



CHAPTER 20

PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

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INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses existing and planned public services and facilities in the SCVJSS service area and identifies the environmental impacts of the 2015 Plan. Due to the minor nature of the proposed upgrades at the SWRP and VWRP (reference Chapters 7 and 8), discussion of the existing conditions at the SWRP is not included in this chapter, and only the potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of these upgrades are addressed. Public services that will not be affected by the 2015 Plan, such as police, schools, hospitals, libraries, and parks will not be discussed. Natural gas and electricity service and the effects of project-related demands on these services are discussed in Chapter 11, Energy and Chemicals. Public services information was obtained from review of public agency documents and discussions with public services staff.

SETTING

Regional Setting

Water Supply and Reclaimed Water

The Santa Clarita Valley water supply is comprised of local and imported water resources. Imported water resources, which constitute approximately one-half of the water supply, are provided by the Castaic Lake Water Agency, which utilizes water from Northern California delivered by the State Water Project. The balance of the water supply is made up through groundwater sources. The two groundwater aquifers supplementing water supply to the Santa Clarita Valley are the Alluvial and Saugus Aquifers.

In addition to the CLWA, the valley is served by four retail water purveyors: the Santa Clarita Water Company, the Valencia Water Company, the Newhall County Water District, and the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36. Excluding agricultural

demand, the total water demand in the valley for 1995 was approximately 70,000 AFY, which is equivalent to 65 mgd (CLWA, 1993).

The Districts have actively pursued a program of wastewater reclamation and reuse since 1962. While the distribution of reclaimed water has not been thoroughly developed in the Santa Clarita Valley, reclaimed water generated at the Districts' other water reclamation plants support a variety of beneficial reuses including landscape and agricultural irrigation, industrial cooling and process water, and groundwater recharge operations. For further discussion on reclaimed wastewater and reuse, please refer to Chapter 17, Water Quality.

Solid Waste and Biosolids Management

All solids processing for the SCVJSS occurs at the centralized facilities located at the VWRP. Solids processing in the SCVJSS consists of dissolved air flotation, anaerobic digestion, and mechanical dewatering. The VWRP currently has six digesters with the capacity to process solids for 19.1 mgd. Three additional digesters (two for the 9 mgd Stage V expansion and one for the 6 mgd Stage VI expansion) will be built as part of the recommended project.

For most of the history of the SCVJSS, the biosolids produced through solids digestion and dewatering were co-disposed with municipal solid waste at various local landfills. In 1995, however, Districts Nos. 26 and 32 contracted with a firm that utilizes all of the biosolids for direct application to crops on agricultural land. In general, biosolids management is achieved through a diversified management program that encourages the reuse of biosolids for beneficial purposes and seeks out alternative methods of disposal. By continued implementation of this

program, Districts Nos. 26 and 32 will continue to reuse as much as is practical throughout the planning period.

Fire Protection, Hazardous Materials, and Emergency Medical Response

Fire protection, emergency medical, and hazardous materials response is provided to the Santa Clarita Valley by the Los Angeles County Fire Department and includes eight fire stations and three fire camps.

Primary fire protection service to the VWRP is provided by Fire Station No. 76, located at 27223 Henry Mayo Drive. The station maintains one fire engine supported by four fire fighters, and a five-man hazardous materials unit. The hazardous materials unit serves the entire Santa Clarita Valley, and currently responds to an average of less than 10 incidents per month (Los Angeles County Fire Department, 1997).

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES OF THE 2015 PLAN ALTERNATIVES

Criteria for Determining Significance

Based on Appendices G and I of the State CEQA Guidelines, the project would result in a significant impact if it would:

- Result in the generation of quantities of solid waste that would substantially reduce landfill life.
- Require a substantial expansion of fire protection staff or equipment to maintain an acceptable level of service.
- Require a substantial expansion of emergency medical staff or equipment to maintain an acceptable level of service.

- Require a substantial expansion of hazardous materials response equipment and staff to ensure adequate response capability to accidental releases of hazardous materials.
- Substantially increase emergency response times.

The Recommended Project

VWRP Expansion Construction Impacts

Impact: *Potential Increase in Emergency Response Times Resulting from Construction at the VWRP.* Construction at the VWRP would minimally increase traffic near the VWRP site during working hours because commuting construction workers, trucks, and large construction vehicles would be added to normal traffic (see Chapter 12, Transportation, for a more detailed discussion on project-related traffic impacts). This increase in traffic could delay emergency vehicles traveling through the area. However, critical emergency response agencies will be notified of the proposed construction and project schedules; at most, only a marginal increase in response time would occur. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Impact: *Potential Increase in Demand for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Response Resulting from Construction at the VWRP.* Construction at the VWRP site could increase the demand for emergency response to the construction site. Workers could be injured during construction and fires could be ignited by construction activities. However, the probability of these types of events occurring is small. Furthermore, fire protection and emergency medical services located near the VWRP are expected to be adequate to respond to emergencies at the VWRP site because the project's effect on these services would be

