

Public Services and Utilities

14.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the existing public services and utilities at or in the vicinity of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL). The potential impacts that could result to public services and utilities from implementing the CCL Master Plan Revision (Proposed Project) are evaluated and the significance of those impacts is analyzed. Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any potentially significant impacts to public service and utilities are proposed where applicable. Public services include police protection, fire protection, and schools, parks, or other public facilities. Utilities include energy systems, both electrical and natural gas, and water supply and sewage disposal.

14.2 Methodology

The study area for this resource is defined as the public service area (i.e., school district or city police jurisdiction) in which CCL is located. Public services include fire protection, police protection, schools, and other public facilities, such as hospitals, which are generally provided by the applicable county or municipality. Utilities include electricity, natural gas, water supply, and sewage disposal. California State government and education codes, and the County of Los Angeles' plans, policies, and programs were reviewed to identify potential impacts to public services as a result of the Proposed Project. The significance of the impacts was assessed in accordance with criteria presented in Appendix G of the *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines*.

14.3 Regulatory Setting

14.3.1 State Regulations and Standards

14.3.1.1 California Environmental Quality Act

The *CEQA Guidelines*, Appendix G, identify the criteria that must be considered when analyzing a project's potential to result in temporary and permanent impacts on public services.

14.3.1.2 California Government Code Sections 65996-65997

California Government Code Sections 65996-65997 establish that the levy of a fee for construction of an industrial facility be considered mitigating impacts on school facilities.

14.3.1.3 California Education Code Section 17620

California Education Code Section 17620 allows a school district to levy a fee against any construction within the boundaries of the district for the purpose of funding construction of school facilities.

14.4 Regional Setting and Project Setting

This section provides an overview of the public services and utilities at or in the vicinity of CCL. A review of the following public services and utilities is provided herein: police protection, fire protection, and schools, parks, or other public facilities, and energy systems, both electrical and natural gas, water supply and sewage disposal.

14.4.1 Police Protection

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provides police protection services to the Santa Clarita Valley. The Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff Station is located at 23740 Magic Mountain Parkway in the City of Valencia, which is approximately 8 miles from CCL. The County Sheriff or Deputies do not routinely enter CCL property,

but would be called on in case of a security emergency. CCL also implements onsite security measures including controlled access and security lighting.

14.4.2 Fire Protection

CCL is located within Los Angeles County Fire Zone No. 4, which is a rugged, undeveloped area covered with combustible chaparral, sage scrub, and non-native grassland. These vegetation communities can provide a heavy fuel-load fire hazard when mature. The climate of the region is characterized as Mediterranean. Winters are generally cool and moderately wet, while summers tend to be hot and dry. The area receives an average annual precipitation of 13 to 14 inches. The period of concern is during the summer and fall months when soil moisture is reduced and periods of Santa Ana winds combined with extremely low humidity occur.

CCL is in compliance with state and local fire protection agency landfill perimeter clearance requirements. A 150-foot buffer zone is maintained around the active working face of the landfill to comply with the flammable clearance provisions of *California Government Code* Section 66784.3. All material capable of supporting combustion is removed from the firebreak area. CCL buildings and structures meet the requirements of *California Public Resource Code* Section 4373, which requires that any building or structure within 150 feet of the periphery of exposed flammable solid waste be maintained with a clearance of flammable material for a minimum of 150 feet.

Fire prevention practices for landfill equipment and vehicles include frequently removing debris and dust from undercarriages and engine compartments, regular washing of equipment, and checking for and repairing oil and fuel leaks. In addition, most of the heavy equipment have a fire suppression system built into the engine compartment to automatically detect and extinguish equipment fires. Also, portable fire extinguishers and spark arrestors (on equipment manifolds) are provided on all landfill equipment. The entrance facilities and maintenance buildings are also equipped with fire extinguishers suitable for extinguishing any minor fires and for maintaining personnel safety.

CCL also currently maintains one 10,000-gallon water wagon, two 4,000-gallon water truck, and four bulldozers onsite that are available 24 hours per day. All trucks, bulldozers, and heavy equipment at the landfill have fire extinguishers. There is also a fire extinguisher in every vehicle and building onsite. Additionally, the landfill has eight water storage tanks located throughout the site, two of which are connected to fire hydrants at the administrative office and the maintenance shop. Additionally, the water line from the Valencia Water Company (VWC) tanks on the north end of the site has the ability to supply 50,000 gallons of water per hour and is equipped with a fire hydrant along the line. Any fire that occurs in a refuse fill area is extinguished by landfill personnel using appropriate landfill equipment, stockpiled soil cover, and when necessary, a water truck. The Los Angeles County Fire Department is summoned if necessary.

