provided for the City of Indian Wells under contract with RCFD include fire, paramedic and ambulance services. Currently, the City of Indian Wells has one fire station located next to City Hall at 44-900 Eldorado Drive. The Indian Wells Fire Station is fully staffed 24 hours a day with five personnel (three firemen on the fire engine and two paramedic firefighters on an advanced life support ambulance) (City of Indian Wells, 2009).

Police Protection

Riverside County Sheriff's Department

Riverside County Sheriff's Department (RCSD) provides several law enforcement services to areas under its jurisdiction, including general community policing as well as the operation and maintenance of several correctional facilities. The RCSD has 2,720 employees, including 1,330 sworn personnel to provide community policing services (RCIP, 2002). In addition, nine sheriff sub-stations are located throughout Riverside County to provide area-level community service. The RCSD also operates five adult correction or detention centers located throughout the County, as well as juvenile detention facilities. The RCSD is a "demand response" agency that maintains limited patrol services throughout the County of Riverside (RCIP, 2002).

The RCSD has established the following criteria for its staffing requirements in unincorporated areas of the County: one sworn officer per 1,000 population; one supervisor and one support staff employee per seven officers; one patrol vehicle per three sworn officers; and one school resource officer per school. However, upon full build-out of the General Plan it is anticipated that the RCSD shall meet and maintain a goal of 1.5 sworn officers per 1,000 population, as recommended by the ICMA (RCIP, 2002).

City of Palm Springs Police Department

The Palm Springs Police Department (PSPD) is responsible for all law enforcement services within the City of Palm Springs, which is spread out over approximately 96 square miles. All PSPD services are based out of the City's central police station, located at 200 South Civic Drive. According to U.S. Census Bureau figures, the City of Palm Springs has an estimated population of approximately 42,000 individuals, although the population increases significantly, to approximately 60,000 when part-time residents and tourists are included (City of Palm Springs, 2007). Currently, the PSPD's two divisions, Operations and Services, employ 94 sworn personnel including one Chief, two Captains, three Lieutenants, 14 sergeants, as well as 59 non-sworn personnel (PSPD, 2008a). The PSPD offers several areas of police protection including response service, criminal investigation, traffic enforcement, and preventative patrol for the City.

The desired response time for priority one calls (emergencies) and priority two calls (non-emergencies) in the City of Palm Springs is thirty seconds and five minutes, respectively (City of Palm Spring, 2007). However, the PSPD has mutual-aid agreements with other local law enforcement agencies in the event of a major incident that exceeds the PSPD's resources. There are currently six patrol beats (geographical patrol areas) serving the City of Palm Springs and its sphere of influence in the northern portion of Palm Springs.

City of Cathedral City Police Department

Police protection services in the City of Cathedral City are provided by the Cathedral City Police Department (CCPD), located at 68-700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero. The CCPD is staffed by 55 sworn officers, 29 non-sworn support and administrative personnel, and six reserve officers. Police vehicles include 35 marked and 15 unmarked cars. The City currently provides an officer to

population ratio of approximately 1.4 officers for every 1,000 residents, which is near the commonly recommended ratio of 1.5 officers for every 1,000 residents. Response times for the CCPD can vary significantly depending on the nature of the incident and the location of patrol cars at the time a 911 call is received. However, the average response time to an emergency call in Cathedral City is approximately 4.2 minutes (City of Cathedral City, 2002).

City of Palm Desert

Police protection services in the City of Palm Desert are provided through a contractual agreement with the RCSD, which operates out of the Palm Desert Station located at 73-520 Fred Waring Drive. The Palm Desert Station not only provides police protection to the City of Palm Desert, but also serves as the Sheriff's Department base of operations for the cities of Rancho Mirage and Indian Wells. Lands east of Washington Street, including Bermuda Dunes and other portions of the planning area, are served by staff based at the Indio Station of the RCSD. Police response times in the City of Palm Desert vary depending on the location of the caller and responding patrol cars. All calls are prioritized, and response times are contingent on the number of calls pending and their urgency. The average response time for the highest priority emergency calls is 4.6 minutes (City of Palm Desert, 2004).

