

3.17 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

3.17.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes existing conditions and potential impacts on utilities and service systems as a result of construction, operation, and maintenance of the project, and concludes that no impact will occur in these areas. Under CEQA, utilities and service systems include water, wastewater, and solid waste collection and treatment. This section also addresses potential impacts on power, natural gas, and communications systems.

The proposed project’s potential effects on utilities and service systems 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 3.17-1 and discussed in more detail in Section 3.17.4.

Table 3.17-1: CEQA Checklist for Utilities and Service Systems

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the Provider’s existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.17.2 REGULATORY BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

3.17.2.1 Regulatory Background

Federal

No federal regulations pertaining to utilities and service systems are applicable to the proposed project.

State

California Government Code

Section 4216 of the California Government Code protects underground structures during excavation. Under this law, excavators are required to contact a regional notification center at least 2 days prior to excavation of any subsurface installations. In the project area, Underground Service Alert (USA) is the regional notification center. USA notifies utility providers with buried lines within 1,000 feet of the excavation, and those providers are required to mark the specific location of their facilities prior to excavation. The code also requires excavators to probe and expose existing utilities, in accordance with state law, before using power equipment.

Local

Because the CPUC has exclusive jurisdiction over the siting, design, and construction of the project, the project is not subject to local discretionary regulations. The following summary of local statues and regulations relating to solid waste is provided for informational purposes and to assist with CEQA review.

Sonoma County General Plan Public Facilities and Services Element

The Public Facilities and Services Element of the Sonoma County General Plan addresses eight types of public services related to the physical development of the County, including solid waste management. The element lays the groundwork for existing and future policies related to these public services.

3.17.2.2 Methodology

The Sonoma County General Plan and official local and state websites were reviewed for wastewater collection and treatment, water supply, stormwater drainage, solid waste disposal, electricity and natural gas, and communications service providers for the project area. These included the websites of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), the Water Agencies of Sonoma County, City of Healdsburg, and the Town of Windsor. The CalRecycle Solid Waste Information System and the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency were also reviewed for solid waste disposal information and regulations.

3.17.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.17.3.1 Wastewater Collection and Treatment Services

Sonoma County

Wastewater services in Sonoma County are managed by the Sonoma County Water Agency, which operates eight different sanitation districts and zones encompassing Sonoma County. The project is located in the Airport/Larkfield/Wikiup Sanitation Zone. This sanitation zone services

up to approximately 900,000 gallons of wastewater each day from approximately 3,500 customers. Discharged water is used as irrigation in Sonoma County.

City of Healdsburg and Town of Windsor

The City of Healdsburg and the Town of Windsor also provide wastewater sanitation services within their respective city limits through sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities. The City of Healdsburg’s wastewater collection system consists of 36 miles of sewer mains and nine sewer lift stations, treated at the Membrane Wastewater Treatment Facility.

3.17.3.2 Water Supply

Sonoma County

Potable water supply is provided by the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA). Nearly all of the County’s domestic water supply is obtained from groundwater originating from the Russian River Watershed, which feeds into rivers, lakes, and reservoirs that are diverted by dams and held in storage tanks for distribution to various County water districts. The SCWA services the Windsor, Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Petaluma, Sonoma, North Marin, and Valley of the Moon water districts. The remainder of the domestic water supply is obtained from surface water. The project area is located within the Russian River Groundwater Basin, and the SCWA is responsible for the oversight of collection and distribution of potable water. The SCWA also contracts with the Russian River Utility Company.

Unincorporated Sonoma County also contains several small zones called County Service Areas (CSAs). Four CSAs provide water service to residents who live within the zone boundaries:

- CSA 41, Zone 24 (Fitch Mountain)
- CSA 41, Zone 32 (Salmon Creek)
- CSA 41, Zone 33 (Freestone)
- CSA 41, Zone 34 (Jenner)

Operation and maintenance of these small water systems is administered by the Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works.

