

## 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>
<b>13. PUBLIC SERVICES— Would the project:</b>				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or 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 following 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

### Setting

#### ***Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services***

Fire protection services for unincorporated Siskiyou County are provided by the California Department of Forestry (CDF). The CDF Siskiyou Unit encompasses and provides service to 1.2 million acres of land. The Siskiyou Unit manages 7 fire stations, and one conservation camp. During fire season, 13 Schedule “B” engines and 2 dozers are staffed. The County provides funding under the Amador Plan for three stations to remain open year-round (CDF, 2006).

Battalion 2, Shasta Valley, and Battalion 3, Butte Valley provide fire protection services within the vicinity of the Proposed Project and a portion of the Weed Segment area (CDF, 2006).

Fire protection services and emergency medical response services in the City of Weed are provided by the Weed Fire Department, which has one staffed fire station located at 128 Roseburg Parkway with two paid and 30 volunteer personnel. Equipment includes three fire engines and one rescue truck. The Weed Fire Department responds to calls for service within the City limits, as well as calls within an additional 15 square miles as part of the automatic aid contract within Siskiyou County. During 2004 emergency resources responded to 463 calls for service, approximately 75 percent of which were related to medical emergencies, with an average response time of 4.96 minutes per call (Weed Fire Department, 2006).

The Weed Fire Department participates in the Statewide Mutual Aid System and responds with one fire engine anywhere in the State, as needed. The Weed Fire Department also maintains automatic aid agreements with the CDF, the Siskiyou County Fire Warden, Hammond Ranch Fire Company, Mount Shasta Fire Department and Lake Shastina Fire Department (Weed Fire Department, 2006).

### ***Police Protection***

The Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement to a vast area ranging from the Lava Beds National Monument on the east side of Siskiyou County to the Trinity Alps on the southwest, to the Oregon border on the north. The Enforcement Division has approximately 95 employees who work various law enforcement functions throughout Siskiyou County. The Enforcement Division provides law enforcement services to the unincorporated area in Siskiyou County as well as six contract cities including four who have full law enforcement services.

The headquarters for the division is located in Yreka and operates through a decentralized patrol plan. There are substations in Dunsmuir, Mount Shasta, Etna, Happy Camp, Dorris, and Montague. The Division includes one captain, 2 lieutenants, 10 sergeants, 46 deputies, 8 reserve deputies, 9 dispatchers, 2 part time deputies and 5 water safety deputies (Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department, 2006).

The City of Weed's Police Department provides law enforcement services within the City limits. The Police Department has one station located at 550 Main Street, and calls for service are dispatched by the Police Department. The Weed Police Department provides police protection services on a 24-hour per day basis with a minimum of one sworn officer on duty. The Weed Police Department patrols residential and business areas, responding to, and investigating reports of crime. Additionally, the police department conducts community-oriented policing including proactive patrols, and conducting informational seminars and education programs (Weed Police Department, 2006).

### ***Schools***

Granada Elementary School District, Montague Elementary School District, Weed Union Elementary, and Siskiyou Union High School District provide public school education services in the vicinity of the project area. Nearby public schools include Montague Elementary School and Montague Community Day School located at 430 East Prather Street in Montague, Weed High School located at 909 Hillside in Weed, Weed Elementary and Wyeka Vista Community Day School located at 575 White Avenue in Weed, and Grenada Elementary School and Grenada Community Day School, which are located within 1/4 mile of the proposed transmission line route at 516 Shasta Boulevard in Grenada.

### ***Parks and Recreation***

See Section 2.14, *Recreation*, for information regarding existing recreation resources in the Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas.

## **Regulatory Context**

### ***Siskiyou County General Plan***

The Energy Element of the Siskiyou County General Plan contains the following goals that would be applicable to the Proposed Project:

*Policy 35.* The siting and operation of energy facilities shall be accomplished so as not to exceed the carrying capacity of affected public infrastructure, including but not limited to roads and highways, water and wastewater systems, public safety services, and schools. Where applicable, the actual cost of public improvements directly necessitated by a specific energy facility shall be paid by the facility developer.

