

3.11 PUBLIC SERVICES, UTILITIES, SERVICE SYSTEMS, AND RECREATION

This section describes the environmental regulatory setting for public services, utilities, service systems, and recreation. It also describes impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed project and identifies mitigation measures for significant impacts.

3.11.1 Existing Conditions

3.11.1.1 Regulatory Setting

Local

City of Lancaster General Plan 2030

The City of Lancaster General Plan 2030 includes specific policies related to City services and utilities which are applicable to the proposed project. These policies are identified below:

Fire Prevention and Suppression Services

Objective 4.7: Ensure that development occurs in a manner that minimizes the risk of structural and wildland fire.

Policy 4.7.2: Ensure that the design of new development minimizes the potential for fire.

Crime Prevention and Protection Services

Objective 4.6: Reduce the risk of crime and provide residents with security through maintenance of an adequate force of peace officers, physical planning strategies that maximize surveillance, minimize opportunities for crimes, and by creating a high level of public awareness and support for crime prevention.

Policy 4.6.1: Ensure that adequate law enforcement is provided to the citizens and businesses of the City of Lancaster.

Policy 4.6.2: Ensure that the design of new development discourages opportunities for criminal activities to the maximum extent possible.

Provision of School Sites/Facilities

Goal 9: To promote access to high quality local educational services for Lancaster residents

Objective 9.1: Cooperate with local educational entities in their acquisition of sites and the construction of schools in such a manner to ensure the availability of adequate school facilities to serve the needs of Lancaster residents at all levels, including location of a four year university within the City of Lancaster.

Policy 9.1.1: Work with area school districts to identify funding programs for school site acquisition and facilities construction which recognize chronic shortfalls in traditional funding programs, and to ensure that schools are appropriately located.

Policy 9.1.2: Maintain ongoing, open communication with area school districts, and take a proactive role to ensure that communication is maintained.

Policy 9.1.3: Facilitate the establishment of a four-year university within the City of Lancaster.

Park Land

Goal 10: To provide a park, recreation and open space system which enhances the livability of urban and rural areas by providing parks; establishing a comprehensive trails system and meeting the open space and recreational needs of Lancaster residents.

Objective 10.1: Provide sufficient neighborhood and community park facilities such that a rate of 5.0 acres of park land per 1,000 residents is achieved and distributed so as to be convenient to Lancaster residents.

Policy 10.1.1: Provide opportunities for a wide variety of recreational activities and park experiences, including active recreation and passive open space enjoyment within a coordinated system of local, regional, and special use park lands areas.

Trails

Policy 10.2.2: Establish and acquire rights-of-way for master planned trails.

Policy 10.2.3: Ensure that trail construction takes into consideration the safety and convenience of the trail users as the primary concern.

Policy 10.2.4: Facilitate the use of bicycles as an alternative form of transportation, as well as a form of recreation (see also Policy 14.4.3 and related Specific Actions of the Plan for Physical Mobility).

Municipal Services and Facilities

Policy 15.1.1: Promote continued coordination between the City of Lancaster and local service providers.

Water Facilities

Policy 15.1.2: Cooperate with local water agencies to provide an adequate water supply system to meet the standards for domestic and emergency needs.

Wastewater Facilities

Policy 15.1.5: Ensure sufficient infrastructure is built and maintained to handle and treat wastewater discharge.

Solid Waste Management

Objective 15.2: Minimize the negative impacts of solid waste disposal using a variety of methods including mitigating the disposal of waste from outside the Antelope Valley.

Policy 15.2.2: Minimize the generation of solid wastes as required by State law (AB-939) through an integrated program of public education, source reduction, and recycling.

