

## V.E. PUBLIC SERVICES

This section summarizes the findings presented in Chapter V.E of the Willow Road/Highway 101 Interchange Final Environmental Impact Report, prepared by Douglas Wood & Associates, Inc. (March 1999: pp. V70-V75). This EIR incorporates the previous study by reference per the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15150, and updates the information as applicable. In addition, discussion of potential impacts from solid waste generation during construction has been included.

### 1. Existing Conditions

**Police Protection.** The County of San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services to the project area through their Oceano substation. Traffic enforcement is provided by the California Highway Patrol. Emergency response times are usually between three and five minutes since the Sheriff's Department generally maintains a patrol car in the Nipomo area. If there is not a patrol car in Nipomo, response times can exceed 10 minutes.

**Fire Protection.** The California Department of Forestry/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department provides fire protection and emergency response services for the Nipomo area. The Nipomo Station 20 would be the first to participate in any fire or emergency. The project area is also served by the Mesa Station 22 in Arroyo Grande. Due to an "automatic aid" agreement, medical aid calls may also be answered by the California Department of Forestry/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department.

**Public Utilities.** The Nipomo area is served by the Southern California Gas Company for natural gas service and Pacific Gas and Electric for electrical service. The Nipomo Community Services District (CSD) provides water and wastewater services within their boundaries. Other water companies or on-site wells provide water outside of CSD boundaries. On-site septic systems or small package treatment plants exist outside the CSD boundary for wastewater. Telephone and cable television services are provided by Pacific Bell and Charter Communications respectively. Underground utilities are located throughout the project area and an overhead electric power line runs from east of Pomeroy, over US 101 and over to Thompson Avenue.

**Solid Waste.** The Nipomo area is served by two Integrated Waste Management Facilities, the Nipomo Transfer Station and Cold Canyon Landfill. The Nipomo Transfer Station is located one-half mile west of Highway 101, at 325 Cuyama Lane (Highway 166) in Nipomo. Waste sent to this transfer station is not sorted, but is shipped to the Chicago Grade Landfill in Atascadero. Cold Canyon Landfill is a sorting facility, which has historically recycled construction and demolition materials (i.e. concrete, unpainted wood, brick, etc.) at a rate of 72.4 percent. Cold Canyon Landfill is located about 6 miles south of the City of San Luis Obispo on Highway 227. Cold Canyon Landfill is expected to reach capacity in 2013 and accepts an average of 180,000 tons of waste per year.

### 2. Thresholds of Significance

Appendix G of the State CEQA guidelines and the County of San Luis Obispo Initial Study Checklist states that a project may have a potentially significant impact on public services if it 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:

- Fire protection
- Police protection
- Public utilities
- Solid Waste
- Other public facilities

### 3. Project Impacts

**Police Protection.** The proposed project will lead to improved vehicular access to the Nipomo area which will assist law enforcement efforts. However, the project will also represent added patrol responsibilities, create opportunities for people to congregate, and provide a new roadway that would lead to unlit open space. According to the Sheriff's Department, the potential adverse impacts are outweighed by the benefit of improved vehicular patrol access.

**Fire Protection.** Improved vehicular access resulting from the proposed project will be beneficial to fire protection and emergency services. In addition, the proposed project will result in a reduction of traffic congestion, thereby reducing accident potential. However, roadways provide the opportunity for sparks and other combustibles (e.g. cigarettes) from cars which can ignite fires on the side of roadways. According to the California Department of Forestry/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department, the potential adverse impacts are outweighed by the benefit of improved fire protection access, emergency response, and traffic safety.

**Public Utilities.** The proposed project will only utilize roadway lighting at intersections and the US 101 interchange. The additional energy consumption for this lighting is considered minimal and will not cause a significant impact. No other utilities, such as gas lines, water lines, or telephones lines, will be needed. Therefore, the only long-term increase in utility usage will be related to roadway and intersection lighting.

Construction, however, has the potential to disturb underground natural gas and/or electrical service mains, water or sewer mains, and telephone or cable television lines.

