

3.12. PUBLIC SERVICES

3.12.1. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Westlands Solar Park

Fire Protection Services

The Kings County Fire Department serves the unincorporated areas of the County including the four unincorporated communities of Armona, Home Garden, Kettleman City, and Stratford. The County Fire Department also provides contracted services to the cities of Avenal and Corcoran. Kings County operates ten fire stations and one headquarters with 89 full-time employees who are assisted by 10 volunteer companies with approximately 100 volunteer firefighters. Each station conducts assessments of proposed industrial and business facilities to assure compliance with safety and design capacity requirements. Fire stations also handle weed abatement on a complaint basis.

The nearest KCFD fire stations to the WSP plan area are KCFD Station #10, located in Stratford approximately 3 miles east of the eastern WSP boundary, and Station #9, located in Kettleman City approximately 2 miles south of the southern end of the WSP plan area. Response times from the two nearest stations would range from 4 minutes to 15 minutes depending on the location of the call within the WSP site. Backup response would be provided by Station #7 (south Lemoore) and Station #5 (Armona), which would respond to a call from the WSP plan area within the KCFD's 20-minute rural response time goal. The KCFD maintains mutual aid agreements with the fire departments of Lemoore and Hanford, and also with the NAS Lemoore Fire Department and Santa Rosa Rancheria Fire. The KCFD's other responsibilities include: review of building plans for compliance with fire safety requirements; emergency medical response; and preparation and implementation of the County's emergency management plan.

The KCFD provides first responder emergency medical service to all County residents. This service does not include advanced life support (paramedic) or emergency transport, which is provided by an exclusive private contractor (currently American Ambulance). Kings County contracts directly with the ambulance company, while the Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency (CCEMSA) is responsible for ensuring adequate levels and quality of ambulance service the region. The ambulance services nearest to the WSP plan area are located in Lemoore and Hanford.

The Potential Fire Hazards map of the Kings County General Plan Health and Safety Element (General Plan Figure HS-9) shows most of the WSP plan area as being subject to "little or no threat" or "moderate threat," while areas within 2400 meters (1.5 miles) of the Shannon Ranch complex are shown as being subject to "High Threat" (Kings County 2009c). The WSP plan area is not included in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) as mapped by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire 2007a, CalFire 2007b).

Law Enforcement Services

Law enforcement services for the WSP plan area are provided by the Kings County Sheriff's Department (KCSD) from its headquarters in Hanford. The Department currently has 148 sworn officers and 101 non-sworn personnel. The County is currently divided into six beat districts with five Sheriff's substations located throughout Kings County. Each beat district has at least one deputy sheriff on duty at all times to serve the unincorporated communities and surrounding County areas. The KCSD has mutual-aid agreements statewide. The Department's response time goal for priority emergency calls is 20 minutes (Kings County 2010a). The response time to the WSP plan area would be a maximum of 15 to 20 minutes. The principal crimes committed in Kings County in 2014 (the last year for which statistics are available) were assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and drug and alcohol offenses (OAG 2017).

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) provides traffic enforcement along State highways and County roadways within Kings County. The nearest CHP offices are located in Hanford and Coalinga.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

Fire Protection Services

Fire protection and emergency medical services along the gen-tie corridors are provided by the fire departments of Kings and Fresno counties, as well as CalFire. The Kings County Fire Department, which would provide fire and emergency medical service to the eastern portions of the WSP gen-ties located within Kings County, is described above. The Fresno County Fire Department is briefly described below.

The Fresno County Fire Protection District operates 13 fire stations throughout Fresno County. The FCFPD would provide fire and emergency medical response to approximately 16 miles of the WSP gen-tie corridors. The District has fire stations located in the vicinity of the gen-tie corridors, including stations in or near Huron and Coalinga (FCFPD 2016).

CalFire has primary responsibility for the foothill areas west of I-5. The nearest CalFire station that would respond to a request for mutual aid in the vicinity of the gen-tie corridors is located in Coalinga (CalFire 2007c).

Law Enforcement Services

Law enforcement services in the vicinity of gen-tie corridors are provided by the Sheriff's departments of Kings and Fresno counties, as well as the CHP. The Kings County Sheriff's Department, which would provide law enforcement to the eastern portions of the WSP gen-ties located within Kings County, is described above. The Fresno County Sheriff's Department is briefly described below.