3.11.2 Environmental Setting

Fire Prevention and Suppression Services

The LACFD provides fire protection services to the Antelope Valley, which includes the City of Lancaster and the surrounding unincorporated area. The LACFD was formed to provide wildland and structural fire protection. The City of Lancaster is a member of the consolidated Fire Protection District and maintains a contract with the County of Los Angeles to receive staff and fire protection services. All County Fire Department emergency units are dispatched as needed to an incident anywhere in the service territory based on distance and availability. Most incidents require multiple response units from two or more stations. The project site would be served by Station No. 84, located at 5030 West Avenue L-14 in Quartz Hill.

Crime Prevention and Protection Services

Police protection, crime prevention and traffic enforcement services for the City of Lancaster are provided on a contractual basis through the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LACSD). The Antelope Valley is located in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Field Operations Region I. Two patrol stations are located within the Antelope Valley, one of which is the Lancaster Station located at 501 West Lancaster Boulevard in downtown Lancaster.

Provision of School Sites/Facilities

The availability of quality local educational facilities and services is of paramount importance to the people of Lancaster, and is a leading indicator of residents' quality of life. A focus on education and youth in order to provide expanded educational opportunities for life-long learning in Lancaster is one of the community's vision priorities. The high priority placed on schools by area residents is reflective of the family-oriented nature of the community and the community's commitment to its most important resource, its children.

The project site is located within the boundaries of the Westside Union School District. Westside Union School District serves an area of 346 square miles in western Lancaster, west Palmdale, and unincorporated parts of Los Angeles County. The District operates six elementary schools (kindergarten through 6th grade), three senior elementary schools (kindergarten through 8th grade) and two middle schools (6th grade through 8th grade). Five of the 11 schools in the Westside School District are located within the City of Lancaster and Quartz Hill area. The Antelope Valley Union High School District covers a geographic area from the Angeles Forest in the south, to the Kern County line in the north, and from the Ventura/Kern county lines in the west, to the San Bernadino county line in the east. The Antelope Valley Union High School District contains 8 comprehensive and 4 continuation high schools, and serves over 23,000 students. The nearest school to the project site is Students On the Academic Rise (SOAR) Prep Academy, an Antelope Valley Union High School District school serving grades 7 and 8 (6300 West Avenue L, Lancaster), approximately 1.7 miles east of the project site. Quartz Hill High School (6040 West Avenue L, Quartz Hill) is approximately 2.0 miles east of the project site (City of Lancaster MEA 2009).

Park Land

Parks and recreational facilities are made available to Lancaster residents through the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Arts. The State of California, County of Los Angeles, the City of Lancaster, and private groups provide and operate recreation facilities in the north Antelope Valley area, which includes the City of Lancaster.

State park facilities located within the Antelope Valley include the California Poppy Reserve, the Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland, the Saddleback Butte State Park and the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. The area headquarters for the California State Parks Department is located in Lancaster at Avenue G and 40th Street West. The Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, located at 2551 West Avenue H, is part of the California State Fair System.

The City of Lancaster Parks, Recreation and Arts Department supervises and maintains park, recreational and cultural facilities in Lancaster. The Department is committed to providing adequate recreational facilities and a diverse variety of activities, programs, classes, day camps and special events. The City currently maintains 12 City parks and recreational facilities, which consist of more than 450 acres of developed and undeveloped park and recreation land (City of Lancaster 2014).

As of January 28, 2003, the City established a new park standard of 5.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. According to the existing conditions report prepared for the City of Lancaster Master Plan of Parks, Recreation and Arts, as of August 2006, the City's overall level of service was 3.39 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents or 1.61 acres per 1,000 less than the minimum level of service indicated by the General Plan (City of Lancaster MEA 2009).

Trails

The overall intent of the Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways is to guide the planning and design of pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian facilities in a comprehensive manner throughout Lancaster. The City's vision is to create a connected network of on- and off-road trails and bikeway facilities to accommodate users of all ages and abilities including equestrians. When implemented, this network will provide linkages between residential areas, commercial centers, transportation hubs, employment centers, and recreational activities. The overarching, long-term goal of this Master Plan is to guide the development of a pleasant, safe, and convenient non-motorized transportation network that everyone in Lancaster can use.

