

4.12 Public Services and Utilities

The following section evaluates the Proposed Project's potential impacts on public services and utilities, including fire and police protection, schools, hospitals, electricity, water supply, stormwater and wastewater, solid waste and natural gas. Please refer to EIR Section 4.13 (Recreation) for a discussion of public parks in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. This section additionally includes a discussion of existing laws and regulations relevant to public services, utilities, and service systems. In some cases, compliance with these existing laws and regulations would serve to reduce or avoid certain impacts that might otherwise occur.

The study area defined for this analysis is the Salinas River Planning Area, which extends from the community of San Miguel to Santa Margarita (County of San Luis Obispo County, 1980a), as well as the inland region extending from Santa Margarita to, and including, the City of San Luis Obispo.

Scoping Issues Addressed

During the Proposed Project's scoping period, one comment letter from the County Department of Public Works was received, as summarized in Table ES-1 and Appendix A. The letter, dated July 9, 2012, contains (1) requests for revisions to Applicant materials submitted with its CUP application, (2) comments related to public works resources in the Proposed Project area, and (3) recommendations for the Proposed Project's CUP conditions of approval. The majority of comments and recommendations addressed in the letter relate to public road improvements as mitigation and related fees, permit requirements and agreements. The Applicant responded to these comments on July 31, 2012, and both the comments and responses are summarized and considered in EIR Section 4.14 (Transportation and Circulation). The first part of this letter also suggests updates to the Proposed Project's Drainage Report and associated grading plans for potential flood hazards, as well as completion of County Stormwater Quality Plan Application because the Proposed Project qualifies as a Priority Project, as defined by Section 22.10.155 of Title 22 of the County Code. Per the Applicant's response letter on July 31, 2012, these materials have been submitted to the County and are considered in this analysis, as well as the analysis for water quality and supply (EIR Section 4.15).

In addition to the above, two comments were received at the Proposed Project's scoping meeting held on June 27, 2013 related to water supply. One commenter requested identification of the existing quarry's source of water for dust suppression. The County responded that all existing and proposed water supply needs for quarry operations, including process water, are provided by the quarry's existing Use Pond, and sometimes supplemented by surface runoff water collected in the excavation pit (please refer to EIR Section 2.5.4, Proposed Quarry Operations, Water Use and Management). The second comment received at the meeting requested information regarding the existing quarry's water demand, and how the Proposed Project may affect it. The County responded that exiting quarry operations require approximately 55 afy for dust suppression, and that the Proposed Project is estimated to cause the quarry to utilize about 2.8 afy additional water, for a total of 57.8 afy. It was additionally noted that this water supply comes from on-site sources, and that an estimated 90 percent of the process water used is recovered. Please refer to EIR Section 4.15 (Water Quality and Supply) for additional consideration water resources.

4.12.1 Existing Conditions

Fire Protection

There are ten County fire stations located within the study area, including two in the City of San Luis Obispo (Fire Stations 12 and 21), four in the City of Paso Robles area (Fire Stations 30, 33, 35 and 36), one in the City of Atascadero area (Fire Station 14), one in the vicinity of Creston, and two in the Santa Margarita area (San Luis Obispo County Fire Department, 2013). The closest of these stations to the Proposed Project site is Fire Station 40, the Parkhill Fire Station, which is located at 6140 Parkhill Road in Santa Margarita. The Station located approximately 1.8 miles southeast of the quarry, and is cooperatively manned by the County Fire Department and CAL FIRE (San Luis Obispo County Fire Department, 2013). The Station is manned by up to 12 fire fighters in the summer/fire season and two fire fighters in the winter/non-fire season (Blake, 2013).

Police Protection

The Proposed Project area is patrolled by the County's Sherriff's Department and is serviced by the North Station, located at 356 North Main Street in the City of Templeton (San Luis Obispo County Sherriff's Department, 2013). The total number of deputies on duty at any given time varies from shift to shift, but generally averages three to six; response times to the Proposed Project site from the Station would average ten to 15 minutes but may be accelerated depending on the nature of a call for assistance (Twissleman, 2013). The Proposed Project area is also serviced by the California Highway Patrol's (CHP's) Coastal Division; the two closest area offices to the Proposed Project site are located in the Cities of Templeton and San Luis Obispo, approximately 11.7 and 10.6 miles away, respectively (California Highway Patrol, 2013).

Schools

The Proposed Project site is located within the Atascadero Unified School District (AUSD). For the 2011-2012 academic year the AUSD had 12 schools including eight elementary schools, one junior high school, one high school, one alternative school and one continuing education school, and a total enrollment of 2,904 students (California Department of Education, 2013). For the 2011-2012 academic year, the AUSD enrollment capacities were as follows: 121 percent for elementary schools; 57 percent for junior high schools; and, 86 percent for high schools (County of San Luis Obispo, 2013).

