

3.15 Utilities and Public Services

3.15.1 Introduction

This section analyzes the proposed project's potential impacts related to utilities and public services. It describes existing conditions in the project area and summarizes the overall Federal, state, and local regulatory framework for utilities and public services, and it analyzes the potential for the proposed project to affect these resources.

3.15.2 Existing Conditions

This section discusses the existing conditions related to utilities and public services in the study area. For purposes of the utilities and public services evaluation, the study area consists of the project area and the immediately adjacent rural area. The study area has no habitable or developed structures that use or require utilities, and no utilities or service systems serve the study area. An existing treated sewer outfall line owned and operated by Sewerage Commission–Oroville Region traverses the project area (Figure 2-1).

No schools, parks, or recreation facilities other than the Oroville Wildlife Area (OWA) itself are within or near the study area. The nearest school, Oakdale Heights Elementary, is approximately 4 miles northeast of the study area. For the purposes of this analysis, relevant utilities and public services within the study area are therefore limited to stormwater drainage, solid waste disposal, fire protection, and police protection services.

3.15.2.1 Stormwater Drainage

The study area is entirely in a rural setting. Study area stormwater runoff drains primarily through natural drainage swales, interior channels, ditches, and watercourses, with much of it ultimately flowing into the adjacent Feather River. In addition, floodwaters from the Feather River are diverted into the study area through an existing inflow/outflow weir system when flows in the main channel reach approximately 43,000 cubic feet per second. See Section 3.2, *Flood Control* and Section 3.3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, for detailed descriptions of drainage in the project area.

3.15.2.2 Solid Waste Disposal

The nearest solid waste facility is the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility, a 190-acre facility located approximately 16 miles north of the study area and operated by the Butte County Public Works Department. The Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility is permitted with a total maximum permitted capacity of 25,271,900 cubic yards and an estimated closure year of 2048 (CalRecycle 2015). The facility is permitted to accept municipal solid waste, inert industrial waste, demolition materials, special wastes containing nonfriable asbestos; septage; and green waste, including tree branches, woody shrubs, and plants (County of Butte 2013b; CalRecycle 2015). In December 2015, the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility was reported to have 16,018,822 cubic yards of remaining capacity (63% of total capacity) (CalRecycle 2015).

3.15.2.3 Fire Services

Fire protection and emergency services within the study area are provided by Butte County Cooperative Fire Protection, a cooperative system consisting of CAL FIRE, Butte County, the Cities of Gridley and Biggs and the Town of Paradise. The study area falls within Butte County Cooperative Fire Protection's South Division, which consists of three battalions serving Oroville and its surrounding area in cooperation with the Cities of Biggs and Gridley (County of Butte 2013a). The nearest fire station to the study area is El Medio Fire Station, approximately 4.6 miles northeast of the study area.

3.15.2.4 Police Services

Because the study area is within the OWA and under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), law enforcement services within the study area are provided by DFW game wardens. In addition, the California Highway Patrol is also responsible for providing law enforcement services on State property (California Vehicle Code Section 2400[g]).

3.15.3 Regulatory Setting

3.15.3.1 Federal

There are no applicable Federal policies related to utilities and public services.

3.15.3.2 State

California Integrated Waste Management Act

In 1989, AB 939, known as the Integrated Waste Management Act, was passed into law. Enactment of AB 939 established the California Integrated Waste Management Board and set forth aggressive solid waste diversion requirements. Under AB 939, every City and County in California is required to reduce the volume of waste sent to landfills by 50% through recycling, reuse, composting, and other means. AB 939 requires counties to prepare a countywide integrated waste management plan (CIWMP) including goals and objectives, a summary of waste management issues and problems identified in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county, a summary of waste management programs and infrastructure, existing and proposed solid waste facilities, and an overview of specific steps that would be taken by the County to achieve the goals outlined in the components of the CIWMP.

3.15.3.3 Local

Butte County General Plan

The Butte County General Plan 2030 presents its policies regarding utilities and public services in the Public Facilities and Services element (County of Butte 2012). Goals and policies that may influence the proposed project include the following.