The Palm Desert police force is comprised of a total of 70 sworn officers, including 45 deputies (ten of which are assigned to traffic enforcement), six dedicated deputies, four dedicated sergeants, six sergeants, three lieutenants, and six investigators.[1] With this level of staffing, the City of Palm Desert currently provides about 1.75 sworn officers for every 1,000 residents, which provides an effective level of police protection (City of Palm Desert, 2004).

City of Rancho Mirage Police Department

Police protection in the City of Rancho Mirage is provided on a service contract basis by the RCSD, which operates out of the Palm Desert Station. This contractual agreement allows the RCSD to provide over sixteen uniformed deputy sheriffs for patrol and traffic enforcement in the City. Patrol deputies are the City's most visible element, are the first to respond in emergency situations, and have training in basic life saving measures. The Rancho Mirage Police Department (RMPD) provides 24 hour a day police protection service to approximately 17,180 residents, and patrols approximately 25 square miles of City streets (RMPD, 2009). Currently, the average emergency response time in the City of Rancho Mirage to any location is four minutes or less (City of Rancho Mirage, 1997).

City of Indian Wells

In addition to fire, paramedic, and ambulance services, the City of Indian Wells is also under contract with the County of Riverside for law enforcement services. Through contractual agreement with the RCSD, the City maintains one deputy sheriff and one community service officer 24 hours a day, two deputy sheriffs assigned to traffic control, two burglary suppression

[1] The term "dedicated" refers to those deputies holding specialized positions, including a Gang Deputy, Community Oriented Policing Deputy, two School Resource Officer Deputies, a Deputy assigned to the Coachella Valley Narcotics Task Force, and a Deputy assigned to the Career Criminal Apprehension Team.

specialists, and one lieutenant acting as the residing police chief. Currently, the City has an officer to population ratio of approximately 1.45 officers to every 1,000 City residents (City of Indian Wells, 2008).

Schools

The study area is within the Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD). PSUSD includes fifteen elementary schools, four middle schools, three comprehensive high schools, one continuation high school, one alternative education program, eight headstart/State preschools, three full-day head start programs, four childcare programs, and one adult education program (PSUSD, 2008). The District also provides a wide array of programs, including special education, instruction for English Learners, Technical Preparation (Tech Prep), athletics, advanced placement (AP), School-Based Coordinated Program (SBCP), Title I, school-to work transition, Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), and a pilot 24/7 laptop program. PSUSD serves more than 22,000 students and employs more than 2,020 administrators, certificated staff, and classified staff (PSUSD, 2008). The District serves the students and families of Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, and Thousand Palms.

The nearest schools to the proposed Farrell-Garnet 115 kV subtransmission line alignment are Palm Springs Independent Studies (elementary school) and Palm Springs Independent Studies (high school), both of which are located approximately half a mile south of Farrell Substation. Other schools located within the Farrell-Garnet study area include Vista 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 subtransmission line and the 220 kV loop-in alignments are Della S. Lindley Elementary School, Palm Desert Middle School, and Palm Dessert High School. However, Della S. Lindley elementary school is the only facility located within a mile of one of the proposed alignments (i.e., the proposed Mirage-Santa Rosa alignment).

The Xavier College Preparatory High School has acquired multiple parcels of land north of Interstate 10 (I-10) and west of the proposed Mirage-Santa Rosa 115 kV subtransmission line alignment. Xavier College Prep is currently constructing a campus on 75 acres, approximately a half mile west of the proposed subtransmission line alignment. 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 currently no plans to develop a school at that location.