Hospitals

There are three full service hospitals located within the vicinity of the Proposed Project site, including French Hospital Medical Center and Sierra Vista Medical Center in the City of San Luis Obispo, and the Twin Cities Community Hospital in the City of Templeton. The Proposed Project site's driving distance to the hospitals in the City of San Luis Obispo is approximately 15 miles, and the driving to the hospital in Templeton is approximately 20 miles. Therefore, the response time to an incident at the Proposed Project site for an ambulance would be less than an hour.

Utilities and Service Systems

A variety of local purveyors in San Luis Obispo County provide and maintain utility and service system facilities associated with electricity, water, onsite stormwater and wastewater, solid waste, and natural gas. Table 4.12-1 summarizes the utilities providers serving the study area, and Table 4.12-2 describes the solid waste capacity of landfills located within the County.

Table 4.12-1. Utility Providers

Natural Gas	Southern California Gas Company, Onsite (Propane) Supplies
Electricity	Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E)
Onsite Water Supplies	Onsite Wells (regulated by County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department)
Onsite Wastewater Treatment	Onsite Septic (regulated by County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department)
Telecommunications	AT&T, Nextel, Sprint, T-Mobile, Verizon
Solid Waste	Mid-State Solid Waste & Recycling, Paso Robles Country Waste, San Luis Garbage, San Miguel Garbage

Table 4.12-2. Solid Waste Capacity

Landfill	Total Capacity (cu.yd.)	Remaining Capacity (cu.yd.)	Remaining Capacity	Maximum Throughput (tons per day)
Cold Canyon Landfill	10,900,000	1,830,000	1.7%	1,200
Chicago Grade Landfill	8,950,220	8,329,699	93%	500
Paso Robles Landfill	6,495,000	5,327,500	82%	450

Source: CalRecycle, 2013a, 2013b, 2013c.

4.12.2 San Luis Obispo County Plans and Policies

Table 4.12-3 provides the Plans, principles, policies, and ordinances adopted by the County that apply to the Proposed Project’s continued reliance on public services and utilities. Please refer to Appendix E of this EIR for an analysis of the Proposed Project’s consistency with all applicable County Plans and policies.

Table 4.12-3. Applicable County Plans and Ordinances: Public Services and Utilities

Plan or Ordinance	Section, Principle, Goal, Standard, or Policy	Text
Framework for Planning (Inland): the Land Use and Circulation Elements of the San Luis Obispo County General Plan	Principle 1, Policy 1	Keep the amount, location and rate of growth allowed by the Land Use Element within the sustainable capacity of resources, public services and facilities.
Safety Element of the San Luis Obispo County General Plan	Goal S-4, Policy S-16, Standard S-44	Review development plans by fire safety personnel to assure adequacy of access for equipment, water supplies, construction standards, and vegetation clearance.
County of San Luis Obispo Land Use Ordinance, Article 3, Chapter 22.10	Section 22.10.150	All land uses, including commercial uses in rural areas, shall include provisions for trash collection, pick-up and recycling, as well as design standards for truck collection and maneuvering.
County of San Luis Obispo County Land Use Ordinance, Article 5, Chapter 22.50	Section 22.50.030	All land use applications in rural areas other than agricultural uses shall include a Fire Safety Plan. The Fire Safety Plan shall be submitted to the San Luis Obispo County Fire Chief, or designated appointee, for review and approval.

Source: County of San Luis Obispo, 1980b and 1980c; Fugro West, Inc. et al., 1999.

County of San Luis Obispo County Growth Management Ordinance. In addition to the County Plans and ordinances outlined in Table 4.12-3, on a bi-annual basis the County prepares a Resources Summary Report (RSR) pursuant to the County’s adopted Growth Management Ordinance (Title 26 of the County Code) (County of San Luis Obispo, 1990). The RSRs provide information to guide decisions about balancing land development with the resources necessary to sustain such development. The RSRs are based on existing information gathered from service providers, County agencies, reports from State and regional

agencies, EIRs for major projects, research for the Land Use Element Update Program, and personal communications with agency staff. Additional resource information is provided by staff of the incorporated cities, community services districts, school districts, other special districts and private water companies. The resource areas covered by the RSRs include: water systems and supply; wastewater treatment; roads; parks; schools; and, air quality. Each of these resource areas is compared to a “Level of Severity” ranking system to identify differing levels of resource deficiencies, as applicable. Table 4.12-4 provides the resource severity criteria used for the RSRs.

