

Chapter 17

Public Services and Utilities

17.1 Overview

This chapter describes the setting and potential impacts on public services and utilities that could occur from the Proposed Project. Impacts to public services and utilities under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are generally related to increased demand for, or use of, public services (e.g., fire protection, police protection, schools, or parks) or utilities, such as to require construction of new or expanded facilities, or being served by utilities with insufficient capacity to serve the project. The State CEQA Guidelines also have significance criteria for public services and utilities related to non-compliance with existing solid waste laws and regulations and inefficient use of energy.

Resources used to prepare this section include the County of San Diego General Plan, information from the applicable service providers in the Project area, and the proponent's environmental assessment (PEA) submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) by NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC (NEET West).

17.2 Regulatory Setting

17.2.1 Federal Laws, Regulations and Policies

Cleveland National Forest Land Management Plan

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Cleveland National Forest (CNF) Land Management Plan guides the management of the CNF and identifies strategies for addressing forest issues, such as fire. Goals and policies in the CNF Land Management Plan related to public services and utilities and the Proposed Project include reducing the number of high and moderate fire risk areas by using mechanical treatments and prescribed fire; improving wildland fire suppression capability when in proximity to communities or improvements; focusing on communities within the national forest direct protection area during periods of limited firefighter availability; conducting inspections to ensure that defensible space requirements are met around structures within delegated USFS jurisdiction; and maintaining the existing system of fuel breaks to minimize fire size and the number of communities threatened by fire (USFS 2005).

17.2.2 State Laws, Regulations and Policies

California Fire Code

The California Fire Code (Title 24 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Part 9) establishes minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare from the hazards of fire, explosion, or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings. Chapter 33

1 of the Code contains requirements for fire safety during construction and demolition
2 activities, such as development of a prefire plan in coordination with the fire chief;
3 maintaining vehicle access for firefighting at construction sites, and requirements related to
4 safe operation of internal combustion engine construction equipment.

5 **California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989**

6 The California Integrated Waste Management Act (CIWMA) of 1989 (Pub. Res. Code Division
7 30), enacted through Assembly Bill (AB) 939 and modified by subsequent legislation,
8 required all California cities and counties to implement programs to reduce, recycle, and
9 compost at least 50 percent of wastes by 2000 (Public Resources Code Section 41780). A
10 jurisdiction's diversion rate is the percentage of its total waste that a jurisdiction diverts from
11 disposal through reduction, reuse, and recycling programs. The state, acting through the
12 California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), determines compliance with this
13 mandate. Per capita disposal rates are used to determine if a jurisdiction's efforts are meeting
14 the intent of the act. In recent years, unincorporated San Diego County has not been meeting
15 its target disposal rates under the CIWMA. In 2014, the latest year of record, San Diego
16 County's annual per capita disposal rate per resident was 5.2, compared to its target of 6.8
17 (California Department of Resources Recovery and Recycling [CalRecycle] 2016a). Its annual
18 per capita disposal rate per employee was 26.1 in 2014, compared to its target rate of 32.4
19 (CalRecycle 2016a).

20 **California Integrated Energy Policy**

21 Senate Bill 1389, passed in 2002, requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to prepare
22 an Integrated Energy Policy Report every two years and transmit it to the Governor and State
23 Legislature (CEC 2016). The report analyzes data and provides policy recommendations on
24 trends and issues concerning electricity and natural gas, transportation, energy efficiency,
25 renewable energy, and public interest energy research (CEC 2016). The 2014 Final Integrated
26 Energy Policy Report Update was released in November 2015 (CEC 2015). The report
27 includes several policy recommendations, including increasing investments in electric
28 vehicle charging infrastructure at workplaces, multi-unit dwellings, and public sites (CEC
29 2015).

30 **California Public Resources Code, Division 4, Part 2: Protection of Forest, 31 Range and Forage Lands**

32 Division 4, Part 2 of the California Public Resources Code (PRC) contains requirements for
33 structures and land uses with respect to prevention and control of forest fires. Section 4291
34 of the Code requires any person who owns or operates a structure in a mountainous area or
35 brush-covered lands shall at all times maintain defensible space¹ of 100 feet from each side
36 and from the front and rear of the structure. This section also requires persons owning or
37 operating an electrical transmission or distribution line in mountainous or forest- or brush-
38 covered land to maintain around and adjacent to any pole or tower that supports a switch,
39 fuse, transformer, lightning arrester, line junction, or dead end or corner pole, a firebreak

¹ Defensible space is generally defined as the natural and landscaped area around a structure that has been maintained and designed to reduce fire danger, such as through fire-resistive plant selection and pruning.

1 which consists of a clearing of not less than 10 feet in each direction from the outer
2 circumference of the pole or tower.

3 **California Public Utilities Commission General Order 95**

4 CPUC's General Order (G.O.) 95 sets requirements for overhead transmission line design,
5 construction, and maintenance to ensure adequate service and secure safety for construction
6 and maintenance workers and the public. G.O. 95 specifies clearance and vegetation
7 management requirements for overhead lines, as well as strength requirements for
8 conductors, towers, and cables and other factors. G.O. 95 specifies that the radial clearance of
9 bare line conductors from vegetation in Extreme and Very High Fire Threat Zones in Southern
10 California shall be 120 inches for supply conductors and supply cables from 300 to 550
11 kilovolt (kV).

12 **California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1541: Excavations**

13 Section 1541 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) requires excavators to determine
14 the approximate locations of subsurface installations, such as sewer, telephone, fuel, electric,
15 and water lines, before opening an excavation.