Other Public Facilities

The closest library to the proposed Farrell-Garnet 115 kV subtransmission line alignment is the Welwood Murray Memorial Library, located at 100 S. Palm Canyon Drive in the City of Palm Springs, approximately one half mile from the project site. Another library in the Farrell-Garnet study area is the Palm Springs Public Library, located at 300 S. Sunrise Way in the City of Palm Springs. Libraries in the Mirage-Santa Rosa study area include the Thousand Palms Public Library, located at 31189 Robert Road; the Rancho Mirage Public Library, located at 71100 Highway 111; and the Palm Desert Branch Library, located at 73300 Fred Waring Drive.

Regulatory Setting

Riverside County

Riverside County General Plan provides background information regarding public service policy guidance (RCIP, 2003). The Safety Element of the Riverside County General Plan includes the following policies that may be applicable to the Proposed Project and alternatives:

> *Policy 5.1*: Ensure that development does not exceed the ability to adequately provide supporting infrastructure and services, such as libraries, recreational facilities, transportation systems, and fire/police/medical services.
>
> *Policy 5.2*: Monitor the capacities of infrastructure and services in coordination with service providers, utilities, and outside agencies and jurisdictions to ensure that growth does not exceed acceptable levels of service.
>
> *Policy 5.10*: Continue to utilize the Riverside County Fire Protection Master Plan as the base document to implement the goals and objectives of the Safety Element.
>
> *Policy 9.1*: Require that new development contribute their fair share to fund infrastructure and public facilities such as police and fire facilities.

City of Palm Springs

The City of Palm Springs General Plan provides background information regarding public service policy guidance (City of Palm Springs, 2007). The Safety Element of the Palm Springs General Plan includes the following policy, goal, and actions that may be applicable to the Proposed Project and alternatives:

> *Goal SA7*: Provide quality police and fire protection to residents, businesses, and visitors of the City.
>
> *Policy SA7.1*: Maintain adequate resources to enable the Police Department to meet response-time standards, keep pace with growth, and provide high levels of service.
>
> *Actions SA7.1*: Maintain a ratio of at least one sworn police officer per 1,000 residents in the City.
>
> *Actions SA7.2*: The City shall maintain ISO Class 3 status and strive to improve its rating.

City of Palm Desert

The City of Palm Desert General Plan provides background information regarding public service policy guidance (City of Palm Desert, 2004). The Police and Fire Protection Element of the Palm Desert General Plan includes the following policies and goal that may be applicable to the Proposed Project and alternatives:

> *Goal 1*: The provision of efficient, high quality police and fire protection for all types of development, and socio-economic segments of the community.

Policy 1: The City shall strictly enforce fire standards and regulations in the course of reviewing development and building plans and conducting building inspections.

Policy 3: The City shall strive to maintain a police staffing ratio of at least 1.5 sworn officers per 1,000 residents.

Police 4: The City shall strive to maintain Fire Department staffing and other appropriate measures of community fire protection to maintain an ISO Class 3 insurance rating.

Policy 5: Emergency, police, fire and paramedic vehicles shall be provided unencumbered access to all new development to the satisfaction of the City Fire Marshal, with a planning objective of maintaining a five minute response time over 95 percent of all priority one emergencies.

City of Cathedral City

The City of Cathedral City General Plan provides background information regarding public service policy guidance (City of Cathedral City, 2002). The Police and Fire Protection Element of the Cathedral City General Plan includes the following goals and policies that may be applicable to the Proposed Project and alternatives:

Goal 1: Protection of the community from the threat of loss of life and property from fire and environmental hazards.

Goal 2: The highest level of security and police protection to preserve and protect the health, welfare and property of residents, visitors and businesses in the City.

Policy 1: All new development proposals shall be thoroughly reviewed for potential impacts and the ability to effectively provide public safety and the provision of fire and police protection.

Policy 2: Emergency vehicles shall be provided with adequate access to all new development.

Policy 5: The City shall strive to achieve and maintain a minimum staffing ratio of 1.5 firefighters per 1,000 residents.

Policy 8: Essential community facilities shall not be located in areas of high fire hazard risk.

