

2.13 Public Services

<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>
13. PUBLIC SERVICES—Would the proposed project:				
a) 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:				
i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.13.1 Setting

The Lakeville Substation and a majority of the proposed transmission line corridor are within Sonoma County’s jurisdiction. The Sonoma Substation and the 0.5-mile easternmost segment of the transmission line corridor are within the City of Sonoma. Therefore, this section describes the public services and facilities within the City of Sonoma and Sonoma County.

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

City of Sonoma

The Sonoma Fire Department (SFD) provides fire protection and prehospital medical services in the City of Sonoma. SFD’s current staffing consists of the fire chief, two assistant chiefs, three captains, eight firefighters/paramedics, one firefighter/emergency medical technicians (EMTs), three paramedics, and three EMTs. The SFD is also staffed with 20 volunteer firefighters and 45 part-time paramedics and EMTs (City of Sonoma, 2005a).

Sonoma County

Sonoma County contracts with various municipal and district fire agencies to provide backup services to volunteer companies (Sonoma County PRMD, 1989). The Sonoma County Fire Services Division coordinates all fire service activities in the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County. The Division responds to emergency incidents as part of the Hazardous Materials Response Team, Fire Investigation Task Force, Emergency Operations Center staff and for fire ground supervision, along with local fire agencies and the State Department of Forestry (Sonoma County, 2005a). The Schellvista Fire District provides fire protection services to the

unincorporated portions of the City of Sonoma planning area that includes the project area. Due to the size of the area and the all-volunteer nature of the Schellvista Fire District, first vehicle response time is usually seven to fifteen minutes (City of Sonoma, 1995). Lakeville Station and Rancho Adobe Station provide fire protection and emergency medical response services to the project area that covers the transmission line alignment (Chase, 2005).

Police Protection

City of Sonoma

The City of Sonoma Police Department provides police protection services in the City of Sonoma that includes the project area (City of Sonoma, 1995). The Sonoma Police Department provides a base staffing level of eleven sworn deputies, including the Chief of Police, two sergeants, and eight officers. Additional support staff includes one secretary and two community service officers (City of Sonoma, 2005b). The closest Sonoma Police Department station to the project area is located at 175 First Street West in the City of Sonoma. The Department provides police services through a contract with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department; therefore all police dispatches are conducted from the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office in Santa Rosa (Meininger, 2005).

Sonoma County

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Department provides police protection services and is responsible for primary law enforcement services of the unincorporated Sonoma County area. These law enforcement services are provided by approximately 135 deputy sheriffs in the Patrol Bureau, 48 deputies in the Investigations Bureau, and 35 deputies assigned to the Court Security and Transportation Bureaus (Sonoma County, 2005b). The Sonoma Valley Police Substation located at 16715 Sonoma Highway in Sonoma currently provides police services to the project area (Mikan, 2005).

Schools

Sonoma Valley Unified School District provides public school education services in the vicinity of the project area. Nearby schools in the City of Sonoma include Creekside High School located at 950 Broadway (approximately 0.6 miles to the north of the Sonoma Substation), Adele Harrison Middle School located at 1150 Broadway (approximately 0.3 miles to the north of the Sonoma Substation), Prestwood Elementary School located at 343 East MacArthur (approximately 0.6 miles to the northeast of the Sonoma Substation), Sassarini Elementary School located at 652 Fifth Street West (approximately 0.8 miles to the northeast of the Sonoma Substation), and Sonoma Valley High School located at 20000 Broadway (approximately 0.5 miles to the northeast of the Sonoma Substation). Casa Grande and Sonoma Mountain High Schools in the City of Petaluma are located over a mile to the west of the Lakeville Substation.

Parks and Recreation

Parks located in the project area within the City of Sonoma are Hertenstein Park, Carter Park, Nathanson Creek Park / Roland Hauk Nature area, and Madera Park. See Section 2.14, *Recreation*, for additional information.

2.13.2 Regulatory Context

City of Sonoma

The City of Sonoma General Plan Public Safety Element (PSE) (1995) lists the following goals and policies that could be applicable to the Proposed Project.

- Goal PSE-2: Minimize hazards posed by fires, hazardous materials, and medical incidents and maintain a level of protection which safeguards life and property at a reasonable cost.
- Policy 6: The City Fire Department shall review and evaluate all development proposals in terms of adequacy of fire protection using, at a minimum, the following criteria applicable to the proposed project:
 - Acceptable response time;
 - Adequate emergency access, water supply, and fire flow;
 - Proper vegetation clearance and visible addressing.
- Goal PSE-4: Ensure that essential emergency and public services will function effectively in a disaster.
- Policy 16: The City of Sonoma shall use the Standardized Emergency Management System as the basis of its emergency planning (City of Sonoma, 1995).

Sonoma County

The Public Facilities (PF) element in the Sonoma County General Plan (1989) provides the following goals and objectives that could be applicable to public services related to the Proposed Project.

- Goal PF-2: Assure that park and recreation, public education, fire suppression and emergency medical, and solid waste services, and public utility sites are available to the meet future needs of Sonoma County residents.
- Objective PF-2.5: Promote cooperation among fire and emergency service agencies in the area of public education and awareness, especially in those areas isolated from emergency service providers either by distance or topography.
- Objective PF-2.7: Encourage more effective use of existing fire protection services by emphasizing an integrated countywide response system.