Water Facilities

The two primary sources of water for the Lancaster area are local groundwater and water from the State Water Project. The primary source of imported water is the California Aqueduct. Water is purchased by the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK). AVEK is a wholesale water distributor that sells and distributes water to local retail (public and private) water agencies. Treatment of the imported water by AVEK occurs at the Quartz Hill, Eastside, Rosamond and Acton treatment plants. With the capacity to treat 65 million gallons of water per day, the Quartz Hill Water Treatment Plant supports a majority of the City of Lancaster. In addition to the treatment plants, AVEK distribution facilities include over 100 miles of pipelines, four 8 million gallon storage reservoirs and one 3 million gallon reservoir. There are eleven retail water districts

and mutual water companies serving the Lancaster area. The two largest retail water purveyors within the Lancaster area are Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 and the Quartz Hill Water District. According to the data obtained by EDR, and presented in the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment, no registered groundwater wells were identified within the project site. Additionally, no indicators of water facilities or water consumption were identified on the project site.

In accordance with the California Urban Water Management Planning Act two reports were prepared in 2010 that studied the supply availability in the Antelope Valley. AVEK prepared a 2010 UWMP that evaluated the quantity of water supply, efficient use of water and potential demand management measures. As the retailer of imported water from the State Water Project, the AVEK UWMP focused on the agency's ability to provide reliable supply to each of its customers in the Antelope Valley. In 2010 LACWWD District No. 40 also prepared an UWMP. As a water purveyor and customer of AVEK, the LACWWD UWMP evaluated the agency's ability to utilize current supply sources, recycled water use and demand management measures to meet the future demands of its service area and sphere of influence (City of Lancaster MEA 2009).

In early 2006 an effort headed by Los Angeles County Waterworks was begun to develop the *Antelope Valley Region Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)*. The IRWMP was developed to serve as a regional water management planning document. It was created through a collaborative effort, and outlined the necessary improvements and facilities required to meet future demands in the Antelope Valley (City of Lancaster MEA 2009).

The Antelope Valley groundwater basin stores subsurface water that is extracted by the wells of various agencies as a source of supply. Elevations across the valley floor range from 2,300 to 3,500 feet above mean sea level. Bounding the basin are the Garlock fault zone to the northwest at the base of the Tehachapi Mountains and San Andreas fault zone at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains.

The City of Lancaster has been working diligently over the past several years to become a sustainability community. As part of this effort, the City has made considerable strides in reducing its reliance on potable water at City facilities and commercial locations as well as during construction activities. This potable water consumption has been replaced with the use of tertiary treated recycled water from the Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant (LWRP) (pers. comm. J. Swain 2015).

The LWRP currently produces reclaimed water that goes through a three-stage treatment process, resulting in tertiary-treated water. The recycled water backbone currently runs from the Reclamation Facility on Avenue D to Lancaster City Park via Division Street, Avenue K and 10th Street West. A recycled water filling station is located at Division Street and Avenue H. (pers. comm. J. Swain 2015).

Wastewater Facilities

The collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater within the City of Lancaster and adjacent unincorporated areas are under the jurisdiction of District No. 14 of the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. District No. 14 owns and maintains the trunk sewers and the LWRP, which convey and treat wastewater generated by residential, commercial and industrial uses in the

City. The City of Lancaster owns, operates and maintains local wastewater conveyance within the City. Wastewater generated within the City initially flows through the City's local collection system and then to regional truck sewer pipelines of District No. 14 to be treated at the LWRP located north of the City. Wastewater generated within the Antelope Valley has historically been disposed of through treatment and spreading. Recently much focus has been directed toward the recycling of wastewater. In January 2006, the City produced the Recycled Water Facilities and Operations Master Plan which details ways of increasing the use of recycled water for urban and agricultural use as well as for groundwater recharge.