The Fresno County Sheriff's Department (FCSD) provides law enforcement services to the unincorporated areas of Fresno County and several incorporated cities by contract. Sheriff's patrols are divided into four patrol areas, each with its own substation. The western area of Fresno County is served by patrols dispatched from the Area 1 substation located in the City of San Joaquin (FCSD 2016).

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) handles all traffic enforcement and vehicle accident investigations for the unincorporated areas of Kings and Fresno counties. The CHP serves the western portions of the affected counties from offices located in Hanford and Coalinga (CHP 2016).

3.12.2. REGULATORY CONTEXT

Federal and State

There are no federal or state laws, orders, regulations, or standards that are related to public services for the WSP solar facilities or WSP gen-tie lines.

Kings County

Kings County General Plan

The 2035 Kings County General Plan contains the following goal, objectives and policies related to fire protection and police services that are relevant to the Westlands Solar Park and gen-tie corridors:

Health and Safety Element

A. Community Safety

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| HS GOAL C1 | Ensure the protection and wellbeing of residents, visitors and businesses that enables long term sustainability for future generations. |
| HS OBJECTIVE C2.1 | Provide sufficient law enforcement presence within each community district and other unincorporated areas of the County to protect residents, businesses, and visitors from personal and property crimes. |
| HS Policy C2.1.2: | Promote community safety by ensuring communities have sufficient sheriff coverage to provide 20 minute or faster response times to priority emergency calls. |
| HS OBJECTIVE C2.2 | Provide quality fire protection services throughout the County by the Kings County Fire Department, and Fire safety preventative measures to prevent unnecessary exposure of people and property to fire hazards in both County Local Responsibility Areas and State Responsibility Area. |
| HS Policy C2.2.2: | Development proposals and code revisions shall be referred to the County Fire Department for review and comment. |
| HS Policy C2.2.4: | Review development proposals according to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection “Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps” to determine whether a site is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and subject to Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area Building Standards and |

defensible space requirements as adopted under Senate Bill 1595 and effective January 1, 2009.

HS Policy C2.2.5: Forward for review and comment all proposed structures within the State Responsibility Area to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection within all State Responsibility Areas.

Land Use Element

LU Policy D1.4.9: Development shall pay County Public Facility Impact Fees, as established by County Ordinance 633, at the time a building permit is issued.

Kings County Code of Ordinances

Kings County Building Code

The County Code of Ordinances, at Section 5-36, adopts and incorporates by reference the 2007 Edition of the California Building Code (CBC) as the Kings County Building Code, which is applicable to all building construction in the Kings County.

Fire Safety

Under Section 10-7 of the County Code, the County Fire Department applies the fire safety standards of the National Fire Protection Association and the American Insurance Association, successor to the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

Kings County Public Facility Impact Fees

On June 21, 2005, the Kings County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 633 which enabled public facilities fees to be levied on new development within the County. The fee structure was based on a Public Facilities Impact Fees report and was established to maintain existing levels of service through the year 2025. The public facilities fees are allocated to specific uses for protection and public services including: Countywide Public Protection, Sheriff, Fire, Library, and Animal Control.

Kings County Improvement Standards

The Kings County Improvements Standards serves as an engineering reference for Kings County staff and private parties in the design and construction of improvements for public works projects and private development improvements. The standards include engineering design specifications for the construction of streets, water supply systems, storm drainage, and sewage disposal.

Fresno County

Since no portion of the Westlands Solar Park is located within Fresno County, the County's plans, policies and regulations are not applicable to WSP solar development. Transmission (and gen-tie) projects that are to be constructed or co-sponsored by an investor-owned utility (IOU) such as PG&E are subject to the sole permitting jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and are exempt from local jurisdiction. However, CPUC General Order 131-D requires public utilities to coordinate with local

jurisdictions regarding consistency of their projects with local plans and policies (CPUC 1994). Transmission lines that may be privately owned (such as gen-ties) are not under CPUC jurisdiction, and thus are subject to Fresno County jurisdiction and may require the issuance of a conditional use permit from the County.

