

Section 3.11

Public Services and Utilities

This section describes the existing public services and utilities in the project area, including law enforcement and fire protection, medical facilities, schools and parks, water and wastewater, solid waste, electricity, and natural gas services.

Environmental Setting

Public Services

Fire Protection

The Montezuma Hills Fire Department provides fire and rescue services to the project area. Four fire stations that are equipped for grass fires are operated by this district: on Birds Landing Road, on Collinsville Road near Collinsville, on Shiloh Road, and in Rio Vista. The Rio Vista Fire Department also provides fire and rescue services to the City of Rio Vista and surrounding areas. The department's total coverage area is approximately 100 square miles, with an estimated population of 5,000 (City of Rio Vista 2004). The department is dispatched by the Solano County Sheriff's Department and receives as-needed support from the County and State Offices of Emergency Services.

Law Enforcement

The Solano County Sheriff's Office is located in Fairfield and provides protection for unincorporated sections of Solano County, including the project area (Solano County 2005). The nearest city police department is in Rio Vista, 6 miles east of the project area. The Rio Vista Police Department consists of 11 sworn personnel, 1 civilian position, 10 reserve officers, 3 cadets, and 7 citizen volunteers (City of Rio Vista 2004).

Schools and Parks

Solano County has seven school districts, several colleges, and adult and special education facilities. Students in the project area are typically enrolled in the Fairfield-Suisun, River Delta, Travis, and Vacaville School Districts. The River Delta District serves the project area. (Solano County Administrator's Office 2003.)

The closest regional park serving Solano County is Sandy Beach Park in Rio Vista, more than 5 miles from the project area. The Suisun Marsh is the largest natural recreation area in the project vicinity. Fishing, duck hunting, water sports, upland game hunting, and wildlife observation are popular recreational activities in the marsh. Duck hunting is the most prevalent activity in the marsh. In addition, the Montezuma Slough Day Use Area and the Western Railway Museum routes are located close to the project area. The day use area is adjacent to the marsh and has a small parking lot, picnic tables, and a paved pedestrian trail alongside the slough. The museum is located north of Little Honker Bay Road, and the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association operates a tourist train along the Sacramento Northern Railroad through the western portion of the project area (Western Railway Museum 2005).

Medical Facilities

Major hospitals within Solano County are located in Fairfield, Vacaville, and Vallejo (Solano County Administrator's Office 2003). The Solano Emergency Medical Services Cooperative handles emergency response in the county, including the project area. The cooperative includes six of the county's seven cities and rural fire districts. Each partner provides logistical and financial support to ensure a swift response to any medical emergency occurring in any part of the county. The Rio Vista Fire Department also provides a minimum of emergency medical technician-level care 24 hours per day (City of Rio Vista 2004).

Utilities

Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste

Most of the land in the project area is used for dryland farming and grazing, which does not require irrigation or other large-scale water use. Water use in the project area is therefore mostly limited to domestic purposes. According to the Solano County General Plan, unincorporated areas of the county are required to provide most of their own water, largely from onsite wells. Residences and establishments in unincorporated areas of the county, including the project area, largely maintain their own sewer systems (e.g., septic tanks) under the authority

of the County Health Department. The Rio Vista landfill is the closest waste disposal site to the project area; there are also landfills in Sacramento, Vacaville, and the East Bay.

Gas and Electricity

As described in the project description, PG&E supplies electricity to the project area. Gas and electrical use in the project area is mainly residential, and many gas pipelines are present for distribution. Power lines and towers cross the project area and connect to the Bay Area grid.

Regulatory Setting

No local, state, or federal goals, objectives, or policies relate to the potential effects of the project on public service and utilities.

Impact Analysis

To assess the project's impacts on public services and utilities, construction-related impacts were evaluated using a qualitative assessment of construction practices on existing service and utility infrastructure.

Significance Criteria

Criteria for determining the significance of public service and utility impacts were developed based on questions contained in the environmental checklist form in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. Based on the checklist questions, a project may have a significant effect on the environment if it would result in:

- A substantial increase in acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for all emergency response providers,
- Interference with existing services or utility infrastructure, resulting in the disruption of provider service,
- The need for a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs, or
- Permanent alteration or reduction in the quality of a recreational experience.

Impacts

IMPACT 3.11-1: TEMPORARY INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN THE PROJECT AREA

Construction-related activities associated with the proposed project could result in injuries to construction workers and increase the demand for emergency response at project facility sites and along the pipeline construction corridor. However, emergency service providers in the area would be able to respond adequately to emergencies associated with construction-related activities because such services are located within an appropriate distance, and an emergency access plan will be in place during construction to ensure emergency vehicle access in and adjacent to the construction work area (see “Construction Traffic Safety Measures” in Chapter 2 “Project Description”). Any increase in demand for emergency response attributable to the risk of fire at the compressor facility would be offset by Lodi Gas Storage’s provision of information, training, and equipment. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

IMPACT 3.11-2: POTENTIAL INTERFERENCE WITH EXISTING UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Construction activities associated with the proposed project have the potential to temporarily disrupt existing utility services along Shiloh and Birds Landing Roads (e.g., underground or aboveground utility cables) and to require realignment of the utility infrastructure. However, during the final design phase of the project, affected service providers will be contacted so that any potential utility conflicts can be identified and relocation efforts can be initiated. The proposed project avoids many potential conflicts by locating the pipeline in away from most buried and overhead utilities that generally follow road rights-of-way. Additionally, Lodi Gas Storage would contact Underground Service Alert at least 2 full working days before construction begins. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

IMPACT 3.11-3: MINIMAL INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR LANDFILL SPACE ASSOCIATED WITH GENERATION OF WASTE DURING PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

A large amount of soil would be excavated during project construction. Because soil excavated for the project would be used at the project site for filling and grading activities, the amount of excess material would be minimal. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

IMPACT 3.11-4: DISTURBANCE OF RECREATIONAL USES

Tourists riding the train operated by the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association along the Sacramento Northern Railroad that travels along the western edge of

the project area would potentially experience increases in noise and dust during project construction. They would also view construction activities. These impacts would be short-term. In addition, duck hunters and other individuals recreating in the Suisun Marsh itself may be affected by construction activities. The sights and sounds of construction may reduce the quality of their recreational experience. However, the effects would be temporary, occurring only during construction, and the majority of construction activities would occur outside of the duck-hunting season. This impact is therefore considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

Lodi Gas Storage will implement BMPs (described in Chapter 2, “Project Description”) as part of the proposed project to avoid and minimize potentially significant impacts on public services and utilities. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

