

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 SERVICE SYSTEMS—Would the project:				
a) Conflict with 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) Require new or expanded water supply resources or entitlements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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 Proposed Project and Weed Segment components, substations, and transmission line corridor, parallel numerous public utility and service systems, including water, sewer, electric, natural gas, and telecommunication lines in Siskiyou County and the City of Weed. Various entities operate these systems and provide services to residents and businesses in the vicinity of the project area.

Water

The Proposed Project and a portion of the Weed Segment lie within the unincorporated area of Siskiyou County and are not served by any water district. This area is serviced by personal water wells under permits issued by the Siskiyou County Public Health Department (Navarre, 2006).

Water service in the Weed Segment area within the City of Weed is provided by the City's Department of Public Works. Current water demand in the City of Weed averages 0.828 million gallons per day (MGD). The City delivers potable water to approximately 1,100 residential, commercial, and industry/institutional customers on a metered basis. The City's water supply is

provided by two wells and one spring: Upper Beaughton Springs, Mazzei well, and Gazelle well. Water is primarily provided by Beaughton Springs and the Mazzei well; the Gazelle well is used as an emergency back up water supply. The two principal water sources have a combined capacity of approximately 2.1 MGD. Future increase in water supply will probably be from a combination of additional spring capacity and new wells. The City currently has a total of 1.550 million gallons of reservoir storage (Sharp, 2006).

Sanitary Sewer

Within the unincorporated area of Siskiyou County, individual properties are serviced by on-site sewage disposal systems under permits issued by the Siskiyou County Public Health Department (Navarre, 2006). The Department follows a set of Sewage Disposal Codes that apply to all new construction, relocated buildings, and trailers and to all alterations, repairs, or reconstruction within the unincorporated area of the County (Siskiyou County, 2006).

Sanitation Service in the City of Weed is provided by the City's Public Works Department. The City maintains sewer lines and a wastewater treatment plant. The City provides sanitation services for approximately 1,200 residential, commercial, and industry/institutional customers (Sharp, 2006). According to the City of Weed 1995 Master Sewer Plan, the wastewater treatment plant has an average dry weather capacity of 0.378 MGD (Sharp, 2006). The City's wastewater treatment objectives include:

- To provide for the collection of domestic sewage from approximately 1,050 connections;
- To provide for the treatment and disposal of approximately 0.2 MGD of wastewater collected on the North system and approximately 0.25 MGD on the South system during dry weather with an average increase of around double those amounts during the wet weather periods.
- To dispose at an approved landfill of all sludge removed during the treatment process.
- To maintain lines on an as-needed basis when blockages occur within the sewer collection system.

(City of Weed, 2006)

Electricity and Natural Gas

Electrical service in the Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas is provided by PacifiCorp. Siskiyou County and the City of Weed do not have access to natural gas; however, several local gas company providers recommend an alternative solution which has proven successful (Siskiyou County Economic Development Council, 2006).

Cable and Telephone

AT&T, Cal-Ore Telephone Company, and Siskiyou Telephone Company provide telephone service to the Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas. There are numerous long distance

carrier providers with the most common being AT&T, Sprint, and MCL. Most local telephone companies offer telecommunication service. The Siskiyou County Economic Development Council's Time-Share office includes access to DSL (Siskiyou County Economic Development Council, 2006).

Solid Waste and Recycling Service

Siskiyou County and the City of Weed provide solid waste collection service through a franchise for collection and disposal of waste from residential areas and nonresidential areas.

Solid waste generated within the Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas would be disposed of at the Yreka Landfill located in Siskiyou County. The solid waste would first be disposed of in metal containers at PacifiCorp's storage yard in Yreka and then hauled to the Yreka Landfill by an existing contractor. The Yreka Landfill is currently permitted to accept 38 tons of solid waste per day and has an estimated remaining capacity of 4.7 million cubic yards (92.5 percent) until 2065 (CIWMB, 2006).

Regulatory Context

State

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. Siskiyou County, which includes the City of Weed, had a diversion rate of 53 percent in 2002 (CIWMB, 2006).

