2.16 Utilities and Service Systems

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):		*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
16.	**UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS—Would the project:**				
a)	Conflict with 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 storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	Require new or expanded water supply resources or entitlements?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that would 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h)	Contact and/or disturb underground utility lines and/or facilities during construction activities?	☐	☒	☐	☐

2.16.1 Setting

The Proposed Project study area is served by numerous public utility and service systems, including water, sewer, electric, and telecommunication lines. Various entities operate these systems and provide services to residents and businesses in the vicinity of the study area.

Water

Water service in the study area is supplied by the Smith River Community Services District (SRCSD) (Del Norte County, 2003). SRCSD's water supply is provided by wells located near Rowdy Creek. In total, SRCSD delivers potable water to approximately 635 households (SRCSD, 2007). Agricultural and rural residential areas to the south of the Smith River area utilize individual wells. SRCSD plans to eventually expand water services to these southern areas (Del Norte County, 2003).

Sanitary Sewer

The study area is not located within any established wastewater service area; therefore, sewage disposal within the study area is provided by individual on-site septic systems under permits

issued by the Del Norte County Health Department (Del Norte County, 2003). The Health Department follows a set of sewage disposal codes that apply to all on-site sewage disposal systems (see *Regulatory Context*, *Del Norte County Ordinance*, below).

Electricity and Natural Gas

Electrical service in the study area is provided by PacifiCorp. Del Norte County does not have access to natural gas; however, several local gas company providers, such as Blue Star Energy and Suburban Gas, provide underground propane tank service as an alternative to natural gas (Del Norte County, 2007).

Cable and Telephone

Charter Communications provides communication services to the study area, including telephone, high-speed internet, and video.

Solid Waste and Recycling Service

Solid waste collection services for collection and disposal of waste from residential areas and nonresidential areas in the study area are provided by Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority. The Del Norte County Transfer Station, located approximately 12.5 miles to the south of the proposed substation site off Elk Valley Road at 1700 State Street, Crescent City, accepts solid waste from the town of Smith River. The facility accepts common construction waste; however, special accommodations for hazardous materials must be arranged with the Solid Waste Management Authority of Del Norte County (CIWMB, 2007b).

Regulatory Context

State

Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939), enacted in 1989 and known as the Integrated Waste Management Act, required each city and/or county's Source Reduction and Recycling Element to reduce the amount of waste being disposed to landfills, with diversion goals of 50 percent by the year 2000. Del Norte County had a diversion rate of 46 percent in 2004 (CIWMB, 2007a).

Local

Del Norte County General Plan

The *Del Norte County General Plan* Public Utilities Element includes policies that assure adequate water supply, storm and surface drainage, and sewage disposal for the community. The following goals and policies may be applicable to the Proposed Project (Del Norte County, 2003):

General Public Facilities

Goal 7.A: To ensure the effective and efficient provision of public facilities and services for existing and new development.

Policy 7.A.1: The County shall ensure through the development review process that adequate public facilities and services are available to serve new development when

required. The County shall not approve new development where existing facilities are inadequate unless the applicant can demonstrate that all necessary facilities will be installed or adequately financed and maintained (through fees or other means).

Water Supply and Delivery

Goal 7.B: To ensure the availability of an adequate and safe water supply and the maintenance of high quality water for residents of and visitors to Del Norte County.

Wastewater Treatment, Collection, and Disposal

Goal 7.C: To ensure adequate wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal.

Policy 7.C.2: The County shall promote efficient water and reduced wastewater system use.

Solid Waste

Goal 7.D: To ensure the safe and efficient disposal or recycling of solid waste generated in Del Norte County.

Policy 7.D.1: The County shall direct the solid waste management agency in ensuring that solid waste facilities do not violate state standards for contamination of surface or ground water.

Policy 7.D.4: The County shall promote in conjunction with the solid waste management agency, maximum use of solid waste source reduction, recycling, composing, and environmentally safe transformation of wastes.

Policy 7.D.5: The solid waste management agency in conjunction with the County of Del Norte shall require that all new development complies with applicable provisions of the Del Norte Integrated Waste Management Plan.

Storm and Surface Drainage

Goal 7.J : To ensure effective and efficient provision of storm and surface drainage systems for existing and new development.

Policy 7.J.1: The County shall continue to require and coordinate storm and surface drainage plans for developed areas and new development areas.

Policy 7.J.3: The County shall require development to be located outside of 100 year storm drainage flow and retention areas, except road crossings which shall be designed to avoid impediment of event flows.

Del Norte County Code

Section 14.12.050 of the Del Norte County Code contains the following applicable code sections (Del Norte County, 1988):

A. No alternative on-site sewage disposal system shall be constructed, enlarged, altered, repaired, relocated, removed, or demolished unless a permit has first been obtained from the health officer.

B. No standard on-site sewage disposal system shall be constructed, enlarged, altered, repaired, relocated, removed, or demolished unless a permit has first been obtained from the building department.

Utilities and Service Systems Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Conflict with wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board: *No impact.* See discussion under e.

