

1 **6.16 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

|   | <i>Potentially Significant Impact</i> | <i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i> | <i>Less Than Significant Impact</i> | <i>No Impact</i>                    |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i>   |                                       |  |                                     |                                     |
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?   | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input 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) Are 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) Has the wastewater treatment provider who serves or may serve the project determined 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) Is the project 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"/> |

2 **6.16.1 Approach to Analysis**

3 This analysis focuses on the potential for the project to affect existing underground utilities and  
 4 service systems during project construction. In addition, this analysis discusses the project's  
 5 demand for public utilities and services and any infrastructure improvements required to meet  
 6 these demands.

1 **6.16.2 Impact Significance Criteria**

2 Determination of impacts of the project is based on criteria a through g in the environmental  
3 checklist listed above. According to CEQA, a project would normally have a significant effect on  
4 public utilities and service systems if it would interfere with or substantially change the demand  
5 for the utility service, generate a need for new utilities, or require substantial alteration to utility  
6 systems (e.g., construction or expansion of public facilities such as storm drainage systems, and  
7 wastewater treatment facilities). The project would be deemed to have a significant impact if it  
8 would affect and disrupt existing underground utilities.

9 **6.16.3 Impact Mechanisms**

10 Construction of the project would involve new conduit installation, conduit repair or replacement  
11 work, and construction of new POP sites. During construction, the project could:

- 12 • Affect and disrupt existing underground utilities;
- 13 • Generate construction debris or soils that could affect the availability of regional landfill  
14 capacity and compliance with solid waste regulations;
- 15 • Require water that could affect existing water supplies;
- 16 • Generate surface water runoff that could exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the  
17 Regional Water Quality Control Board and that could affect drainage systems and associated  
18 wastewater treatment facilities.

19 Measures incorporated into the project (including identification of existing utilities prior to  
20 construction, use of directional boring at major utility crossing, and implementation of best  
21 management practices for stormwater pollution prevention) would minimize the project's impact  
22 on existing underground utilities and service systems. Other than requiring a minor amount of  
23 water and generating a minor amount of waste, project construction would have no impact on  
24 demand for other utilities and service systems.

25 With regard to project operations, the POP sites would require some electrical power for  
26 equipment operation. This would be a permanent, but minor, increase in utilities. Typically, an  
27 analysis of impacts concerning electricity supply centers on whether the existing electrical supply  
28 is sufficient. Because the amount of electricity required for a typical POP to be constructed under  
29 the project would be minimal, existing electric providers in the communities where the POPs  
30 would be located would be able to meet the minor increase in demand.

31 **6.16.4 Impact Assessment**

32 **6.16.4.1 San Francisco Bay Area Network**

33 a. *Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?*

34 As indicated in Chapter 3, Project Description, and section 5.8, Hydrology and Water Quality,  
35 there is potential for surface water runoff to transport upland construction spoils into streams. The  
36 project applicant has prepared the required Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP);

1 Appendix C), which includes erosion control and spill prevention measures for construction of the  
2 San Francisco Bay Area Network. Section 5.8 discusses that the project applicant would obtain and  
3 adhere to the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)  
4 permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board for the San Francisco Bay Area Network.  
5 The NPDES permit shall address all water that would be discharged to surface waters during  
6 project construction. The POP sites would not require external water supply for their operation.  
7 For these reasons, the project would not be expected to exceed the wastewater treatment  
8 requirements of the RWQCB.

9 *b. Require, or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of*  
10 *existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

11 The project would have a negligible impact on existing water and wastewater treatment facilities,  
12 as the project would require only a minor amount of water for dust suppression during project  
13 construction. Existing water facilities would be adequate to supply the relatively minor and  
14 temporary water needs during construction. Because the water required for project construction  
15 would be negligible, drainage systems and associated wastewater treatment facilities would not be  
16 substantially affected by surface water runoff related to the project. As water would not be  
17 required for the operation of the project, there would be no increase in the demand for existing  
18 water or wastewater treatment facilities.

19 *c. Require, or result in the construction of, new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing*  
20 *facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

21 The project would not create new impermeable surfaces that would substantially increase drainage  
22 runoff. Accordingly, the project would not require or result in the construction or expansion of  
23 storm water drainage facilities.

24 *d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the proposed project from existing entitlements and*  
25 *resources, or would new or expanded entitlements be needed?*

26 As discussed under criterion b above, the water needs of the project during construction would be  
27 relatively minor and temporary. Existing water resources would be sufficient to meet those needs.  
28 Following construction, the project would require no external water supply. Therefore, existing  
29 water supplies would be sufficient without requiring new or expanded entitlements.

30 *e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the*  
31 *proposed project that it has adequate capacity to serve the proposed project's proposed projected*  
32 *demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

33 The project would generate no additional wastewater and would require no wastewater treatment  
34 services. Existing wastewater treatment services would be sufficient.