Table 4.12-4. Resource Levels of Severity Criteria

Level of Severity	Description
Level I	Level I is the first alert level and occurs when sufficient lead time exists either to expand the capacity of the resource, or to decrease the rate at which the resource is being depleted.
Level II	Level II identifies the crucial point at which some moderation of the rate of resource use must occur to prevent exceeding the resource capacity.
Level III	Level III occurs when the demand for the resource equals or exceeds its supply and is the most critical level of concern.

Source: County of San Luis Obispo, 2013.

The most recent RSR was published in 2013 for the years 2010 through 2012 (County of San Luis Obispo, 2013). According to the 2013 RSR, within the Proposed Project area (e.g., the inland area of the north County), water supply is currently ranked Level III in the vicinities of San Miguel and Shandon, and Level I in the vicinity of Templeton. Water systems are currently ranked Level II in the vicinity of Santa Margarita, and schools are currently ranked Level III in the vicinities of Santa Margarita and Shandon. The area has been ranked Level II for air quality. The severity of all water systems associated with the study area has been certified by the County’s Board of Supervisors (County of San Luis Obispo County, 2013).

4.12.3 Regulatory Setting

California Integrated Waste Management Board Solid Waste Policies, Plans, and Regulations. The Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Public Resources Code 40050 *et seq.*, or Assembly Bill 939), is administered by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), and requires all local and county governments to adopt a Source Reduction and Recycling Element to identify means of reducing the amount of solid waste sent to landfills. This law set reduction targets at 25 percent by the 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000. To assist local jurisdictions in achieving these targets, the California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991 (SWRR) requires all new development to include adequate, accessible, and convenient areas for collecting and loading recyclable and green waste materials. The County Public Works Department oversees implementation of this program.

No other State, federal, or local regulations apply other than those listed above and summarized in Section 4.12.2 (San Luis Obispo County Plans and Policies).

4.12.4 Environmental Impact Methodology

Significance Criteria

The following significance criteria for public services, utilities, and service systems were derived from CEQA, Appendix G. Impacts would be considered significant and would require mitigation if the Project would:

- Increase demand for public services that cannot be readily met by existing public service providers or facilities
- Impede or interfere with existing public services emergency access
- Result in a major reduction or interruption of existing utility systems
- Substantially change the ability of water treatment, wastewater treatment, or solid waste facilities to adequately supply water and accommodate solid waste and wastewater
- Require new or expanded water entitlements and resources
- Conflict with or be unable to adhere to federal, State, and/or local laws, regulations, or standards relating to solid waste

Approach to Impact Analysis

To determine the potential impacts of the Proposed Project information regarding existing public services and utilities was gathered and reviewed from data provided by the Applicant, independent research and personal communications with applicable agency personnel and public utility and services personnel, as outlined in the introduction to this analysis and EIR Section 4.12.1 (Existing Conditions). The impact significance criteria identified above subsequently applied to the proposed quarry expansion area and its operation, as well as proposed reclamation.

Impacts are categorized per the significance classification system provided in EIR Section 4.1 (Environmental Analysis, Introduction, Impact Significance Classification Scheme).

4.12.5 Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Proposed expansion of the quarry would not involve any changes to existing operations; no additional personnel, water demand or treatment, or public utilities and service systems would be required. The estimated average electrical demand of the quarry between the years 2010 through 2012 was 1.3 kilowatt-hours (KWH) per year. The quarry generates an estimated 600 cubic yards (cy) of waste per year, which is hauled off-site by a local contractor to a local landfill. On-site restroom facilities are supplied with non-potable water from the Use Pond, which draws from the Salinas River Source Pond. These restroom facilities are served by the single on-site septic system. All other restroom facilities are portable units. No natural gas service is available on site. Propane is used by the HMA plants and the quarry's office building; on average 449,310 gallons of propane are used annually. The quarry has an existing Emergency Evacuation Plan, as well as a Blast Safety Plan. The existing quarry does not have a County-approved Fire Safety Plan; however, Condition Number 39 of the quarry's existing land use approval (Exhibit D900016D:B, dated February 11, 1999), requires the Applicant to abide by the California Department of Forestry (CDF), applicable Fire Safety Standards (Article 5, Section 22.50.040, of the County's current Land Use Ordinance [County of San Luis Obispo, 1980c]), and the mitigation measures as listed in the CDF/County Fire Department letter dated January 28, 1991 regarding portable fire extinguishers, spark arresters, access, vegetation clearance, and final inspection.