Solid Waste Management

Waste Management of Antelope Valley (Waste Management) is a private hauler and has the sole franchise to serve the City of Lancaster. Waste Management is located at 1200 City Ranch Road in Palmdale and provides all solid waste collection and disposal services to the City of Lancaster. Residential, commercial and industrial trash collection in the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County is currently hauled to the Antelope Valley Landfill or Lancaster Landfill. According to the Lancaster Master Environmental Assessment, approximately 2,800 tons of waste is collected per day, which is deposited between the two local landfills.

The Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center is privately owned and operated by Waste Management. The landfill is designated as a Class III landfill facility. It is located within the unincorporated Los Angeles County on 276 acres of land at 600 East Avenue F, approximately one mile north of the Lancaster City limits. The facility offers waste disposal and recycling services, and accepts agricultural waste, non-friable asbestos, construction/demolition waste, contaminated soil, green materials, industrial, inert, mixed municipal, sludge, and tire wastes. The facility has a green-waste recycling program in place. The remaining permitted capacity in June of 2001 was approximately 22,645,000 cubic yards (cy), which was reduced to 17,860,810 cy as of November 2005. The Lancaster Landfill's maximum permitted daily capacity is 3,000 tons per day (tpd). The landfill is anticipated to serve the existing and future population for the next 16 to 18 years. The project site is currently vacant and does not generate solid waste requiring disposal.

Energy

SCE is the electricity service provider to the City of Lancaster. A variety of sources provide electricity to SCE, including natural gas, nuclear and hydroelectric plants throughout the western states. Service is not bound by jurisdictional boundaries as SCE distributes power to a 50,000 square mile service area and a population of 12 million people through 4.6 million business and residential accounts. Generation facilities provide power through conventional methods; according to the CPUC, approximately 21.6 percent of SCE's electricity in 2013 was supplied by renewable energy resources.

SCE currently maintains several regional electrical transmission lines and two substations in the western portion of Lancaster. The Antelope Substation is located north of the project site and Tehachapi Renewable 500 kV transmission lines traverse the eastern portion of the project site in a northwest-southeast orientation.

Natural gas service to the City of Lancaster is provided by the Southern California Gas Company (SCG) whose total service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles throughout central and southern California.

The project site is currently vacant and does not utilize electricity or natural gas.

3.11.3 Environmental Impacts

This section analyzes the proposed project's potential to result in significant impacts related to public services, utilities, service systems, and recreation. When the proposed project's impact was determined to be significant, mitigation measures were identified that would reduce or avoid that impact.

Methodology for Analysis

The project's effects are compared to the thresholds of significance to determine whether the proposed project would result in a significant change for utilities and service systems represented by the threshold.

Thresholds of Significance

According to the CEQA Guidelines' Appendix G Environmental Checklist, the following questions were analyzed and evaluated to determine if impacts to public services and utilities were significant. Would the proposed project:

Public Services

- Would the 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?
 - Other public facilities?

Utilities and Service Systems

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

- 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?
- 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?
- Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or identify if new or expanded entitlements would be needed?
- 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?
- Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?
- Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Recreation

- Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
- Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

3.11.3.1 Project Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Public Services

Governmental Facilities

Impact PSU-1 **The proposed project would not 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.**

Impact Analysis

Fire Protection

The project site is located within LACFD's Station No. 84, located at 5030 West Avenue L-14 in Quartz Hill. The proposed project would not include residential uses and no people would reside on the project site. During the construction phase, a maximum of 250 construction workers per day would be on the project site. This increase in people could incrementally increase the

potential need for fire or medical response services. However, because the increased need would be temporary, no new or physically altered fire protection facilities would be required to meet demand.

Most features of the proposed project would be non-flammable and constructed of metal, glass, or fire-resistant plastic material. In addition, local O&M personnel or remote personnel would use the local SCADA and monitoring system to monitor operations and control the facility; this industrial control system is a computer-controlled system that monitors and controls industrial processes such as power generation, designed to identify potential fires before they spread.