16 **17.2.3 Local Laws, Regulations, and Policies**

17 The CPUC has exclusive jurisdiction over the siting and design of electric transmission
18 facilities. Therefore, it is exempt from local land use and zoning regulations. However, CPUC
19 G.O. 131-D states that in locating electric transmission facilities, the public utilities shall
20 consult with the local agencies regarding land use matters. CPUC and NEET West have been
21 in contact with applicable local agencies for the Proposed Project, and local laws and
22 regulations are presented here for consideration of potential impacts related to public
23 services and utilities.

24 **County of San Diego General Plan**

25 The County of San Diego General Plan (County of San Diego 2011) guides land use and
26 development in the unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego. Goals and policies
27 contained in the General Plan related to public services and utilities and the Proposed Project
28 include the following:

29 **Policy LU-4.6 - Planning for Adequate Energy Facilities.** Participate in the
30 planning of regional energy infrastructure with applicable utility providers to ensure
31 plans are consistent with the County's General Plan and Community Plans and
32 minimize adverse impacts to the unincorporated County.

33 **Policy LU-6.11 - Protection from Wildfires and Unmitigable Hazards.** Assign
34 land uses and densities in a manner that minimizes development in extreme, very
35 high and high fire threat areas or other unmitigable hazardous areas.

36 **Policy S-6.3 - Funding Fire Protection Services.** Require development to
37 contribute its fair share towards funding the provision of appropriate fire and
38 emergency medical services as determined necessary to adequately serve the project.

1 **Policy S-6.4 – Fire Protection Services for Development.** Require that new
 2 development demonstrate that fire services can be provided that meets the minimum
 3 travel times identified in Table S-1 (Travel Time Standards from Closest Fire Station).

4 **County of San Diego General Plan Table S-1: Travel Time Standards from the Closest Fire**
 5 **Station**

Travel Time	Regional Category (and/or Land Use Designation)	Rationale for Travel Time Standards
5 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Village (VR-2 to VR-30) and limited Semi-Rural Residential Areas (SR-0.5 and SR-1) ▪ Commercial and Industrial Designations in the Village Regional Category ▪ Development located within a Village Boundary 	In general, this travel time standard applies to the County’s more intensely developed area, where resident and business expectations for service are the highest.
10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Semi-Rural Residential Area (>SR-1 and SR-2 and SR-4) ▪ Commercial and Industrial Designations in the Semi-Rural Regional Category ▪ Development located within a Rural Village Boundary 	In general, this travel time provides a moderate level of service in areas where lower-density development, longer access routes and longer distances make it difficult to achieve shorter travel times.
20 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited Semi-Rural Residential areas (>SR-4, SR-10) and Rural Lands (RL-20) ▪ All Commercial and Industrial Designations in the Rural Lands Regional Category 	In general, this travel time is appropriate for very low-density residential areas, where full-time fire service is limited and where long access routes make it impossible to achieve shorter travel times.

6
 7 **Goal COS-21: Park and Recreational Facilities.** Park and recreation facilities that
 8 enhance the quality of life and meet the diverse active and passive recreational needs
 9 of County residents and visitors, protect natural resources, and foster and awareness
 10 of local history, with approximately ten acres of local parks and 15 acres of regional
 11 parks provided for every 1,000 persons in the unincorporated County.

12 ***Alpine Community Plan***

13 The Alpine Community Plan is a sub-component of the County of San Diego General Plan, and
 14 policies in the Alpine Community Plan are consistent with those in the General Plan. Policies
 15 and recommendations in the Alpine Community Plan related to public services and utilities
 16 and the Proposed Project include the following:

- 17 ▪ Any extensions of facilities and services to new developments should be borne by new
 18 developments so as to not affect the cost or quality of services to the community.
- 19 ▪ Public agencies shall consider the cumulative impacts of land use decisions on
 20 facilities and services on an on-going basis.
- 21 ▪ Land use decisions shall be considered on the basis of their impacts on the quality and
 22 availability of services to the Alpine Area and the entire County.

- 1 ▪ Direct the appropriate County agency to require an acceptable level of fire protection
2 for all approved development through appropriate discretionary permit processes.
- 3 ▪ Promote expansion of fire, police, and emergency health or other services, as needed.

4 **County of San Diego Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling** 5 **Ordinance**

6 The County of San Diego’s Construction Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance requires that
7 applicable construction projects recycle 90 percent of inerts and 70 percent of all other
8 construction demolition debris materials (County of San Diego 2016). To comply with the
9 ordinance, applicants must submit a Construction and Demolition Debris Management Plan
10 and a refundable Performance Guarantee prior to building permit issuance. The Ordinance
11 applies to construction, demolition, or renovation projects of 40,000 square feet or greater
12 located in unincorporated San Diego County (County of San Diego 2016).

13 **County of San Diego Consolidated Fire Code**

14 The County of San Diego’s Consolidated Fire Code contains amendments to the California Fire
15 Code, and includes the ordinances of the 16 local fire protection districts in San Diego County,
16 including the Alpine Fire Protection District. In accordance with the California Health and
17 Safety Code, Section 13869.7(a), these amendments and the standards in the Consolidated
18 Fire Code are more stringent than the State Fire Code. Requirements in the Consolidated Fire
19 Code include those related to fire apparatus access roadways, fire hydrant spacing, automatic
20 fire extinguishing systems in new buildings and structures, and landscaping requirements.