- Objective PF-2.8: Continue to coordinate fire protection services and planning with all other related agencies.
- Objective PF-2a: Plan, design, and construct park and recreation, fire and emergency medical, public education, and solid waste services and public utilities in accordance with projected growth.
- Objective PF-2b: Work with the cities to provide park and recreation, public education, fire and emergency medical, and solid waste services, and public utilities.

2.13.3 Public Services Impacts and Mitigation Measures

- a.i) **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 fire protection: *less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.***

As discussed earlier, Schellvista Fire Station in the City of Sonoma, and Lakeville and Rancho Adobe fire stations in Sonoma County, provide fire and emergency medical services in the project area. The Proposed Project would not result in a substantial adverse impact to the provision of fire and emergency medical services. Increases in demand for fire services are typically associated with substantial increases in population. As further described in Section 2.12, *Population and Housing*, the Proposed Project would require an average of 38 workers, which would not result in a substantial increased demand for fire protection services.

Impact 2.13-1: Fire and emergency medical services could be required in the event of an accident or emergency during project construction or operation. This would be a less than significant impact with implementation of Mitigation Measures 2.13-1a and 2.13-1b.

Construction and operation phases of the Proposed Project could involve emergency situations related to worker injury that would require emergency response services. This would be a significant impact that would be less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.13-1a and 2.13-1b.

Mitigation Measure 2.13-1a: PG&E shall prepare a Health and Safety Plan that would address emergency medical services in the case of an emergency. The manual shall list procedures and specific emergency response and evacuation measures that would be required to be followed during emergency situations. PG&E shall prepare this manual and distribute it to all PG&E and contract workers involved in the project prior to construction and operation of the Proposed Project.

Mitigation Measure 2.13-1b: Water tanks shall be sited in the project area that would be available to protect against fire. All vehicles shall carry fire suppression equipment. PG&E shall contact and coordinate with the City of Sonoma and Sonoma County fire departments to determine minimum amounts of fire equipment to be carried on the vehicles and appropriate locations for the water tanks. PG&E shall submit verification of its consultation with the local fire departments and the CPUC mitigation monitor shall ensure these measures are implemented.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

Impact 2.13-2: Project construction and/or operation traffic could affect fire department response times. This would be a less than significant impact with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.13-2.

Mitigation Measure 2.13-2: PG&E shall coordinate with the City of Sonoma and Sonoma County emergency personnel prior to construction to ensure that construction activities and associated lane closures would not significantly affect emergency response vehicles.

Significant after Mitigation: Less than significant.

The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts to fire protection and emergency medical response services.

a.ii) 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 police protection: *less than significant impact.*

The Proposed Project would not result in a substantial adverse impact to the provision of police protection services. Increases in demand for police services are typically associated with substantial increases in population. As further described in Section 2.12, *Population and Housing*, the Proposed Project would require an average of 38 workers, which would not result in a substantial increased demand for police protection services. Police stations in the project area include the City of Sonoma police dispatch that is conducted from the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department in Santa Rosa and the County's Sonoma Valley Substation in Sonoma Valley (Meininger, 2005).

The Proposed Project involves a 115 kV transmission line, which can attract vandalism or terrorism activities, that would require police protection or response, requiring additional police protection services. To minimize vandalism and/or terrorism, PG&E has adopted various precautionary measures. All equipment would be locked and secured when left unattended at the most secure locations available. Contract security would be made

available for use at active pull/tension sites, laydown, and storage areas outside work hours. All open holes would be covered and secured once activity at that location stops (after hours). Anchor bolts on foundations without structures would be capped. Safety structures would be placed at road crossings during overhead wire installation activity to protect traffic/pedestrians.

Currently, the Lakeville-Sonoma 115kV Transmission Line is inspected by a Maintenance Troublemaker who looks for any vandalism, safety, maintenance or reliability issues along the alignment. The PG&E protection scheme detects disturbances on the line. When a disturbance is detected by the relays, the location of the disturbance is identified by the relays and the Troublemaker visits the disturbed area to determine the cause of disturbance. On both tubular steel poles and wood poles the first climbing steps or pegs are located 10 to 12 feet above the ground to prevent unauthorized structure access from the ground. Under the Proposed Project, PG&E would continue to implement this existing protection scheme. Because as part of the Proposed Project, PG&E would incorporate precautionary measures to attempt to prevent vandalism to the transmission line facilities and would continue to employ a Maintenance Troublemaker to inspect the facilities, any impacts to police services would be less than significant.

- a.iii) 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 schools: *less than significant impact.***

The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts to school facilities in the project area. The project would involve an average of 38 employees and would not substantially increase the local population nor would it provide additional housing opportunities. Most of the contractor crews that would be used would most likely already reside in the vicinity of the project area. As a result, there would be no substantial increased demand for additional school facilities and impacts to public school services would be less than significant.

- a.iv) 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 parks: *less than significant impact.***

The Proposed Project would not substantially increase population or permanently close or restrict use of parks and impacts to parks would be less than significant. See Section 2.14, *Recreation*, for additional information.

- a.v) 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 other public facilities: *less than significant impact.*

For a discussion of impacts related to road closures and potential impacts to public roadways, see Section 2.15, *Transportation and Traffic*. No other public facilities would be impacted by the construction or operation of the Proposed Project.

References – Public Services

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- EDAW, Inc., 2005. *Lakeville-Sonoma 115 kV Transmission Line Project. Environmental Assessment Addressing Undergrounding 115 kV Transmission Line along Leveroni Road (between 5th Street West and Sonoma Substation) in City of Sonoma*, April 29, 2005.
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- Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services, 2005a. http://www.sonoma-county.org/des/fire_service.htm, accessed May 19, 2005.
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