

3.13 Public Services

This section describes the regulatory and environmental setting for public services. It also describes the impacts on public services that would result from implementation of the program and two individual projects and mitigation for significant impacts where feasible and appropriate.

3.13.1 Existing Conditions

Regulatory Setting

Federal

There are no relevant federal regulations for public facilities and services.

State

There are no relevant state regulations for public facilities and services.

Local

Alameda County

East County Area Plan

The Public Services and Facilities Element and the Environmental Health and Safety Elements of the ECAP contain goals, policies, and programs related to fire protection and police services. The following goals, policies and programs are applicable to the proposed project (Alameda County 2000:62, 76).

Goal: To ensure the prompt and efficient provision of police, fire, and emergency medical facility and service needs.

Policy 241: The County shall provide effective law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services to unincorporated areas.

Policy 242: The County shall reserve adequate sites for sheriff, fire, and emergency medical facilities in unincorporated locations within East County.

Goal: To minimize the risk to lives and property due to fire hazards.

Policy 324: The County shall require the use of fire resistant building materials, fire-resistant landscaping, and adequate clearance around structures in “high” and “very high” fire hazard areas.

Environmental Setting

Fire Protection

The Alameda County Fire Department provides fire protection services to the program area in coordination with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). CalFire has responsibility for fire protection and suppression activities within State-designated high fire hazard severity zones known as State Responsibility Areas. The program area lies within areas mapped as

“Moderate” and “High” Fire Hazard Severity Zones by CalFire (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 2007). The nearest CalFire facility is Station 26 (Castle Rock) at 16502 Schulte Road in Tracy. CalFire responded to approximately eight fires in 2011 and four fires in 2012 related to wind turbines in the portion of the Altamont Pass within Alameda County (Giambrone pers. comm.). Although the APWRA is under CAL FIRE jurisdiction, the Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD) would also respond to any wildland fire in the program area. Stations 20 and 8 are the two ACFD stations closest to the program area. Station 20 is located at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory at 7000 East Avenue in Livermore, approximately 3 miles from the program area’s western boundary. Additional information on fire protection in the program area is in Section 3.8 *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*.

Law Enforcement

The Alameda County Sheriff’s Office provides law enforcement services to unincorporated areas of Alameda County. The station with responsibility for the program area is the Tri-Valley Sub Station at 5320 Broder Boulevard in Dublin. Theft is the most common crime in the Altamont pass area, the theft of copper related to wind turbines and tools that are stored and used to repair wind turbines in particular. Since 2007, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office has seen over \$5,000,000 in copper theft from the Altamont pass area. In the 6-month period of January–June 2013, the Tri-Valley Sub Station has received approximately 20 calls regarding theft incidents in the program area (Kelly pers. comm.).

Schools

The program area is in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. However, no school facilities are located within the program area. The nearest school to the program area is Mountain House Elementary (3950 Mountain House Road, Byron), approximately 0.48 miles east of the APWRA. San Joaquin Delta College (2073 South Central Parkway) is approximately 0.5 miles east of the program area boundary.

Parks

Alameda County contains numerous recreational facilities, including regional preserves, parks and other open space areas. Several such areas provide recreational opportunities in the program area. Park and recreational facilities are discussed in Section 3.15, *Recreation*.

Libraries

The program area is in the Alameda County Libraries system, which has 10 locations throughout the County. There are no libraries in the program area. The nearest County library is the Livermore Public Library in the city of Livermore at 1188 S Livermore Ave.

3.13.2 Environmental Impacts

Methods for Analysis

Identifying the program’s impacts on public services involved a review of the Alameda County General Plan, ECAP and the CalFire Hazard Severity Zone Map, as well as contacting local fire department and law enforcement officials to discuss the existing conditions and potential effects of

the proposed program. Because no other public facilities (e.g., libraries,) exist in the program area, they are not discussed below.

Determination of Significance

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, program Alternative 1, program Alternative 2, the Golden Hills project, or the Patterson Pass project would be considered to have a significant effect if it would result in any of the conditions listed below.

- 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 for any of the following public services:
 - Fire protection
 - Police protection
 - Schools
 - Parks
 - Other public facilities

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact PS-1a-1: 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 for any of the following public services: fire protection; police protection; schools; parks; other public facilities—program Alternative 1: 417 MW (no impact)

Fire Protection

CalFire provides fire protection services to the program area. The fire protection facilities and infrastructure required to protect the proposed facilities and employees are already in place and would not change as a result of the proposed program. Program Alternative 1 would result in a net reduction of turbines and related infrastructure in the program area. As a result, fewer wind energy facility components could be threatened by fire or cause a fire. CalFire indicated that the newer generation of wind turbines were safer than the original models that exist in the area (Giambrone pers. comm.). All of the workers that would be employed during construction and operations are expected to reside locally or regionally and therefore are a part of the existing demand on fire protection services. The proposed program would not result in the need for new or altered fire protection facilities, such as a new or expanded fire station. There would be no impact. No mitigation is required. See Section 3.8, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, for a discussion of wildland fire impacts.

