

3.16 Utilities and Service Systems

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</u>	<u>Less Than Significant Impact</u>	<u>No Impact</u>
16. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS—Would the project:				
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 that would 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

3.16.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project parallels numerous public utility and services systems, including water, sewer, solid waste, electric and natural gas in the study area.

Water Service

Water service in the study area is provided by the San Benito County Water District (SBCWD) and the Sunnyslope County Water District. There are also a number of private wells within the study area.

The SBCWD is a special district whose service area includes all of San Benito County, with an area of approximately 1,400 square miles and a population of over 55,000 people. Water is delivered to SBCWD customers through the Central Valley Project, which is a federal project that stores water in reservoirs in Northern California and delivers this water to cities and farms throughout California. The SBCWD serves the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista (SBCWD, 2010) as well as Tres Pinos and unincorporated urban areas surrounding Hollister.

The Sunnyslope County Water District is a special district that provides local service in accordance with the California State Water Code. The district relies on its wells and surface water to serve more than 5,200 customers within the Hollister area (Sunnyslope County Water District, 2010).

Waste Water Service

The majority of the Proposed Project would be located within rural unincorporated areas of San Benito County and Monterey County. These areas generally lack sanitary service infrastructure and therefore rely on individual or community septic systems. Some sewer services are available in more developed areas near the Proposed Project and are provided by the Sunnyslope County Water District (Sunnyslope County Water District, 2010).

Solid Waste and Recycling Service

Private haulers licensed throughout San Benito and Monterey counties provide solid waste and disposal services to unincorporated areas of the counties. Solid waste generated within the study area would primarily be disposed of in the John Smith Class III Landfill, the Johnson Canyon Sanitary Landfill or the Monterey Regional Waste Management Landfill. **Table 3.16-1** lists the total and remaining capacities of these landfills.

**TABLE 3.16-1
 COUNTY LANDFILL REMAINING ESTIMATED CAPACITY**

Landfill	County	Total Estimated Permitted Capacity (cubic yards)	Total Estimated Capacity Used (cubic yards)	Remaining Estimated Capacity (cubic yards)	Estimated Year to Close
Monterey Regional Waste Management Landfill	Monterey	49,700,000	1,140,000 (2.3%)	48,560,000 (97.7%)	2107
Johnson Canyon Sanitary Landfill	Monterey	13,834,328	6,911,031 (50%)	6,923,297 (50%)	2040
John Smith Road Class III Landfill	San Benito	4,625,827	1,030,928 (22.3%)	3,594,899 (77.7%)	2024

SOURCE: CIWMB, 2009a.

Electricity and Natural Gas

PG&E provides electricity and natural gas throughout San Benito County and Monterey County.

3.16.2 Regulatory Setting

State

Protection of Underground Infrastructure

Section 1, Chapter 3.1 “Protection of Underground Infrastructure,” Article 2 of California Government Code 4216 requires that utility operators and other excavators must contact a regional notification center at least two days prior to excavation of any subsurface installations. The notification center for southern California is Underground Service Alert. Any utility provider seeking to begin an excavation project must call Underground Service Alert’s toll-free hotline. In turn, Underground Service Alert will notify the utilities that may have buried lines within 1,000 feet of the excavation. Representatives of the utilities are required to mark the specific location of their facilities within the work area prior to the start of excavation. The excavator is required to probe and expose the underground facilities by hand prior to using power equipment.

Assembly Bill 939

Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939), enacted in 1989 and known as the Integrated Waste Management Act, required each city and/or county’s Source Reduction and Recycling Element to reduce the amount of waste being disposed to landfills, with diversion goals of 50 percent by the year 2000. The unincorporated area of Monterey County’s diversion rate in 2006 was 54 percent (CIWMB, 2009b); therefore the County met the requirement of AB 939. In unincorporated San Benito County, the diversion rate in 2006 was 47 percent (CIWMB, 2009b); therefore, San Benito County did not meet the requirement of AB 939.

Regional

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQB) has jurisdiction over a 300-mile long by 40-mile wide section of the State’s central coast. Its geographic area encompasses all of Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties as well as the southern one-third of Santa Clara County, and small portions of San Mateo, Kern, and Ventura Counties. The CCRWQB is responsible for: preparing new or revised policies to address region-wide water quality concerns; adopting, monitoring compliance with, and enforcing waste discharge requirements and NPDES permits; providing recommendations to the State Board on financial assistance programs, proposals for water diversion, budget development, and other statewide programs and policies; coordinating with other public agencies which are concerned with water quality control; and informing and involving the public on water quality issues.

