

### 3.13 UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

This section evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed project on public utilities (power, telephone, water, and sewerage) and public services (police, fire, emergency response, and schools). This evaluation is based on available engineering information from the design engineers, including the Site Development Requirements and Constraints Technical Memorandum 03 (HDR 2005), and utility providers.

#### 3.13.1 Existing Conditions

##### Public Utilities

The following utilities are located within the project area:

- SDG&E overhead power lines.
- Electrical and telecommunication lines associated with the Second Aqueduct and FRS I.
- Pipelines in the Water Authority's Second Aqueduct easement.
- City of San Diego storm drain under the access road at the North Portal.
- City of San Diego Mission Gorge Trunk Sewer.

**Electrical and Communication.** SDG&E easements cross the Water Authority's Second Aqueduct easement and parallel access roads in MTRP that would be utilized during construction. Within the SDG&E easements are 230 kilovolt (kV), 138 kV and 69 kV transmission lines. The larger lines are mounted on lattice steel towers. Smaller lines are mounted on wooden poles.

Electric and communication utilities are available in the residential area immediately west of MTRP, along Corte Playa Catalina. SBC/Pac Bell provides telephone service to the existing FRS I facility. The existing FRS I is currently served by SDG&E through a two-phase, 240-volt, 100-amp service. It is anticipated that a similar service would be sufficient for the proposed FRS II facility. Both utilities have confirmed that there is sufficient capacity in their system to serve the proposed FRS II site.

**Water Supply Pipelines.** The largest utilities in the project area are the Water Authority pipelines in the Second Aqueduct easement. Pipeline 3 is a 69-inch-diameter, pre-cast concrete cylinder pipe. Pipeline 4 is a 72-inch-diameter, pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe. These two pipelines carry untreated water. Pipeline 4BII is a 96-inch-diameter, welded steel pipeline that carries treated water. Pipelines 3, 4, and 4BII must continue to convey untreated and treated water to member agencies during the construction of the proposed project. These pipelines would be abandoned in place following the completion of the pipeline tunnel and FRS II.

**Storm Drainage.** A storm drain, consisting of a culvert under the access road at the North Portal, is located approximately 200 feet south of the start of the tunnel. There has been extensive erosion at this point. All other drainage in the project construction area exists as open channels or canyons.

**City of San Diego Mission Gorge Trunk Sewer.** The City's Mission Gorge Trunk Sewer crosses the San Diego River west of the proposed stabilized river crossing. The sewer is encased in concrete and exposed at the river crossing, possibly having been undermined during the high flows of last winter's above-normal rainy season.

### **Public Services**

**Police.** Police protection is provided by the City of San Diego Police Department. MTRP is included in the Eastern Division, which has its headquarters at 9225 Aero Drive. The closest police station is the Navajo Storefront, located at 7381 Jackson Drive.

**Fire Protection/ Emergency Response.** Fire protection is provided by the City of San Diego Fire Department, now known as the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. The closest fire station is Station 39 located at 4949 La Cuenta Drive off of Tierrasanta Boulevard in Tierrasanta, a distance of approximately 1.5 miles to the project area. This department also oversees the City's medical emergency operations, provides the primary emergency medical response with paramedic/firefighters on all of the City's 44 fire engines, staffs ambulances, and oversees medical dispatch communications (9-1-1 Dispatchers). A call for emergency medical services (EMS) would first be answered by the closest fire station.

**Schools.** No schools are within the construction zone, and the project would not affect school capacity.

The parcel proposed for the FRS II encompasses 12.78 acres of vacant property currently owned by the San Diego Unified School District. This property would be purchased by the Water Authority for the project and would no longer be available for school district use. Vacant property at the corner of Calle de Vida and Colina Dorado Drive that may be used temporarily for construction access is also owned by the school district and would not be available for district use during the 2 years of project construction.

