

3.14 PUBLIC SERVICES

3.14.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes existing conditions and potential impacts on public services as a result of construction, operation, and maintenance of the project, and concludes that less-than-significant impacts will occur. Public services include fire and emergency protection, police protection, and maintenance of public facilities such as schools and parks. Emergency access is discussed in Section 3.16, Transportation and Traffic. Temporary construction-related impacts on schools and parks—such as dust and noise—are discussed in Sections 3.3, Air Quality, and 3.12, Noise, respectively. Project compatibility with future park-planning efforts is discussed in Section 3.10, Land Use and Planning. Potential impacts on parks and recreational facilities are discussed in Section 3.15, Recreation.

The project’s potential effects on public services were evaluated using the significance criteria set forth in Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The conclusions are summarized in Table 3.14-1 and discussed in more detail in Section 3.14.4.

Table 3.14-1: CEQA Checklist for Public Services

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.14.2 REGULATORY BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

3.14.2.1 Regulatory Background

No regulatory background information for public services is relevant to the project.

3.14.2.2 Methodology

Public services include fire and police protection, and maintenance of public facilities such as schools and parks. This section was prepared by reviewing the Sonoma County General Plan Public Facilities and Services Element (amended 2014) and online websites for the Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services Department, Central Fire Authority of Sonoma County, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), City of Healdsburg Fire Department, Windsor Fire Protection District, City of Santa Rosa Fire Department, Sonoma County Sherriff’s Office, Town of Windsor Police Department, Healdsburg Police Department, Sonoma County Office of Education, and the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department.

3.14.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.14.3.1 Fire Protection

Fire protection and emergency services for the project area are provided by the Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services Department and the Central Fire Authority of Sonoma County. The Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services Department is a combination paid and volunteer department that is composed of 15 volunteer fire companies servicing approximately 600 square miles in the unincorporated areas. The Central Fire Authority is a joint powers agreement between the Rincon Valley Fire Protection District and the Windsor Fire Protection District; it services a 122-square-mile area that includes most of the unincorporated areas surrounding the City of Santa Rosa and the Town of Windsor, and the incorporated Town of Windsor. City fire districts service the incorporated areas and also provide basic life support and emergency medical services. Sonoma County also contracts with CAL FIRE to provide fire protection services for areas outside of the local response area.

The nearest fire stations located along the project route include:

- Town of Windsor Fire Department, operated by the Windsor Fire Protection District, located approximately 1.45 miles southwest of the Shiloh-Fitch segment of the project.
- City of Santa Rosa Fire Department, operated by the City of Santa Rosa, located approximately 2.25 miles southeast of Fulton Substation.
- Healdsburg Fire Department, operated by the City of Healdsburg, located approximately 1.2 miles northwest of Fitch Mountain Substation.

The Sonoma County Emergency Management Division is responsible for the planning, response, and recovery of county-wide emergencies and disasters. They are the primary coordination point for communication between federal, state, and local emergency agencies.

3.14.3.2 Police Protection

The Sonoma County Sherriff’s Office provides law enforcement and protection services for the county and unincorporated areas, including the project area. The nearest Sonoma County Sherriff’s office is located in Santa Rosa, approximately 3 miles south of Fulton Substation. Sonoma County Sherriff’s Department officers also staff the Windsor Police Department, located approximately one mile west of the project, which services the incorporated areas of the Town of

Windsor. The Healdsburg Police Department, operated by the City of Healdsburg, is located approximately 1 mile north-northwest of Fitch Mountain Substation, and services the incorporated areas of Healdsburg.

3.14.3.3 Schools

Sonoma County has 40 school districts that provide K–12 education. There are 31 elementary districts, three high school districts, and six unified districts in the county. The nearest districts to the project are the Windsor Unified, Healdsburg Unified, and Mark West Union school districts.

The following three schools in the Mark West Union School District are located within 0.5 mile of the project:

- *Mark West Elementary School.* Mark West Elementary School is located on Lavell Road. The school serves nearly 400 students in grades kindergarten through six.
- *San Miguel Elementary School.* San Miguel Elementary School is located along Faught Road. The project runs north to south along the western boundary of the school property; however, the alignment does not cross any school buildings. The school serves approximately 420 students in grades kindergarten through six.
- *Mark West Charter School.* Mark West Charter School is located on the campus of San Miguel Elementary School. The school serves approximately 130 students in grades one through eight.

One private after-school program is located within 0.5 mile of the project:

- *After School Arts & Recreation Program (ASAP) at The Cove.* ASAP is located on the campus of The Cove community church. ASAP provides after-school programs and summer camps to children in entering grades kindergarten through six.

Schools within 0.5 mile of the project are shown on Figure 3.10-1: General Plan Land Use Designations Map.

3.14.3.4 Parks

Sonoma County Regional Parks Department manages public parks in the area. Additional information about impacts on recreational resources is provided in Section 3.15, Recreation.

The Fulton-Shiloh segment crosses Maddux Ranch Regional Park on Lavell Road. The park occupies approximately 11 acres of land.