Local

San Benito County

Section 15.01.046 of the San Benito County Code requires that no building permits be issued until a solid waste diversion plan has been submitted to and approved by the Integrated Waste Management Department. Permittees are required to divert a minimum of 50 percent of their construction or demolition waste from disposal. If the 50 percent diversion rate is not achieved, permittees must pay the County of San Benito an amount equal to the rate per ton of disposal of mixed waste at the John Smith Road Landfill existing at the time the penalty is calculated times the number of tons of waste that were not properly diverted as required by the ordinance (San Benito County, 2010).

Monterey County

Chapter 10.41 of the Monterey County Code outlines regulations for solid waste collection and disposal. It does not set forth specific diversion requirements for solid waste associated with construction and demolition debris (Monterey County, 2010).

3.16.3 Applicant Proposed Measures

PG&E proposes the following applicant proposed measures (APMs) to minimize impacts on utilities and service systems from the Proposed Project. The impact analysis in this IS/MND assumes that these APMs would be implemented to reduce impacts to utilities and service systems discussed below.

APM PU-1: Conduct a pre-construction records search/field survey to identify specific locations of water wells and well fields. To ensure minimal disturbance or alteration of water wells or well fields within the project alignment, PG&E will conduct a pre-construction records search and field survey to identify specific locations of water wells and well fields.

APM PU-2: Notify Underground Service Alert at least two days prior to initiation of construction activities in the underground portion of the power line. PG&E will ensure that Underground Service Alert is notified at least two days prior to initiation of construction activities of the underground portion of the power line. Underground Service Alert verifies and physically marks the location of all existing underground utilities in the area of anticipated construction activities to prevent accidental disturbance.

3.16.4 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board: *NO IMPACT.*

The Proposed Project would have no impact on the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's wastewater treatment requirements. Portable toilets would be used during construction; related waste would be disposed of at a publicly or privately owned sewage treatment plant. The number of workers present at the peak construction time would be about 56 people per day.

Construction activities would be temporary, lasting approximately 15 months, and would not result in additional staffing at the substation or along the proposed power line alignments. Accordingly, wastewater generated during construction would be limited and self-contained and no additional wastewater would be generated during operation or maintenance of the Proposed Project. Accordingly, the Proposed Project would have no impact on the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board's wastewater treatment requirements. See also, e) below.

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: *NO IMPACT.*

The Proposed Project would not require or result in the construction of new or expansion of existing water facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts. No water facilities would be developed as part of the Proposed Project and no construction, operations or maintenance-related activity is expected to displace or destroy any existing water wells, pipelines or other facilities that provide water or wastewater service in the study area. Furthermore, PG&E has committed to conducting a preconstruction records search and field survey to identify specific locations of water wells and well fields to avoid or minimize disturbance to such facilities.

The Proposed Project would require water use during construction, primarily for periodic dust control on access roads. However, this water use would be temporary in nature and would not generate wastewater that would require treatment or disposal. Operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project would not require the use of water, and would therefore not create any demand for wastewater treatment or disposal. Consequently, the Proposed Project would not require or result in the construction of new or expanded water or wastewater treatment plant facilities; therefore, no impact would occur. See also, d) and e) below.

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: *NO IMPACT.*

The Proposed Project would require the removal of 36 double circuit lattice towers and installation of 37 new double lattice towers within existing ROW, and would require the removal of 154 poles and installation of approximately 135 light-duty steel (LDS) poles and 30 tubular steel poles (TSPs) along the existing and new ROW. For the towers and poles that would be removed, holes would be filled and compacted, and the area would be smoothed to match surrounding grade. Permanent access roads would be designed to meet local government requirements, which may involve drainage standards. The net increase in impervious surfaces would be limited because new access roads would not be paved; therefore, the only new impervious surfaces would be those associated with TSP foundations and tower footings.

The Proposed Project would include modifications to the Hollister Substation that would consist of relocating two existing poles on the substation property, updating relay settings, and changing the 115 kV bus conductors. However, all of the substation modifications would occur within the

existing fence line of the substation. Consequently, none of these modifications would substantially increase runoff.

Since the Proposed Project would not substantially increase the amount of impervious surfaces, it would not create a substantial amount of additional runoff water. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not require or result in the construction of a new or expansion of an existing storm drainage facility, and no impact would occur.

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed: *NO IMPACT.*

Operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project would not require the use of water. The primary use of water during construction of the Proposed Project would be for dust suppression on access roads. Such water would be trucked in from off-site. A small amount of water would also be available during construction for fire suppression. Workers would bring in drinking water from off-site. Water used during the construction period would be available from existing sources and would not require local water providers to obtain additional water entitlements. The amount of water required for construction of the Proposed Project would be negligible and no new or expanded water entitlements would be needed. Accordingly, the Proposed Project would have no impact associated with water supplies.