**Solid Waste.** The proposed project will involve the breakup and removal of certain construction and demolition materials, such as asphalt, as well as cut soil from construction and grading activities. It is likely that an estimated 420,710 cubic feet of asphalt generated by demolition activities will be recycled using local facilities. The County diversion goal for construction debris materials is 50 percent, thereby reducing the volume of waste that is transported to a landfill. The proposed project is expected to substantially exceed this diversion goal by transporting these materials to a local asphalt recycler. For example, Troesh Ready Mix, located in Nipomo accepts construction and demolition materials, recycles at 100 percent, and converts all recycled materials into Class II road sub-base. The sub-base produced by these recycled materials meets Caltrans standards. Therefore, construction debris generated by the proposed project will be recycled at close to 100 percent. Excess cut soil from construction of the proposed road extension and interchange will not be transported to a landfill, but

will be stockpiled at a site near the project area for use on other County projects. The County will review potential stockpile sites to ensure that no sensitive resources would be impacted or other environmental impacts would result from soil stockpiling.

Since construction and demolition materials will be recycled, and the excess soil associated with construction of the proposed project will not be transported to a landfill, solid waste impacts to local waste management facilities are expected to be less than significant.

#### **4. Cumulative Impacts**

Chapter IV, Section B, Cumulative Projects, identifies 27 projects in the vicinity of the Willow Road Extension/US 101 Interchange project. The majority of these projects include the construction of residences which would increase the population in the area, thereby increasing the need for public services. Although the proposed project also represents a minor incremental increase in the demand for police protection services, fire protection, and emergency response services, potential adverse impacts are outweighed by the benefit of improved vehicular patrol access, fire protection access, emergency response, and traffic safety. Therefore, the project does not add significantly to cumulative impacts on public services.

Since no gas lines, water lines, or telephones lines, will be needed and additional energy consumption for roadway and intersection lighting is considered minimal and not significant. Therefore, the Willow Road Extension/US 101 Interchange project will not contribute to a cumulative impact on utilities.

**Solid Waste.** Project-generated construction debris shall be recycled at close to 100 percent and excess cut soil from construction of the proposed project will be stockpiled at a location near the project area for use on other County projects. Therefore, the project's contribution to the combined impacts from other cumulative projects in the region to County landfill capacity and operations will be less than significant.

#### **5. Mitigation Measures**

**E-1, Emergency Access.** The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department shall review final project design plans of all project facilities and shall advise the County Public Works Department as to adequate emergency access and surveillance needs for Sheriff patrol cars. The County Public Works Department shall submit the final design plans to the Sheriff's Department prior to approval of final project design plans.

**E-2, Fuel Reduction.** Prior to the approval of final project design plans of all project facilities, a Fuel Reduction Plan shall be submitted to the San Luis Obispo County Fire Department by the County Public Works Department for review and approval. This plan will provide for adequate brush clearance and vegetation removal pursuant to Fire Department and California Department of Forestry standards while preserving as much of the natural habitat as possible. This plan shall also provide a long-term maintenance program for these cleared areas.

**E-3, Existing Service Mains.** The County Department of Public Works shall submit the final project design plans to the Southern California Gas Company, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the Nipomo Community Services District, Pacific Bell, State of California, Department of Water Resources and the local cable television provider for review no less than 90 days prior to construction in order to identify the location of existing service mains, provide for and necessary relocation of facilities and prevent any unexpected service interruptions.

**E-4, Construction Notification.** The County Department of Public Works shall ensure that all project plans and specifications include the following note: "Please telephone Underground Service Alert (USA) toll free at 1-800-642-2444 forty-eight hours prior to the start of construction. For best response, provide as much notice as possible, up to ten working days". This notification will allow adequate time to locate and mark existing utility facilities.

The following measure is prescribed in order to prevent environmental impacts to potential soil stockpiling sites.

**E-5, Stockpiling of Cut Soils.** Prior to stockpiling of soil from project generated activities, the County Department of Public Works shall ensure that a designated soil stockpile location will be reviewed for sensitive resources prior to placement of any soils.

## **6. Residual Impacts**

Implementation of the mitigation measures described above will reduce potential impacts to police protection services, fire protection, emergency response services, and public utilities to less than significant levels. In addition, improved vehicular access to the Nipomo area will assist law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency response services. Potentially adverse effects are outweighed by these project related benefits. Application of the County's standard recycling procedures for construction debris (construction and demolition materials) and use of local recycling facilities will ensure that no amount of project material is deposited at the County landfills. No excess soil from grading operations will be placed in area landfills, but rather reused by other local construction projects. Therefore, the potential effects on landfill operations and capacity will be less than significant.