Law Enforcement

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to the program area. Theft of copper, tools, and other parts is the most common crime in the program area. The police protection

facilities and infrastructure required to protect the program area are already in place and serve to protect the existing wind energy facilities. The existing area is secured with perimeter fencing and locked gates. Replacing the older turbines with newer turbines is not anticipated to increase theft or other crime in the program area (Kelly pers. comm.). The construction and operations workers are anticipated to be from the local and regional workforce, and therefore already part of the existing demand on police services. Therefore, the proposed program would not require additional police staffing or facilities. There would be no impact. No mitigation is required.

Schools

No schools are present in the program area. No residential uses are proposed as part of the proposed program, and the proposed program would not result in new, permanent jobs that would bring new residents to the area. Therefore no new students would be generated. Temporary and permanent employees are assumed to reside locally and regionally and their school-aged children are assumed to be part of the existing or anticipated student population. Therefore, implementation of program Alternative 1 would not require the construction or expansion of school facilities. There would be no impact. No mitigation is required.

Parks

There are several regional parks and other open space areas within the vicinity. These facilities are intended to serve a large segment of the regional population. Residential uses are not proposed as part of program Alternative 1, and implementing this alternative would not result in new, permanent jobs that would bring new residents to the area; thus no direct increase in the number of park users is expected to result from the proposed program. It is anticipated that temporary and permanent employees would already reside locally and regionally, and so would be part of the existing demand on park facilities. There would be no impact. No mitigation is required. Parks are discussed in more detail in Chapter 3.15, *Recreation*.

Impact PS-1a-2: 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 for any of the following public services: fire protection; police protection; schools; parks; other public facilities—program Alternative 2: 450 MW (no impact)

Fire Protection

CalFire provides fire protection services to the program area. The fire protection facilities and infrastructure required to protect the proposed facilities and employees are already in place and would not change as a result of the proposed program. Program Alternative 2 would result in a net reduction of turbines and related infrastructure in the program area. As a result, fewer wind energy facility components could be threatened by fire or cause a fire. CalFire indicated that the newer generation of wind turbines were safer than the original models that exist in the area (Giambrone pers. comm.). All of the workers that would be employed during construction and operations are expected to reside locally and regionally and therefore are a part of the existing demand on fire protection services. The proposed program would not result in the need for new or altered fire protection facilities, such as a new or expanded fire station. There would be no impact. No

mitigation is required. See Section 3.8, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, for a discussion of wildland fire impacts.

Law Enforcement

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to the program area. Theft of copper, tools, and other parts is the most common crime in the program area. The police protection facilities and infrastructure required to protect the program area are already in place and serve to protect the existing wind energy facilities. The existing area is secured with perimeter fencing and locked gates. Replacing the older turbines with newer turbines is not anticipated to increase theft or other crime in the program area (Kelly pers. comm.). The construction and operations workers are anticipated to be from the local and regional workforce, and therefore already part of the existing demand on police services. Therefore, the proposed program would not require additional police staffing or facilities. There would be no impact. No mitigation is required.

Schools

No schools are present in the program area. No residential uses are proposed as part of the proposed program, and the proposed program would not result in new, permanent jobs that would bring new residents to the area. Therefore no new students would be generated. Temporary and permanent employees are assumed to reside locally and regionally and their school-aged children are assumed to be part of the existing or anticipated student population. Therefore, implementation of program Alternative 2 would not require the construction or expansion of school facilities. There would be no impact. No mitigation is required.

Parks

There are several regional parks and other open space areas within the vicinity. These facilities are intended to serve a large segment of the regional population. Residential uses are not proposed as part of program Alternative 2, and implementing this alternative would not result in new, permanent jobs that would bring new residents to the area; thus no direct increase in the number of park users is expected to result from the proposed program. It is anticipated that temporary and permanent employees would already reside locally and regionally, and so would be part of the existing demand on park facilities. There would be no impact. No mitigation is required. Parks are discussed in more detail in Chapter 3.15, *Recreation*.

Impact PS-1b: 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 for any of the following public services: fire protection; police protection; schools; parks; other public facilities—Golden Hills Project (no impact)

Fire Protection

CalFire provides fire protection services to the Golden Hills Project area. The fire protection facilities and infrastructure required to protect the proposed facilities and employees are already in place and would not change as a result of the proposed project. The program, including the Golden Hills Project, would result in a net reduction of turbines and related infrastructure in the program area. As a result, fewer wind energy facility components could be threatened by fire or cause a fire.

CalFire indicated that the newer generation of wind turbines were safer than the original models that exist in the area (Giambrone pers. comm.). All of the workers that would be employed during construction and operations are expected to reside locally or regionally and therefore part of the existing demand on fire protection services. The proposed program would not result in the need for new or altered fire protection facilities, such as a new or expanded fire station. There would be no impact. No mitigation is required. See Section 3.8 *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, for a discussion of wildland fire impacts.

