

2.16 Utilities and Service Systems

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
16. UTILITIES AND SERVICES SYSTEMS— Would the project:				
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Contact and/or disturb underground utility lines and/or facilities during construction activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.16.1 Setting

The substations and the transmission line corridor parallel numerous public utility and service systems, including water lines, sewer lines, electric lines, natural gas lines, and telecommunications lines. A variety of entities operate these systems and provide services to residents and businesses in the vicinity of the project area.

Water Service

Water service in Sonoma County is provided by the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), which serves over 570,000 residents in Sonoma and Marin counties. SCWA's customers include eight cities and special districts in Sonoma and northern Marin Counties including the Valley of the Moon Water District (VMWD), which serves the Lakeville Substation and the City of Sonoma, which serves the Sonoma Substation (SCWA, 2005).

The VMWD serves a total area of approximately 7,200 acres and currently serves a population of about 23,000 persons with approximately 6,700 total accounts. Almost 90 percent of the water is purchased from the Sonoma County Water Agency via their Russian River facilities. The remaining water is produced from municipal wells used primarily in the summer months to supplement the purchased water during peak use periods (VMWD, 2005).

The City of Sonoma Public Works division is responsible for administering the City's public works program including the provision of domestic water service to its residents and businesses (City of Sonoma, 2005).

Sanitary Sewer Service

The SCWA is responsible for the management of Sonoma County's 11 sanitation zones and districts, which provide wastewater treatment, reclamation, and disposal for approximately 22,000 residences and businesses. The project area is within the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, which began operation in 1977 and serves an area of approximately 4,500 acres. The Sonoma Valley treatment plant is a secondary treatment plant with a design capacity of 10.5 million gallons per day (average daily dry weather flow) (SCWA, 2005).

Electric and Natural Gas Service

PG&E provides electric and natural gas service to residents and businesses in the city of Sonoma and unincorporated Sonoma County.

Cable and Telephone Service

Comcast provides cable service to residents and businesses in Sonoma County. SBC provides telephone service and access to local and long distance carriers to the project area.

Solid Waste and Recycling Service

Various entities have jurisdictional responsibility for solid waste management in Sonoma County. The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA), formed by a Joint Powers Agreement among the County and the Cities, provides public information and education programs, diversion programs, implement regional composting, and countywide household hazardous waste programs.

Sonoma Garbage Collector provides solid waste collection services to the City of Sonoma and service is provided to the unincorporated portions of the project area by Larry's Sanitary Service and Empire Waste Management.

There are currently two permitted disposal sites (Central Landfill and Santa Rosa Geothermal WMU Disposal Site) and six permitted transfer stations (Occidental Transfer Station, West College Transfer Station, Guerneville Transfer Station, Sonoma Transfer Station, Healdsburg Transfer Station, and Annapolis Transfer Station) operating in Sonoma County.

The project area is served by the Central Landfill and the Sonoma Transfer Station. The Central Landfill is located at 500 Meham Road in Petaluma and has a permitted area of 398.5 acres. The Landfill is permitted to accept 2,500 tons per day and currently has an average daily loading of about 1,461 tons per day. The Sonoma Transfer Station is located at 4376 Stage Gulch Road in Sonoma and has a permitted area of 4.96 acres. Permitted daily capacity at the Sonoma Transfer Station is 760 tons per day; average daily loading is approximately 247 tons per day currently (SCWMA, 2003).

2.16.2 Regulatory Context

State

Assembly Bill 939

Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939), enacted in 1989, required each city and/or county's Source Reduction and Recycling Element to include an implementation schedule for the following: a 25 percent diversion of all solid waste from landfill disposal or transformation by January 1, 1995, through source reduction, recycling, and composting activities, followed by a 50 percent reduction to the waste stream by January 1, 2000. The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, which includes the City of Sonoma and Sonoma County, currently has a diversion rate of about 35 percent (CIWMB, 2005).

Local

Sonoma County General Plan

The Sonoma County General Plan contains the following goals, objectives, and policies that could be applicable to the Proposed Project:

- Policy PF-1a: Plan, design and construct sewer and water services in accordance with projected growth...
- Policy PF-1f: Use water effectively and reduce water and wastewater system demand...
- Objective PF-2.9: Use the County Integrated Waste Management Plan as the policy document for solid waste management in the county.
- Objective PF-2.10: Locate and design public utility transmission, distribution, and maintenance facilities to minimize adverse effects on natural and scenic resources. (Sonoma County PRMD, 1989)

City of Sonoma General Plan

The City of Sonoma General Plan does not contain any applicable utilities and service systems policies.

