

4.13 Public Services and Utilities

This section details the environmental and regulatory setting of the Whittier Main Oil Field Project (proposed Project) relevant to public services and utilities. It also identifies significance thresholds and impacts to public services and utilities related to the proposed Project, as well as proposed mitigations for the significant impacts. The public services and utilities relevant to the Project include:

- Water supply; and
- Solid waste.

Sections 4.12, Fire Protection and Emergency Services, 4.13, Wastewater, and 4.15, Energy and Mineral Resources, discuss those public services separately. While preparing the Notice of Preparation, it was determined that the Project would not cause significant impacts to police protection, housing, or schools; therefore, this section does not address those public services.

4.13.1 Environmental Setting

This section discusses the environmental setting for the applicable utilities and public services.

4.13.1.1 Water Supply Utility

Depending on their location, City of Whittier (City) businesses and residents obtain water from Whittier Water Division, Suburban Water Systems, or San Gabriel Valley Water Company. These three water services combined provide service to approximately 48,000 people in the City.

With respect to the proposed Project, Whittier Water Division and Suburban Water Systems service areas are nearest the Project Site. Both services provide groundwater drawn from the Main San Gabriel and Central Basins. The Main San Gabriel Basin is 167 square miles and holds an estimated 8.6 million acre-feet of water. The Central Basin is 278 square miles and has the capacity to store 13 million acre-feet of water. Suburban Water Systems also provide surface water obtained from lakes, rivers, and streams via the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Covina Irrigating Company, and California Domestic Water Company (Whittier 2009, SWS 2010).

Whittier Water Division

Whittier Water Division supplies water to homes as far east as Catalina Avenue from the Ocean View Reservoir and the Murphy Booster Station (directly above the Ocean View Reservoir), shown in Figure 2-6. The Ocean View Reservoir contains two 100-horsepower pumps and a 4,000,000-gallon reservoir, while the Murphy Booster Station has two 250,000-gallon storage tanks. The Murphy Booster Station was installed to supply sufficient pressure to homes above Mar Vista Street. City reports identify a 10-inch line that exits the Ocean View Reservoir and runs along Ocean View Avenue. The connection at the end of Catalina Avenue is a 6-inch

pipeline, tested at a static pressure of 80 pounds per square inch with a flow of 840 gallons per minute. A tie-in to this connection would provide water to the Project area as early as the Drilling and Testing Phase. Refer to Section 4.12, Fire Protection and Emergency Service, for more information.

Suburban Water Systems

Suburban Water Systems is the primary domestic water supplier for the 42-square-mile area of Glendora, West Covina, La Puente, Hacienda Heights, City of Industry, portions of Whittier, La Mirada, La Habra, and Buena Park. Suburban Water Systems provides approximately 56,000 acre feet of water to nearly 300,000 residents annually and obtains approximately 80 percent of its water supply from company-owned wells that pump water from the Main San Gabriel and Central Groundwater Basins. Suburban Water Systems purchases the other 20 percent of its supply from agencies including the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Covina Irrigating Company, and California Domestic Water Company.

Suburban Water Systems supplies water to the Whittier/La Mirada District. The Whittier/La Mirada District, in part, spans east of Catalina Avenue beyond Colima Road and south of Mar Vista Street. Suburban Water Systems could supply water to the Project Site from its existing water main on Colima Road.

4.13.1.2 Solid Waste Disposal

The Project Site is located on land owned by the city in the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preserve. The Puente Hills Landfill, which is managed by the LACSD Solid Waste Management Department and scheduled to close in November 2013, is a restricted wasteland and thereby prohibited from accepting waste generated within the City of Los Angeles and the County of Orange (LACSD 2010e). The Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility and the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility Recycle Center are located next to the landfill.

Solid waste disposal services for city residents and businesses are provided by Whittier Sanitation Services, Consolidated Disposal Service, or Waste Management. The Public Works Solid Waste Division (Whittier Sanitation Services) provides refuse service for half of the city (11,103 customers). This division also operates the Savage Canyon Landfill, which is located in the city and immediately west of the Project Site. All non-hazardous, non-recyclable solid waste is collected and disposed of in the Savage Canyon Landfill. Savage Canyon Landfill only accepts waste generated from city residents, businesses, and contract haulers (City 2010), although a very small amount of “foreign waste” that originates outside the City Limits is accepted through special agreements. Recyclable wastes are taken to a materials recovery facility in either Long Beach or Pico Rivera (CDS 2010, WM 2010).

Household hazardous wastes can be taken to household hazardous waste round-ups coordinated by the LACSD (LACSD 2010d). Larger quantities of hazardous waste can be disposed of at one of these California hazardous waste disposal facilities: Kettleman Hills Facility in Kettleman City, McKittrick Waste Treatment Site in McKittrick, or Clean Harbors Buttonwillow Facility in Buttonwillow (CalRecycle 2010). Any hazardous waste that the Project generates would be disposed of at one of these facilities.