At the end of the quarry’s operational lifetime, all structures, facilities and equipment would be dismantled and removed from the Proposed Project site as part of final reclamation. The majority of these materials would be made up of steel and recycled at a local scrap yard. No materials have been identified by the Applicant that would require disposal at a permanent hazardous materials landfill (Wallace Group, 2013); however, an estimated 150 tons of miscellaneous debris would need to be hauled to a local landfill for disposal (see Table 4.12-2, Solid Waste Capacity). Table 4.12-5 provides the estimated volume of the materials to be removed from the Project site during final reclamation.

Table 4.12-5. Estimated Volume of Quarry Equipment Removed During Final Reclamation

Material and Source	Tonnage	Cubic Yards	Truckloads
Recyclable steel: processing plant equipment	700	1,545	62
Recyclable concrete: concrete footings	2,000	1,600	94
Portable office buildings to be reused: 3	N/A	N/A	3
Mobile equipment to be reused: 9 pieces of heavy equipment	N/A	N/A	9
Non-recyclable material hauled to landfill	150	600	24
Total	2,850	3,745	192

Source: Wallace Group, 2013.

Impact PS-1: Increase demands on public service providers and facilities

Excavation

Continued mining within the proposed expansion area would not change any operational attributes of the existing quarry. There would be no net increase in the quarry’s existing employee base, or in the intensity or duration of existing quarry activities. Consequently, there would be no Project-related change to, or increased demand for, public services in comparison to baseline conditions. No impacts would occur (No Impact).

Reclamation

Proposed reclamation activities would occur parallel to continued quarry operations for the lifetime of the Project, followed by final reclamation once the quarry has been closed. Final reclamation would include equipment removal, establishment of remaining quarry benches, Lower Area grading, ripping compacted areas, finish grading, seed mix distribution, direct planting, monitoring, maintenance and, final quarry closure. During the quarry’s lifetime, on-going reclamation would be undertaken by existing personnel. During final reclamation existing quarry employees would be anticipated to undertake the majority of reclamation activities, and be supported periodically by specialized professionals, such as revegetation experts. Supporting professionals would not be expected to be on site in a full-time capacity, and would likely be drawn from the County’s regional population. As such, final reclamation would not increase the demand for, or otherwise alter any public services in comparison to future baseline conditions. No Impacts would occur (No Impact).

Impact PS-2: Impede or interfere with public services emergency access

Excavation

Excavation of the proposed expansion area would not alter the quarry’s existing operations, and no changes to existing regional or site-specific emergency access is proposed. Proposed excavation would continue to include implementation of the existing quarry’s Emergency Evacuation Plan, Blast Safety Plan

and fire control and suppression measures. Additionally, pursuant to Proposed RPA Section 4.21 (Post Extraction Public Safety), proposed excavation would include activities that would include controls to prevent public access, such as locked gates, fencing and signage. Proposed excavation would not, therefore, directly or indirectly impede or interfere with existing public services emergency access. No impacts would occur (No Impact).

Reclamation

Proposed reclamation activities during continued operation of the existing quarry would not involve any alternations to existing regional or site-specific emergency access. Final reclamation would involve closure of site-specific access roads; however, once the quarry is fully reclaimed no activities that could potentially require emergency public services would be expected to occur. Final quarry closure and reclamation would additionally comply with all public health and safety measures specified by County standards and ordinances, as well as those specified by the Mine Safety and Health Administration and California Division of Occupational Safety and Health. No impacts would occur (No Impact).

Impact PS-3: Cause a major reduction or interruption of existing utility systems

Excavation

Excavation of the proposed expansion area would not alter or increase the existing quarry's utility demands because no changes to average daily and annual operations are proposed. Electrical power would continue to be provided by PG&E, and propane, potable water, and waste management and disposal would continue to be provided by third-party vendors. No impacts to existing utility systems would occur (No Impact).

Reclamation

Reclamation activities during continued mining operations would not require any increase in the quarry's utility demands because no changes to average daily or annual production are proposed. The only existing on-site public utility associated with the quarry is electrical power provided by PG&E. The power is provided through an existing overhead distribution line that enters the quarry near its front gate. Following final quarry closure and reclamation there would be no on-site demand for electrical power or any other public utilities; the Project site would be restored to open space uses including seasonal water storage, oak woodland habitat, riparian woodland habitat and chaparral vegetation. Therefore, on-going and final reclamation would not reduce or interrupt any existing utility systems. No impacts would occur (No Impact).