Each LACFD Fire Station, including Station No. 84, allows for an approximate response time of five minutes to developed areas, which is usually achieved within an approximate 1.5-mile distance. LACFD provides services to the unincorporated area surrounding Lancaster and thus may see an increase in response time to outlying areas. According to the Fire Station Response Metrics compiled by LACFD, Station No. 84 generally responds to both non-emergency medical service (EMS) and EMS calls in less than or approximately five minutes (LACFD 2015).

The northeastern corner of the project site is located approximately 3.8 miles from Station No. 84, at an average speed of 45 miles per hour, fire response would be approximately five minutes. The project site would be able to be adequately served by the existing fire station and would not require the construction of a new fire station. Additionally, the design of the facility would strategically locate thirteen water tanks throughout the site, and implement remote monitoring to reduce potential fire impacts. Potential impacts associated with fire protection services would be less than significant during the construction and operations of the proposed project.

Police Protection

The proposed project would be fenced and securely locked to prevent unauthorized entry. An intrusion detection system would be installed along array fences to alert monitors of fence breaches. The proposed project would comply with NERC and WECC requirements for regulatory control and security systems. The proposed project would not include residential uses and no people would reside on the project site. LACSD is responsible for law enforcement in the City of Lancaster. The LACSD recommends a staffing level of one officer per 1,000 people. In 2006, the Lancaster Station served approximately 190,000 individuals with 205 sworn personnel providing police protection services. This results in an officer to population ratio of approximately one officer to every 931 people, which is slightly better than the desired 1:1,000 ratio (City of Lancaster MEA 2009).

Response times are classified depending on the type of call (emergency, priority, routine). Response times depend on traffic, distance from the site of the call, and the availability of officers. Responses are handled by the nearest available patrol car located within the patrol area. According to the LACSD, the average response times from the Lancaster Station to the surrounding service area are four to six minutes for emergency calls, 11 to 13 minutes for priority calls and 41 minutes for routine calls (City of Lancaster MEA 2009).

Because no new permanent residents would be living on the project site, the number of emergency law enforcement calls originating from the project site would be minimal; as such there would be no need for expansion of police services. Development of the proposed project

would not require the construction of new or the expansion of existing LACSD facilities. Therefore, potential impacts associated with police protection services would be less than significant during the construction and operation of the proposed project.

Schools

No increase in population would occur with implementation of the proposed project. Project O&M would require up to six technicians to service and maintain the arrays during scheduled maintenance and emergency repairs. The proposed project does not include any residential uses that would induce population growth and subsequently generate new student enrollment in local schools.. Thus, the proposed project will not result in the construction of new or the expansion of existing school facilities. Therefore, impacts associated with school facilities would be less than significant.

Parks

No increase in population would occur with implementation of the project. Work crews would be required for approximately 24 months for project construction. During construction, the peak workforce is anticipated to be approximately 250 workers. These workers are expected to come from the local area. However, construction activities could temporarily increase the use of existing parks and recreational facilities in the City of Lancaster or Los Angeles County. The proposed project is not expected to require more than six technicians during operation for routine maintenance and emergency repairs. The six workers would not permanently or significantly contribute to the use of existing parks and other recreational facilities in the region. Thus, there would be no increase in the demand for neighborhood or regional parks, or other recreational facilities that would accelerate the physical deterioration of an existing facility.

Government Facilities

No increase in population would occur with implementation of the proposed project. Project O&M would require up to six technicians to service and maintain the arrays during scheduled maintenance and emergency repairs. Thus, the proposed project would not result in the construction of new or the expansion of existing government facilities. Therefore, impacts associated with other public facilities such as public libraries would be less than significant.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Impacts to fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and governmental facilities would be less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts to fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and governmental facilities would be less than significant impact.