4.13.2 Regulatory Setting

The regulatory framework for relevant public services generally consists of a requirement to provide an adequate supply of services (as defined uniquely by each type of service) to present and future customers. Oversight of the public service providers is managed by an assortment of boards, commissions, and other types of local and regional institutions and agencies.

4.13.2.1 Federal

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), established in 1974, is designed to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply. Administered by the EPA, the SDWA applies to every public water system in the country and sets national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally occurring and man-made contaminants. Specifically, contaminant levels are regulated by the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, an enforcement arm of the SDWA (EPA 2004).

4.13.2.2 State

Water

The California Public Utilities Commission governs operation of water companies (among other utilities) within the State.

Solid Waste

In January 2010, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) was established in an effort to streamline state recycling and waste diversion efforts. These responsibilities were formerly administered by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. CalRecycle is now comprised of the Waste Management Division and the Recycling Division, which manage programs created through the Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939).

AB 939 required that each county prepare a new Integrated Waste Management Plan, as well as requiring each city to prepare a Source Reduction and Recycling Element by July 1, 1991. Each source reduction element was to include a plan for achieving a solid waste goal of 25 percent reductions by January 1, 1995, and 50 percent reductions by January 1, 2000.

Senate Bill (SB) 2202 made a number of changes to the municipal solid waste diversion requirements under the Integrated Waste Management Act. These changes included a revision to the statutory requirement for 50 percent diversion of solid waste to clarify that local governments should continue to divert 50 percent of all solid waste after January 1, 2000.

Moreover, in 1997, some of the regulations adopted by the State Water Quality Control Board pertaining to landfills (Title 23, Chapter 15) were incorporated with CalRecycle regulations (Title 14) to create Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations.

4.13.2.3 Local

Whittier General Plan

The City of Whittier General Plan contains two elements that outline the city's goals and policies with respect to public services.

Land Use Element

The Land Use Element of the General Plan contains the following goal and policy relevant to public services in relation to industrial land uses:

- Goal 4: Encourage the maintenance and continued improvement of industrial areas which support and enhance the physical and economic well-being of Whittier.
- Policy 4.6: Consider the capacity of existing infrastructure and the potential demand for public services in future planning and review of new development.

Environmental Resource Management Element

The Environmental Resource Management Element describes community open space and recreation, scenic corridors, and natural resources that the city manages or wants to preserve. Specifically, the Environmental Resource Management Element contains the following goals and policies associated with public services:

- Goal 1: Preserve or conserve natural and cultural resources that have scientific, educational, economic, aesthetic, social, and cultural value.
- Policy 1.1: Cooperate with state, federal, and regional agencies to monitor water quality and to provide an adequate supply of high quality water for local and regional needs.
- Goal 8: Promote recycling, source reduction, and waste management practices to reduce the volume of solid waste.
- Policy 8.1: Support and complement existing recycling programs by public and private agencies (e.g., Lion's Club, Boy Scouts, area grocers) and encourage waste stream reduction and recycling of solid waste to extend the life of the Savage Canyon Landfill.
- Policy 8.2: The city will implement the Source Reduction and Recycling Element pursuant to AB 939.

Whittier Municipal Code

Chapter 8.12, Refuse, of the Whittier Municipal Code, regulates wastes handled within the city. This document complies with the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989. Chapter 10.44, Vehicles Transporting Hazardous Materials, of the Whittier Municipal Code, regulates vehicular transportation of hazardous materials in the city. Title 13, Public Services, of the Whittier Municipal Code, regulates water and sewer functions in the City, including construction, installation, and connection.

Resource Management Plan

In 2007, the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) prepared the Resource Management Plan (RMP), a comprehensive, long-term management plan for the Preserve. Specifically, the RMP guides the Habitat Authority with regards to land use management of the Preserve.

In an effort to protect and restore the Preserve's natural resources, the RMP identifies several elements, goals, and objectives relevant to the public services and utilities aspects of the proposed Project.

Public Use Element

- Goal USE-4: Accommodate parking, access points, and trail amenities that maintain the natural character of the land, enhance resource protection, and contribute to the enjoyment of open space.
- Objectives USE-4.3: Allow trail amenities such as, but not limited to:
 - Portable restrooms in areas with group use;
 - Facilities to provide water and tie horses;
 - Trash cans;
 - Facilities to encourage the pickup and disposal of pet waste; and
 - Potable water.

Facility Maintenance Element

- Goal MAINT-2: Remove litter, trash, and debris that may attract nonnative wildlife and reduce the aesthetic values of the Preserve.
- Objective MAINT-2.1: Establish responsibilities for removing trash and for regular collection at specific locations.