Goal PUB-2. Provide adequate fire protection and emergency medical response services to serve existing and new development.

Goal PUB-9. Provide safe, sanitary and environmentally acceptable solid waste management.

- **Policy PUB-P9.3.** Innovative strategies shall be employed to ensure efficient and cost-effective solid waste and other discarded materials collection, disposal, transfer, and processing.

Goal PUB-12. Manage wastewater treatment facilities at every scale to protect the public health and safety of Butte County residents and the natural environment.

3.15.4 Environmental Effects

Potential impacts of the proposed project on utilities and public services are discussed in the context of State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G checklist items.

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

The proposed project consists of vegetation management activities, recreation improvements, and hydraulic improvements to existing facilities, and would not involve the construction of any buildings. Therefore, no wastewater would be generated as a result of the proposed project. There would be no impact.

b. 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?

No water use, and therefore no water service or wastewater service, is associated with any of the three components of the proposed project. Therefore, no new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities would be required as a result of the project. There would be no impact.

c. Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

No additional stormwater runoff is associated with any of the three components of the proposed project. Therefore, no new or expanded stormwater facilities would be required as a result of the project. There would be no impact.

d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or would new or expanded entitlements be needed?

No water supply is necessary for operation of the proposed project, which would implement vegetation management activities, recreation improvements, and hydraulic improvements to an existing system of weirs and interior channels, and would not involve water use. Construction activities would require the limited use of water for dust suppression purposes. As noted in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, water sources for construction are the contractor's responsibility, and the contractor may either choose to use surface water from within the project area or truck water in from offsite sources. There would be no impact.

e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

The proposed project consists of vegetation management activities, recreation improvements, and hydraulic improvements to existing facilities, and would not involve the construction of any

buildings. The proposed project would construct a concrete pad to allow for the placement of existing portable restrooms. No increase in use of the project area is anticipated. The wastewater production associated with the existing portable restrooms would be limited, is not expected to increase from existing levels, and would not result in the need for additional wastewater treatment capacity. There would be no impact.

f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

Impact UTIL-1: Cause substantial increase in solid waste disposed of at local landfill (less than significant for hydraulic improvements and recreational features; no impact for vegetation management)

Project-related solid waste would consist entirely of construction-related waste, potentially including stripped material associated with site preparation for the hydraulic improvements and recreation features. As indicated in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, stripped material may be spoiled onsite or disposed of offsite. In the event that stripped material is disposed of offsite, it would likely be trucked to the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility for disposal. The Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility has 16,018,822 cubic yards of remaining permitted capacity to accommodate materials disposal through 2048; project construction is expected to be completed in 2018. This would be a less-than-significant impact. No mitigation is required.

g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

The proposed project would comply with statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Waste generated by the project would consist of stripped vegetative material and degrade material associated with the hydraulic and recreation improvements. This material would either be spoiled onsite or hauled offsite for disposal. There would be no impact.

h. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a 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 following public services:

- 1) Fire protection?***
- 2) Police protection?***
- 3) Schools?***
- 4) Parks?***
- 5) Other public facilities?***

Impact UTIL-2: Disrupt public service as a result of project construction (less than significant for all components)

Public services in the study area consist of law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency medical assistance. No schools are located in or near the study area. Other than the OWA itself, no parks or recreational facilities are present nearby. The proposed project consists of vegetation management activities, recreation improvements, and hydraulic improvements to existing facilities, which would not affect emergency access or result in any loss of service ratios, response times, or other

performance objectives. No road closures would be necessary for construction of the project and no substantial disruptions of physical access, emergency services, or utility services to adjacent landowners are expected after applying Mitigation Measure TRA-MM-2, Develop and Implement a Traffic Control Plan, as described in Section 3.5.4. Construction vehicles accessing the project site could potentially slow traffic during construction hours; however, with the exception of pickup trucks and haul trucks, most equipment will remain onsite for the duration of its applicable construction phase. Accordingly, the number of vehicles and vehicle trips needed for construction would be minimal and would not disrupt access to public services. This would be a less-than-significant impact.