

## 4. Environmental Impact Assessment

### 4.14 Public Services

This section discusses the existing public services within the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Where specific information pertaining to public services in the City of Ridgecrest area could be obtained, it has been included in this section. When such information was not available, more general information for Kern and San Bernardino Counties is provided.

#### 4.14.1 Environmental Setting

##### 4.14.1.1 Schools

The Sierra Sands Unified School District operates five elementary schools, two middle schools, two high schools, and one adult school in Ridgecrest, and one elementary school in Inyokern. There are also five private or parochial schools in Ridgecrest. The Trona Joint Unified School District operates one elementary school and one middle/high school in Trona. The locations of these schools in relation to the components of the Proposed Project are shown in [Figure 4.14-1](#).

##### 4.14.1.2 Health Facilities

Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, an 80-bed facility, is located approximately 1.5 miles from the existing Downs Substation.

##### 4.14.1.3 Fire and Police Services

The Kern County Fire Department operates two stations in Ridgecrest; Fire Station 74 is located approximately one mile from Downs Substation, and Fire Station 77 is located approximately 1.5 miles from the substation. Fire Station 73 is located in Inyokern. The San Bernardino County Fire Department operates Fire Stations 126 and 127 in Trona.

Police services are provided by the City of Ridgecrest and the Kern County Sheriff. The City of Ridgecrest Police Department and the Kern County Sheriff's Ridgecrest substation are both located approximately one mile from Downs Substation. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department provides police services from its Trona Substation.