minimal. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Impact: *Increase in Demand for Landfill Space Resulting from Generation of Construction Waste at the VWRP.* Construction at the VWRP would involve grading and other site preparation, including the removal of 65,000 cubic yards of soil over the two 30-month construction periods (some of which may be used for landfill cover). These activities may generate waste materials, including vegetation, asphalt, concrete, scrap metal, and other non-hazardous materials, which could be deposited in a landfill. However, 22.5 million cubic yards of solid waste are presently generated annually in Los Angeles County. Therefore, the amount of material generated by construction at the VWRP will be relatively minor in comparison (less than 0.06 percent). This impact is considered less than significant because the amount of solid waste that would be generated by construction at the VWRP would not substantially reduce landfill life.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

VWRP Expansion Operations Impact

Impact: *Potential Increase in Demand for Fire Protection, Hazardous Materials, and Emergency Medical Response Resulting from Operations at the VWRP.* Treatment plant operations and biosolids processing could increase demand for fire protection and emergency medical response because the VWRP would be larger and would be staffed with approximately 16 additional employees. An increase in the amount of hazardous materials stored at the VWRP due to the recommended project would also result. However, as addressed in Chapter 19, Public Health, this is a less than significant impact. Furthermore, fire protection, hazardous materials

response, and emergency medical services located near the VWRP are expected to be adequate to respond to emergencies at the VWRP site, because the project's increased demand for these services would be minimal. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Impact: *Increase in Availability of Reclaimed Water Resulting from Expansion of the VWRP.* Expansion of the VWRP would generate a total of 15 mgd more reclaimed water than the plant now produces. This impact is considered beneficial because the supply of reclaimed water would increase, which would decrease the need to use sources of potable water.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

SWRP and VWRP Upgrade Construction Impacts

Impact: *Potential Increase in Emergency Response Times Resulting from Construction at the SWRP and VWRP.* Construction at the SWRP and VWRP would minimally increase traffic near these sites during working hours because commuting construction workers and trucks would be added to normal traffic (see Chapter 12, Transportation, for a more detailed discussion on project-related traffic impacts). This increase in traffic could delay emergency vehicles traveling through the area. However, critical emergency response agencies will be notified of the proposed construction and project schedules; at most, only a marginal increase in response time would occur. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Impact: *Potential Increase in Demand for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Response*

Resulting from Construction at the SWRP and VWRP. Construction at the SWRP and VWRP sites could increase the demand for emergency response to the construction site. Workers could be injured during construction and fires could be ignited by construction activities. However, due to the minor nature of construction activities the probability of these types of events occurring is small. Furthermore, fire protection and emergency medical services located near the SWRP and VWRP would be adequate to respond to emergencies at these sites because the project's effect on these services would be minimal. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Impact: *Increase in Demand for Landfill Space Resulting from Generation of Construction Waste at the SWRP and VWRP.* Construction at the SWRP and VWRP could potentially involve minor grading and other site preparation activities for the possible placement of a storage tank. These activities may generate waste materials which could be deposited in a landfill. However, this impact is considered less than significant because the amount of solid waste that would be generated by construction at the SWRP and VWRP would not substantially reduce landfill life.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

SWRP and VWRP Upgrade Operations Impact

Impact: *Potential Increase in Demand for Fire Protection, Hazardous Materials, and Emergency Medical Response Resulting from Operations at the SWRP and VWRP.* Treatment plant operations could increase demand for fire protection and emergency medical response because there will be an increase in the amount of hazardous materials stored at the

SWRP and VWRP due to the recommended project. However, as addressed in Chapter 19, Public Health, this impact is considered less than significant. Furthermore, fire protection, hazardous materials response, and emergency medical services located near the SWRP and VWRP would be adequate to respond to emergencies at these site, because the project's increased demand for these services would be minimal. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Biosolids Disposal and Reuse Impacts

Impact: *Increase in Demand for Additional Landfill Space or Biosolids Management Facilities.* Implementation of the 2015 Plan would increase the quantity of biosolids managed by Districts Nos. 26 and 32. The increase in biosolids could increase composting, land application, or other biosolids management activities. These activities could result in an increase in demand for additional biosolids management facilities. However, existing facilities can sufficiently handle the increase in quantity of biosolids. Additionally, Districts Nos. 26 and 32 follow a diversified Biosolids Management Plan that allows for utilizing varied management procedures, as warranted. This impact is considered less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

No Project Alternative

Under the No Project Alternative, no construction or increase in treatment capacity would occur at the VWRP. Therefore, no impacts on public services and facilities would occur under this alternative.