Local

Siskiyou County General Plan

The Siskiyou County Conservation Element (1973) includes policies that assure adequate water supply and sewage disposal for the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. The following Conservation Element objective related to water supply would be applicable to the proposed project:

- Preserve the quality of the existing water supply in Siskiyou County and adequately plan for the expansion and retention of valuable water supplies for future generations.

(Siskiyou County, 1973)

City of Weed General Plan

The City of Weed General Plan Open Space and Conservation Elements (1987) contain general policies that assure adequate domestic water supply and sewage treatment facilities to accommodate the City's long-range efficiency. The following policies would be applicable to the proposed project:

- Protect its current water source and water quality.

- Assure adequate domestic water supply.
- Prevent sewage system surcharges or overflows.
- Review sewage treatment facilities and operation for maximum long-range efficiency.

(City of Weed, 1987)

Utilities and Service Systems Impacts and Mitigation Measures

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

As described in d), below, the primary use of water during construction and operation of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would be for dust suppression measures on PacifiCorp's access roads. Disposal would not be required because the water used during dust suppression activities would be minimal and consequently this water would evaporate or be absorbed into the ground. In addition, construction crews would use portable toilets. No other sources of wastewater are anticipated during the Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction activities. The Siskiyou County Public Health Department has stated that the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not impact the Department's responsibilities for overseeing the sewer services or issuance of new permits on a continuing basis in the future and that buildability of individual parcels would not be affected (Navarre, 2006). The minimal amount of water used during construction or operation would not affect the wastewater treatment facilities' abilities to serve the Proposed Project and Weed Segment's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments, and thus, this impact would be less than significant.

- 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*.**

As described in e) and d), water use and wastewater that would be generated by the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would be minimal and therefore, the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not require or result in the construction of 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*.**

The Proposed Project located in Siskiyou County would require the replacement of approximately 350 poles and the placement of an additional 18 new poles for the 1.6-mile new build where no poles are currently present. The Weed Segment, located both in Siskiyou County and the City of Weed, would involve the replacement of approximately 27 existing poles. The new poles for the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would either be set in the same hole as the existing pole or as close as possible (immediately adjacent) to the existing pole location, except for the approximately 18 new poles. For the poles that would be removed and not replaced in their same location, backhoes and dump trucks 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 restored with vegetation removed from the adjacent new pole hole or seeded with appropriate seed mix. The approximately 18 new poles would be installed in the same manner as the replacement poles. Pole installation sites, work areas, pull and tension sites, staging area and access roads required for the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would not result in a net increase in impervious surfaces. Substation modifications/upgrades would result in only a minor increase in impervious surface area (small concrete foundations for new and/or upgraded equipment). Since the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not substantially increase the amount of impervious surfaces, it would neither substantially increase runoff nor create a significant amount of additional runoff water. Therefore, the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not require or result in the construction of a new or expanded storm drainage facility.

d) **Require new or expanded water supply resources or entitlements: *less than significant.***

The primary use of water during construction of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would be for dust suppression measures on PacifiCorp's access roads. The water that would be required for construction of the transmission line would be trucked in from off-site. PacifiCorp would obtain permits from Siskiyou County and the City of Weed to fill the water trucks by hooking them up to fire hydrants within the County and City's jurisdictions. Dust suppression would be performed as necessary and is not anticipated to occur on a regular basis. The working crew would bring in bottled drinking water from off-site. A small amount of water would also be available for fire suppression. 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 PacifiCorp's access roads, the amount of water for construction would be minimal. Operation of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not require the use of any substantial amounts of water.

The Siskiyou County Public Health Department has stated that implementation of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not impact the Department's responsibilities for overseeing the water services or issuance of new permits on a continuing basis in the future and that the buildability of individual parcels would not be affected (Navarre, 2006).