Policy 12: The City shall strive to maintain a minimum ratio of 1.5 sworn police officers per 1,000 residents.

City of Rancho Mirage

The City of Rancho Mirage General Plan provides background information regarding public service policy guidance (City of Rancho Mirage, 1997). The Public Services and Utilities Element of the Rancho Mirage General Plan includes the following goal and policies that may be applicable to the Proposed Project and alternatives:

Goal 1: A high level of police and fire protection and paramedic service.

Policy 1: All new and improved developments shall be reviewed for their impact on safety and the provision of police and fire protection services.

Policy 2: Enforce fire standards and regulations in the course of reviewing building plans and conducting building inspections.

Policy 5: Emergency police, fire and paramedic vehicle access shall be provided with all new development to the satisfaction of the City.

City of Indian Wells

The City of Indian Wells General Plan provides background information regarding public services, but does not contain any public service control/management policies applicable to the Proposed Project and/or the alternatives (City of Indian Wells, 1996).

4.13.2 Significance Criteria

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, an impact resulting from the Proposed Project would be considered significant if it would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the need for, new or physically altered government 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:

a) Fire protection;
b) Police protection;
c) Schools;
d) Other public facilities.

4.13.3 Applicant Proposed Measures

No applicant proposed measures have been identified by SCE for public services.

4.13.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This section presents an analysis of the potential public service impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project.

a) Fire Protection

Fire protection services within the vicinity of the Proposed Project components would be provided by the PSFD, CCFD, RMFD, as well as by the RCFD, through automatic aid agreements with the cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, and Indian Wells. The Proposed Project would not introduce any new uses to the project area that would generate long-term changes to fire protection services. Once constructed, the subtransmission and transmission lines would require SCE to conduct routine maintenance, inspection, and vegetation management activities. Since the majority of the Proposed Project would be constructed within existing SCE right-of-way (ROW), increases in maintenance requirements would be negligible.

Increases in long-term demand for fire protection services are typically associated with substantial increases in population. Construction activities in the project area are expected to begin in the second quarter of 2010 and would conclude by mid-2011. The combined number of construction workers that would be required to construct the Proposed Project components would be approximately 300 crew members, including SCE and contracted construction personnel. However, it is assumed that the majority of the crews would move from one project component site to the next (e.g., from one substation site to the next site) site, resulting in the need for well under 300 total construction crew members at any one time. The Proposed Project construction activities would be temporary, and therefore would not result in any direct growth-inducing impacts, or result in any significant increase of local population. Thus, construction of the Proposed Project would not pose long-term impacts related to fire protection services in the vicinity of the Proposed Project (No Impact).

Construction of the Proposed Project could affect the temporary demand for fire protection and emergency response services, as discussed below.

Impact 4.13-1: Project construction activities could temporarily increase the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services. ***Less than significant with mitigation*** **(Class II)**

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would not unduly burden local fire services, although emergency response services may be needed in the unlikely event of worker injury or other accidental conditions. Additionally, because a majority of the proposed alignments traverse largely undeveloped areas, emergency situations could result that would require fire suppression services and emergency response. However, construction activities would be temporary, commencing in 2010 and concluding by mid-2011.

Each fire department that could potentially serve the project site has indicated that construction of the Proposed Project would not significantly affect fire protection response times, create higher demand for fire protection services, or require new short-term provisions of additional local fire facilities or equipment (RCFD, 2008; CCFD, 2008b; PSFD, 2008; and PDFM, 2008). Implementation of APM HAZ-2 and Mitigation Measure 4.7-7, which require SCE to prepare a Fire Management Plan, would reduce impacts on fire protection service providers (see Section 4.7, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*) to less than significant and implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.13-1 (see below) would reduce impacts on emergency medical service providers to less than significant.