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that would serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments: *NO IMPACT.*

As described in d), the primary use of water during construction of the Proposed Project would be for dust suppression on access roads. Disposal would not be required because the water used during dust suppression activities would be minimal and would evaporate or be absorbed into the ground. In addition, construction crews would use portable toilets, generating relatively small volumes of wastewater for a limited time. Sanitation waste would be disposed of according to sanitation waste management practices. No other sources of wastewater are anticipated during the Proposed Project construction activities, and operation of the Proposed Project would not require the use of water. The negligible amount of water used during construction would not affect the wastewater treatment facilities' abilities to serve the Proposed Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments; therefore, no impact on wastewater treatment capacity would occur.

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs: *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.*

Operation of the Proposed Project would not generate solid waste and would therefore not affect existing landfill capacities. Construction of the Proposed Project would generate various waste materials, largely in the form of utility line cables, scrap metal from the replacement of existing towers and substation modifications, soil and vegetation.

The Proposed Project would require the removal and disposal of approximately 36 existing 115 kV lattice steel towers and associated hardware (i.e., insulators, vibration dampeners, suspension clamps, ground wire clamps, shackles, links, nuts, bolts, washers, cotter pins, insulator weights, and bond wires), approximately 154 existing single circuit poles, and the top section of the approximately 17 wood poles to be topped. Existing wood poles to be removed and the 15 wood poles used for temporary shoo-fly connections would either be reused, or if demand does not exist for these poles, they would be disposed of in an appropriate landfill with sufficient capacity to accept the material. Depending on how the poles were initially treated, they may need to be disposed of in a Class I hazardous waste facility, or in the lined portion of a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) certified municipal landfill. Other miscellaneous non-hazardous construction materials that cannot be reused or recycled would be disposed of at municipal county landfills, such as the Monterey Regional Waste Management Landfill, and the Johnson Canyon Sanitary Landfill in Monterey County, as well as the John Smith Road Class III Landfill in San Benito County. Any hazardous material would be recycled, treated and/or disposed of in accordance with federal and local laws (see Section 3.7, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, for additional information).

Soil and vegetative matter from excavations and land-clearing for new tower foundations and poles would be screened and separated for use as backfill material at the project sites to the maximum extent possible. Soils and vegetative matter unsuitable for backfill use would be disposed of at appropriate disposal sites.

Each of the Monterey County and San Benito County landfills have remaining permitted capacity, as indicated in Table 3.16-1. Because the majority of waste resulting from the removal of lattice steel towers and wood poles would be salvageable, and because the local landfills would have sufficient capacity to accept the remaining construction waste, the Proposed Project would be served by a landfill(s) with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs; impacts would be less than significant.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste: *NO IMPACT.*

As discussed above, the Proposed Project would generate some waste during construction and no waste during operations and maintenance. Construction waste would include disposal of a limited amount of material that could not be recycled or reused. The construction waste generated would be minimal and PG&E would dispose of the waste in an appropriate landfill. As discussed above, landfills within the study area have sufficient capacity to accept anticipated project waste.

As discussed previously, the San Benito County Code has established an ordinance requiring that at least 50 percent of construction and demolition debris be diverted from landfills. The Monterey County Code also regulates solid waste collection and disposal but has not set specific performance goals for construction and demolition debris. PG&E would reduce its construction material and treated wood pole waste through the measures described above in f), consistent with Monterey County and San Benito County recycling and reduction policies.

Therefore, the Proposed Project would comply with federal, State and local requirements governing solid waste and no impact associated with such compliance would occur.

References

- California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), 2009a. *California Waste Stream Profiles: Facilities*. <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Facility/Landfill/Default.asp>, accessed June 30, 2009.
- California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), 2009b. *Countywide, Regionwide, and Statewide Jurisdiction Diversion Progress Report, Consolidated Waste Management Authority*. <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/LGTools/mars/jurdrsta.asp>, accessed June 30, 2009.
- Monterey County, 2010. *Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.41, Solid Waste Collection and Disposal*. <http://search.municode.com/html/16111/index.html>, accessed March 11, 2010.
- San Benito County, 2010. *Code of Ordinances, Section 15.01.046, Building Permits; Diversion Plans*. <http://www.amlegal.com/library/ca/sanbenitoco.shtml>, accessed March 11, 2010.
- San Benito County Water District (SBCWD), 2010. Website (<http://www.sbcwd.com/>), accessed February 17, 2010.
- Sunnyslope County Water District, 2010. Website (<http://www.sscwd.org/index.html>), accessed February 17, 2010.