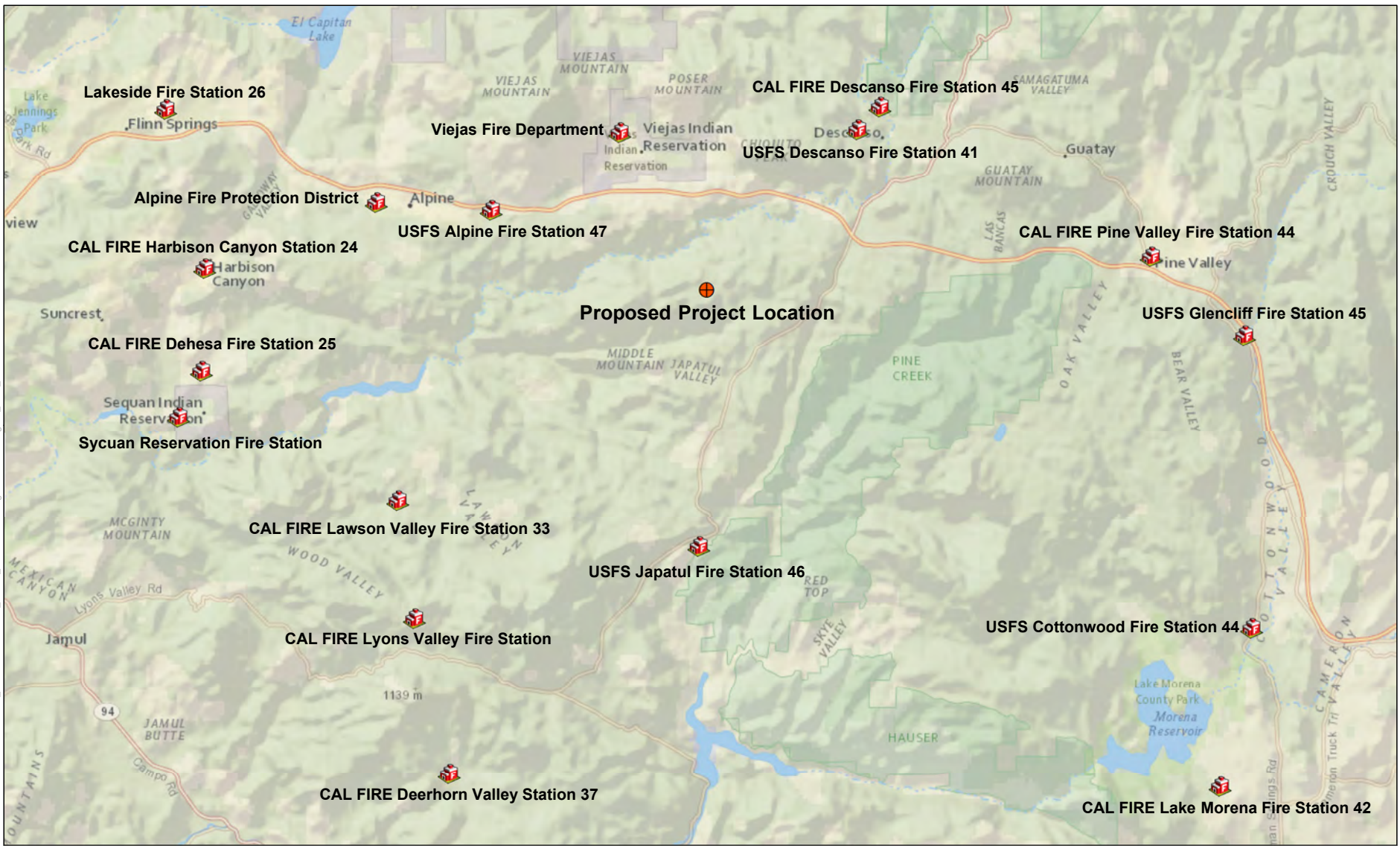
21 **17.3 Environmental Setting**

22 **17.3.1 Public Services**

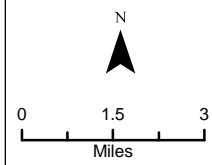
23 **Fire Protection and Emergency Services**



24 The primary agency providing fire protection services to the Project area is the California
25 Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). In cooperation with the San Diego
26 County Fire Authority (County Fire Authority) and other fire protection districts, CAL FIRE
27 provides fire protection and emergency response services to rural portions of
28 unincorporated San Diego County. Recently, the County Fire Authority assumed primary
29 oversight and coordination responsibilities for rural areas of the unincorporated County. The
30 U.S. Forest Service also provides wildland fire suppression services to the Project area. The
31 Proposed Project would be within the service area of CAL FIRE’s Descanso Station 45 (Rainey
32 pers. comm. 2016), which is located approximately 4.5 miles northeast of the Project site, as
33 shown on Figure 17-1.

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**Figure 17-1
Fire Stations in the
Project Vicinity**



 Proposed Project Location
  Fire Station

Prepared by:


Sources: Content may not reflect National Geographic's current map policy.
 Sources: National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, HERE, UNEP-WCMC,
 USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, increment P Corp.
 Fire stations: San Diego County Fire Authority

**Suncrest Dynamic Reactive
Power Support Project**

1 The Descanso Station 45 is equipped with one two-person type 1 engine capable of carrying
2 500 gallons of water (Rainey pers. comm. 2016). The captain at the Descanso Station 45
3 indicated that they also have a foam trailer specifically for a potential fire at San Diego Gas &
4 Electric's (SDG&E's) existing Suncrest Station, which was supplied by SDG&E. This equipment
5 may or may not be available for an incident not located at the SDG&E substation. The captain
6 indicated their engine is also capable of carrying 30 gallons of foam. The foam is needed for
7 the mineral oil in transformers (Rainey pers. comm. 2016). The captain estimated a travel
8 time of five5 to six minutes from the Descanso Station 45 to the Bell Bluff Truck Trail area;
9 however, NEET West's Fire Protection Plan (FPP) prepared in coordination with the County
10 calculated a travel time of approximately 11.7 minutes (Dudek 2016). The captain at the
11 Descanso station also indicated that for a large fire, they could request assistance from the
12 Viejas Reservation Fire Protection District or the Alpine Protection District (see station
13 locations in Figure 17-1). Additionally, if needed, they could request additional apparatus
14 from other CAL FIRE stations in Pine Valley or Moreno (Rainey pers. comm. 2016).