Sonoma County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan

In accordance with AB 939, the SCWMA has prepared the Sonoma County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan to demonstrate reduction of the amount of solid waste disposed of in landfills, long-term ability to ensure the implementation of countywide diversion programs, and provision of adequate disposal capacity for local jurisdictions through the siting of disposal and transformation facilities. The following objectives contained in this Plan could be applicable to the Proposed Project:

- The SCWMA, County and the Cities will encourage innovative and creative methods and consider funding for waste prevention (source reduction), recycling, and education that will benefit the community and the environment.
- The SCWMA, County and the Cities will encourage and support the use of waste minimization practices for business, government agencies, and the public by distributing information on the availability of waste minimization options.
- The County and the Cities will achieve a 50 percent diversion of wastes being disposed of in County landfills by the year 2003 and a 70 percent diversion rate by 2015 based on 1990 rates.
- The SCWMA will encourage and support the recovery, repair, and resale of discarded items by distributing information on these waste management options.
- The SCWMA, County and the Cities will promote recycling of construction and demolition debris through education, regulation and economic incentives.
- The County will provide alternative disposal options for recyclable items or materials such as, but not limited to, yard debris, recyclable wood waste, whole tires, and appliances and ban the landfill disposal of these items. (SCWMA, 2003)

2.16.3 Utilities and Service Systems Impacts and Mitigation Measures

- a) **Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board: *less than significant impact*. See discussion under e).**
- 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: *less than significant impacts***

As described in d), below, the primary use of water during construction and operation of the transmission line would be for dust suppression measures on PG&E's access roads. Because the water used during dust suppression activities would be minimal and because this water would evaporate or be absorbed by the ground, disposal would not be required. Any water used during the construction or operation would be minimal and would not

result in a determination by a wastewater treatment provider that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments. In addition, the project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. Therefore, this would be a less than significant impact.

- 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: *less than significant impact.***

As described in d), below, water use and wastewater that would be generated by the Proposed Project would be minimal and therefore, the project itself would not require or result in the construction of a new or expanded water or wastewater treatment plant facilities.

- 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: *less than significant impact.***

Proposed Project

The Proposed Project would include the removal of ~~117~~ approximately 97 poles and the installation of ~~99~~ approximately 80 poles. Poles 33 through 39 would be replaced in essentially the same location. Most of ~~these 99~~ the other new poles would be placed ~~about~~ within 20 feet away from where an ~~the~~ existing poles would be removed, with a few new poles placed more than 35 feet from where an existing pole would be removed.; ~~however Poles 33 through 39 would be replaced in essentially the same location. For the 92 poles that would be~~ Where an existing pole is removed and not replaced in their ~~the~~ same location, a backhoe and dumptruck would backfill the hole with imported gravel. The top 12 inches of each hole would be backfilled with soil removed from project construction activities. The surface would be revegetated with appropriate revegetation seed mix.

~~Thus~~ Overall, the project would result in ~~33~~ approximately 17 fewer pole footings than under existing conditions. The new pole footings would cover a slightly larger surface area; however, there would be less overall pole footing coverage. The substation improvements would require the construction of a relatively small additional concrete foundation pad within the existing substation property. In total, the Proposed Project would result in a net increase in impervious surfaces of approximately 0.39 acres. The addition of 0.39 acres of impervious surfaces would not be significant. Since the Proposed Project would not substantially increase the amount of impervious surfaces, it would not substantially increase runoff nor create a substantial amount of additional runoff water. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not require or result in the construction of a new or expanded storm water drainage facility. See Section 2.8, *Hydrology and Water Quality* for additional information.

Mitigation Measure 2.1-1

~~With implementation of Mitigation 2.1-1, 11 of the 99 poles that would be replaced under the Proposed Project would not be replaced under this mitigation. Thus, under this mitigation, there would be 22 fewer new pole footings than under existing conditions (11 less than under the project). In total, with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.1-1, there would be a net increase in impervious surfaces of slightly less than the 0.39 acres that would result. This addition of impervious surfaces would not be significant and would not substantially increase runoff nor create a substantial amount of additional runoff water. Therefore, the under Mitigation Measure 2.1-1, the construction of a new or expanded storm water drainage facility would not be required.~~

- d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed: *less than significant impact.***

The primary use of water during operation of the transmission line would be for dust suppression measures on PG&E's access roads. The water that would be required for operation of the transmission line would most likely be trucked in from off-site. Dust suppression would be performed as necessary and is not anticipated to occur on a regular basis. Water used for operation of the transmission line would normally be purchased from a local water utility. Because use of domestic water is not anticipated to be used on a regular basis and would only be used as necessary to control dust on PG&E's access roads, the amount of water required by operation of the transmission line would be minimal.