Fire protection service for CCL is provided by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. CCL is within the area served by Station 76, located at 27223 Henry Mayo Drive in Valencia. Station 76 is approximately 2.5 miles east of CCL, with an average response time of approximately 3 to 4 minutes (Hernandez, pers. comm., 2010).

14.4.3 Schools, Parks, or Other Public Facilities

Live Oak Elementary School, located at 27715 Saddleridge Way in Castaic, and the Castaic Union School District administration building, located at 28131 Livingston Avenue in Valencia, are within several miles of CCL. Parks located in proximity to CCL include Val Verde Park and Hasley Canyon Park.

14.4.4 Energy Systems

Electricity at CCL is provided by Southern California Edison (SCE) from an existing power line. The existing landfill operation uses electricity for lights, air conditioning, office machines, and the landfill gas (LFG) extraction system. An onsite generator is used in the event that power is temporarily cut off to the landfill. Energy produced by the LFGTE facility at CCL is sold into the power grid and not consumed onsite.

SCE's existing Saugus-Elizabeth Lake-Fillmore 66 kV Subtransmission Line currently runs parallel to SR-126 near CCL in an existing easement that is set back in locations ranging from approximately 100 to 300 feet north

of SR-126. In order to accommodate the Proposed Project, CCL has requested SCE to relocate an approximately 3,260-foot portion of the 66 kV line between the east side of Wolcott Way to a location approximately 880 feet west of the current CCL entrance. The portion of the existing 66 kV line to be relocated consists of approximately 7 wood poles and approximately 2 wood “H-frame” structures, which range in height between 70 and 100 feet. The 66 kV line will be relocated approximately 300 feet to the north of the existing 66 kV line into a new easement to be provided by CCL. SCE anticipates that the relocated 66 kV line will consist of approximately eight to ten new lightweight steel and/or tubular steel poles, which will range in height between 70 and 110 feet, and that the length of the relocated line will be approximately 3,700 feet.

14.4.5 Water Supply

14.4.5.1 Current Water Supplies

CCL is not connected to a public water utility system. Drinking water is provided to employees by a bottled-water distributor who delivers drinking water by truck; current potable water consumption is approximately 100 gallons a day.

Water for dust control, irrigation, and fire prevention currently is obtained from an offsite irrigation well that is owned by Newhall Land and Farming Company (NLF). Such water is also required for soil compaction during onsite construction projects, such as liner construction. Water is pumped from the irrigation well to eight water tanks located throughout CCL, where it is stored until needed. The amount of water required varies according to the season and rainfall amounts, with more water being required during the hot, dry summer months and during years with limited rainfall. The approximate annual total demand for non-potable water from 2009 through 2013 is shown in Table 14-1; average water consumption is approximately 77 acre-feet per year (afy).

TABLE 14-1

CCL Non-Potable Water Use (afy), 2009 to 2013

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Demand	98	60	87	67	74

14.4.5.2 Future Water Supplies

Under an existing agreement between CCL and NLF, once the latter has need for the water currently provided by its irrigation well, which is expected to occur in the foreseeable future, the landfill will cease to use the NLF irrigation well. Instead, CCL will use a separate water supply line that connects to VWC’s system and which is currently used as a source of water for construction projects. VWC serves approximately 100,000 people in the Santa Clarita Valley, including Valencia, Stevenson Ranch, and portions of Newhall, Saugus, and Castaic, and will provide water to CCL when needed in the future. VWC serves a mix of approximately 50 percent groundwater pumped from wells and 50 percent imported water, principally from the State Water Project (SWP), which is purchased from Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA)¹. VWC supplies an average of approximately 31,610 afy to its customers (VWC, 2010). Prior to connection to VWC’s water system, CCL will pay Facility Capacity Fees to the CLWA in accordance with CLWA policies and procedures. See Appendix H, which includes the Water Supply Assessment for the CCL Master Plan Revision.

Extending CCL’s current waste disposal area by approximately 143 acres within its existing site boundaries (the Proposed Project) will extend the project site to include two parcels (numbers 11 and 13) that are outside CLWA’s current service area. Water demand associated with this expansion outside the CLWA service area was not considered in the *2010 Santa Clarita Valley Urban Water Management Plan* (See Wat. Code, § 10631, subd. [a]). The estimated water use on these two parcels during peak landfill operations is approximately 21 afy and 12 afy, respectively, for a total of 33 afy outside of the current CLWA service area.