15 Additionally, USFS would respond to any vegetation fire located within the Proposed Project
16 area. The nearest USFS fire stations to the Proposed Project are the Japatul Station 46 and the
17 Descanso Station 41, shown in Figure 17-1. USFS indicated that the engines from these two
18 stations would be the first to respond to any fire in the Project area, but, during the
19 summertime, five engines in total plus aircraft (including a large Sikorsky helicopter) would
20 be available to respond (Anderson pers. comm. 2016). USFS estimated a response time of 10-
21 15 minutes for the Japatul and Descanso engines (Anderson pers. comm. 2016).

22 The captain at the CAL FIRE Descanso 45 station indicated that Mercy Ambulance is the
23 contracted emergency medical transport service provided for the area. The nearest hospital
24 to the Proposed Project is the Sharp Grossmont Hospital, which is located approximately 20
25 miles to the west in the City of El Cajon.

26 **Police Protection**

27 The San Diego County Sheriff's Department is the chief law enforcement agency in San Diego
28 County (San Diego County Sheriff's Department 2015). The Department consists of
29 approximately 4,000 employees, including both sworn officers and professional support staff,
30 which provides law enforcement services to an area of approximately 4,200 square miles.
31 State highways in the Project vicinity are policed by the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

32 **Schools**

33 The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) provides administration and oversight for
34 school districts in San Diego County. The Project area would be most directly served by Alpine
35 Union School District (AUSD), which is a Kindergarten through 8th grade district serving the
36 Alpine area. AUSD schools include Alpine Elementary School, Boulder Oaks Elementary
37 School, Creekside Early Learning Center, iDream Academy, Joan MacQueen Middle School,
38 Mountain View Learning Academy, and Shadow Hills Elementary. Other schools serving the
39 Project vicinity include Julian Charter School and Pine Valley Academy. School-aged children
40 residing in the Project vicinity also may attend schools in the Mountain Empire Unified School
41 District. The nearest high schools to the Proposed Project are Mountain Empire High School,
42 approximately 11 miles southeast of the Project site, or one of a number of schools in the
43 greater El Cajon area (Valhalla High School, El Capitan High School, Steele Canyon High

1 School, Granite Hills High School, El Cajon Valley High School), all of which are approximately
2 11-15 miles west of the Project site.

3 **Parks**

4 No existing parks are located in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Project. The nearest
5 parks are located in the community of Alpine, approximately 6 miles northwest of the Project
6 site. In general, parks and recreational facilities are provided to unincorporated San Diego
7 County by the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation. The County maintains
8 several parks in the Alpine area as well as one in Pine Valley. Although no recreational
9 facilities are located in the immediate Project vicinity, the Proposed Project would be located
10 nearby to lands of the CNF. The CNF is generally maintained as open space to provide for a
11 variety of uses, including recreation (e.g., hiking and hunting).

12 **17.3.2 Utilities**

13 **Water Supply**

14 Nearby water purveyors include the Padre Dam Municipal Water District (PDMWD),
15 Descanso Community Water District, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), and
16 Sweetwater Authority. At this time, NEET West anticipates obtaining water from either
17 PDMWD or from the current proposed Static VAR compensator (SVC) property owner's
18 storage ponds, which are supplied by local runoff and water from the Sweetwater Authority
19 (NEET West 2015)

20 PDMWD provides water, wastewater, and recycled water services to 100,000 residents in the
21 cities/communities of Santee, El Cajon, Lakeside, Flinn Springs, Harbison Canyon, Blossom
22 Valley, Alpine, Dehesa, and Crest (PDMWD 2016a). PDMWD imports 100 percent of its
23 potable water supply from SDCWA, who in turn receives the majority of its supply from the
24 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) (PDMWD 2016b). The water
25 PDMWD imports comes from the State Water Project (i.e., Northern California) and the
26 Colorado River Aqueduct. In addition to imported potable supplies, PDMWD produces two
27 million gallons of recycled water per day at its Water Recycling Facility. This recycled water
28 currently provides irrigation water throughout Santee and provides the water that fills
29 Santee Lakes (PDMWD 2016b). According to its 2010 Urban Water Management Plan
30 (UWMP), PDMWD delivered a total of 1,874 acre-feet (AF) of recycled water to customers in
31 2010 (PDMWD 2010: page 46). It projected its production and delivery of recycled water
32 would increase to 4,817 AF per year by 2015, based on planned expansion of the Water
33 Reclamation Facility (WRF) (PDMWD 2010). PDMWD published an Initial Study/Mitigated
34 Negative Declaration in July 2015 for proposed expansion of its WRF from 2 million gallons
35 per day (MGD) to 6 MGD (PDMWD 2015).

36 Sweetwater Authority provides water to approximately 191,500 people in a 32-square-mile
37 service area, including National City, Bonita, and parts of Chula Vista (Sweetwater Authority
38 2016a). Sweetwater Authority delivers water to customers procured from four sources: (1)
39 deep freshwater wells located in National City; (2) capture of local runoff in the Sweetwater
40 River with subsequent storage at Loveland Reservoir in Alpine, and Sweetwater Reservoir in
41 Spring Valley; (3) San Diego Formation wells in the lower Sweetwater River Basin; and (4)
42 purchase of imported water delivered by the SDCWA and MWD (Sweetwater Authority
43 2016a). Sweetwater Authority owns and operates both the Sweetwater Reservoir, which has

1 an approximate capacity of 28,079 AF, and the Loveland Reservoir, which has an approximate
2 capacity of 25,387 AF (Sweetwater Authority 2016b). The Sweetwater Authority operates the
3 Perdue Water Treatment Plant located adjacent to the Sweetwater Reservoir, which has a
4 treatment capacity of 30 MGD. According to its Public Draft 2015 UWMP, the Sweetwater
5 Authority delivered a total of 19,232 AF of potable and raw water to customers in 2015
6 (Sweetwater Authority 2016b).