Utilities and Service Systems

Wastewater Treatment Requirements

Impact PSU-2 **The proposed project would not result in the exceedance of wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.**

Impact Analysis

No wastewater facilities exist on the project site and no such facilities would be constructed as part of the proposed project. Portable restroom facilities would be provided and maintained for construction crew use during construction of the proposed project. During operation, the proposed project would not have any onsite septic systems or wastewater connections. When routine maintenance or emergency repairs are required on the solar facility, portable restroom facilities would be brought to the project site with the workers. The proposed project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements. No impact would occur.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

No Impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

No Impact.

Expansion of Water or Wastewater

Impact PSU-3 **The proposed project would not construct new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, with the potential to cause significant environmental effects.**

Impact Analysis

No water or wastewater treatment facilities are located on the project site and none would be constructed as part of the proposed project. No new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities would be needed for operation of the proposed project. As noted in Section 2, Project Description, water would be trucked in for panel washing and landscaping use. In addition, the proposed project would be served by portable restroom facilities with adequate capacity. In the event that recycled water is utilized onsite, it would be procured through the City of Lancaster's existing recycled water procedures and trucked to the project site. The filling station for recycled water is located at Division Street and West Avenue H, approximately ten miles from the project site. The City has confirmed that there will be adequate recycled water supplies to serve the proposed project (J. Swain pers. comm. 2014). Additionally, the applicant has negotiated agreements for water supply for the construction and operation of all sPower projects from wells and water rights owned by the existing land owners. These water rights are approximately 20 acre-feet per year (pers. comm. G. Bean 2015). As such, the proposed project

would not create any need for new or expanded facilities to treat water or wastewater. There is no impact.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

No Impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

No Impact.

Expansion of Stormwater Facilities

Impact PSU-4	The proposed project would not construct new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, with the potential to cause significant environmental effects.
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Impact Analysis

A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan incorporating best management practices for erosion control would be prepared and approved before the start of construction, Mitigation Measure HYD-1. The proposed project would also comply with applicable post-construction water quality standards adopted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board or the State Water Resources Control Board. Increased stormwater runoff resulting from the proposed project is expected to be minimal and would be captured onsite in accordance with the site's existing stormwater systems (i.e., drainage ditches adjacent to roadways) that are sufficient to capture increased stormwater from the proposed project. This is discussed in more detail in Section 3.8, Hydrology and Water Quality. The impact is less than significant.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Less Than Significant Impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less Than Significant Impact.

Water Supply

Impact PSU-5	The proposed project would not create a need for new or expanded entitlements or resources for sufficient water supply.
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Impact Analysis

Construction

During project construction, the primary use of water would be for dust control. Water may also be required to moisture-condition the onsite soils for proper compaction at roads and foundations, single panel wash, and other uses such as landscaping, irrigation, and vehicle washing. The estimated worst-case scenario construction-related water demand is 322 acre-feet, although actual demand may vary by several acre-feet, depending on the season during which construction work occurs and the amount of water required for erosion control purposes. The worst-case scenario assumes construction occurs in the dry-season and requires more water for erosion and dust control purposes. Water, including for construction, would be obtained through agreements with private landowners to use existing wells or from recycled water available through the City of Lancaster. Additionally, potable water would be provided to the site for workers during construction.

In the event that recycled water is utilized, it would be procured through the City of Lancaster's existing recycled water procedures and trucked to the project site. The filling station for recycled water is located at Division Street and West Avenue H, approximately ten miles from the project site. The City has confirmed that there will be adequate recycled water supplies to serve the proposed project (J. Swain pers. comm. 2014). As a result, construction impacts would be less than significant.

Operations

Water demand for project operations would require approximately 3.0 acre-feet for panel washing, as upon completion of the proposed project, other methods of dust control such as hydroseeding, mulch, and chemical binders would be used predominantly to create a stabilized surface eliminating the need to use water for dust control. Additionally, irrigation would not be needed after landscaping is established (anticipated to be two years). Water would be obtained through agreements with private landowners to use existing wells or procured through the City of Lancaster's existing recycled water procedures and trucked to the project site. The filling station for recycled water is located at Division Street and Avenue H, approximately ten miles from the project site. Additionally, the applicant has negotiated agreements for water supply for the construction and operation of all the applicant's related projects from wells and water rights owned by the existing landowners. These water rights are approximately 20 acre-feet per year (pers. comm. G. Bean 2015). No new or expanded entitlements would be needed for operation. Therefore, operational impacts associated with groundwater supplies would be less than significant.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Less Than Significant Impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less Than Significant Impact.