The Shiloh-Fitch segment of the project crosses two Sonoma County regional parks: Shiloh Ranch Regional Park on Faught Road, and Foothill Regional Park, located east of the Town of Windsor. Shiloh Ranch Regional Park and Foothill Regional Park occupy approximately 850 and 211 acres, respectively.

3.14.3.5 Other Public Facilities

Other services, such as public libraries and performing arts centers, are located in Healdsburg and Windsor.

3.14.4 APPLICANT-PROPOSED MEASURES AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following sections describe significance criteria for impacts on public services derived from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and assess potential project-related construction and operational impacts.

3.14.4.1 Significance Criteria

According to Section 15002(g) of the CEQA Guidelines, “a significant effect on the environment is defined as a substantial adverse change in the physical conditions which exist in the area affected by the proposed project.” As stated in Section 15064(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, the significance of an activity may vary with the setting. Per Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the potential significance of project-related impacts on public services was evaluated for each of the criteria listed in Table 3.14-1, as discussed in Section 3.14.4.3.

3.14.4.2 Applicant-Proposed Measures

Project construction, operation, and maintenance will have a less-than-significant impact on public services; no Applicant-Proposed Measures are proposed.

3.14.4.3 Potential Impacts

Project impacts on public services were evaluated against the CEQA significance criteria and are discussed in further detail below. The impact analysis evaluates potential project impacts during the construction phase and the operation and maintenance (O&M) phase.

The project includes reconductoring existing 60 kV and 230 kV electric utility lines between Fulton Substation and Fitch Mountain #1 Tap. The O&M activities required for the recondored power and transmission lines will not increase from those currently required for the existing system; thus, no operation-related impacts related to public services will occur. Therefore, the impact analysis is focused on construction activities that are required to install the new conductor, replace and remove poles, perform minor substation modifications, and establish required access and work areas, as described in Chapter 2.0, Project Description.

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, other public facilities? *Less-than-Significant Impact*

Fire and Police Protection

Project construction will result in a temporary, short-term increase of construction workers. Although construction workers traveling to the project area may use existing public services or amenities, this potential increase in demand will be minimal and temporary, and will not require new or altered government facilities. The project will not include development of new

residential units that will directly or indirectly increase population; therefore, no increase in the demand for public services in the area will occur. Furthermore, no new or altered public facilities are needed. Therefore, no impact will occur.

Fire and emergency services are provided by volunteer and city fire departments—including the Santa Rosa, Windsor, and Healdsburg Fire Departments—located within 3 miles of the project. Furthermore, the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, Healdsburg Police Department, and Windsor Police Departments are all located within 5 miles of the project. Conductor replacement along the Fulton-Shiloh segment will mostly occur along urban roadways; pole and conductor replacement along the Shiloh-Fitch segment will occur primarily on undeveloped land east of urban centers and roadways. Modifications at Fitch Mountain Substation will be conducted within the existing substation boundaries, and will require only minor use of local roadways to access the substation. The project's use of public roadways could potentially briefly interfere with emergency routes in the immediate area by disrupting traffic flow if temporary road closures or lane diversions are necessary. The area of primary concern will be the Fulton-Shiloh segment of the project, as it runs through the Larkfield-Wikiup residential neighborhood. However, as described in Section 3.16, Transportation and Traffic, PG&E will coordinate with emergency service providers prior to any road closures or lane diversions to avoid or minimize potential impacts on response times. Impacts will be less than significant.

Schools

Mark West Elementary School, Mark West Charter School, San Miguel Elementary School, and ASAP at The Cove are located adjacent to the Fulton-Shiloh segment. The project will not increase the demand for school enrollment because family relocation will not be necessary. Therefore, school enrollment will not be affected, and no new schools will need to be constructed as a result of the project.

Temporary road closures or lane diversions could potentially disrupt traffic flow to and from Mark West Elementary, Mark West Charter, and San Miguel Elementary schools and ASAP at The Cove. As described in APM TRA-2, PG&E will develop lane closure/width reduction or traffic diversion plans, as required by necessary encroachment permits. Schools will be exposed to increases in criteria air pollutants due to fugitive dust and increased equipment use in the area; however, because construction activities will last only a few days at each pole, the increase is expected to have a less-than-significant impact on sensitive receptors, such as schools. With implementation of APM AIR-1 and APM AIR-2, which include controlling fugitive dust and reducing idling time, PG&E will further reduce less-than-significant impacts on schools.

Parks

The project alignment crosses three regional parks managed by the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department. Maddux Ranch Regional Park is crossed by the Fulton-Shiloh segment, and Shiloh Ranch Regional Park and Foothill Regional Park are crossed by the Shiloh-Fitch segment. The project will not include developing new residential units or services that will generate a new daytime or residential population in the area that will increase the demand on parks. Access to work areas within the parks could require overland travel, necessitating minor vegetation removal. As described in Section 3.15, Recreation, several trails in Shiloh Ranch Regional Park and Foothill Regional Park will be temporarily closed for public safety during project

construction. However, work will be short term and temporary, and will not significantly interfere with public use of the parks. Therefore, the impact on parks will be less than significant.

Other Public Facilities

The project will have no impact on public libraries and performing arts centers located in Healdsburg and Windsor. Therefore, no impact will occur.

3.14.5 REFERENCES

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