> **Mitigation Measure 4.13-1:** SCE shall prepare and implement a Health and Safety Plan to ensure the health and safety of construction workers and the public during construction. The plan shall list procedures and specific emergency response and evacuation measures that would be required to be followed during emergency situations. The plan shall be submitted to the CPUC for approval prior to commencement of construction activities and shall be distributed to all construction crew members prior to construction and operation of the project.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

Impact 4.13-2: Project construction activities in proximity to public roadways could potentially affect vehicle access and fire department response times. ***Less than significant with mitigation*** **(Class II)**

Project construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would generally parallel local, County, and State roads. Several roadways, including Gene Autry Trail and I-10, would be crossed by the proposed subtransmission lines and would be required to be temporarily closed during subtransmission line stringing activities. (Refer to Section 4.15, *Traffic and Transportation*, for further discussion of impacts related to road closures and potential impacts to public roadways). However, implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.15-1 (see Section 4.15) and Mitigation Measure 4.13-2 (below) would ensure all impacts related to temporary road closures would be reduced to less than significant.

> **Mitigation Measure 4.13-2**: SCE shall coordinate with the emergency service providers of the applicable cities and Riverside County prior to construction to ensure that construction activities and associated lane closures would not significantly affect emergency response vehicles. SCE shall submit verification of its consultation with emergency service providers to the CPUC prior to the commencement of construction.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

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b) Police Protection

Police protection services in the vicinity of the Proposed Project alignments and sites are provided by the PSPD, CCPD, the RMPD, as well as by the RCSD, through contractual aid agreements with the cities of Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, and Indian Wells. The Proposed Project would not introduce any new uses to the project area that would generate long-term changes to police protection services. Once constructed, the Proposed Project components would require routine maintenance trips, inspection, and vegetation management activities. Operational staffing levels would not increase above existing levels that are required to maintain the existing subtransmission and transmission systems. Furthermore, increases in the demand for police protection services are typically associated with substantial increases in population. The Proposed Project would not result in a population increase that would increase the long-term demand for police protection services (please refer to Section 4.12, *Population and Housing* for more information related to potential population increase). Therefore, operation of the Proposed Project would not affect any of the police departments in the vicinity of the Proposed Project alignment and sites (No Impact).

Impact 4.13-3: Project construction activities could temporarily increase the demand for police protection services. *Less than significant* (Class III)

Proposed Project construction may require police services due to possible theft of construction equipment and/or vandalism that might occur during the construction period. At the completion of the work day, construction crews would lock up and secure each worksite to prevent theft or vandalism of work equipment and supplies. Additionally, SCE would utilize private patrols to monitor all components of the Proposed Project during construction activities to further ensure project site security.

Proposed Project construction may, at times, require temporary partial closure of adjacent roadways, requiring traffic control measures, or safety measures that would typically be coordinated with local police. Several private and public roadways, including but not limited to Genera Autry Trail, I-10, and Ramon Road, that would be crossed by the Proposed Project could need to be temporarily closed during line stringing activities (refer to Section 4.15, *Traffic and Transportation*, for further discussion on impacts related to road closures and potential impacts to public roadways). However, as indicated by each police department with jurisdiction in the study area, construction of the Proposed Project would not significantly affect police protection response times or create higher demand for this public service (PSPD, 2008b; CCPD, 2008; and PDPS, 2008).

In addition, it should be noted that the Proposed Project could be considered beneficial to the area in terms of police protection services. This is due to the fact that during the summer months, when the weather is at its hottest, the region often experiences rolling black outs or "brown outs." During recent brown outs in the area, numerous private home security alarm systems have been disabled due to the interruption in power. Once the electricity was reconnected, many of the alarm systems automatically triggered an alarm call to the nearest police station as a result of the power interruption. Sergeant Flores of the RCSD has indicated that the Palm Desert Police Station spends much if its time during the summer months answering unnecessary alarm calls that are directly related to the unreliability of the areas electrical grid. As such, Sergeant Flores indicated that the Proposed Project could be beneficial to the RCSD, if it could help alleviate inconsistencies in the power supply (PDPD, 2008).