Fresno County General Plan

The Public Services and Facilities Element of the Fresno County General Plan contains several relevant policies related to public services such as fire protection and law enforcement. In general, these policies are directed toward the protection of life and property, and set forth general objectives for levels of service, response times, and the review of development projects to ensure safety standards and features are incorporated. The Public Services and Facilities Element is directly accessible at the following web address:

[http://www2.co.fresno.ca.us/4510/4360/General Plan/GP Final policy doc/Public Facilities Element_rj.pdf](http://www2.co.fresno.ca.us/4510/4360/General%20Plan/GP_Final_policy_doc/Public_Facilities_Element_rj.pdf)

3.12.3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Based on the State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, the project would be considered to result in a significant public services impact if it would:

1. 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 following public services:
 - a) Fire Protection. (Impact PS-1)
 - b) Police Protection. (Impact PS-2)
 - c) Schools. (Impact PS-3)
 - d) Parks. (Impact PS-3)
 - e) Other public facilities. (Impact PS-3)

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

Impact PS-1. Fire Protection Services

Westlands Solar Park. The WSP solar projects would result in an incremental increase in demand for fire protection services; however, these increases are expected to be small and thus would not result in degradation of service levels or in the need for new or expanded facilities. **(No Impact)**

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors. The WSP gen-tie projects would result in an incremental increase in demand for fire protection services; however, these increases are expected to be small and thus would not result in degradation of service levels or in the need for new or expanded facilities. **(No Impact)**

This impact analysis addresses significance criterion '1a' above.

Westlands Solar Park

Fire Hazards during Construction

Construction of the solar facilities, substations, and power collection lines would involve the use of heavy construction equipment, vehicles, generators, and hazardous materials (e.g., fuels, lubricating oils, and welding materials), which pose potential fire hazards. The risk of fire would be primarily related to smoking, refueling, and operating vehicles and equipment off roadways where dry vegetation could be ignited. Welding activities also have the potential to result in the combustion of vegetation.

Fire Hazards during SGF Operation

During solar facility operation, equipment such as transformers, inverters, and electrical equipment at substations would involve the use of oils (e.g., dialectic or mineral oils and lubricants) and fuels, which would pose fire hazards. Maintenance vehicles and panel washing trucks would travel among the solar arrays where low vegetation would be dry in summer and combustible. Overhead power collection lines would pose a fire hazard in the event a conducting object comes in proximity to a line or if a live-phase conductor (electrical wire) falls to the ground. Electrical equipment such as transformers and inverters would be placed on concrete pads and housed in steel and concrete equipment enclosures, minimizing the risk of electrical sparks that could ignite vegetation in the event of equipment failure. In addition, all electrical equipment would be built to industry safety design standards, further reducing the risk of electrical fires at the site.

Fire Protection and Prevention

The Kings County Fire Department would respond to calls from the WSP plan area involving fire or medical emergencies. The first responders would be from either Station #10 in Stratford, Station #7 in south Lemoore, or Station #9 in Kettleman City, with backup from other KCFD stations in the area or from Fresno County Fire Department stations in Huron or Harris Ranch. According to KCFD staff, the Department has adequate staff and equipment to serve the project, and would typically be able to

respond to emergency calls from the WSP plan area in 10 minutes or less. The Department anticipates that calls for service from the WSP plan area would infrequent. As such, providing service to WSP solar facilities would have a minimal impact on Fire Department operations and would not compromise the Department's ability to provide adequate services to other parts of the County within its response time goals. Thus the increased demand for fire protection service from WSP solar facilities would not compromise the Department's ability to provide adequate services to other parts of the County within its response time goals. Thus the increased demand for fire protection service from the project would not degrade service levels or result in the need for new or altered Fire Department facilities (James 2016). In addition, a portion of the County development fees to be paid by the project applicant prior to building permit issuance would be received by the KCFD in support of fire protection services. Therefore, the project would result in a minor increase in demand for fire protection services, and would have a *less-than-significant* impact in terms of necessitating new or expanded fire department facilities to maintain adequate service levels.

Even though the WSP solar projects would not have a significant impact on fire protection services, as discussed above, this less-than-significant impact would be further reduced through fire protection features to be incorporated into the project as required by fire codes or conditions of approval, as described below.

Each WSP solar project would be constructed in accordance with the California Fire Code. Electrical equipment such as transformers and inverters would be placed on concrete foundation pads and housed in steel and concrete equipment enclosures, minimizing the risk of electrical sparks that could ignite vegetation in the event of equipment failure. All electrical equipment (including inverters) not located within a larger structure would be designed specifically for outdoor installation, and all electrical equipment would be subject to product safety standards. Portable carbon dioxide (CO₂) fire extinguishers would be mounted at the inverter/transformer pads throughout the project. Maintenance crews would regularly inspect facilities for reliability and safety.