7 The storage ponds owned by the current owner of the SVC property have an annual
8 availability of 40 AF per year (AFY) (NEET West 2015). These ponds were successfully used
9 as the primary water source during construction of the existing SDG&E Suncrest Substation,
10 supplying approximately 32 AFY to support the substation construction (NEET West 2015).

11 At the Project site, currently, there is a 4-inch-diameter water line that runs underneath Bell
12 Bluff Truck Trail. Additionally, SDG&E maintains a small water storage tank just north of Bell
13 Bluff Truck Trail near the northeast corner of the existing substation. This water tank
14 provides emergency fire water supply for the substation. The storage ponds near the SVC site
15 are connected via polyvinyl chloride (PVC) piping to an existing small temporary water tank
16 on the western portion of the former Wilson Construction Yard and proposed SVC site. As
17 noted above, this water tank and the property owner's storage ponds were used during
18 construction of the SDG&E Suncrest Substation.

19 **Wastewater and Stormwater**

20 Centralized wastewater collection and treatment service is not provided to the Project area.
21 No sanitary sewer lines extend to the area of the Proposed Project. Residences and farms in
22 the Project vicinity use septic tanks for treatment of wastewater.

23 As described in Chapter 12, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the only stormwater infrastructure
24 in the Project area is along Bell Bluff Truck Trail. The existing stormwater conveyance
25 features along Bell Bluff Truck Trail consist of concrete "v-ditches" on either side of the road,
26 as well as culverts underneath the roadway in several locations. The v-ditches channel
27 stormwater flows from the road surface and adjacent land downgradient for discharge at
28 culvert locations.

29 **Solid Waste**

30 Three large solid waste landfills exist in San Diego County, including Otay Landfill, West
31 Miramar Sanitary Landfill, and Sycamore Landfill. Non-recyclable solid waste from the
32 Proposed Project would be transported to one of these large landfills, either directly or via
33 other transfer and/or processing facilities in the County. Table 17-1 presents information on
34 existing landfills in San Diego County.

1 **Table 17-1. Landfills in San Diego County**

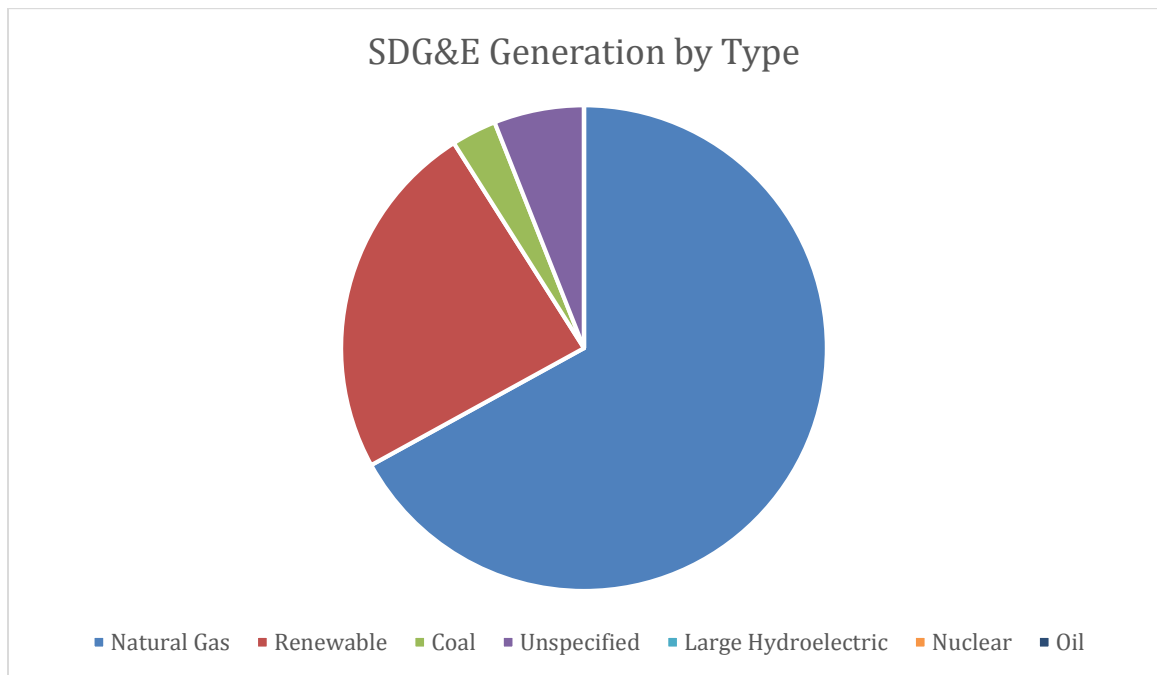
Landfill	Operator	Location	Distance from Project Site (miles, by road)	Max Permitted Capacity (cy)	Remaining Capacity (cy) (percent [%] of total)	Remaining Capacity Date	Estimated Closure Date
Otay	Otay Landfill Inc.	Chula Vista, CA	32	61,154,000	25,514,904 (42%)	2012	2028
West Miramar	City of San Diego	San Diego, CA	41	87,760,000	15,527,878 (18%)	2014	2025
Sycamore	Sycamore Landfill, Inc.	San Diego, CA	36	71,233,171	39,608,998 (56%)	2014	2042

2 *Source: CalRecycle 2016b*

3 **Electricity and Natural Gas**

4 The primary electric service provider in the Project vicinity and in San Diego County is
 5 SDG&E. SDG&E provides energy service to 3.5 million people through 1.4 million electric
 6 meters and 870,000 natural gas meters in San Diego and southern Orange counties (SDG&E
 7 2016). SDG&E owns and contracts with generation facilities both within and outside its
 8 service territory, and power is also produced in local facilities that are non-utility-owned
 9 (SDG&E 2014). SDG&E’s local generation resources are currently capable of producing
 10 approximately 3,100 megawatts (MW) of power. Figure 17-2 shows SDG&E’s power mix by
 11 generation type.