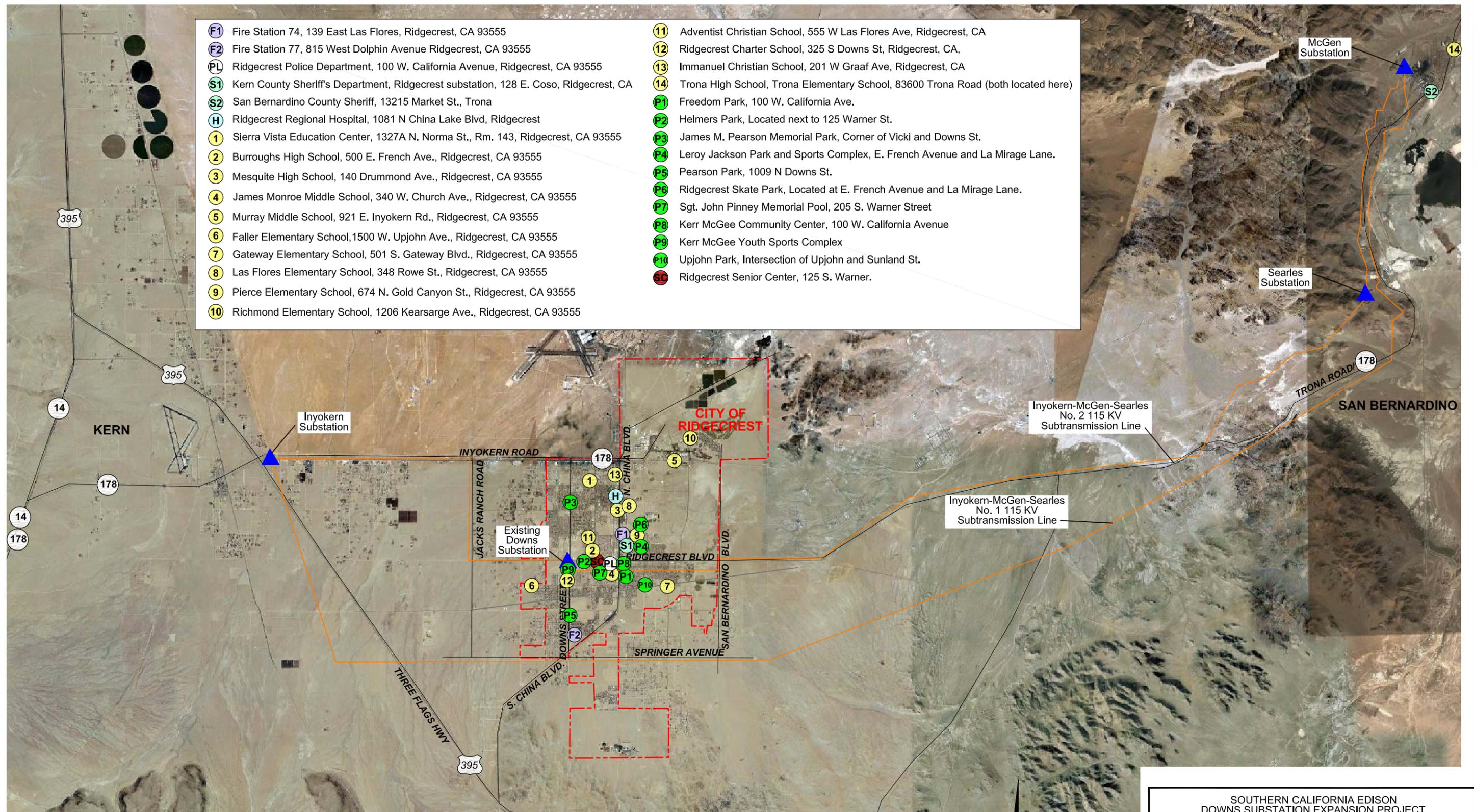
#### 4.14.2 Regulatory Setting

##### 4.14.2.1 Federal

No Federal regulations related to public services are applicable to the Proposed Project.

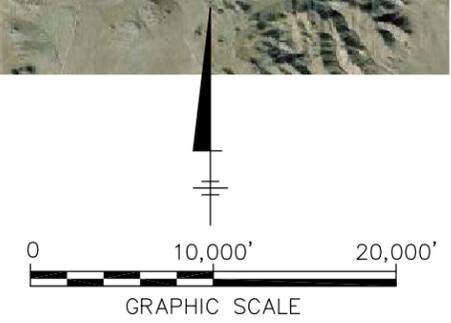
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|---|---|
| (F1) Fire Station 74, 139 East Las Flores, Ridgecrest, CA 93555                           | (11) Adventist Christian School, 555 W Las Flores Ave, Ridgecrest, CA                 |
| (F2) Fire Station 77, 815 West Dolphin Avenue Ridgecrest, CA 93555                        | (12) Ridgecrest Charter School, 325 S Downs St, Ridgecrest, CA,                       |
| (PL) Ridgecrest Police Department, 100 W. California Avenue, Ridgecrest, CA 93555         | (13) Immanuel Christian School, 201 W Graaf Ave, Ridgecrest, CA                       |
| (S1) Kern County Sheriff's Department, Ridgecrest substation, 128 E. Coso, Ridgecrest, CA | (14) Trona High School, Trona Elementary School, 83600 Trona Road (both located here) |
| (S2) San Bernardino County Sheriff, 13215 Market St., Trona                               | (P1) Freedom Park, 100 W. California Ave.   |
| (H) Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, 1081 N China Lake Blvd, Ridgecrest                      | (P2) Helmers Park, Located next to 125 Warner St.                                     |
| (1) Sierra Vista Education Center, 1327A N. Norma St., Rm. 143, Ridgecrest, CA 93555      | (P3) James M. Pearson Memorial Park, Corner of Vicki and Downs St.                    |
| (2) Burroughs High School, 500 E. French Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555                       | (P4) Leroy Jackson Park and Sports Complex, E. French Avenue and La Mirage Lane.      |
| (3) Mesquite High School, 140 Drummond Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555                         | (P5) Pearson Park, 1009 N Downs St.   |
| (4) James Monroe Middle School, 340 W. Church Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555                  | (P6) Ridgecrest Skate Park, Located at E. French Avenue and La Mirage Lane.           |
| (5) Murray Middle School, 921 E. Inyokern Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555                       | (P7) Sgt. John Pinney Memorial Pool, 205 S. Warner Street                             |
| (6) Faller Elementary School, 1500 W. Upjohn Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555                   | (P8) Kerr McGee Community Center, 100 W. California Avenue                            |
| (7) Gateway Elementary School, 501 S. Gateway Blvd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555                 | (P9) Kerr McGee Youth Sports Complex  |
| (8) Las Flores Elementary School, 348 Rowe St., Ridgecrest, CA 93555                      | (P10) Upjohn Park, Intersection of Upjohn and Sunland St.                             |
| (9) Pierce Elementary School, 674 N. Gold Canyon St., Ridgecrest, CA 93555                | (SC) Ridgecrest Senior Center, 125 S. Warner.   |
| (10) Richmond Elementary School, 1206 Kearsarge Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555                |   |