Each WSP solar project would be required to comply with fire safety standards under Section 10-7 of the Kings County Code, under which the regulations of the National Fire Protection Association and the American Insurance Association are applied. The Fire Marshal and Public Works Department would review the project plans to ensure compliance with all code requirements and standards. The Building Division of the Kings County Community Development Agency would ensure Fire Code requirements are met through the plan check process, building permit issuance, construction inspection, and issuance of certificate of occupancy once all of the construction work on a given SGF has been completed and the final inspection has been approved

The approval of each WSP solar project would be subject to conditions including compliance with the provisions of the Kings County Improvement Standards with respect to emergency vehicle access. As required by the Fire Department, all structures (including solar arrays) must be accessible by fire-fighting equipment and personnel via internal fire access driveways. These internal gravel driveways would consist of a durable dust-free (oiled) surface, in accordance with the Kings County Improvement Standards, which would inhibit the growth of vegetation. The Fire Department also requires minimum of 4 feet of separation between rows of solar modules to allow access by fire suppression personnel. The project approvals would also include a condition that all detailed project plans are subject to review and approval by the County Fire Marshal to ensure that potential fire hazards are adequately addressed.

As discussed in Chapter 2. *Project Description*, Kings County requires preparation and implementation of Agricultural Management Plans for solar projects approved by the County. These requirements are described in Section 3.2. *Agricultural Resources* under Mitigation Measure AG-1, and specify that over 90 percent of the surface area of each solar project is to be revegetated with native seed mix to sustain continued agricultural production on the site through sheep grazing. The grazing activity would keep vegetative cover low and thus reduce fuel load buildup and reduce the potential hazard from grass fires.

In summary, although the WSP solar projects would result in an incremental increase in demand for Fire Department services, these increases are expected to be small and thus would not result in degradation of service levels or in the need for new or expanded facilities. Therefore, WSP solar development would have a *less-than-significant* impact in terms of necessitating new or expanded fire department facilities that would result in substantial adverse impacts.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

Fire protection services to the WSP gen-tie corridors would be provided by the Fire Departments of Kings and Fresno counties, as well as CalFire and other fire departments in the area that participate in automatic aid or mutual aid agreements. During construction of the gen-tie projects, situations may arise that would require fire suppression services or emergency medical services in the event of worker injury. As discussed in Section 3.7. *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, the potential for energized gen-tie lines to be a source of fire is negligible, and thus would result in a minimal demand for fire protection services. Also, the WSP gen-tie projects would not introduce any new land uses or population to the corridor area that would increase long-term demand levels for fire protection services. Therefore, the WSP gen-tie projects would not require new or physically altered police protection facilities, and thus would have *no impact* on fire protection services.

In summary, although the WSP gen-tie projects would result in an incremental increase in demand for fire protection services, these increases are expected to be small and thus would not result in degradation of service levels or in the need for new or expanded facilities. Therefore, the WSP gen-tie projects would have *no impact* in terms of necessitating new or expanded fire department facilities that would result in substantial adverse impacts.

Mitigation Measures:

Westlands Solar Park. No mitigation is required.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors. No mitigation is required.

Impact PS-2. Law Enforcement and Security

Westlands Solar Park. The WSP solar projects would result in a small increase the demand for law enforcement services, and therefore would not degrade service levels or result in the need for new or altered law enforcement facilities. *(No Impact)*

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors. The WSP gen-tie projects would result in a small increase the demand for law enforcement services, and therefore would not degrade service levels or result in the need for new or altered law enforcement facilities. *(No Impact)*

This impact analysis addresses significance criterion '1b' above.

Westlands Solar Park

Sheriff's Department Services

Law enforcement services to the WSP solar projects would be provided by the Kings County Sheriff's Department. During construction of WSP solar facilities, slow moving trucks could result in temporary congestion near the project entrances, and could pose a safety hazard due to abrupt changes in the speed of traffic flow, or due to slow turning movements across on-coming lanes of traffic. Any temporary traffic disruptions would involve coordination the Sheriff's Department. The temporary traffic hazards associated with WSP solar project construction are discussed in Section 3.13. *Transportation/Traffic*, under Impact TR-4. Any potential traffic hazard impacts would be minimized through implementation of Mitigation Measure TR-1a. The traffic control measures required during construction may result in a minor temporary use of the Kings County Sheriff's Department's resources; however, the overall impact to law enforcement services would be *less than significant*.

