

4.9 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

This discussion of public services and utilities is based in part on the analysis prepared for the *EIR/EIS for the Guadalupe River Flood Control Project* (Parsons Engineering Science 1997).

4.9.1 Regulatory Setting

Various state and local laws and regulations govern the functions and operations of public services and utilities. The City of San Jose would have responsibility for ensuring the proper operations of most public services and the local utilities. Regional communications and gas and electrical power utilities are under the authority of state agencies.

4.9.2 Existing Conditions

Police Protection Services

Police protection service for the project area is provided by the San Jose Police Department. The area served by the department is divided into districts, many of which are traversed by the Guadalupe River channel. As of July 1996, the police department was authorized for 1,299 sworn officers. With these personnel, the department would have 1.5 sworn officers per thousand population. The national average is 2.2 sworn officers per thousand population. For cities the size of San Jose, the national average is 2.9 sworn officers per thousand (Parsons Engineering Science 1997).

Fire Protection Services

The San Jose Fire Department, which serves a total area of 203 square miles, provides all fire protection services for the area covered by the flood control project. The Fire Department has 30 engine companies, 11 truck companies, one hazardous incident team, one arson investigator, and five battalion chiefs on duty in 30 fire stations. Of this total, nine engine companies, four truck companies, and three battalion chiefs respond to portions of the feasibility study area (Brooks 1994).

The recommended standard emergency travel time for the nearest engine company to a given locale in the city is 4 minutes. Travel times vary from 1.8 minutes to 6.6 minutes for the first engine responding to portions of the flood control feasibility study area, which is considered an acceptable level of service. The fire department responded to an estimated 80 fire alarms in the study area in the 1992/1993 fiscal year. In the study area, the department estimates that 50 percent of all calls are for grass and brush fires and 25 percent are for medical emergency and rescue calls.

Solid Waste Collection Service

Solid waste collection service is provided by Waste Management, Inc. Residential service is provided once per week, generally during the hours of 6 A.M. to noon. Commercial service is provided one to five times per week. Garbage trucks characteristically park alongside parked cars while serving residences. For commercial areas, garbage trucks often park in shopping center parking areas.

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City Parks

City-operated parks and open spaces adjacent to the project corridor include River Glen Park (along Reach 8), Roy Avenue Mini Park (beside Reach 9), Canoas Park (Reach 10), the Thousand Oaks Park (near Reach 11), and the SCVWD lands surrounding their headquarters (beside Reach 12).

Public Utilities

Public utility easements along the flood control project corridor include water, sewer, stormdrain, telephone and television cables, gas pipelines, and electrical transmission lines. Sewer, and storm drain systems are operated by the City of San Jose. Water systems are operated by the San Jose Water Company (SJWC). Underground telephone cables are maintained and operated by Pacific Bell and AT&T. Underground gas pipelines and electricity lines are maintained by the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Company.

Geodetic Control Monuments

The federal National Geodetic Survey maintains horizontal and vertical geodetic control monuments that are used for surveying purposes. There is the potential for these control points to be located within the feasibility study area.

4.9.3 Environmental Effects

Impact Significance Criteria

According to CEQA Appendix G, Significant Effects item (2), a project could have a significant effect on the environment if the project interferes with emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans.

Channel Widening Plan

Police Protection Services

During construction, the project would cause only minor traffic problems, occasional trespassing, and incidental events that would require police protection services. This would be a short-term significant impact that could feasibly be mitigated to less than significant with appropriate prior notification of the police department concerning construction activities (as described in section 4.9.4).

Fire Protection Services

During construction, response times for fire protection would be temporarily increased in some areas. Response would be increased by about 1 minute during construction of bridges or culverts on Willow Street and West Alma Avenue (Reach 7). During construction of the Hillsdale Avenue Bridge, it would be necessary to modify response routes for some fire companies (Reach 10C). Temporary delays could also be caused by the enlargement of culverts by the Almaden Expressway (Reach 11C) and other locations. Management of bridge closures and detours during construction are discussed in section 4.7 (Transportation). These short-term delays would be significant impacts that could be feasibly mitigated to less than significant with appropriate prior notification of the fire department concerning construction activities (as described in section 4.9.4).

Following completion of the flood control project, the overall effect on fire service would be beneficial. Fire responses would not be subject to the difficulties and delays previously encountered in some areas due to flooding, and companies operating in these areas would likely be more efficient in their emergency and firefighting responsibilities (Osby 1990).

Solid Waste Services

Flood control improvement construction activity would not affect solid waste collection routes in residential and commercial neighborhoods. Therefore, no impacts on solid waste services are anticipated.