City of Healdsburg and Town of Windsor

The Public Works Departments of the City of Healdsburg and Town of Windsor contract with the SCWA to provide potable water for their respective municipalities.

3.17.3.3 Stormwater Drainage

Sonoma County

The SCWA is responsible for ensuring adequate stormwater drainage and flood control in the County, which includes the project area. The agency maintains flood control through a stream-maintenance program and five flood-protection reservoirs.

City of Healdsburg and Town of Windsor

The Town of Windsor and the City of Healdsburg provide flood protection and stormwater management services within their respective city limits through storm drain systems, which are outlined in their stormwater management plans. Stormwater drainage systems are maintained by the Public Works Departments. Stormwater from the Fulton-Shiloh segment will flow into the Town of Windsor storm drainage system; no municipal stormwater drainage systems are located along the Shiloh-Fitch segment. Stormwater from Fitch Mountain Substation flows into the City of Healdsburg storm drainage system.

3.17.3.4 Solid Waste Disposal

Sonoma County

Solid waste services are provided by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency. The Department of Transportation and Public Works owns and operates four transfer stations located in Annapolis, Guerneville, Healdsburg, and Sonoma. A central landfill is located at 500 Meacham Road in Petaluma, which the four transfer stations feed into. As of 2005, the central landfill had approximately 9.5 million cubic yards of permitted capacity remaining and an estimated closure date of 2034. The landfill can accept up to 2,500 tons of waste per day.

The Healdsburg Transfer Station is the nearest solid waste facility to the project and is located approximately 3 miles north-northwest of Fitch Mountain Substation. The Healdsburg Transfer Station is able to process up to 720 tons of waste per day.

All four transfer stations and the central landfill also function as recycling facilities.

City of Healdsburg and Town of Windsor

Solid waste disposal for the Town of Windsor is managed by Windsor Refuse and Recycling, which provides waste transportation and disposal services for all incorporated areas within the town. Solid waste disposal for the City of Healdsburg is managed by Redwood Empire Disposal, which provides waste transportation and disposal services for all incorporated areas within the city.

Treated Wood Waste

The project is located within the jurisdictional boundary of the North Coast RWQCB, which has not certified any landfills within its boundary to accept treated wood waste. Recology Hay Road and Forward, Inc. Waste Disposal are certified by the Central Valley RWQCB (Region 5) to accept treated wood waste.

Recology Hay Road is a Class II and III landfill located in Solano County; as of 2010, it had a remaining capacity of approximately 30 million cubic yards and an estimated closure date of 2077. Forward, Inc. Waste Disposal is a Class II and III landfill located in San Joaquin County. As of 2008, it had a remaining capacity of approximately 24 million cubic yards and an estimated closure date of 2020.

3.17.3.5 Electricity and Natural Gas

PG&E provides electrical power and natural gas to Sonoma County, which encompasses communities in the project vicinity, including Healdsburg, Windsor, Fulton, and Larkfield-Wikiup.

In the immediate vicinity of the project, PG&E provides electricity and natural gas to the Town of Windsor. In the City of Healdsburg, PG&E provides natural gas, while electricity is provided by the Healdsburg Electric Department. The Healdsburg Electric Department provides electric services to approximately 6,000 meters throughout the City of Healdsburg.

3.17.3.6 Communications

AT&T provides local and long-distance telephone service to the communities in the project vicinity, including Healdsburg, Windsor, Fulton, and Larkfield-Wikiup. A variety of wireless companies—including AT&T, Comcast, Verizon, and others—provide wireless phone service to the project area. Cable television and internet service are provided by Comcast.

3.17.4 APPLICANT-PROPOSED MEASURES AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following sections describe significance criteria for utilities and service systems impacts derived from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, provide Applicant-Proposed Measures (APMs), and assess potential project-related construction and operational impacts on utilities and service systems.

3.17.4.1 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 impacts on utilities and service systems was evaluated for each of the criteria listed in Table 3.17-1, as discussed in Section 3.17.4.3.