Impact PS-4: Change the ability of a water treatment, wastewater treatment or solid waste facilities to adequately supply water and accommodate solid waste and wastewater

Excavation

The existing quarry's potable water supply is provided by a third-party vendor, and an on-site septic system is used for wastewater treatment. On-site restroom facilities are supplied with non-potable water from the Use Pond, and all other restroom facilities are portable units that are serviced by an outside vendor. The quarry generates an estimated 600 cubic yards (cy) of waste per year, which is hauled off-site by a local contractor to a local landfill. Mining of the proposed expansion area would not involve any increase or intensification of the existing quarry's average daily or annual production rates or activities. Consequently, there would be no Project-related change to local or regional water treatment, wastewater treatment or solid waste facilities or their existing demand. No impacts would occur (No Impact).

Reclamation

On-going reclamation of the existing quarry and proposed expansion area would not increase or intensify any Project operations and thus would not affect existing baseline conditions or demand for water treatment, wastewater treatment or solid waste facilities. Final reclamation and quarry closure would involve the recycling of an estimated 1,545 cy of steel and 1,600 cy of concrete (see Table 4.12-5). Approximately 600 cy of non-recyclable would be disposed of at a local landfill. As demonstrated in Table 4.12-2, the Cold Canyon Landfill is currently near its permitted capacity and thus would not likely be able to accommodate the Proposed Project's long-range solid waste disposal needs. However, the Chicago Grade Landfill and Paso Robles Landfill currently have over 80 percent remaining capacity and the Proposed Project's contribution to one of these solid facilities during final reclamation would be less than 1 percent of their total capacity (0.007 percent and 0.009 percent, respectively, for the Chicago Grade Landfill and Paso Robles Landfill). Consequently, it is anticipated that the Proposed Project's future solid waste disposal needs could be accommodated at one of these permitted facilities. Impacts to solid waste facilities would therefore be less than significant (Class III) or none.

Impact PS-5: Require new or expanded water entitlements and resources
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Excavation

As outlined in EIR Section 2.5.4 (Proposed Quarry Operations, Water Use and Management), mining of the proposed expansion area would require an estimated 2.8 afy of additional water for dust suppression, which would be supplied by the quarry's existing Use Pond. The average water required for aggregate washing operations (approximately 306 afy) would remain the same and would also be supplied by the quarry's use pond. Potable water is supplied by an outside vendor and no change to that component of operation would occur because no change to the quarry's existing employee base is proposed. As such, the Project would not require new or expanded water entitlements or resources; no impact would occur (No Impact).

Reclamation

On-going reclamation of the existing quarry and proposed expansion area would not require an appreciable amount of water. However, final reclamation would require water when seeds and plantings are sprouted, as well for irrigation until such time that the vegetation has matured and is well established. This water would either be supplied by the quarry's Use Pond and/or water impoundment area, or otherwise provided off-site at nurseries or other facilities contracted to assist with revegetation efforts. Consequently, reclamation of the Project would not require new or expanded water entitlements or resources and no impacts would occur (No Impact).

Impact PS-6: Conflict with or be unable to adhere to federal, State, and/or local laws, regulations, or standards relating to solid waste
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Excavation

As indicated in the analysis for Impact PS-4, on-going operation of the quarry generates an estimated 600 cy of waste per year, which is hauled off-site by a local contractor to a local landfill. Mining of the proposed expansion area would not involve any increase or intensification of the quarry's average daily or annual production rates or activities. Consequently there would be no Project-related change solid waste disposal needs in comparison to baseline conditions. Additionally, existing and proposed operations during excavation would not involve any waste materials requiring disposal at a permanent hazardous

landfill (Wallace Group, 2013). As such, the Proposed Project would comply with, and adhere to, federal, State, and local laws, regulations and standards relating to solid waste, including Section 22.10.150 of the County's Land Use Ordinance (Article 3, Chapter 22.10; please refer to Table 4.12-3). No impacts would occur (No Impact).

Reclamation

As referenced in the analysis for Impact PS-4, final reclamation and quarry closure would involve the recycling of an estimated 1,545 cy of steel and 1,600 cy of concrete (see Table 4.12-5). Approximately 600 cy of non-recyclable would be disposed of at a local landfill, and it is anticipated that this need can be accommodated at either the Chicago Grade Landfill or Paso Robles Landfill. Further, proposed recycling during final reclamation and quarry closure would contribute to the recycling targets of the State's SWRR, and additionally be consistent with Implementation Strategy E 5.1.2 of the County's COSE (Support and promote ongoing efforts of the business community, schools and universities, and nonprofit organizations to promote green business practices and products that are locally sourced and/or to reduce, reuse, or recycle materials), as well as Section 22.10.150 of the County's Land Use Ordinance (Article 3, Chapter 22.10). Therefore, reclamation would the Proposed Project would not conflict with, nor hamper, federal, State, and local laws, regulations and standards relating to solid waste. No impacts would occur (No Impact).