Parks

No adverse impacts on the city's parks would result from the construction of the Channel Widening Plan. Implementation of the Guadalupe River Park South Corridor Master Plan, a separate but related project, (see section 3.4), would not adversely impact the Channel Widening activity because proposed recreational corridors would not be affected.

Water Well Disruption

One well operated by the San Jose Water Company is located within the area impacted by construction. This well is downstream of the Ross Creek Channel inlet on the east side of the river in Reach 11. Loss of this well would be a significant impact. The short-term impact could be mitigated to less than significant by relocation of the well prior to construction so that no interruption to public water service would occur.

Relocation of Utilities

During construction, a number of utilities such as pump stations and PG&E power poles would be disturbed and would require relocation in all reaches. Underground utilities such as gas and power lines would require relocation during channel and bridge construction. Relocation of utilities may result in short-term service interruptions for surrounding areas. This is a short-term significant impact that would be mitigated to less than significant by requiring utility excavation permit and encroachment permit compliance (as described in section 4.9.4).

Project construction would have the potential to disturb or destroy National Geodetic Survey control monuments. This would be a significant impact on infrastructure used to maintain accurate survey data.

Bypass Channel

Impacts caused by implementation of the Bypass Channel plan are similar to those caused by the Channel Widening Plan with the following exceptions:

- Police Protection Services. Security issues potentially requiring police protection services could result from implementation of the proposed recreational trail described in section 2.4.3. The Corps has anticipated these concerns and has incorporated numerous security features into the design of the trail, including call boxes and lighting, reducing potential significant long-term impacts to less than significant. The City of San Jose will be responsible for administering recreation facilities. The City has a policy that recreation trails, such as the proposed trail, are closed at night. Please refer to section 2.4.3 and section 4.12 (Public Safety) for additional information regarding the recreational trail plan.
- Fire Protection Services. A 1-minute delay to response times would be caused by bridge construction on Willow Glen Way Bridge and Curtner Avenue Bridge (Reach 10A). This would be an adverse but less than significant short-term impact.
- Water Well Disruption. An additional San Jose Water Company water well (Reach 9) is located in the area impacted by construction. Loss of this well would be a significant impact; but the impact could be mitigated to less than significant by relocation of the well prior to construction, avoiding any interruption in public service.

Geodetic Control Monuments

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Similar to the Channel Widening Plan, project construction would have the potential to disturb or destroy National Geodetic Survey control monuments. This would be a significant impact on infrastructure used to maintain accurate survey data.

No-Action Alternative

The no-action alternative would have no impacts on public services and utilities. The existing conditions would continue.

4.9.4 Mitigation Measures

Channel Widening Plan and Bypass Channel Plan

1. The Corps shall notify the City of San Jose Police Department regarding road closures or other activities during construction that would be likely to impede delivery of police services. The Crime Prevention Unit shall be contacted pertaining to accommodations for visibility and accessibility by emergency vehicles.
2. The Corps shall provide the San Jose Fire Department a 60-day advance notice to plan for modified responses to accommodate the constrictions or closures of West Virginia Street, Willow Street, West Alma Avenue, Willow Glen Way, Curtner Avenue, and Hillsdale Avenue. County Communications shall also be notified of all road closures.
3. The Corps shall fund the San Jose Water Company's relocation of water wells in the area impacted by construction (Reaches 9 and 11) prior to construction to prevent interruption of water supply.
4. Whenever utilities are moved, the Corps shall obtain a Utility Excavation Permit from the San Jose Public Works Department prior to the initiation of project construction. The general conditions and requirements of such permits include the project's working hours, necessary traffic control devices, trench backfill and pavement restoration methods, and coordination with other construction projects in the general vicinity. In addition, the Corps shall secure both standard and special encroachment permits. Utility excavation permits shall be issued to utility companies with franchise agreements with the City of San Jose (Khouzam 1990). Relocation of utilities shall be coordinated with the appropriate utility company. All utilities relocation shall be performed by the appropriate utility company unless directed otherwise by the company. The Corps shall be responsible for repair of any damage to utilities.
5. The Corps shall determine the location of any geodetic control monuments within the feasibility study area. If any monuments would be disturbed or destroyed by project construction, the Corps shall notify the National Geodetic Survey no less than 90 days prior to this activity in order to plan for their relocation. The Corps shall be responsible for the cost of any relocation(s) required.

4.9.5 Unavoidable Significant Adverse Impacts

Channel Widening Plan and Bypass Channel Plan

All significant impacts can be mitigated to a level of insignificance by implementation of the recommended measures, no unavoidable significant adverse impacts would result under either plan.