### **3.13.2 Thresholds of Significance**

Thresholds used to evaluate potential impacts to public services and utilities are based on applicable criteria in the State CEQA Guidelines (CCR §§15000-15387), Appendix G; and the thresholds established for the Water Authority's Program Environmental Impact Report for the Regional Water Facilities Master Plan. A significant impact to public services would occur if the proposed project would:

- 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, such as: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities.
- Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of 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 cause significant environmental effects.
- Require or result in the need for new or expanded water supplies or entitlements.
- Generate solid waste that would significantly impact the permitted capacity of the landfill served by the project.
- Not comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.
- Interrupt or disrupt utility services as a result of physical displacement and subsequent relocation of public utility infrastructure.
- Result in the need for additional capacity of utility infrastructure or additional services that could not be supplied by existing utility service providers.

### 3.13.3 Impact Analysis

*Would the proposed project 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 such as fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities?*

#### **Construction Impacts**

Measures to reduce the risk of wildland fires due to project construction are discussed in Section 3.12 (Public Safety and Hazardous Materials). These measures would reduce the risk of fire to below a level of significance. The project would not increase the need for fire protection services during construction. Impacts on fire protection services would be less than significant.

Short-term security would be required for the construction site. This security would be provided by full-time security guards employed by the contractors during project construction to protect the construction site from unauthorized entry and the materials and equipment from theft and vandalism. Also, project staging areas would be fenced. Although the project would bring more people and heavy equipment into MTRP to accomplish the project construction, the increased activity would not substantially increase the need for police services such that capacity or response times in the surrounding community would be reduced. Impacts on police protection would be less than significant.

The construction zones for the project are well within the park. Construction would not interfere with school activities. There would not be impacts to schools.

Although certain MTRP trails would be closed to public use during construction times (see Section 3.6 Recreation), emergency access routes would be maintained to all project components during construction. No public roads outside of MTRP would be closed or restricted due to project construction. The project construction would not substantially reduce emergency medical response. Therefore, impacts on emergency medical response would be less than significant.

In summary, construction of the project would not interrupt service, create the need for additional capacity, or decrease the level of service of public services in the project area. Therefore, construction impacts on public services would be less than significant.

### **Operational Impacts**

The project would not result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, including police and fire stations. The stabilized crossing at the San Diego River would enhance access to the southern part of MTRP for security and emergency medical response, resulting in a project benefit to these public services.

The project would not generate students or result in the need for new or physically altered schools. The school district has indicated they are willing to sell the FRS II parcel to the Water Authority, as its location within MTRP precludes district use and development. The school district has not proposed any near-term plans to develop the property at Calle de Vida and Colina Dorada Drive, and the project would not interfere with any long range plans for school district use.

In summary, long-term operation of the project would not interrupt service, create the need for additional capacity, or substantially decrease the level of service of public services in the project area. Operational impacts on public services would be less than significant.

*Would the proposed project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?*

The proposed project would not involve generation or treatment of wastewater. Therefore, there would not be an impact involving the treatment of wastewater.

*Would the proposed project 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?*

The proposed project would involve the construction of new water facilities for transmission and storage, but would not involve water treatment. The proposed project would not involve the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, there would not be an impact involving a wastewater treatment facility.

*Would the proposed project 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?*

A storm drain consisting of a culvert under the access road at the North Portal is located approximately 200 feet south of the start of the inlet tunnel. There has been extensive erosion at this point. As part of the project, this storm drain would be repaired and the eroded area would be stabilized to protect the Water Authority easement from further erosion at this location. This would be a benefit to the utility, and would not involve expansion of the existing facility. Impacts of the construction have been included in the analysis of impacts of the overall project. This impact would be less than significant.

*Would the proposed project require or result in the need for new or expanded water supplies or entitlements?*

The proposed project would involve construction of new water facilities for transmission and storage of existing water supplies to improve operational efficiency and reliability. The project would not result in the need for new or expanded water supplies or entitlements. There would not be an impact to water supplies or entitlements.

*Would the proposed project generate solid waste that would significantly impact the permitted capacity of the landfill served by the project?*

The proposed project would involve limited generation of solid waste from the removal of the existing vent structures and blow offs, and overall construction activities. However, the amount of waste material generated would be negligible. This impact would be less than significant.