*Policy 37.* Energy facilities shall prepare and periodically update emergency plans for reasonably foreseeable accidents and emergency incidents, and such plans shall be coordinated with local public safety agencies.

### ***CDF Siskiyou Fire Management Plan***

The CDF Siskiyou Fire Management Plan identifies transmission lines as assets that need protection within the area. The Plan identifies most of the project area as having a low fire potential. In addition, the Plan contains the following goals and policies that could be applicable to the proposed project:

#### **Shasta Valley Battalion 2**

*Goal 1.* To reduce the equipment use fire. 1. Educate the Public. a. Initiate programs to educate the public on the dangers of using equipment in dry fuels during hot dry periods. b. Use media, Prevention signs, develop handouts to get the information out to the public. c. Spark arrestor compliance.

*Goal 2.* Reduce the impact of large, damaging fires...

#### **Butte Valley Battalion 3**

*Goal 1.* To reduce the total fires in the Battalion: a. Advertise fire prevention messages with fire prevention signs along major roadways. b. LE-38 Inspections. c. Educate Children utilizing Schools programs. d. Public education through public contact e. Participation in local events. f. News releases

*Goal 2.* Reduce the impact of a large fire in the Battalion: a. LE-38 inspections. b. FireSafe training to home-owner groups and other community groups. c. Assist with fuel reduction programs and fuel break projects. d. Obtain funding to perform or contract the work done for fuels projects. e. Support the PRC 4290 Program. f. Support FireSafe Councils.

(CDF, 2006).

### ***City of Weed General Plan***

The City of Weed General Plan includes the following public services policies applicable to the Weed Segment:

*Policy C.* Safety Element: City emergency services shall be provided with appropriate plans, policies, and resources to contain urban fire.

*Policy 20.* Land Use Element: Ensure the provision of public facilities and services needed to support desired development the balances jobs, commercial, and housing opportunities, while also protecting the quality of life in the community.

## Public Services Impacts and Mitigation Measures

**Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or 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 following public services:**

**a.i) Fire Protection: *Less than significant with mitigation.***

As discussed in the Setting section, fire protection services at the Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas would be provided by the CDF and the Weed Fire Department, as well as other fire protection districts in the area that participate in automatic aid agreements. In general, increases in demand for fire protection services are associated with substantial increases in population. The Proposed Project and Weed Segment would include a construction crew of up to 35 crew members, but would not result in a substantial population increase that would increase the demand for fire protection services (See Section 2.12, *Population and Housing*, for further discussion). Therefore, the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not result in a substantial increased demand for fire protection services. Construction of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment could affect the demand for fire protection and emergency response services, as discussed below.

**Impact 2.13-1: Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction activities could temporarily increase the demand for fire protection services. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 2.13-1a and 1b would reduce these impacts to less than significant.**

Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction would include upgrades to an existing transmission line, construction of a new 1.6-mile transmission line and upgrades to the Lucerne and Weed Substations. Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction could involve emergency situations related to worker injury that would require emergency response services. Additionally, because a majority of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment traverse largely undeveloped areas, emergency situations could result that would require fire suppression services and emergency response.

**Mitigation Measure 2.13-1a:** PacifiCorp shall implement Mitigation Measure 2.7-1c (see Section 2.7, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*) which requires preparation of a Health and Safety Plan. In addition, this Plan shall address emergency medical services in the case of an emergency. The Plan shall list procedures and specific emergency response and evacuation measures that would be required to be followed during emergency situations. PacifiCorp shall prepare this Plan and distribute it to all construction crew members involved in the project prior to construction and operation of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment.

**Mitigation Measure 2.13-1b:** Water tanks shall be sited in Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas and be available for fire protection. All construction vehicles

shall carry fire suppression equipment. PacifiCorp shall contact and coordinate with the CDF and City of Weed Fire Department to determine minimum amounts of fire equipment to be carried on the vehicles and appropriate locations for the water tanks. PacifiCorp shall submit verification of its consultation with the local fire departments to the CPUC.

