

## 4.14 UTILITIES

### 4.14.1 Proposed Project

#### 4.14.1.1 Affected Environment

The Proposed Project route is located in the Desert Region of San Bernardino County. Water supply to the Desert Region is provided through 41 water purveyors and approximately 120 privately owned single sources, most of which are for commercial businesses or private residences in rural areas. The Mojave Water Agency is the primary agency regulating water basin use; however, several other water districts and Community Services Districts provide distribution services for water supplies. For sewer and wastewater treatment, most private residences use individual sewage treatment systems (septic tanks). Limited wastewater treatment is also available through the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority, City of Barstow, and City of Adelanto. Solid waste disposal services are provided by the County of San Bernardino Solid Waste Management Division, which operates six regional landfills, eight transfer stations, and five community collection centers. Table 4.14-1: Landfills in the Proposed Project Area provides the solid waste capacities of the landfills closest to the Proposed Project. Southwest Gas Corporation provides natural gas service to the Proposed Project area, while Southern California Edison provides electricity service.

**Table 4.14-1: Landfills in the Proposed Project Area**

Landfill	Distance from Proposed Project (miles) <sup>1</sup>	Total Estimated Permitted Capacity <sup>2</sup> (cubic yards)	Remaining Estimated Capacity <sup>2</sup>	
			Cubic Yards	Percent
Victorville Sanitary Landfill	0.3	83,200,000	82,200,000	98.8
Barstow Sanitary Landfill	5.6	3,584,500	924,401	25.8

Source: California Integrated Waste Management Board, 2008

Several utility rights-of-way (ROWs) are located along or intersect the Proposed Project route, including underground pipelines, overhead electric transmission lines, and underground fiber optic cable lines, as described in more detail below. The entire alignment of the Proposed Project route runs roughly parallel to underground fiber optic cable lines owned and operated by Level 3, Sprint, and WiTel.

Approximately 1 mile south of the northern terminus of Segment 1, the Proposed Project route intersects an overhead transmission line, at which point the Proposed Project route follows the transmission line for approximately 2 miles through Ivanpah Dry Lake. Additionally, along Segment 1, the Proposed Project route is roughly parallel to an underground pipeline route, maintaining a distance of between 0.25 and 0.65 mile, southeast of the Proposed Project route until the Proposed Project route turns east at Yates Well Road.

Along Segment 2 of the Proposed Project, the route follows an existing underground pipeline and an overhead electric transmission line for the entire extent of the segment.

Along Segment 3, an overhead electric transmission line runs approximately 0.3 mile northwest of the southern terminus of the segment. The transmission line roughly parallels Stoddard Wells Road until it reaches Central Road, at which point the transmission line heads north and maintains a distance of approximately 1.5 miles on the north side of the Proposed Project route. Another electric transmission line runs approximately 1 mile north of the southern terminus of Segment 3 and roughly follows the Proposed

<sup>1</sup> Distances are from Segment 3, which is the closest segment to the landfills.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated capacities provided are from 2000 and is the most recent data available.

Project route, maintaining a distance of between 1.5 to 3.5 miles of the segment, until the transmission line crosses the Proposed Project route along Stoddard Wells Road just north of Stoddard Well, approximately 5 miles west of State Route (SR) 247. East of this intersection, the Proposed Project route heads east, veering off of Stoddard Wells Road, and runs along Boulder Road adjacent to the transmission line until terminating at SR 247.

Segment 3 is also located near and crosses an underground pipeline. Along Stoddard Wells Road, the pipeline nears the Proposed Project route just west of Bell Mountain Road, where the pipeline is located approximately 250 feet northwest of the Proposed Project. The underground pipeline then runs parallel with the Proposed Project route for approximately 3.4 miles, maintaining a distance of approximately 0.2 mile until it intersects with the Proposed Project route at Slash X Ranch Road. From this point, the Proposed Project route again parallels the underground pipeline for approximately 1.5 miles, maintaining a distance of approximately 350 feet north of the pipeline, until the Proposed Project route heads north.