12 **Figure 17-2. San Diego Gas & Electric's 2013 Power Mix by Generation Type**



13

14

Source: SDG&E 2014

1 In the immediate Project vicinity, SDG&E has a 12-kV electric distribution line that runs
2 underneath Bell Bluff Truck Trail. SDG&E also owns and operates the existing Suncrest
3 Substation at the Project's western terminus. As described in Chapter 2, *Project Description*,
4 the Suncrest Substation was built as part of SDG&E's Sunrise Powerlink project. The Sunrise
5 Powerlink is a high-voltage (i.e., 500/230-kV) electric transmission system that transmits
6 energy from production areas in the Imperial Valley eastward to demand centers in the San
7 Diego metropolitan area. Figure 2-1 shows the existing transmission system in the Project
8 vicinity, including the Sunrise Powerlink.

9 **Communications**

10 AT&T maintains fiber optic telecommunications lines underneath Bell Bluff Truck Trail.

11 **17.4 Impact Analysis**

12 **17.4.1 Methodology**

13 Potential impacts on public services and utilities were evaluated qualitatively by considering
14 aspects of the Proposed Project in light of the State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G significance
15 criteria (see below) and the existing regulatory and environmental setting. Identified
16 potential impacts are not necessarily considered significant unless they result in changes to
17 the physical environment, such as to trigger one of the State CEQA Guidelines significance
18 criteria listed below. In the evaluation of potential impacts, it was assumed that NEET West
19 would follow all existing laws and regulations when constructing and operating the Proposed
20 Project. Where applicable, feasible mitigation measures are prescribed to mitigate potential
21 impacts that could occur in spite of existing laws and regulations.

22 **17.4.2 Criteria for Determining Significance**

23 Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Proposed Project would result in a
24 significant impact on public services and utilities if it would:

25 A. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new
26 or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered
27 governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant
28 environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times
29 or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

30 a. Fire protection

31 b. Police protection

32 c. Schools

33 d. Parks

34 e. Other

35 B. Exceed waste water treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality
36 Control Board;

- 1 C. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities
 2 or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant
 3 environmental effects;
- 4 D. Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or
 5 expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant
 6 environmental effects;
- 7 E. Have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing
 8 entitlements and resources;
- 9 F. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may
 10 serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected
 11 demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments;
- 12 G. Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the
 13 project's solid waste disposal needs; or
- 14 H. Fail to comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid
 15 waste.

16 **Criteria Dismissed from Further Consideration**

17 Because the Proposed Project would generate only minimal amounts of wastewater during
 18 construction, and no wastewater during operation, significance criteria B and F above are
 19 considered inapplicable and are not evaluated further. The Proposed Project would use
 20 portable sanitary restrooms during construction, which would be serviced on a regular basis
 21 by a license service provider. It is anticipated that wastewater from the portable restrooms
 22 would be taken to a nearby wastewater treatment plant, but the relatively small anticipated
 23 volumes of wastewater (resulting from approximately 40-50 workers or less (on average)
 24 per day over the approximately 11-month construction period [peak employment periods
 25 estimated to be approximately 64 workers per day]) would not be anticipated to significantly
 26 affect wastewater treatment provider's capacity or treatment capability. During operation,
 27 no employees would be located on-site and the facility would not be connected to the
 28 municipal sewer system. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no potential to affect
 29 wastewater treatment.

30 **17.4.3 Environmental Impacts**

31 **Impact PUB/UTL-1: Effects on Fire Protection Service (Less than Significant 32 with Mitigation)**

33 The Proposed Project would involve use of internal-combustion construction equipment
 34 during construction, which could potentially generate a spark or provide an ignition source.
 35 Additionally, the Project may involve blasting during Project construction and potentially
 36 may require storage of explosives on-site, which could create fire hazard risk. The Project
 37 area also is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Area, as designated by CAL FIRE, indicating
 38 that the physical conditions in the area are susceptible to fire, and potentially that a fire
 39 started in the area could be difficult to control and destructive. During Project operation, the

1 energized SVC facility and transmission line could potentially provide an ignition source; for
2 example, if vegetation were to come in close contact with the energized lines.

3 If the Proposed Project were to start a fire during construction or operation, it could place a
4 strain on fire protection resources in the area and endanger the residential homes to the east
5 of the Project area and nearby communities of Alpine, Viejas, and Descanso. The Project is
6 located in a relatively undeveloped, rural area, with substantial potential fuels for forest fires
7 in the form of chaparral scrub and oak woodland landscapes. While there are a number of fire
8 stations in the area (see Figure 17-1), and substantial fire-fighting resources available to
9 assist in the event of a large fire, the San Diego County area is extremely fire prone, and there
10 could be other on-going incidents, especially during the peak fire season of summer and fall.
11 In this respect, any additional strain placed on fire protection services caused by the
12 Proposed Project could potentially be significant in light of other possible demands on these
13 services. Because the Project area is rural and undeveloped, any large incident could
14 potentially increase response times substantially for other persons requiring fire protection
15 service.