Wastewater Capacity

Impact PSU-6 The proposed project would not exceed capacity of existing wastewater treatment facilities.

Impact Analysis

No wastewater treatment facilities exist on the project site and none would be constructed as part of the proposed project. Wastewater generated by the proposed project would be handled by portable restrooms which are required to have adequate capacity for the project's construction and maintenance personnel. The facilities would be maintain under contract with a third party supplier to the applicant and be inspected and trucked offsite to an approved disposal facility.

The proposed project would not exceed any existing wastewater treatment capacity, because temporary restroom facilities would be used for construction and operation, and no wastewater facilities would be required, as such there is no impact.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

No Impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

No Impact.

Landfill Capacity

Impact PSU-7 The proposed project would not exceed the relevant landfill's permitted capacity.

Impact Analysis

Construction waste would be generated from installation of the solar arrays and related facilities. Construction waste generation is expected to be minimal and consist of mostly recyclable materials such as cardboard, steel, and electrical wiring. The applicant would carefully disassemble and recycle shipping containers and panel packaging as much as possible, minimizing solid waste impacts. Waste Management would handle solid waste disposal using the Lancaster Landfill. Based on the City of Lancaster MEA prepared in 2009, the Lancaster Landfill's maximum permitted daily capacity of 1,700 tpd. The minimal amount of solid waste expected to be generated during construction and operation of the proposed project is not expected to contribute significantly to the landfill's permitted capacity. An ongoing expansion project is expected to increase the landfill's daily permitted disposal limit of 3,000 tons. Operation of the

proposed project would result in minimal waste generation related to repairs and maintenance. As such, the proposed project would not result in any substantial solid waste disposal needs for construction or operation. Therefore, the impact would be considered less than significant.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Less Than Significant Impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less Than Significant Impact.

Solid Waste Regulatory Compliance

Impact PSU-8	The proposed project would be consistent with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.
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Impact Analysis

The proposed project would comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations related to the disposal of solid waste. There would be no impact.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

No Impact.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation is not necessary.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

No Impact.

Recreation

Increase Use of Parks

Impact PSU-9	The proposed project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.
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Impact Analysis

No increase in population would occur with implementation of the proposed project. Work crews would be required intermittently for approximately 24 months for project construction.

During construction, the peak workforce is anticipated to be approximately 250 workers, and construction activities could temporarily increase the use of existing parks and recreational facilities in the City of Lancaster or Los Angeles County. The proposed project is not expected to require more than six technicians during operation for routine maintenance and emergency repairs. The six workers would not permanently or significantly contribute to the use of existing parks and other recreational facilities in the region. Thus, there would be no increase in the demand for neighborhood or regional parks, or other recreational facilities that would accelerate the physical deterioration of an existing facility.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Less Than Significant Impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less Than Significant Impact.

Recreational Facilities Physical Effect on Environment

Impact PSU-10 The proposed project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Impact Analysis

Bikeways and pedestrian sidewalks are not provided in the project vicinity, with the exception of the trail system along the California Aqueduct. In conformance with the City of Lancaster Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways, an 8 feet wide asphalt bike lane would be constructed along Avenue L between 80th Street West and 90th Street West and along 90th Street West from Avenue L to Quarry Ridge Road (Figure 2-3). The proposed project would be consistent with the City's Master Plan. As such, the proposed project would not result in a significant environmental impact from the expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, this impact is less than significant.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Less Than Significant Impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less Than Significant Impact.