- LEGEND**
- CITY OF RIDGECREST
  - SUBTRANSMISSION/TELECOM LINE LOOP
  - ▲ SUBSTATION

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| (1) SCHOOL   | (SC) SENIOR CENTER |
| (H) HOSPITAL | (S1) SHERIFF       |
| (P) PARK     | (F1) FIRE STATION  |
| (PL) POLICE  |                    |



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON  
DOWNS SUBSTATION EXPANSION PROJECT  
KERN AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA  
**PROPONENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**LOCATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATIONAL AREAS IN RELATION TO PROPOSED PROJECT**

FIGURE  
**4.14-1**

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### 4.14.2.2 State

*California Fire Code, Section 902.2.2.1*—Requires fire apparatus access roads to have a minimum unobstructed width of 20 feet. Other state regulations are related to health, fire, and building safety, including the California Health Code, the California Fire Code, and the Uniform Building Code.

### 4.14.2.3 Local

Local regulations are addressed through CEQA.

### 4.14.3 Significance Criteria

The significance criteria for assessing the impacts to public services are drawn from the CEQA Environmental Checklist. A project causes a potentially significant impact if it would:

- 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: Fire protection; Police protection; Schools; Parks; or other public facilities.

### 4.14.4 Impact Assessment

Construction and operation of the Proposed Project would result in no impacts for the following CEQA criteria:

*Would the Proposed Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the 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: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities?*

**No Impact.** Activities during the construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not require expansion of fire and police protection, schools, parks or other public facilities. As discussed in the Population and Housing section, the Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce any population growth, and thus it would not create an additional demand for police or fire services, an increase in school enrollment, or an increase in the use of parks or other public facilities.

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The construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not result in additional demand for police or fire services as a result of construction or operations activities. If necessary, SCE would hire private security to guard construction-related staging yards. Construction and operations activities would be conducted according to SCE standard health and safety protocols and fire prevention protocols.

The Proposed Project would utilize a traffic control service and all activities in or affecting a public street ROW would be conducted consistent with local ordinances. Traffic control measures would be consistent with those published in the California Joint Utility Traffic Control Manual (2010).

Therefore, no impacts would occur under this criterion as a result of the Proposed Project.

### 4.14.5 Applicant Proposed Measures

Because the Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to public services, no Applicant Proposed Measures are offered.

## REFERENCES

City of Ridgecrest. 2010. Kern County Fire Department stations webpage. Accessed at:  
<http://ci.ridgecrest.ca.us/index.aspx?id=2356>.

City of Ridgecrest. 2010. Police Department webpage. Accessed at:  
<http://ci.ridgecrest.ca.us/police.aspx?id=190>.

Kern County Sheriff's Office. 2010. Ridgecrest Substation webpage. Accessed at:  
<http://www.kernsheriff.com/FieldOps/Substations/Ridgecrest/Pages/default.aspx>.

Sierra Sands Unified School District. 2010. Schools webpage. Accessed at:  
<http://www.ssusd.org/SubPage.aspx?PageID=5>.