3.17.4.2 Applicant-Proposed Measures

No APMs are included because project construction, operation, and maintenance will have no impact on utilities and service systems.

3.17.4.3 Potential Impacts

Project impacts on utilities and service systems were evaluated against the CEQA significance criteria as discussed below. This section evaluates potential project impacts from both the construction phase and the operation and maintenance phase.

The project includes reconductoring existing 60 kV and 230 kV electric utility lines between Fulton Substation and Fitch Mountain #1 Tap. The operation and maintenance 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 will occur. Therefore, the impact analysis is focused only on construction activities that are required to

install the new conductor, replace and remove poles, and perform minor substation modifications, and establish associated required access and work areas, as described in Chapter 2.0, Project Description.

PG&E's engineering team has taken into consideration the location of other underground and overhead utilities in designing the project. Additional utilities identification will occur in the final design stages. As required by state law, PG&E will notify other utility companies (via USA) to locate and mark existing underground structures along the proposed alignment prior to any excavation activities. In addition, PG&E will probe and expose existing utilities, in accordance with state law, before using power equipment. PG&E has conducted existing utilities surveys as part of its feasibility study and routing analysis. Based on these surveys and during detailed design, PG&E will design the project to have no permanent impact on power, natural gas, communications systems, or any other utilities that are specifically documented.

Also during the detailed design phase, PG&E will assess whether the temporary interruption of other utilities will be necessary. If deemed necessary, PG&E will obtain timely approval from other utilities and closely coordinate with them until those utilities are returned to service. Prior to construction, PG&E will obtain emergency contact information for utilities that may be in close proximity or require monitoring during construction of the project. In case of accidental service interruption to another utility, PG&E will immediately contact the affected utility to coordinate actions to restore service in a safe and timely manner.

a) Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? *No Impact*

A minimal amount of effluent will be generated temporarily by construction workers during project construction, but construction will not otherwise generate wastewater. Portable restrooms will be provided and maintained by a licensed sanitation contractor for on-site use by construction workers. Portable restrooms will be provided in accordance with applicable sanitation regulations established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which generally require one portable restroom for every 10 workers. The licensed contractor will dispose of the wastewater at a sewage treatment plant and in compliance with standards established by the RWQCB. Because the construction workforce will be relatively small, and wastewater will be properly disposed of off site, no impact will occur.

b) Would the project 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*

Water use during project construction will be minimal. A limited amount of water will be used for practices such as dust control during construction. Water will be obtained from local municipal utilities, or will be trucked to the site. Project construction will also require the use of wastewater facilities by construction workers; however, portable restrooms will be used and maintained during construction and removed after completion of the project. No new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities will be required; therefore, no impact will occur as a result of project construction.

c) Would the project 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? *No Impact*

The SCWA is responsible for stormwater management in the County, which includes the majority of the project alignment, including the approximately 8.1-mile-long Shiloh-Fitch segment. Stormwater along this segment will flow into the Town of Windsor storm drainage system. While no municipal stormwater drainage systems are located along the Shiloh-Fitch segment, the agency maintains flood control through a stream-maintenance program and five flood-protection reservoirs. Stormwater from the existing Fitch Mountain Substation flows into the City of Healdsburg storm drainage system.

The project consists of pole replacement and reconductoring, and will not include the addition of impervious surfaces that could contribute to stormwater runoff. The project will not require construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities; therefore, no impact will occur.

d) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? *No Impact*

Potable water will be supplied to construction workers for drinking and will be delivered to project work areas by construction vehicles. During project construction, water will be used for dust-control applications, but the amount of water necessary will be small and existing municipal water supplies will be sufficient to serve the project's needs. A water truck, typically with a capacity of 4,000 gallons, will be available to support project construction activities and dust suppression. Existing off-site water entitlements and resources will be sufficient to accommodate the project's minor temporary and short-term construction-related water needs, and no impact will occur.

e) Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? *No Impact*

Portable toilets will be provided for construction workers during construction. Sanitary waste will be disposed at appropriately licensed facilities in the project area that have adequate capacity to accommodate project needs. Therefore, no impact will occur.

f) Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? *No Impact*

The project will generate a relatively small amount of solid waste as a result of construction debris in the form of removed poles, materials generated from modifications at Fitch Mountain Substation, and other miscellaneous sources, such as wrappers from materials and trash created by construction workers. Construction debris will be taken on a line truck with a trailer to an area service center for recycling or disposal. The final disposal destination for wood poles will likely be either Recology Hay Road or Forward, Inc. Waste Disposal, and will be determined when the service provider schedules pick-up times. Both of these facilities have sufficient capacity to accept the relatively small amount of solid waste that will be generated by the project.

Other project-related debris will be stored in approved containers on site, or will be covered and periodically hauled away for recycling or disposal. As previously described, the disposal facilities that will be used by the project have sufficient remaining capacity to handle the negligible amount of solid waste that will be generated during project construction. After construction, PG&E will conduct a final survey to determine whether cleanup activities have been successfully completed as required.

Existing landfills have adequate capacity to accommodate the amount of solid waste generated by the project. Therefore, no impact will occur.

g) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? *No Impact*

Project construction is not anticipated to generate a substantial amount of solid waste. As discussed previously, all construction debris will be collected and hauled off site for recycling or disposal at a licensed landfill. PG&E will comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Furthermore, operation of the project will not generate any solid waste. Maintenance of project structures could generate minimal amounts of solid waste due to any necessary replacement of parts along the segments during its operation. However, any disposal of such materials will constitute a negligible amount in comparison to the capacity at existing landfills. Therefore, the project will not violate any solid waste statutes or regulations, and there will be no impact.

3.17.5 REFERENCES

California Environmental Protection Agency. 2014. North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Basin Plan (amended 2011). Online: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/basin_plan.shtml. Accessed on November 26, 2014.

_____. 2011a. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (5) Waste Acceptance List. Online: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/land_disposal/docs/wal_r5.pdf. Accessed on June 29, 2015.

_____. 2011b. North Coast RWQCB (1)-Waste Acceptance List. Online: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/land_disposal/docs/wal_r1.pdf. Accessed on June 29, 2015.

CalRecycle. 2014. Solid Waste Information System (SWIS) database. SWIS Facility/Site Search. Online: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/SearchList/List?COUNTY=Sonoma>. Accessed on December 3, 2014.

_____. 2010. SWIS database. Facility/Site Summary Details: Recology Hay Road (48-AA-0002). Online: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/48-AA-0002/Detail/>. Accessed on June 29, 2015.

_____. 2008. SWIS database. Facility/Site Summary Details: Forward Landfill, Inc. (39-AA-0015). Online: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/39-AA-0015/Detail/>. Accessed on June 29, 2015.

City of Healdsburg. 2015. Healdsburg Electric Department. Online: <http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/index.aspx?page=62>. Accessed on April 16, 2015.

_____. 2005. Storm Water Management Program, Storm Water Management Plan. Online. <http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=1541>. Accessed on December 3, 2014.

Sonoma County. 2013. Water Service Districts. Online: <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/TPW/Water-Districts/>. Accessed on December 3, 2014.

Sonoma County Waste Management Agency. 2014. Search Disposal Site. Online: http://www.recyclenow.org/disposal/search_disposal.asp. Accessed on December 3, 2014.

The Ratto Group. 2015. Windsor Refuse and Recycling. Online: <http://unicycler.com/residential/sonoma/windsor>. Accessed on April 14, 2105.

_____. 2015. Empire Disposal – Healdsburg. Online: <http://unicycler.com/residential/sonoma/healdsburg>. Accessed on April 14, 2105.

Town of Windsor. Storm Water Management Plan 2005. Online. <https://www.ci.windsor.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/4181>. Accessed on December 3, 2014.