#### **4.14.1.2 Significance Criteria**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), impacts to utilities would be considered significant if the Proposed Project:

- exceeds wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board;
- requires or results in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities (the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects);
- results in the need for a new or expanded water supply;
- results 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;
- results in inadequate access to a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Proposed Project's solid waste disposal needs; and/or
- causes a breach of published national, state, or local standards relating to solid waste or litter control.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), consideration of a significant impact on the human environment is conducted in accordance with Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (specified in Section 1.2.1 Relationship to NEPA Guidelines). Following the public comment period, a finding regarding a significant impact would be prepared in accordance with this provision.

#### **4.14.1.3 Impacts and Mitigation**

The only wastewater generated during construction of the Proposed Project would result from the use of portable chemical toilets. The waste from the portable chemical toilets would be transported by a contracted service to a permitted waste treatment facility. Because the amount of waste associated with the portable chemical toilets would be minimal, a less-than-significant impact to wastewater treatment facility capacity would result during construction of the Proposed Project. Operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project would be the same as existing activities and would not result in any changes to waste or wastewater generation. Therefore, no impact would result.

The Proposed Project does not involve the construction of new commercial or residential development; therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a need for the creation or modification of water or wastewater treatment facilities nor would the Proposed Project cause the wastewater treatment provider to increase its services beyond its existing commitments. As a result, no impact would occur.

Grading would be conducted as part of the construction of the Proposed Project, which may result in minor changes to existing drainage patterns; however, no new paved surfaces would be constructed and the amount of impermeable surface at the Proposed Project site would not be increased. As a result, storm water runoff would not increase such that the construction of new storm drainage facilities or the expansion of any existing facilities would be required. Therefore, no impact would occur.

During construction, sufficient sources of potable water would be transported on site from existing permitted sources to conduct standard dust and fire suppression activities, as well as for crew consumption. As a result, construction of the Proposed Project would have no impact on water supplies or entitlements. Additionally, during operations and maintenance, activities would be conducted in the same manner as conducted prior to the Proposed Project; therefore, water supplies from existing entitlements and resources would be adequate to continue accommodating these activities and no impact would occur.

The Proposed Project would have a limited need for use of a landfill as construction-related, non-hazardous debris is expected to be minimal. Construction waste would be recycled to the maximum extent possible. Due to the minimal amount of waste that would be generated and the remaining capacities of local landfills, shown in Table 4.14-1 Landfills in the Proposed Project Area, local landfills would have sufficient capacity to accommodate the Proposed Project's solid waste needs. As a result, a less-than-significant impact to landfill capacities would occur. The Proposed Project and its contractor would dispose of all waste in accordance with published national, state, and local regulations associated with solid waste.

Several other utility ROWs are located adjacent to or intersect with the Proposed Project route. Most notably, there are underground pipelines that are located near all three segments of the Proposed Project and the underground fiber optic cable lines that parallel the Proposed Project route for much of the alignment. The portions of the fiber optic cable lines and pipelines that are located within a few feet of the Proposed Project could be unintentionally impacted during trenching or plowing activities. To minimize the risk of impacting these lines, the Project applicant, or their contractor, would notify Underground Service Alert to identify existing utilities and mark them in the field and notify local utilities of planned work activities. Underground utility lines located more than 10 feet away would not likely be impacted due to their distance from the active work area. Because the Proposed Project involves the replacement of an underground fiber optic cable line, overhead utilities would not be impacted. Operations and maintenance of the Proposed Project would not change from existing conditions.

#### **4.14.2 No Action Alternative**

Selection of the No Action Alternative, as described in Section 2.5.1 No Action Alternative, would not result in construction of the Proposed Project and potential effects associated with utilities as described in Section 4.14.1.3 Impacts and Mitigation would not occur.