¹ CLWA is a water wholesaler that provides about half of the water used by Santa Clarita households and businesses. CLWA treats and delivers water to four local water retailers known as the Local Purveyors: VWC, CLWA—Santa Clarita Water Division (which is a division of CLWA); Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36; and Newhall County Water District. CLWA operates two potable water treatment plants, storage facilities, and over 17 miles of transmission pipelines.

CLWA, however, anticipates having a temporary surplus of water supply of at least 33 afy for sale to VWC to serve the Proposed Project during the period covered by the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) (2010-2050). The project is expected to be connected to the CLWA recycled water system well before the end of the period covered by UWMP and would no longer require surplus potable supplies at that time. CLWA also delivers highly treated recycled water from one of the two existing water reclamation plans in the Santa Clarita Valley owned by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. The recycled water is used to meet a portion of the non-potable water demands (golf courses and landscape irrigation, etc.) in the Santa Clarita Valley. As CLWA has the power under its Act to sell water supplies that are surplus to the needs of existing users to those outside the service area, CLWA will make available for sale to VWC 33 afy of the CLWA's annual temporary supply of surplus water for the purpose of distribution to the Proposed Project. This surplus water will be provided by the Agency conditioned upon CCL submitting an application for annexation of the parcels outside of the CLWA service area on the earliest possible date (see discussion below). Additionally, no imported water or temporary surplus water will be sold or distributed to VWC for use by the Proposed Project prior to payment of all associated facility and connection fees to CLWA. Prior to connection to VWC's water system, the applicant shall pay Facility Capacity Fees to the CLWA in accordance with CLWA policies and procedures.

Any surplus water provided by the Agency to VWC will be a temporary and conditional source of water, and will not be a current firm source of water supply for the Proposed Project within the meaning of CEQA or Water Code, sections 10910-10914. By sale of any temporary surplus water to VWC for use by the Proposed Project, no right to the sale or distribution of Agency surplus water or use of Agency facilities is created. Furthermore, at any time and for any reason the CLWA may choose to discontinue its sale of temporary surplus water to VWC for use by the Proposed Project.

As water supplies in the CLWA service area are reserved for existing residents and property owners who have been paying for these supplies all along, should CCL desire a permanent firm source of water supply from the Agency for the parcels outside of the CLWA service area, it will need to annex that area into the CLWA service area.² The CLWA Annexation Policy, however, precludes processing an annexation of less than 250 acres. Therefore, in order for the CLWA to consider annexation of the parcels, CLWA will need to bundle an annexation application by CCL with another annexation application(s). The CLWA annexation process can require up to 5 or 6 years to complete.

14.4.6 Sewage Disposal

CCL does not have a sewer connection to a public sewage collection or disposal system. Sanitary facilities at the landfill office are connected to a septic system. Portable toilets are used for other areas of the landfill.

14.5 Potential Impacts

14.5.1 Thresholds of Significance

14.5.1.1 Public Services

Impacts to public services would be considered significant if the Proposed Project would result in the following:

- Interfere with existing or planned emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans.
- Require additional staffing or equipment to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives.
- Substantially degrade the level of service of existing fire protection, police protection, and schools, parks, or other public facilities.

² Among the terms and conditions for annexation is the requirement that an annexing party provide additional reliable water supplies to avoid adversely impacting existing water supplies.

14.5.1.2 Utilities

Impacts to utilities would be considered significant if the Proposed Project would result in the following:

- Require the expansion of existing utility (e.g., water, sewer, electrical, natural gas, telephone) infrastructure or additional staff to maintain acceptable levels of service.
- Substantially degrade the level of service for utilities below established or acceptable levels.
- Have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing and planned entitlements such that new or expanded entitlements would be needed.
- Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted).

14.5.2 Proposed Project

This public services and utilities analysis evaluates the potential impacts that could result to public services and utilities from the Proposed Project.

14.5.2.1 Police Protection

Site security would continue to be provided by CCL, which includes separate onsite security measures including controlled access and security lighting. The Proposed Project would not interfere with existing or planned emergency response plans nor diminish the ability of police service personnel to respond to emergencies because the facility would be serviced and maintained by existing staff. Consistent with the existing CCL operation, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department would be called on in case of a security emergency. Therefore, potential impacts resulting from the Proposed Project, related to police protection services, would be less than significant.

14.5.2.2 Fire Protection

Landfills may experience minor fires. These minor fires are usually caused by the dumping of "hot loads" into the landfill. Hot loads occur when smoldering materials (e.g., coals) are present in an enclosed container such as a collection vehicle, and are re-ignited when stirred by dumping. Ashes may also restart fires if not covered promptly. Small fires are handled by onsite personnel. To date, there have been no minor onsite occurrences requiring the assistance of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

If burning wastes are received, they would be deposited in a safe area and extinguished. If burning wastes have been placed in an active face, they would be immediately excavated, spread, and extinguished.

