4.13 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

4.13.1 SETTING

Public services and utilities such as electricity, domestic water, sanitary and stormwater sewers, solid waste, communications and natural gas are typically provided to urbanized areas by a variety of local purveyors (e.g., cities, counties, special districts, water agencies, and power companies). The availability of such services depends on the level of urbanization in a given area. Certain utilities such as sanitary and stormwater sewers, and natural gas are usually provided via underground pipelines or conduits.

Public roadway rights-of-way are commonly used as utility corridors. Subsequent actions could coincide with public roadway rights-of-way that contain some or all of the following underground utilities: water, sewer, storm drain, gas, electric, and other fiber optic lines.

AVAILABILITY OF UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

The proposed project would involve installation of fiber optic facilities including the installation of regenerator / OP-AMP stations. The only project demand on public utilities would be the electric and water facility requirement to support these proposed regenerator / OP-AMP stations. Depending on the geographical location of the proposed station, these services would be provided by one or more of the following:

- Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s (PG&E) distribution system\(^1\) provides to consumers in the Bay Area including Alameda, Marin, Contra Costa, Fresno, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties.

- Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) distribution system\(^2\) provides electricity to consumers in the Sacramento Area and the Sacramento County Department of Water Resources provides water, sewer, and sanitation services.

- Southern California Edison’s distribution system provides electricity to parts of Santa Barbara County, Los Angeles County, San Bernardino County, Orange County, and Riverside County. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and municipal utilities provides electricity in the City of Los Angeles. The cities of Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena each have their own utility providers (Burbank Electric Company, Glendale Public Works, and Pasadena Water and Power respectively).

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\(^1\) Recent deregulation of the electric utility industry allows California consumers to purchase electricity from PG&E and other electricity suppliers. Electricity from all suppliers is delivered to consumers via PG&E’s distribution system.

\(^2\) Recent deregulation of the electric utility industry allows California consumers to purchase electricity from SMUD and other electricity suppliers. Electricity from all suppliers is delivered to consumers via SMUD’s distribution system.
• San Diego Gas and Electric’s distribution system provides to consumers in the San Diego Area. The San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), through some of its 24 wholesale agencies, treats and distributes water for the City of San Diego. Sewage and wastewater for San Diego are handled by the City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department (MWWD).

• The Imperial Irrigation District provides electric power and irrigation water to the lower southeastern portion of California’s desert (this includes Imperial County and parts of Riverside and San Diego Counties).

• The Southern California Public Power Authority delivers electricity to approximately 2 million customers and includes the municipal utilities of the cities of Anaheim, Azusa, Banning, Burbank, Colton, Glendale, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Riverside, and Vernon, and the Imperial Irrigation District, Cerritos and San Marcos.

The principal natural gas providers in the project area are Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Gas Company, San Diego Gas & Electric, Southwest Gas Company, Long Beach Gas Department, City of Palo Alto, and City of Coalinga.

Additionally, water supply requirements may be met through one or more of the following water districts and companies throughout the project area:

• East Bay Municipal Utility District
• City of Burbank Water and Power
• City of Glendale Water and Power
• Kings River Conservation District
• City of Long Beach Water
• Los Angeles Water and Power
• Marin Municipal Water District
• Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
• North Marin Water District
• City of Pasadena Water and Power
• City of San Bernardino Water
• City of San Diego Water
• Hetch Hetchy Water and Power
• City of San Jose Water
• City of Santa Cruz Water

4.13.2 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines states that a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if it would:

• Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.
• 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.

• Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could have significant environmental effects.

• Not have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or require new or expanded entitlements.

• Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments.

• Be served by a landfill without sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs.

• Not comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Impact UTL-1: Installation of fiber optic facilities could cross or coincide with existing utility lines and could effect and disrupt delivery of those utility services. (Less than Significant)

Underground fiber optic cable facilities installation could occur in public streets and railroad rights-of-way, which are areas commonly used for utility corridors. Because proposed installation would occur at a depth of more than one foot below ground, the project could impact existing underground utilities and service connections. As stated in the Project Description, underground utilities and service connections would be identified prior to commencing any excavation work. Prior to construction operations, “Dig Alert,” “One-Call,” or a similar underground utility contractor would be contacted to identify the locations of subsurface utilities. The exact utility locations would be determined by hand-excavated test pits dug at locations determined and approved by the construction manager (also referred to as “pot-holing”). Temporary disruption of service may be required to allow for construction. No service on such lines would be disrupted until prior approval is received from the construction manager and the service provider. All railroad companies would require coordination and notification of construction activities, and may require specific training, before any activities can take place within the railroad rights-of-way, including utility identification.

As indicated in Chapter 3, Project Description, Sempra Communications may propose the need to directional bore at a major utility crossing. At locations where the installation would cross other subsurface utilities or structures, the structure would be installed to provide a minimum of 12 inches of vertical clearance between it and the other subsurface utilities or structures, while still maintaining the applicable minimum depth requirement. To maintain the applicable minimum depth requirement, the structure would be installed under the existing utility. If the
12 inch vertical separation between the proposed structure and the other utility cannot be obtained, then the fiber optic cable facilities would be encased in steel pipe to avoid future damage.

**Mitigation Measure:** No mitigation is required.

**Impact UTL-2:** Fiber optic cable facilities installation along transmission tower lines may temporarily require deenergizing the lines and interrupting customer service. (Less than Significant)

All installation of OPGW cable along transmission tower lines would be coordinated with the appropriate service provider. In the event that lines need to be deenergized, the service provider would coordinate with the California Independent Service Operator to minimize impacts on customers.

**Mitigation Measure:** No mitigation is required.

**REFERENCES – Utilities and Service Systems**


California Municipal Utilities Association, [http://www.cmua.org/aboutcmu.htm](http://www.cmua.org/aboutcmu.htm)

Imperial Irrigation District, [http://www.iid.com/](http://www.iid.com/)

San Diego, City of, City Hall website, [http://www.ci.san-diego.ca.us/](http://www.ci.san-diego.ca.us/)