*Would the proposed project not comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

The project plans and specifications would require the construction contractor to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations, including those for appropriate disposal of solid waste. Operation of the FRS II by the Water Authority would likewise comply with all applicable statutes and regulations. This impact would be less than significant.

*Would the proposed project interrupt or disrupt utility services as a result of physical displacement and subsequent relocation of public utility infrastructure?*

### **Construction Impacts**

Aboveground electrical and communication lines are highly visible and would be mapped on project construction plans and described in construction specifications. The contractor would be responsible for avoiding inadvertent damage to these lines during construction. In the unlikely case such damage occurred, the interruption in service would be short-term while the line would be repaired and reconnected.

Pipelines 3, 4, and 4BII must be protected from damage due to construction loads of equipment and vehicles passing over the Second Aqueduct easement. Using the existing access road from Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, the Second Aqueduct would be crossed at approximately Station 4178+57 for Pipeline 3 and 4, and at Station 50+74 for Pipeline 4BII. The following actions would be incorporated into the project to limit the risk of damage to the existing pipelines (HDR 2005):

- Record drawings will be reviewed at the 30 percent design level to determine the maximum allowable live loads during construction.
- Ground elevations will be surveyed over the pipes at the crossing locations to confirm the amount of cover.
- Equipment will not be permitted to operate over the pipelines unless a temporary bridge is constructed so that the load will not transfer to the existing pipelines.
- Stockpiling of excavated material will not be allowed over the existing pipelines or between the pipelines.

The existing Water Authority pipelines in the project area would be protected from the weight of construction equipment by a concrete slab that would distribute the weight over the pipelines, and by protocols defined in the plans and specifications for construction activities near the pipelines.

Near the end of project construction, the new pipeline must be connected to the existing pipelines. A pipeline outage of 10 calendar days is planned. The tie-ins would be scheduled by the Water Authority during the winter time, between November 1 and March 31 to take advantage of reduced water demand (Jacobs Associates 2005).

The outage necessary to allow connection of the new pipeline to the existing Pipeline 3 and Pipeline 4 at the north and south ends of the project would be short-term, and would be scheduled by the Water Authority during the winter when water demands are low.

As part of the project, the storm drain under the access road at the North Portal would be repaired and the eroded area would be stabilized to protect the Water Authority easement from further erosion at this location. This would be a benefit to this utility.

The Mission Gorge Trunk Sewer would not be affected by proposed construction of the stabilized river crossing, as the construction activity would occur east of the sewer line.

In summary, construction of the project would not interrupt service, create the need for additional capacity, or decrease the level of service of public utilities in the project area. Therefore, construction impacts on public utilities would be less than significant.

### **Operational Impacts**

Both SBC/Pac Bell and SDG&E have confirmed that there is sufficient capacity in their system to serve the proposed FRS II site. Therefore, there is no need for additional capacity of

communications or electrical lines, and overall level of service would not decrease due to the project.

The project is proposed by the Water Authority to relieve a hydraulic bottleneck in existing water supply operations, and to provide a stronger pipeline segment where surges and higher pressures could put the existing pipelines at risk. Therefore, the project would have operational benefits to the capacity and reliability of the water delivery system. The project would not result in the need for additional capacity, and overall level of service in water supply facilities would not decrease due to the project.

The proposed river crossing would not affect river hydraulics, so the Mission Gorge Trunk Sewer would not be affected by the permanent presence of the stabilized at-grade crossing to the east. The project would not generate wastewater and would therefore not increase flows to existing wastewater treatment facilities or require the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities.

In summary, operation of the project would not cause interruptions or disruption of public utilities. Therefore, operational impacts on public utilities would be less than significant.

*Would the proposed project result in the need for additional capacity of utility infrastructure or additional services that could not be supplied by existing utility service providers?*

Short-term construction and long-term operation of the project would not interrupt service, create the need for additional capacity, or decrease the level of service of public utilities in the project area. Therefore, operational impacts on public utilities would be less than significant.

#### **3.13.4 Mitigation Measures**

Impacts on public utilities and services would be less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

#### **3.13.5 Residual Impacts after Mitigation**

No residual impacts would occur.

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