**Significance after Mitigation:** Less than significant.

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**Impact 2.13-2: Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction work in proximity to public roadways could potentially affect vehicle access and fire department response times. This would be a less than significant impact with implementation of Mitigation Measure 2.13-2.**

Project construction related to the Proposed Project and Weed Segment generally parallels local, county and state roads. The Proposed Project crosses Interstate 5 at two locations.

**Mitigation Measure 2.13-2:** PacifiCorp shall coordinate with the Siskiyou County and the City of Weed emergency service providers prior to construction to ensure that construction activities and associated lane closures would not significantly affect emergency response vehicles. PacifiCorp shall submit verification of its consultation with emergency service providers to the CPUC.

**Significance after Mitigation:** Less than significant.

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**a.ii) Police Protection: *Less than significant with mitigation.***

Police protection services at the Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas would be provided by the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department and the Weed Police Department. Generally, increases in the demand for police protection services are associated with substantial increases in population. The Proposed Project and Weed Segment would include a construction crew of up to 35 crew members, but would not result in a substantial population increase that would increase the demand for police protection services. (See Section 2.12, *Population and Housing*, for further discussion.) Therefore, the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not result in a substantial increased demand for police protection services. Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction could affect police protection services, as discussed below.

**Impact 2.13-3: Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction activities could temporarily increase the demand for police services. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 2.13-3a, 3b and 3c would reduce these impacts to less than significant.**

Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction may require police services due to possible theft of construction equipment and/or vandalism that might occur during the construction period. Additionally, Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction may, at times, require temporary partial closure of adjacent roadways, requiring traffic control measures, or safety measures that would typically be coordinated with local police.

**Mitigation Measure 2.13-3a:** PacifiCorp shall implement standard precautionary measures, such as securing equipment when left unattended to minimize theft and vandalism.

**Mitigation Measure 2.13-3b:** PacifiCorp shall provide traffic control, if necessary, in coordination with the appropriate police agency.

**Mitigation Measure 2.13-3c:** PacifiCorp shall implement public safety measures, including the covering and securing all open holes once activity at that location is stopped (after hours), and the placement of safety structures adjacent to roadways during overhead wire installation activity to protect vehicles and pedestrians.

**Significance after Mitigation:** Less than significant.

**a.iii) Schools: *Less than significant***

The Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not result in substantial adverse impacts to school facilities in the project areas. The construction crew for the Proposed Project and Weed Segment is estimated to be up to 35 crew members, including PacifiCorp and contracted construction personnel. It is expected that about 20 percent, or about seven construction crew members, would reside locally. The Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not result in a significant increase of local population or housing (see Section 2.12 *Population and Housing* for additional discussion), which is associated with increased demand for public school services. Therefore, the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not result in a substantial increase in demand for school facilities and impacts to public school services would be less than significant.

**a.iv) Parks: *Less than significant***

The Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not result in a significant increase in the local population or housing (see Section 2.12 *Population and Housing* for additional discussion); therefore, there would be no substantial increased demand for park facilities thus impacts to parks would be less than significant. See also Section 2.14, *Recreation* for additional discussion.

**a.v) Other Public Facilities: *Less than significant***

The Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not result in substantial adverse impacts to other public facilities, such as public libraries or other civic uses. 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 adversely impacted by the construction or operation of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment.

## References – Public Services

California Department of Forestry (CDF), 2005. *California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Siskiyou Unit Fire Management Plan*, 2005.

City of Weed. *City of Weed General Plan*, adopted October 1987, and amended through 2004.

Siskiyou County. *Siskiyou County General Plan Energy Element*, March, 1993.

Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department, 2006. <http://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/sheriffs/patrol.htm>, accessed June 18, 2006.

Weed Fire Department. Webpage available at: [www.weedfiredept.com](http://www.weedfiredept.com), accessed July 21, 2006.

Weed Police Department. Webpage available at: [www.weedfiredept.com](http://www.weedfiredept.com), accessed July 21, 2006.