3.11.4 Cumulative Impacts

The geographic scope of the cumulative public services analysis is the service area of each of the providers serving the proposed project. Because of differences in the nature of the public service and utility topical areas, they are discussed separately.

The geographic scope of the cumulative fire protection and emergency medical services analysis is the Antelope Valley service area. The LACFD provides fire protection services to the Antelope Valley, which includes the City of Lancaster and the surrounding unincorporated area. The LACFD was formed to provide wildland and structural fire protection. The City of Lancaster is a member of the consolidated Fire Protection District and maintains a contract with the County of Los Angeles to receive staff and fire protection services. All County Fire Department emergency units are dispatched as needed to an incident anywhere in the service territory based on distance and availability. Most incidents require multiple response units from two or more stations. The project area would be serviced by Station No. 84, located at 5030 West Avenue L-14 in Quartz Hill. The project plus related projects would not result in substantial adverse cumulative physical impacts associated with fire protection and emergency services, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.

The project-level analysis concluded that impacts to fire protection and emergency medical services were less than significant and do not require mitigation. Related projects would exhibit similar low demand for these services, with the exception of these residential and commercial uses. During the construction phases of the related projects, construction workers would be onsite; this increase in people could incrementally increase the potential need for fire or medical response services. However, because the increased need would be temporary, no new or physically altered fire protection facilities would be required to meet demand. Additionally, during operation, security services would be provided to the related projects through remote and onsite monitoring services that would reduce the demand for fire protection services. As such, the proposed project plus related cumulative projects would result in less than significant cumulative impacts to fire protection and emergency medical services. Therefore, the proposed project, when considered with other cumulative projects, would not have a cumulatively considerable impact on fire protection and emergency medical services.

The geographic scope of the cumulative police protection analysis is the City of Lancaster's jurisdictional area. Police protection, crime prevention and traffic enforcement services for the City of Lancaster are provided on a contractual basis through LACSD. The Antelope Valley is located in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Field Operations Region I. Two patrol stations are located within the Antelope Valley, one of which is the Lancaster station located at 501 West Lancaster Boulevard in downtown Lancaster. The project plus other related projects would not result in substantial adverse cumulative physical impacts associated with the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department services. In order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for other public facilities, as discussed below. The project-level analysis concluded that impacts to police protection were less than significant and do not require mitigation. Each of the related projects would exhibit similar low demand for these services, with the exception of residential and commercial uses. Each of the related projects would include security measures to prevent unauthorized entry. Security services to the related projects would be provided through onsite monitoring services that would reduce the

demand for police protection services. As such, the proposed project plus related projects would result in less than significant cumulative impacts to police protection. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a cumulatively considerable impact on police protection.

The two primary sources of water for the Lancaster area are local groundwater and water from the State Water Project. The primary source of imported water is the California Aqueduct. Water is purchased by AVEK. AVEK is a wholesale water distributor that sells and distributes water to local retail (public and private) water agencies. Treatment of the imported water by AVEK occurs at the Quartz Hill, Eastside, Rosamond and Acton treatment plants. With the capacity to treat 65 million gallons of water per day, the Quartz Hill Water Treatment Plant supports a majority of the City of Lancaster. In addition to the treatment plants, AVEK distribution facilities include over 100 miles of pipelines, four 8 million gallon storage reservoirs and one 3 million gallon reservoir. There are eleven retail water districts and mutual water companies serving the Lancaster area. The two largest retail water purveyors within the Lancaster area are Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 and the Quartz Hill Water District. Water would be obtained through agreements with private landowners to use existing wells or procured through the City of Lancaster's recycled water program and trucked to the site. Reclaimed water is available at a filling station located at Division Street and Avenue H, approximately ten miles from the project site. No municipal water services would be needed. As a result, the majority of solar power projects would not utilize municipal wastewater treatment facilities or affect area landfills. The proposed project in addition to existing similar projects and other related projects would not contribute to a cumulative impact on utilities or service systems.