35 *f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the proposed project's solid*  
36 *waste disposal needs?*

37 As discussed in the project description, most of the soil excavated during trenching would be used  
38 to refill the excavation, and trench spoils such as paving materials would be returned to the asphalt  
39 manufacturer, a local recycler, or transported to an appropriate facility for disposal. The quantity

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1 of construction-related materials transported to area landfills would be extremely minor relative to  
2 the daily volumes handled at these facilities and would not substantially affect the remaining  
3 capacity of any landfill.

4 Project operations would generate no solid waste and therefore would have no effect on landfill  
5 capacity.

6 *g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

7 Solid wastes associated with the project includes soil displaced by project construction and fiber  
8 spools and other packaging material associated with the conduit and cable pulling. Other than  
9 these wastes produced during construction, the project would not produce substantial amounts of  
10 solid waste. Most, if not all, of the soil removed during trenching operations would be replaced  
11 and the surface returned as close to pre-project conditions as practicable. Areas around boring  
12 operations and around POPs would similarly be cleaned up during the final phase of the  
13 construction. Spools and other packaging for conduit and cable would be taken away for reuse,  
14 recycling, or disposal at a landfill consistent with federal, state, and any local solid waste statutes.  
15 Once installation is complete, the project would produce no solid wastes.

16 There are no federal, state, or local statutes or regulations related to solid waste that are applicable  
17 to the project. The project would have no impacts related to solid waste.

18 **Impact UTIL-1:** Conduit installation, either by open trenching or directional boring, could cross or  
19 coincide with existing utility lines and could affect and disrupt delivery of those utility services.  
20 (Less than Significant)

21 Conduit installation would occur in public streets and railroad rights-of-way, areas commonly  
22 used for utility corridors. Because conduit installation would occur at a depth of more than 1 foot  
23 below ground, the project could impact existing underground utilities and service connections. As  
24 stated in Chapter 3, Project Description, underground utilities and service connections would be  
25 identified prior to commencing any excavation work. "Dig Alert," "One-Call," or a similar  
26 underground utility contractor would be contacted to identify the locations of subsurface utilities  
27 prior to construction. The exact utility locations would be determined by hand-excavated test pits  
28 dug at locations determined and approved by the construction manager. Temporary disruption of  
29 service may be required to allow project construction. No service on such lines would be  
30 disrupted until prior approval is received from the construction manager and the service provider.  
31 All railroad companies would require coordination and notification of construction activities, and  
32 may require specific training, before any activities could occur within the railroad rights-of-way,  
33 including utility identification.

34 As indicated in Chapter 4, Route Description, Metromedia proposes to directional bore at some  
35 major utility crossings. At locations where the conduit would cross other subsurface utilities or  
36 structures, the conduit would be installed to provide a minimum of 12 inches of vertical clearance  
37 between it and the other subsurface utilities or structures, while still maintaining the applicable  
38 minimum depth requirement. To maintain the applicable minimum depth requirement, the  
39 conduit would be installed under the existing utility or other structure. If the 12-inch vertical  
40 separation between the conduit and the other utility or structure cannot be achieved, then the fiber  
41 optic cable would be encased in steel pipe to avoid future damage.

1 **Mitigation Measure:** No mitigation is required.

2 **6.16.4.2 Los Angeles Basin Network**

3 Potential utility and service system impacts associated with the Los Angeles Basin Network would  
4 be similar in nature to those discussed above for the San Francisco Bay Area Network. The same  
5 control measures would be implemented to avoid underground utility disruption. A separate  
6 SWPPP would be prepared for the Los Angeles Basin Network.

7 a. *Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?*

8  
9 The discussion of the San Francisco Bay Area Network also applies to the Los Angeles Basin  
10 Network.

11 b. *Require, or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of*  
12 *existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

13 The discussion of San Francisco Bay Area Network also applies to the Los Angeles Basin Network.

14 c. *Require, or result in the construction of, new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing*  
15 *facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

16 The discussion for the San Francisco Bay Area Network also applies to the Los Angeles Basin  
17 Network.

18 d. *Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the proposed project from existing entitlements and*  
19 *resources, or would new or expanded entitlements be needed?*

20 The discussion for the San Francisco Bay Area Network also applies to the Los Angeles Basin  
21 Network.

22 e. *Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the*  
23 *proposed project that it has adequate capacity to serve the proposed project's proposed projected*  
24 *demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

25 The discussion of the San Francisco Bay Area Network also applies to the Los Angeles Basin  
26 Network.

27 f. *Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the proposed project's solid*  
28 *waste disposal needs?*

29 The discussion of the San Francisco Bay Area Network also applies to the Los Angeles Basin  
30 Network.

31 g. *Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

32 The impact and mitigation would be the same for the Los Angeles Basin Network as for the San  
33 Francisco Bay Area Network. Please refer to Impact and Mitigation Measure UTIL-1.