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## 4.13 Public Services

This section describes the existing public services that serve the Proposed Project site and assesses the potential environmental impacts. The Proposed Project would not result in any change to existing fire, police, schools, parks, or other public facilities; Proposed Project components that are not addressed in this section include the installation of upgraded relay systems and equipment at the Newhall, Chatsworth, and San Fernando Substations<sup>1</sup>. Therefore this section provides a general discussion of impacts to public services in accordance with CEQA.

### 4.13.1 Existing Public Services Setting

#### Fire Services

The City of Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) provides first responder fire protection services to the Storage Field, located within the city of Los Angeles (south of I-5). Specifically, the LAFD Battalion 15 serves the southeastern portion of the Proposed Project site. This battalion has a total of eight fire stations and provides fire protection services to the Northwest San Fernando Valley communities. Due to a mutual agreement between SoCalGas and the LAFD, LAFD responds first to fire emergencies, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) responds second. The LACFD provides fire protection services to the portions of the Proposed Project site located within unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Refer to Figure 4.9-1 in Section 4.9, Land Use and Planning, which shows the location of the Proposed Project site in relation to the County, the city of Los Angeles and the city of Santa Clarita. The LACFD, which has a total of 21 Battalions, provides fire services to over four million residents in a 2,296 square-mile service area. The LACFD Battalion Six serves the areas of the Proposed Project site located within unincorporated Los Angeles County. This battalion has a total of 13 fire stations and provides fire protection services to the cities of Canyon Country, Castaic, Chatsworth, Gorman, Newhall, Santa Clarita, Stevenson Ranch, and Valencia.

#### Police Services

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services to the portions of the Proposed Project site located within unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Specifically, the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station, located at 23740 Magic Mountain Parkway, Valencia, California, would serve the areas of the Proposed Project site located within unincorporated Los Angeles County. This station is responsible for providing law enforcement services to the city of Santa Clarita, as well as 600 square miles of unincorporated Los Angeles County communities of Stevenson Ranch, Castaic and Gorman with a total population of over 260,000 residents. The City of Los Angeles Police Department provides law enforcement services to the southeastern portion of Proposed Project site located within the city of Los Angeles (south of I-5). In particular, the Devonshire Community Police Station, located at 10250 Etiwanda Avenue, Northridge, California, serves this southeastern portion of the Proposed Project site. The Devonshire Community Police Station serves the neighborhoods of Chatsworth, and Northridge, as well as parts of Canoga Park, Granada Hills, and Winnetka.

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<sup>1</sup> Relay replacement at the Chatsworth Substation located in Ventura County will not impact population growth or housing and therefore Ventura County is not included in this CEQA evaluation.

## **Schools**

There are three school districts within the vicinity of the Proposed Project site: The Newhall School District; the William S. Hart Union High School District; and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) (Local District Nos. 1 and 2). Located within 50 of the San Fernando Substation is Bishop Alemany High School, located at 11111 North Alemany Drive. Mission Hills, CA. The Bishop Alemany High School is a private Catholic High School. The Newhall School District, comprises 10 elementary schools, serves preschool and Kindergarten through sixth grade children who reside in the Newhall, Valencia, Stevenson Ranch, and Westridge areas of the Santa Clarita Valley. The William S. Hart Union High School District, located in the Santa Clarita Valley, serves over 23,000 students in the district's six comprehensive high schools, a continuation school, early college and middle college high schools, independent study school, six junior high schools, an adult school, and a Regional Occupational Program. Lastly, the LAUSD, covering a total area of 710 square miles, provides Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade levels of education, and special and alternative education in the city of Los Angeles and many other cities (including the city of Santa Clarita) and several unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

## **Parks and Recreation Services**

Refer to Section 4.14 Recreation, of this PEA for a detailed discussion of existing parks and recreation facilities in the vicinity of the Proposed Project site.

## **Library Services**

The County of Los Angeles Public Library provides library services in the vicinity of the Proposed Project site. The County of Los Angeles Public Library offers library service to over 3.5 million residents living in unincorporated areas and to residents of 51 of the 88 incorporated cities of Los Angeles County. The service area extends over 3,000 square miles. Supplementing the 7.5 million volume book collection, the County of Los Angeles Public Library also offers magazines, newspapers, microfilm, government publications, and many specialized reference materials including online databases.

### **4.13.2 Significance Criteria**

The significance criteria for assessing the impacts to public services derive from the CEQA Environmental Checklist. According to the CEQA Checklist, a project causes a potentially significant impact 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 any of the public services:
  - Fire protection,
  - Police protection,
  - Schools,
  - Parks, or
  - Other public facilities.

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### 4.13.3 Applicant Proposed Measures

There are no Applicant Proposed Measures associated with public resources.

### 4.13.4 Environmental Impact Assessment

The potential impact to public services from construction and operation of the Proposed Project was evaluated using the stated CEQA significance criteria and is presented in this section. For the purpose of presenting potential impacts to public services, CEQA criteria were evaluated and are discussed separately for construction and operations

#### Construction Impacts

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: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities?

The short-term construction activities would not require the expansion or addition of fire protection facilities in the Proposed Project area.

The Proposed Project includes: constructing and installing a proposed Central Compressor Station consisting of three new electric-driven compression trains; installing a proposed PPL from a proposed SCE Natural Substation to the proposed Central Compressor Station; relocating existing on-site office trailers and guard house; modifying the existing SCE 66 kV sub-transmission system; constructing a proposed SCE Natural Substation; and upgrading three existing substations to accommodate the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project may have temporary construction impacts to Bishop Alemany High School and Brand Park where existing poles will be replaced with TSP's. Impacts will be localized to the area of the pole replacement and will not result in any permanent change to the park size or access, or interrupt school activities. To minimize impacts due to construction at the school and park, SCE will schedule as many of the construction activities associated with these public features as feasible during periods when school is not in session, or low park visitor volume (e.g., non-weekend periods).

Construction activities would be temporary and of short duration, in which no permanent accommodations for construction workers would be needed. It is anticipated that most of the construction jobs would be filled by the existing area labor force. Construction of the Proposed Project is unlikely to require the need for local law enforcement service and would not create a need for new or physically altered police facilities. In addition, construction of the Proposed Project would not result in increased school enrollment or create a need for new or additional school facilities. Similarly, construction of Proposed Project would not result in increased library use or the need for new or additional library facilities.

Construction of the Proposed Project would thus have a less than significant impact to public services. The Proposed Project construction impacts to parks and recreation services are evaluated in Section 4.14 Recreation.

## Operation Impacts

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: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities?

Operation of the Proposed Project would consist of routine inspection and maintenance of Project facilities. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in changes that would require additional workers/employees at SCE or SoCalGas. Thus, operations activities are unlikely to create a need for additional public services.

In addition, the Proposed Project does not include the construction of any residential uses and therefore is not anticipated to indirectly induce population growth in the area. Thus, the Proposed Project would not generate a need for new schools, libraries, or other public services. Operation of the Proposed Project would therefore result in no significant, adverse impact to public services. The Proposed Project operation impacts to parks and recreation services are evaluated in Section 4.14 Recreation.

### 4.13.5 Mitigation Measures

The Proposed Project was determined to have **no impact** due to construction and operation; therefore no mitigation is required or proposed.

### 4.13.6 References

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The William S. Hart Union High School District. Homepage. 2009. <http://www.hartdistrict.org/> (accessed on April 20, 2009).