Law Enforcement

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to the program area. Theft of copper and parts/equipment is the largest law enforcement issue in the project area. Onsite mobile trailers would be located within the staging areas to support workforce needs and site security. The proposed project would be located entirely on private property and public property with restricted public access. Only individuals with authorized access privileges would be allowed in the proposed project area. The project area is fenced and the collector substations would be fenced with a chain-link fence to prevent public access. Vegetation clearance would be maintained adjacent to the project area ingress and egress points, and around the collector substations, transformers, and interconnection riser poles to deter unauthorized access to these areas. O&M staff would also be onsite to provide security.

Replacing the older turbines with newer turbines is not anticipated to increase theft or other crime in the program area (Kelly pers. comm.). The construction and operations workers are anticipated to reside locally and regionally and therefore already part of the existing demand on police services. Therefore, the proposed project would not require additional police staffing or facilities. There would be no impact. No mitigation is required.

Schools

No schools are present in the project area. No residential uses are proposed as part of the Golden Hills Project, and the proposed project would not result in new, permanent jobs that would bring new residents to the area. Therefore, no new students would be generated. Temporary and permanent employees are assumed to reside locally and regionally and their school-aged children are assumed to be part of the existing or anticipated student population. Therefore, implementation of the Golden Hills Project would not require the construction or expansion of school facilities and no impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

Parks

There are several regional parks and other open space areas near the project area. These facilities are intended to serve a large segment of the regional population. Residential uses are not proposed as part of the Golden Hills Project and the proposed project would not result in new, permanent jobs that would bring new residents to the area. Therefore, no direct increase in the number of park users is expected to result. It is anticipated that temporary and permanent employees would already reside locally and regionally, and so would be part of the existing demand on park facilities. There would be no impact. No mitigation is required. Parks are discussed in more detail in Section 3.15, *Recreation*.

Impact PS-1c: 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 for any of the following public services: fire protection; police protection; schools; parks; other public facilities—Patterson Pass Project (no impact)

Fire Protection

CalFire provides fire protection services to the Patterson Pass Project area. The fire protection facilities and infrastructure required to protect the proposed facilities and employees are already in place and would not change as a result of the proposed project. The program, including the Patterson Pass Project, would result in a net reduction of turbines and related infrastructure in the program area. As a result, fewer wind energy facility components could be threatened by fire or cause a fire. CalFire indicated that the newer generation of wind turbines were safer than the original models that exist in the area (Giambrone pers. comm.). All of the workers that would be employed during construction and operations are expected to reside locally or regionally and therefore part of the existing demand on fire protection services. The proposed program would not result in the need for new or altered fire protection facilities, such as a new or expanded fire station. There would be no impact. No mitigation is required. See Section 3.8 *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, for a discussion of wildland fire impacts.

Law Enforcement

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to the program area. Theft of copper and parts/equipment is the largest law enforcement issue in the Project area. Replacing the older turbines with newer turbines is not anticipated increase theft crime, or other crime, in the program area (Kelly pers. comm.). The construction and operations workers are anticipated to reside locally or regionally and therefore already part of the existing demand on police services. Therefore, the proposed project would not require additional police staffing or facilities. There would be no impact. No mitigation is required.

Schools

No schools are present in the project area. No residential uses are proposed as part of the Patterson Pass Project, and the proposed project would not result in new, permanent jobs that would bring new residents to the area. Therefore, no new students would be generated. Temporary and permanent employees are assumed to reside locally and regionally and their school-aged children are assumed to be part of the existing or anticipated student population. Therefore, implementation of the Patterson Pass Project would not require the construction or expansion of school facilities and no impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

Parks

There are several regional parks and other open space areas near the project area. These facilities are intended to serve a large segment of the regional population. Residential uses are not proposed as part of the Patterson Pass Project and the proposed project would not result in new, permanent jobs that would bring new residents to the area. Therefore, no direct increase in the number of park users is expected to result. It is anticipated that temporary and permanent employees would already reside locally and regionally, and so would be part of the existing demand on park facilities. There

would be no impact. No mitigation is required. Parks are discussed in more detail in Chapter 3.14, *Recreation*.

3.13.3 References Cited

Printed References

Alameda County. 2000. *East County Area Plan*. Adopted May 1994. Modified by passage of Measure D, effective December 22, 2000. Oakland, CA.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. 2007. *Adopted Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps for State Responsibility Areas*. November 7.

Personal Communications

Giambrone, Bryan. Fire Captain at Morgan Hill Headquarters, Santa Clara Unit. CalFire, California. July 2, 2013—telephone conversation with Lindsay Christensen, ICF International.

Kelly, Ray. Police Sergeant at Tri-Valley Substation. Alameda County Sheriff's Office, California. July 2, 2013—telephone conversation with Lindsay Christensen, ICF International.