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

Construction activities would result in the generation of construction waste material. In addition, the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would require the removal and disposal of approximately 350 wood poles and 27 wood poles, respectively, from the upgrade portions of the line. In total, there would be approximately 2,200 cubic yards of wood pole material that would need to be reused or disposed.¹ PacifiCorp would either make the poles available for reuse or, if demand does not exist for the poles, dispose of them as waste pursuant to PacifiCorp's Waste Management Guideline for Treated Wood (PacifiCorp, 2006). If the wood would be reused, PacifiCorp would provide the recipient with a bill of sale and a Consumer Information Sheet that describes the type of preservative used on the specific pole. If the poles are not reusable, then the poles would be disposed of in metal containers at PacifiCorp's storage yard in Yreka. PacifiCorp has an existing contractor that would haul the poles to the City of Yreka's public landfill. The poles would ultimately be shipped to Bio Mass in White City, Oregon. Bio Mass would grind the wood and use it as alternative fuel for its electricity generation facility (PacifiCorp, 2006).

The Yreka Solid Waste Landfill in Siskiyou County currently has a remaining permitted capacity of approximately 4.7 million cubic yards and is not estimated to close until 2065 (CIWMB, 2006). Therefore, the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would not adversely impact existing capacities of the Yreka Landfill.

If the wood poles are wrapped with CuNap wrap, they would need to be removed, placed in a Department of Transportation (DOT)-approved container, labeled hazardous waste with the project information, and then transported back to a consolidation area on a remote waste shipping paper. The conductors would be sold to an aluminum salvage company. Other miscellaneous non-hazardous construction materials that cannot be reused or recycled would likely be acceptable for disposal at municipal county landfills. Any hazardous material would be recycled, treated and/or disposed of in accordance with federal, State and local laws. Impacts related to the removal and disposal of treated wood and construction materials would be less than significant (see Section 2.7, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials* for additional information).

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

The Proposed Project and Weed Segment would only generate construction waste and the one time disposal of wood poles that could not be reused. Transmission line operation is not projected to produce additional solid waste. The construction waste generated would

¹ Quantity of wood material that would need to be reused or disposed was calculated for the Proposed Project based on 350 poles, with an average height of 70 feet and a 0.85-foot radius (equaling approximately 158.8 cubic feet per pole). The Weed Segment projections were based on reuse or disposal of 27, 50-foot poles with a 0.85-foot radius (equaling approximately 136.2 cubic feet per pole).

be minimal and PacifiCorp would dispose of the waste in an appropriate landfill with sufficient capacity to accept the waste.

Siskiyou County has an adopted Countywide Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) that establishes goals and methodologies for compliance with the California Assembly Bill 939, which establishes 50 percent diversion of solid waste from landfills. Siskiyou County's diversion rate in 2002 was 53 percent, which met the requirement of AB 939 (CIWMB, 2006). The California Integrated Waste Management Board's Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program helps the County meet this goal. This program includes the entire County and offers low-interest loans up to \$1 million, technical assistance on financing strategies, and assistance on financing strategies, and assistance in marketing zones nationally and internationally. The City of Weed also encourages the reduction of solid waste entering the landfill site with education and recycling programs, including the Blue Bag Program, which offers free pickup for recyclables (Sharp, 2006).

PacifiCorp would reduce their construction material and treated wood pole waste through various measures to act in accordance with Siskiyou County and the City of Weed's recycling and reduction policies. As previously described, the treated poles that could not be reused would ultimately be shipped to Bio Mass in White City, Oregon. Bio Mass would grind the wood and use it as alternative fuel for its electricity generation facility (PacifiCorp, 2006). PacifiCorp would also sell the used conductors to an aluminum salvage company to reduce waste. Thus, impacts related to conflicts with statutes and regulations relating to solid waste would be less than significant.

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

Construction activities could inadvertently contact underground facilities during pole excavation and/or grading for approximately 11 side hill construction areas for the Proposed Project and Weed Segment, including the Weed Substation upgrade, possibly leading to short-term utility service interruptions.

Impact 2.16-1: Construction activities could inadvertently contact underground utility lines and/or facilities during excavation and other ground disturbance, 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: PacifiCorp shall ensure that Underground Service Alert is notified at least 14 days prior to initiation of construction activities with ground disturbance. Underground Service Alert verifies the location of all existing underground facilities and alerts the other utilities to mark their facilities in the area of anticipated construction activities.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

References

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