Landfill fires can also be caused by uncontrolled LFG (methane), which is produced by the decomposition of organic refuse. The flammable gas can migrate to the surface of a landfill and be released into the atmosphere if not collected. LFG emissions are controlled by operational practices, including sufficient cover and repair of cracks, fissures, and settling, and an LFG extraction system. An LFG extraction system, with a flame arrestor in the flare station, is in place at CCL. The system operates 24 hours a day and collects LFG, which is drawn from the landfill. The LFG is currently fed into a flare station for combustion or conveyed to a landfill gas-to-energy plant.

Consistent with the existing CCL operation, fire protection would be provided by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and would not require additional personnel. The Proposed Project would not interfere with existing or planned emergency response plans nor diminish the ability of fire service. Therefore, because the Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly affect existing County of Los Angeles Fire Department facilities and personnel, potential impacts are considered less than significant.

14.5.2.3 Schools, Parks, or Other Public Facilities

The Proposed Project would add approximately 25 full-time staff at CCL, for a total of approximately 50 full-time staff. The increase in staff is expected to be met by local persons and would not induce population growth in the area. Consequently, the Proposed Project would not require additional facilities or staffing of existing community facilities, nor would it interfere with existing or planned emergency response plans or diminish the level of service for existing community facilities. Therefore, potential impact resulting from the Proposed Project, related to schools, parks, or other public facilities, would be less than significant.

14.5.2.4 Energy Systems

The Proposed Project would utilize existing electrical supplies available from existing transmission lines. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in no impact to energy systems at or in the vicinity of the landfill.

Relocation of SCE's existing Saugus-Elizabeth Lake-Fillmore 66 kV Subtransmission Line within the landfill property would not result in impacts related to the expansion of utility infrastructure to maintain acceptable levels of service or degrade the level of service.

14.5.2.5 Water Supply

Water for dust control and irrigation at CCL is provided by an offsite irrigation well and drinking water is provided to employees by a bottled water distributor.

The demand for non-potable water at CCL would approximately double, for a total demand of about 150 afy. The 73-afy increase in demand, over the 2009 through 2013 average, would be negligible compared with the current water demand in the VWC service area, and VWC has sufficient water supplies to support this increase in the future. The WSA prepared for the Proposed Project states that the total municipal demand for water (imported, groundwater, and non-potable) in the VWC system was approximately 70,000 acre-feet in 2009. The 73-acre-foot increase in water for the Proposed Project is approximately ten hundredths of a percent of the total municipal water demand. This minor increase would not substantially deplete the groundwater supply, should that be the source, and any impacts on water supplies would be less than significant. VWC would not need to construct any new facilities to supply water to the Proposed Project. Moreover, when recycled water is available in the vicinity of landfill, it will be used for the non-potable water demand at CCL, thus reducing the demand for potable water supplies. Recycled water supplies are expected to be available in the project vicinity at the time of the completion of the Newhall Ranch Project's recycled water infrastructure. VWC has indicated in its WSA that "total existing and projected water supplies will meet the water demands associated with the Project in combination with existing and other planned uses within Valencia's service area."

Therefore, impacts to the public water utility system resulting from the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

14.5.2.6 Sewage Disposal

CCL utilizes a septic tank to manage domestic waste. There would be no discharge to existing sewer systems associated with the Proposed Project. Portable toilets would be used throughout the site, and the sanitary wastes would be hauled from CCL for appropriate disposal. Sanitary wastes generated by the portable toilets would have a negligible effect to a sanitary disposal system. Therefore, there would be no impacts to the public sewer systems.

14.6 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts to public services and utilities resulting from the Proposed Project are anticipated; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

14.7 Significance After Mitigation

The Proposed Project would result in less-than-significant impacts without mitigation.

14.8 Cumulative Impacts

14.8.1 Potential Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative projects discussed in Chapter 3.0 may result in significant impacts to public services and utilities. A combination of residential, commercial, open space, public, and industrial uses are planned within the vicinity of the Proposed Project. However, it is anticipated that each of the identified projects would incorporate mitigation measures to ensure that impacts to public services and utilities are less than significant.

The analysis provided above in Section 14.5 shows that the Proposed Project would not result in a significant impact to public services and utilities. Likewise, the Proposed Project, when combined with reasonably foreseeable projects in the project vicinity, is not expected to incrementally contribute to cumulative impacts to public services and utilities.

14.8.2 Mitigation Measures Required for Cumulative Impacts

No cumulative impacts would result from the Proposed Project; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