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: *No impact.*

As described in e) below, water use that would be generated by the Proposed Project would be minimal and wastewater disposal would not be affected. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not require or result in the construction of new or expanded water or wastewater treatment plant facilities and no impact are anticipated.

c) 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: *Less than significant.*

The Proposed Project would include the installation of the Morrison Creek Substation and the removal of the existing Simonson Substation. Upon removal of the Simonson Substation, the entire site would be re-graded generally following the natural contour of the site. While the size of the proposed Morrison Creek Substation would be approximately 1.5 acres larger than the existing Simonson Substation, it would not result in a considerable net increase in impervious surfaces. The entire ground surface of the proposed substation would be covered in permeable gravel except for the new concrete footings for all substation equipment (i.e., transformer, regulator, and recloser) and an oil containment system that would consist of a concrete slab with an area of approximately 50 feet by 40 feet (approximately 0.05 acre) (see Section 1, *Project Description*, for more information about the proposed oil containment system). PacifiCorp would prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) consistent with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. Because PacifiCorp would prepare and implement a SWPPP with best management practices, and because the design of the Proposed Project would eliminate the need for additional storm water drainage facilities or expansions of existing facilities, impacts would be less than significant.

d) Require new or expanded water supply resources or entitlements: *Less than significant.*

Operation of the Proposed Project would not require the use of water. The proposed substation would be cooled by the use of non-toxic mineral oil and would not require

potable or non-potable water during its operations. Any water that would be required for construction of the substation (e.g., for dust and fire control) would be trucked in from off-site. Water used during the construction period would be available from existing municipal water sources and would not require local water providers to obtain additional water entitlements. The amount of water required for construction of the Proposed Project would be minimal. Impacts would be less than significant.

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that would serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments: *No impact.*

No sources of wastewater would result from the construction activities or operations that would be associated with the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would not require the services of an existing or proposed wastewater treatment facility. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs: *Less than significant.*

Proposed Project construction activities would result in the generation of a small amount of construction waste material. However, the majority of material associated with the Proposed Project would be reused, recycled, or disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, State, and local laws. The Proposed Project would require the removal of the existing Simonson Substation and two existing wood poles. The transformer and other oil-filled equipment would be hauled from the Simonson Substation site to PacifiCorp's Service Center in Medford, Oregon for storage. The two existing wood poles that tap the 69 kV transmission line and the 12.5 kV distribution circuit to the Simonson Substation would be removed, including all subsurface portions of the poles. The removed poles would be characterized for contamination potential and disposed of in accordance with State and federal solid and hazardous waste regulations.

Other miscellaneous non-hazardous construction materials that could not be recycled or reused would likely be acceptable for disposal at the Del Norte County Transfer Station. Any other hazardous material would be recycled, treated, and/or disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, State, and local laws.

The Del Norte County Transfer Station currently accepts a maximum of 300 tons of solid waste per day (CIWMB, 2007b). Because most of the hardware from the Simonson Substation would be hauled to Medford, Oregon, any waste that could potentially be disposed of at the Del Norte County Transfer Station would be minimal and therefore, would not adversely impact the capacity of the Del Norte County Transfer Station. Impacts related to the disposal of solid waste during construction would be less than significant (see Section 2.7, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials* for additional information).

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste: *Less than significant.*

The Proposed Project would generate a limited amount of construction waste, including the one-time disposal of two wood poles, transmission line conductor, and hardware associated with the segment of 69 kV line to be removed, and other miscellaneous materials from the Simonson Substation that could not be reused. Operation of the Proposed Project would not produce any solid waste. The construction waste generated would be minimal and PacifiCorp would recycle, reuse, or dispose of the waste in an appropriate landfill with sufficient capacity to accept the waste.

The Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority (DNSWMA) adopted the Del Norte Zero Waste Plan on February 15, 2000, that establishes goals and methodologies for compliance with the California Assembly Bill 939, which establishes 50 percent diversion of solid waste from landfills. Del Norte County's diversion rate in 2004 was 46 percent, which did not meet the requirement of AB 939 (CIWMB, 2007a). To further aid in waste reduction, Del Norte County recently received a $300,000 grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board to fund permanent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Universal Waste (u-waste) facilities and programs (CIWMB, 2007c).

PacifiCorp would reduce its construction material and treated wood pole waste through various measures to act in accordance with Del Norte County's recycling and reduction policies. As previously described, PacifiCorp would haul the transformer and other oil filled equipment from the Simonson Substation site to PacifiCorp's Service Center in Medford, Oregon for storage and potential reuse.

Proposed Project construction and operation would not conflict with statutes and regulations relating to solid waste; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

h) Contact and/or disturb underground utility lines and/or facilities during construction activities: *Less than significant with mitigation.*

Construction activities could inadvertently contact underground utility facilities during excavation for the proposed steel pole and substation equipment foundations, trenching for the distribution circuit, and/or grading of work areas for the Proposed Project, possibly leading to short-term utility service interruptions. This would be a less than significant impact with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.16-1.

Impact 2.16-1: Proposed Project construction activities could inadvertently contact underground utility lines and/or facilities during excavation and other ground disturbance, possibly leading to short-term utility service interruptions.

Mitigation Measure 2.16-1: PacifiCorp shall ensure that Underground Service Alert is notified at least two working days prior to initiation of construction activities that require subsurface ground disturbance so that Underground Service Alert can verify the location of all existing underground facilities and alert the other utilities to mark their facilities in the area of anticipated construction activities.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

References

California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), 2007a. *Jurisdiction Profile for Del Norte County.* www.ciwmb.ca.gov, accessed August 20, 2007.

CIWMB, 2007b. *Jurisdiction Profile for Del Norte County Transfer Station.* www.ciwmb.ca.gov, accessed October 11, 2007.

CIWMB, 2007c. *Del Norte County Receives Integrated Waste Management Funds For Future Waste Stream Planning*, available online at www.ciwmb.ca.gov, accessed October 10, 2007.

Del Norte County, 1988. *Del Norte County Code*, 1988.

Del Norte County, 2003. *Del Norte County General Plan*, January 28, 2003.

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