Therefore, at no time would construction activities associated with the Proposed Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the need for, new or physically altered police facilities, or affect acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection. The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on police protection services.

Mitigation: None required.

c) Schools

The Proposed Project would not result in an increase of local population or housing, which is typically associated with increased demand for public school services (refer to Section 4.12, *Population and Housing*, for further information on the Proposed Project potential to increase the local population). Construction and operations of the Proposed Project would not require the provision of new or additional school facilities, nor would it affect the enrollment or capacity of the schools within the surrounding area. No impacts would occur to public school services (No Impact).

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d) Other Public Facilities

The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts to other public facilities, such as public libraries, due to the fact that the Proposed Project would not result in a significant increase of local population or housing, which is typically associated with increased demand for public facilities (refer to Section 4.12, *Population and Housing*, for further information in population increases resulting from the Proposed Project). No other public facilities would be adversely impacted by the construction or operation of the Proposed Project (No Impact).

4.13.5 Cumulative Impacts

The geographic scope of cumulative impacts related to public services is the service area of affected public services, generally limited to the cities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, Palm Desert, and Indian Wells, and unincorporated areas of Riverside County, including the Thousand Palms community. As discussed above, the Proposed Project would not result in significant effects on the ability of service providers to provide adequate police services, fire protection and emergency medical services, and public school facilities to the project area. The past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects described in Section 3.6, *Cumulative Projects*, include several large development projects planned in the vicinity of the Proposed Project alignment and sites that may impact public services. These projects include numerous new housing subdivisions. It is likely that this cumulative development would require expansion of existing, or development of new, public service infrastructure to support the planned population growth. If this growth were to occur prior to improvements in public service infrastructure, then there could be significant adverse effects on fire protection and emergency medical services, police protection, schools, and other public facilities. However, the Proposed Project's impacts to public services would generally be limited to the construction period from 2010 to mid-2011, after which the Proposed Project's demand on public services would be inconsequential. Additionally, Mitigation Measures 4.13-1 and 4.13-2 would ensure that the Proposed Project's temporary public service impacts during construction would be less than significant. Therefore, the effect of the Proposed Project on public services, in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, would not be cumulatively considerable. The Proposed Project's contribution to cumulative impacts would be mitigated to less than significant (Class II).

4.13.6 Alternatives

No Project Alternative

For the purposes of this analysis, the No Project Alternative includes the following two assumptions: 1) the project would not be implemented and the existing conditions in the study area would not be changed; and 2) new subtransmission and transmission lines and/or additional power generation would be constructed in or near the study area to supply power to the Electrical Needs Area. Given the highly speculative nature of the No Project Alternative assumptions, this analysis is qualitative.

Construction of new infrastructure under the No Project Alternative would likely result in similar impacts to those which would occur from construction of the Proposed Project. Depending on the location of new facilities, construction activities under the No Project Alternative scenario could result in road closures and other hazards that would have the potential to impact emergency service providers. However, it is likely that implementation of measures similar to Mitigation Measures 4.7-1, 4.13-1, 4.13-2, and 4.15-1 would reduce the potential for such impacts to a less than significant level (Class II).

Operations under the No Project Alternative scenario would likely result in similar impacts as those that would occur under the operation of the Proposed Project as both would be designed to accommodate existing and planned electrical growth, rather than induce growth. If substantial new facilities were generated under the No Project Alternative, inspection and maintenance requirements could result in indirect population growth. However, if such increases were to occur it is unlikely that they would be substantial enough to result in impacts to public services (No Impact).

Alternative 2

As with the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line, implementation of the Alternative 2 subtransmission line would increase reliability and accommodate existing and planned electrical load growth, rather than induce growth. Operation and maintenance activities associated with Alternative 2 would be generally the same as under the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line. Compared to the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line, the Alternative 2 subtransmission line would require construction of a three mile underground segment along Vista Chino and Sunrise Way, which would result in additional lane closures and would require additional construction personnel. However, the additional crew necessary for construction of Alternative 2 would not induce population growth directly or indirectly; therefore, the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services, police protection, schools, and other public facilities would not be substantially greater than under the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line. Furthermore, as with the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line, implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.7-1, 4.13-1, 4.13-2, and 4.15-1 would be applicable to Alternative 2 and would ensure that potential impacts to public services would be reduced to less than significant (Class II).