Once the each solar facility is completed and operational, calls for service from the WSP solar projects are expected to be infrequent, according to the Sheriff's Department staff. As such, providing service to the solar projects would have a minimal impact on Sheriff's Department operations and would not compromise the Department's ability to provide adequate services to other parts of the County. Thus the increased demand for law enforcement services from the WSP solar projects would not degrade service levels or result in the need for new or altered Sheriff's Department facilities (Fry 2016). In addition, a portion of the County development fees to be paid by each project applicant prior to building permit issuance would be received by the Sheriff's Department in support of law enforcement services. Therefore, the WSP solar projects would result in a minor increase in demand for law enforcement services, and would have a *less-than-significant* impact in terms of necessitating new or expanded Sheriff's Department facilities to maintain adequate service levels.

WSP Solar Project Security Measures

Although the WSP solar projects would result in a minor increase in demand for law enforcement services, and would have a *less-than-significant* impact in terms of necessitating new or expanded Sheriff's Department facilities to maintain adequate service levels, a number of security measures would be included in the design of each solar project to prevent theft and vandalism. The standard design

features for solar project security are described as follows. The perimeter of each project phase would be securely fenced and gated to prevent unauthorized access. Electronic surveillance equipment such as infrared security cameras and motion detectors would be installed around the facilities. The installation and operation of these security features are intended to act as a deterrent to crime. These project security design features would be operationally integrated with the services of a private security company(s). The video feeds from the installed surveillance equipment would be transmitted in real time to the off-site security contractor(s) for monitoring. In the event that a surveillance system detects a breach, a security representative would be dispatched to investigate.

In summary, although the WSP solar projects would result in incremental increases in demand for Sheriff's services, these increases are expected to be small and thus would not result degradation of service levels or in the need for new or expanded facilities. Therefore, the WSP solar projects would have a *less-than-significant* impact in terms of necessitating new or expanded law enforcement facilities that would result in substantial adverse impacts.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

Police protection services to the WSP gen-tie corridors would be provided by the Sheriff's departments of Kings and Fresno counties, as well as the California Highway Patrol. During construction, the transmission projects may require police services due to possible theft of construction equipment and/or vandalism that might occur during the construction period. Transmission line construction may also require temporary partial closure of roadways, especially where conductors are being strung over public roadways. Deliveries by heavy transport trucks may also require traffic control measures. Any temporary road closures or major traffic disruptions would involve coordination with local law enforcement. The temporary traffic hazards associated with transmission project construction are discussed in Section 3.13. *Transportation/Traffic*, under Impact TR-4. Any potential traffic hazard impacts would be minimized through implementation of Mitigation Measure TR-1b. The traffic control measures required during construction would result in a minor temporary use of Sheriff's departments' resources; the overall impact to law enforcement services would be *less than significant*.

The WSP gen-tie projects would not introduce any new land uses or population to the area that would increase long term demand levels for police protection services. Once constructed, the gen-tie projects may result in occasional police response to trespassing or vandalism. However, it is expected that gates would be installed where required at fenced property lines to restrict general and vehicular access, thereby reducing opportunities for trespassing, and the need for calls for police services. The overall demand for law enforcement services would be very low. Therefore, the WSP gen-tie projects would not require new or physically altered police protection facilities, and thus would have *no impact* on police protection services.

Mitigation Measures:

Westlands Solar Park. No mitigation is required.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors. No mitigation is required.

Impact PS-3. Schools, Parks, and Other Public Facilities

Westlands Solar Park. The WSP solar projects would result in no demand for schools, parks, or other public facilities; therefore, WSP solar development would have no impact on such public facilities. (*No Impact*)

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors. The WSP gen-tie projects would result in no demand for schools, parks, or other public facilities; therefore, the gen-tie projects would have no impact on such public facilities. (*No Impact*)

This impact analysis addresses significance criteria '1c-f' above.

Westlands Solar Park

Schools

The WSP solar projects would not include residential components and thus would not result in the need for new or expanded school facilities. Therefore, WSP solar development would have *no impact* on schools. However, each solar project would pay a school mitigation fee, as mandated by State law for all commercial development.

Parks

Demand for parks and recreation is mainly generated by residential development. No permanent staff would be stationed at the WSP solar facilities, and the few staff who would visit the project to perform routine maintenance activities would be unlikely to seek out recreational activities while in the WSP area. As such, the WSP solar projects would not increase demand for parks and recreational facilities, and would have *no impact* in terms of necessitating new or expanded parks facilities.