16 In accordance with existing State and local laws, the Proposed Project would implement a
17 number of measures to mitigate potential fire risk. These include establishing defensible
18 space surrounding the proposed SVC facility and riser pole, implementing minimum
19 clearance requirements for overhead transmission lines, and ensuring access roadways are
20 suitable for fire apparatus. NEET West, in coordination with the County, has developed a
21 Project-specific FPP (Appendix K, *Fire Protection Plan*) compliant with the County's
22 standards, CPUC G.O. 95, and other applicable regulations. Adherence to the Project FPP (as
23 required by **Mitigation Measure HAZ-5**), as well as implementation of **Mitigation Measure**
24 **HAZ-3** to prepare and implement a construction FPP) and **HAZ-4** to implement fire-safe
25 working conditions and best management practices will reduce the potential fire risk from
26 the Proposed Project and the potential impact on fire services.

27 To ensure the Proposed Project does not have adverse effects on fire protection services, in
28 accordance with the County of San Diego General Plan Policy S-6.3, **Mitigation Measure**
29 **PUB/UTL-1** will require that the Project sponsor (NEET West) fund its fair share toward any
30 necessary fire protection service improvements. With implementation of this mitigation
31 measure, the Proposed Project would not be anticipated to adversely affect fire protection
32 service, response times, or require or result in the construction of expanded facilities. This
33 impact would be less than significant with mitigation.

34 **Mitigation Measure PUB/UTL-1: Fund Fair Share toward Any Necessary Fire**
35 **Protection Service Improvements.**

36 NEET West shall coordinate with the County of San Diego, CAL FIRE, and USFS to
37 determine if any additional apparatus, equipment, personnel, or facilities are
38 necessary to provide adequate fire service to the Proposed Project. If recommended
39 improvements or upgrades to facilities, and/or additional apparatus, equipment, or
40 personnel are identified, NEET West shall contribute its fair share toward the
41 attributed costs. The Proposed Project's, or NEET West's, fair share will be
42 proportionate to its contribution to the need for improvements.

1 **Impact PUB/UTL-2: Possible Effects on Police Protection, School, and**
2 **Parks Service (Less than Significant)**

3 The Proposed Project would not include any residential housing and would not be anticipated
4 to directly increase population. During construction, it is anticipated that construction
5 workers would commute from the Chula Vista and San Diego areas. During Project operation,
6 the Proposed Project would be operated remotely and no employees would be stationed on-
7 site. Only periodic testing and maintenance of the SVC and transmission line equipment
8 would be anticipated, and would be conducted by a small crew of one to two NEET West
9 technicians.

10 The Project may result in increased availability of renewable energy from the Imperial Valley
11 to San Diego, which may have the potential to indirectly result in growth, but any such growth
12 would not be anticipated to occur within the Project area. Any growth indirectly caused by
13 the Proposed Project also would be anticipated to occur consistent with the applicable
14 jurisdiction's General Plan, which includes planning for adequate public services. It would
15 speculative to say what specific impacts on public services may occur from indirect growth
16 caused by the Project because it is unknown where such growth may occur and at what
17 magnitude. For these reasons, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to substantially
18 increase demand for police protection, school, or parks service. This impact would be less
19 than significant.

20 **Impact PUB/UTL-3: Potential to Require or Result in the Construction of**
21 **New or Expanded Water Facilities (Less than Significant)**

22 It is anticipated that the Project would require approximately 2,600,000 gallons
23 (approximately 8 AF) of water during the 11-month construction period. The amount of
24 water needed on a daily basis will vary by construction phase and activity, but it is estimated
25 that the Project will require approximately 13,160 gallons per day on average. Following
26 Project construction, it is estimated that approximately 9,200 gallons of water per year will
27 be required for equipment washing, maintenance activities, and for restoration of temporary
28 impact areas.

29 NEET West is currently considering two primary possible sources of water for the Proposed
30 Project: the current SVC property owner's storage ponds (supplied by local runoff and water
31 from the Sweetwater Authority) and/or recycled water trucked in from PDMWD's WRF.
32 Analysis of both of these sources indicates that water is likely available to supply the
33 Proposed Project without construction or expansion of new or existing facilities. PDMWD's
34 WRF is currently capable of producing approximately 2 MGD, and planning is underway to
35 expand its capacity to 6 MGD. These upgrades to the WRF would occur regardless of the
36 Proposed Project. The Project's construction water demand of approximately 8 AF would be
37 a relatively small fraction of PDMWD's annual recycled water deliveries (PDMWD delivered
38 1,874 AF of recycled water to customers in 2010). Likewise, the Project's construction water
39 demand would be within the SVC property owner's storage ponds' capacity (40 AF) (NEET
40 West 2015) and would be a relatively small fraction of Sweetwater Authority's total supplies
41 (it delivered 19,232 AF in 2015). The SVC property also has demonstrated the capability of
42 supplying the much larger SDG&E Suncrest Substation construction in the recent past, and
43 existing infrastructure is in place for delivery of water from the ponds to the SVC site (i.e.,
44 PVC piping and a temporary storage tank adjacent to the SVC site).

1 For these reasons, it is anticipated that the Proposed Project's construction water demands
2 could be met with existing facilities. The amount of water required for the Project following
3 construction (9,200 gallons per year) would be less than the typical consumption of an
4 American family of four, which uses 400 gallons per day or 146,000 gallons per year (USEPA
5 2016). As such, it would not be anticipated to substantially affect any existing water supplier's
6 capacity or require construction or expansion of facilities. Overall, this impact would be less
7 than significant.