Alternative 3

As with the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line, implementation of the Alternative 3 subtransmission line would increase reliability and accommodate existing and planned electrical load growth, rather than induce growth. Operation and maintenance activities associated with Alternative 3 would be generally the same as under the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line. Compared to the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line, Alternative 3 would require construction of a 3.6-mile underground segment along Vista Chino, Sunrise Way, and San Rafael Road, which would result in additional lane closures and would require additional construction personnel. However, the additional crew necessary for construction of Alternative 3 would not induce population growth directly or indirectly; therefore, the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services, police protection, schools, and other public facilities would not be substantially different than under the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line. Furthermore, as with the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line, implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.7-1, 4.13-1, 4.13-2, and 4.15-1 would be applicable to Alternative 3 and would ensure that potential impacts to public services would be reduced to less than significant (Class II).

Alternative 5

As with the proposed Mirage-Santa Rosa subtransmission line, implementation of the Alternative 5 subtransmission line would increase reliability and accommodate existing and planned electrical load growth, rather than induce growth. Operation and maintenance activities associated with Alternative 5 would be generally the same as under the proposed Mirage-Santa Rosa subtransmission line. Compared to the proposed Mirage-Santa Rosa subtransmission line, the Alternative 5 subtransmission line would require construction of an underground segment along Ramon Road, Monterey Avenue, and Varner Road, which would result in additional lane closures and would require additional construction personnel. However, the additional crew necessary for construction of Alternative 5 would not induce population growth directly or indirectly; therefore, the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services, police protection, schools, and other public facilities would not be substantially different than under the proposed Mirage-Santa Rosa subtransmission line. Furthermore, as with the proposed Mirage-Santa Rosa subtransmission line, implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.7-1, 4.13-1, 4.13-2, and 4.15-1 would be applicable to Alternative 5 and would ensure that potential impacts to public services would be reduced to less than significant (Class II).

Alternative 6

As with the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line, implementation of the Alternative 6 subtransmission line would increase reliability and accommodate existing and planned electrical load growth, rather than induce growth. Operation and maintenance activities associated with Alternative 6 would be generally the same as under the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line. Compared to the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line, the Alternative 6

subtransmission line would require construction of a one-mile long underground segment along Vista Chino, which would result in additional lane closures and may require additional construction personnel. However, the additional crew necessary for construction of Alternative 6 would not induce substantial population growth directly or indirectly; therefore, the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services, police protection, schools, and other public facilities would not be substantially different than under the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line. Furthermore, as with the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line, implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.7-1, 4.13-1, 4.13-2, and 4.15-1 would be applicable to Alternative 6 and would ensure that potential impacts to public services would be reduced to less than significant (Class II).

Alternative 7

As with the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line, implementation of the Alternative 7 subtransmission line would increase reliability and accommodate existing and planned electrical load growth, rather than induce growth. Operation and maintenance activities associated with Alternative 7 would be generally the same as under the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line. Compared to the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line, Alternative 7 would require construction of 9.1 miles of new overhead single-circuit subtransmission line rather than 5.8 miles; therefore, additional crew and/or a longer construction period duration may be necessary to construct this alternative. However, the additional crew and/or time necessary for construction of Alternative 7 would not induce population growth directly or indirectly; therefore, the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services, police protection, schools, and other public facilities would not be substantially different than under the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line. Furthermore, as with the proposed Farrell-Garnet subtransmission line, implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.7-1, 4.13-1, 4.13-2, and 4.15-1 would be applicable to Alternative 7 and would ensure that potential impacts to public services would be reduced to less than significant (Class II).

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