Construction of the proposed transmission line would also require the use of minimal amounts of water. Any water used during the construction period would be available from existing municipal water sources and would not require local water providers to obtain additional water entitlements.

- f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs: *less than significant impact.***

Construction activities would result in the generation of construction waste material. As this generated waste would not be substantial and the generation would be only short-term, existing landfills would have adequate capacity for the disposal of this construction waste.

In addition, the project would require the removal and disposal of approximately 117 wood poles and 11 wood pole tops, which would be disposed of in accordance with PG&E's treated wood protocol (see **Appendix D**). In total, there would be an estimated 600 cubic yards of wood pole material to be reused or disposed of. PG&E would either make the poles available for reuse or, if demand does not exist for the poles, would dispose of them in an appropriate landfill that has sufficient capacity to accept the

material. The Central Disposal Site in Sonoma County currently has a remaining permitted capacity of 11.2 million cubic yards and is not estimated to close until 2014. In addition, PG&E could dispose of the poles in other appropriate landfill locations in nearby counties that have sufficient capacity to accept the waste. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not adversely impact existing capacities of landfills.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste: *less than significant impact.*

The Proposed Project would only generate construction waste and the one time disposal of wood poles that cannot be reused; operation of the transmission line is not anticipated to result in the generation of additional solid waste. The construction waste generated would be minimal and PG&E would dispose of the waste in an appropriate landfill with sufficient capacity to accept the waste.

The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency currently has a diversion rate of about 35 percent, which does not meet the requirements of AB 939. However, the County has a Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan to address this shortfall. The project would generate only a small amount of waste and this generation would be on a one-time basis (as opposed to continual generation). Additionally, PG&E would attempt to make the poles available for reuse to limit the volume sent to the landfill. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not be in conflict with any statutes and/or regulations related to solid waste.

h) Contact and/or disturb underground utility lines and/or facilities during construction activities: *less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.*

~~Implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.1-1 would result in the~~ The new 115 kV single-circuit transmission line ~~to be~~ would be undergrounded beneath Leveroni Road from approximately Fifth Street West to the Sonoma Substation (see **Figure 2.1-4**). Construction activities associated with ~~implementation of this mitigation measure~~ undergrounding this portion of the line could inadvertently contact underground utility lines and/or facilities during underground construction, possibly leading to short-term utility service interruptions.

Impact 2.16-1: Construction activities associated with ~~Mitigation Measure 2.1-1~~ undergrounding a portion of the new transmission line along Leveroni Road could inadvertently contact underground utility lines and/or facilities during underground construction, possibly leading to short-term utility service interruptions. This would be a less than significant impact with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.16-1.

Mitigation Measure 2.16-1: PG&E shall ensure that Underground Service Alert is notified at least 14 days prior to initiation of construction activities of the underground portion of the transmission line. Underground Service Alert verifies the location of all existing underground utilities and alerts the other utilities to mark

their facilities in the area of anticipated construction activities. Compliance with this measure shall be verified by the CPUC mitigation monitor.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

References – Utilities and Service Systems

- California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), 2005. *Jurisdiction Profile for Sonoma County Waste Management Agency*, <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Juris/JurProfile2.asp?RG=R&JURID=503&JUR=Sonoma+County+Waste+Management+Agency>, accessed June 14, 2005.
- City of Sonoma, 2005. <http://www.sonomacity.org>, accessed May 20, 2005.
- Sonoma County Water Agency (SWCA), 2005. <http://www.scwa.ca.gov>, accessed May 20, 2005.
- Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (Sonoma County PRMD), 1989. *1989 Sonoma County General Plan*, adopted March 23, 1989.
- Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA), 2003. *Sonoma County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan*, October 15, 2003.
- Valley of the Moon Water District (VMWD), 2005. <http://www.vomwd.com/>, accessed May 20, 2005.