8 **Impact PUB/UTL-4: Potential to Require or Result in the Construction or** 9 **Expansion of Stormwater Facilities (Less than Significant)**

10 As described in Chapter 12, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the Proposed Project may result in
11 increased stormwater generation from addition of impervious surface area; however, the
12 Project area is in a rural and undeveloped portion of San Diego County, and is not connected
13 to any municipal stormwater system. The only existing stormwater infrastructure in the area
14 are the "v-ditches" and culverts along and underneath Bell Bluff Truck Trail. Stormwater
15 generated and discharged by the SVC facility would be anticipated to flow via natural
16 drainages to Taylor Creek and/or Sweetwater River. The Proposed Project would include
17 construction of a stormwater detention basin on the SVC site, as well as a stormwater
18 drainage system to manage stormwater that may flow onto or off of the Project site. These
19 features are included as part of the Project and are evaluated throughout this Draft EIR.
20 Installation of the transmission line underneath Bell Bluff Truck Trail would not be
21 anticipated to alter the existing stormwater drainage system, and the road surface would be
22 restored following trenching. The proposed riser pole and intermediate pole would add a
23 small area of impervious surface, but stormwater generated by this feature would not be
24 anticipated to require or result in the construction or expansion of stormwater facilities.
25 Stormwater from the riser pole and intermediate pole would flow overland to the adjacent
26 land surface. Overall, this impact would be less than significant.

27 **Impact PUB/UTL-5: Potential to Have Insufficient Water Supplies to** 28 **Supply the Project from Existing Entitlements and Resources (Less than** 29 **Significant)**

30 As described in Impact PUB/UTL-3 above, the Proposed Project's water demands would not
31 be anticipated to exceed the capacities of existing water suppliers such as to require the
32 construction or expansion of any new facilities. The Project would require approximately 8
33 AF over the 11-month construction period, but this would be a one-time demand and would
34 seem to be within either the PDMWD's or the SVC property owner's storage ponds' existing
35 capacities and/or entitlements. The Project's water demand following construction would be
36 negligible (i.e., less than the average annual demand of a family of four). Therefore, this
37 impact would be less than significant.

38 **Impact PUB/UTL-6: Effects on Existing Landfill Capacity (Less than** 39 **Significant with Mitigation)**

40 As described in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, it is anticipated that excavation for
41 construction of the proposed SVC would result in up to 4,030 cubic yards (cy) of excess
42 material that would need to be removed from the site. Additionally, trenching for installation
43 of the transmission line is anticipated to result in a total of 3,000 cy being generated and

1 hauled off-site, for a total of 7,030 cy of material that may require disposal due to the
 2 Proposed Project. On a daily basis, it is anticipated that construction activities are expected
 3 to produce 30 cy of solid waste per week on average, and a peak of 60 cy per week. During
 4 operation, the Project would not be anticipated to generate substantial amounts of solid
 5 waste. The likely types of solid waste are packaging for replacement parts, used cleaning
 6 materials, and used parts. It is estimated that roughly 5 cy of solid waste will be generated
 7 annually during Project operation.

8 As shown in Table 17-1, the large landfills in San Diego County all have substantial remaining
 9 capacity and would be anticipated to accommodate the Proposed Project's solid waste
 10 disposal needs. Even if all the solid waste generated was disposed of at a single landfill, it
 11 would not be anticipated to have an appreciable effect on capacity, and would not require
 12 construction or expansion of any existing facilities. As described in Mitigation Measure
 13 PUB/UTL-2 (see Impact PUB/UTL-7 below), the Project would recycle at least 90 percent of
 14 inerts and at least 70 percent of other materials, in accordance with the County's Construction
 15 and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance. With implementation of this mitigation measure,
 16 depending on the type and composition of solid waste generated by the Proposed Project,
 17 much less than 7,030 cy of material would be disposed of at a landfill. Even without
 18 mitigation, this impact would be less than significant.

19 **Impact PUB/UTL-7: Potential Failure to Comply with Existing Statutes and** 20 **Regulations Related to Solid Waste (Less than Significant with Mitigation)**

21 Existing State and local laws related to solid waste include the CIWMA and San Diego County's
 22 Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance. Under CIWMA, unincorporated
 23 San Diego County is currently not meeting its per capita disposal rate targets, as described
 24 under Section 17.2, "Regulatory Setting." Therefore, failure to recycle, or otherwise divert
 25 from the landfill, waste generated by the Proposed Project could exacerbate the County's
 26 existing state of non-compliance with the targets set under CIWMA.

27 Although CPUC is exempt from local laws and regulations as a State agency, the Proposed
 28 Project would implement **Mitigation Measure PUB/UTL-2** to require diversion of solid
 29 waste at the same levels as is required in the County's Construction and Demolition Debris
 30 Recycling Ordinance. Implementation of this mitigation measure would ensure that the
 31 Proposed Project does not have significant adverse effects on the County's ability to meet its
 32 jurisdiction disposal rate targets under CIWMA. No other existing laws or regulations related
 33 to solid waste are considered applicable to the Proposed Project. This impact would be less
 34 than significant with mitigation.

35 **Mitigation Measure PUB/UTL-2: Diversion of Solid Waste in Accordance with** 36 **San Diego County's Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance.**

37 NEET West and/or its contractors shall follow the requirements specified in the
 38 County of San Diego's Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance. This
 39 will include recycling of 90 percent of inerts and 70 percent of all other construction
 40 demolition debris materials, and preparation of a Construction and Demolition
 41 Debris Management Plan (DMP). In accordance with Section 68.511 of the San Diego
 42 County Code, the DMP shall provide the following information:

- 43 1. The type of project;

- 1 2. The total square footage of the project;
- 2 3. The estimated volume or weight of project construction and demolition
- 3 debris, by material type that the project will generate;
- 4 4. The maximum volume or weight of construction and demolition debris that
- 5 can feasibly be diverted via reuse or recycling;
- 6 5. The estimated volume or weight of construction demolition debris that will
- 7 be disposed of in a landfill; and
- 8 6. The name and address of any person and/or recycling facility the applicant
- 9 proposes to use to collect, process or receive construction and/or demolition
- 10 debris the project will generate.
- 11

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