4.13.3 Significance Criteria

According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Appendix G, a project would create a significant environmental effect if it generated a quantity of solid waste that could not be accommodated by the permitted capacity of the serving landfill. In addition, Appendix G would find significant impacts relevant to a project's compliance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Finally, since neither the City of Whittier nor the County of Los Angeles have established thresholds for solid waste generation, the City of Los Angeles threshold of 5 tons per week has been used for determining the level of significance. The City of Los Angeles uses this threshold as a screening criterion to determine if additional environmental review is required. Typically, if a project does not exceed the screening criteria of 5 tons per week, no significant impacts are expected.

According to CEQA Appendix G, a project would have a significant environmental impact if the project would:

- Exceed the capacity of a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs;
- Not comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid wastes;
- Not have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or require expanded entitlements;
- Violate water quality standards; or
- 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).

4.13.4 Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This section characterizes the impacts generated by the potential oil field development related to solid wastes, and demand for potable water. Section 4.10, Wastewater, addresses wastewater and its impacts.

Impact #	Impact Description	Phase	Residual Impact
PS.1	Future drilling, construction, and operations would generate solid wastes.	Drilling, Construction, Operations	Less Than Significant

The proposed Project would create a significant environmental effect if it generated a quantity of solid waste that would exceed existing disposal capacities.

During the Drilling and Testing Phase, it is estimated that each well drilled would generate one 40-cubic yard container of trash that would be disposed of in a landfill. However, the major waste from drilling operations would be cuttings. Drill cuttings from each well would contain soil, sand, crushed rocks, gravel, and other materials. Drilling each well would generate an estimated 660 cubic yards of this material. This material would be properly disposed of in an appropriate landfill.

During the construction phase, residue concrete would be periodically collected and shipped offsite for proper disposal. Recyclable waste would be recycled at an appropriate facility and other waste would be disposed in a landfill. It is estimated that up to 80 tons of this material would be recycled and disposed of during the 30-month construction phase. Additionally, portable construction toilets would be provided for domestic waste.

During the operations phase, scrap steel, scrap aluminum, and scrap wire would be collected and recycled at an appropriate facility. Other trash and rubbish would be collected in waste bins and disposed of by a local waste hauler. On average, a 10-cubic yard bin would be disposed of each

week. The office sewer would be connected to the local sanitation district and portable construction toilets would be provided at strategic locations.

At some locations, sand and other solid particles, trapped in the oil and water emulsion brought to the surface by the deep well pumps, would be separated from the oil and water and disposed of offsite at a hazardous waste landfill. The quantities of sand and solid particles are unknown, but they could range up to two trucks per month.

Overall, any contaminated soil would be shipped to the Kettleman Hill Facility for treatment and ultimate disposal in a Class I landfill near Kettleman City, California.

Therefore, the impact due to solid waste generation would be considered less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required since the impact would be less than significant.

Residual Impacts

The residual impacts associated with solid waste generation would be considered less than significant.

Impact #	Impact Description	Phase	Residual Impact
PS.2	Future drilling, construction, and operations would increase demand for potable water.	Drilling, Construction, Operations	Less Than Significant

The proposed Project would require water for activities, such as watering of bare soils for dust control, use by work crews, washing equipment, cleaning tanks, drilling activities, and landscaping. However, the water demand from these activities would be minor compared to the overall water demand in the area.

Water requirements for the proposed Project are assumed to include use for facility operations, drilling operations, landscaping, and potable and hygiene consumption and application. During the drilling phase, up to 4,500 gallons would be used per day. The construction phase would require 2,000 gallons per day during grading and earthmoving, 10,000 gallons per day during pipeline installation, and 1,000 gallons per month during facility construction. Up to 1,300 gallons per day would be needed during the operations phase. The proposed Project would not require a new offsite water supply or distribution facility, expansion of existing facilities, or new or expanded water entitlements.

Therefore, the proposed Project activities' impact on potable water demand would be less than significant. However, southern California experiences periodic droughts, and water conservation and reuse is highly recommended to ensure that potable water is available for other uses.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required since the impact would be less than significant.

Residual Impacts

The residual impacts associated with increased demand for potable water would be considered less than significant.

4.13.4.1 Other Issue Area Mitigation Measure Impacts

Mitigation measures proposed for other issues areas could increase impacts to public service and utilities if they are implemented. This section discusses those potential mitigation measure impacts.

None of the mitigation measures proposed for other issue areas would change the impacts discussed in this section. Therefore, the mitigation measures would not result in additional significant impacts, and additional analysis or mitigation is not required.

4.13.5 Cumulative Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The cumulative projects discussed in Section 3.0, Cumulative Projects Description, would construct and use additional housing units, retail establishments, a church expansion, a hospital expansion, hotel rooms, and oil development. None of these projects would contribute to unacceptable strains on the water supply or solid waste disposal systems in the area. Therefore, there would be no cumulative significant impacts.