Other Public Facilities

The WSP solar projects would not generate demand for social services, courts, hospitals, libraries, or other public services. As such, WSP solar development would have *no impact* in terms of necessitating new or expanded facilities to maintain adequate service levels for other public services.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

Since electrical transmission facilities result in no increases in population or permanent employment, these facilities would generate no demand for schools, parks, or other public facilities. As such, the WSP gen-tie projects would result in *no impacts* with respect to schools, parks, or other public facilities.

Mitigation Measures:

Westlands Solar Park. No mitigation is required.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors. No mitigation is required.

Cumulative Impacts

Impact PS-4. Cumulative Public Services Impacts

Westlands Solar Park. The WSP solar projects, combined with other related cumulative projects, would generate small increases in demands for fire protection, law enforcement, and other public services; however, these small increases in service demand are not expected to require additional staff and equipment, or the construction of new or expanded facilities. *(No Cumulative Impact)*

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors. The WSP gen-tie projects, combined with other related cumulative projects, would generate small increases in demands for fire protection, law enforcement, and other public services; however, these small increases in service demand are not expected to require additional staff and equipment, or the construction of new or expanded facilities. *(No Cumulative Impact)*

Geographic Scope of Cumulative Analysis

Fire protection, law enforcement, and other public services are provided to the WSP plan area by Kings County. Public services to the WSP gen-tie corridors would be provided by Kings and Fresno counties. Therefore, the geographic scope of this cumulative analysis encompasses the unincorporated areas of western Kings County and southwestern Fresno County.

Westlands Solar Park

Near Term

The near-term cumulative analysis of public services impacts considers the approved, pending, and completed projects within the unincorporated areas of Kings County. These projects are listed in Table PD-9 and shown in Figure PD-9, in Chapter 2. *Project Description*. All of the cumulative projects consist of solar PV generating facilities.

Fire Protection Services

Fire protection services for all the cumulative projects would be provided by the Kings County Fire Department. The potential demand for Fire Department services is expected to be very low at each cumulative site. Thus the collective demand for Fire Department services is also expected to be low, and would not cumulatively result in the need for new or expanded facilities. Therefore, the near-term cumulative impact to fire services would be *less than significant*.

Law Enforcement Services

Law enforcement services for all the cumulative projects would be provided by the Kings County Sheriff's Department. The potential demand for Sheriff's Department services is expected to be very low at each cumulative site. Thus the collective demand for Sheriff's Department services is also expected to be low, and would not cumulatively result in the need for new or expanded facilities. Therefore, the near-term cumulative impact to law enforcement services would be *less than significant*.

Other Public Services

The types of other public services commonly affected by development projects include schools, parks, social services, courts, hospitals, libraries, and other public services. The WSP projects and all other cumulative projects consist of solar PV generating facilities. These facilities result in no permanent increases in population or employment, and therefore, do not result in increased demand for these other public services. As such, the near-term cumulative projects would collectively have no impact on these public services, and would not collectively result in the need for new or expanded facilities for these services. Therefore, there would be *no cumulative impact* to schools, parks, or other public services in the near term.

Far Term

Fire Protection Services

Development under the Kings County General Plan through 2035 would result in additional structures and population that would increase demand for fire protection services. Fire Department staff and equipment would be augmented over time to meet increases in service demands as they occur. The additional staff and equipment would be funded through mitigation fees as well as sales and property tax revenue generated by the new development. Therefore, the cumulative impacts to fire protection service would be *less than significant* in the far term.

The County Fire Department does not expect that growth under the General Plan through 2035 would necessitate the construction of new or expanded fire stations (Kings County 2009c, p. 4.12-10). It is expected that the majority of future growth will occur within existing unincorporated communities or on the urban fringes of incorporated cities in the County. The County's existing 10 fire stations are well situated to respond to calls from those population centers, and are expected to be adequate to serve these communities through the life of the General Plan. In the event that currently unforeseen expansions to fire facilities are needed, the potential environmental impacts associated with their construction would be subject to environmental review on a project-specific basis for each facility, with appropriate mitigation for any impacts identified accordingly. It is expected that any impacts resulting from such new or expanded facilities would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the far-term cumulative impacts to fire protection services would be *less than significant*.

Law Enforcement Services

The growth contemplated under the 2035 General Plan would result in additional population and property that would increase demand for law enforcement services. Sheriff's Department staff would be augmented over time to meet increases in service demands as they occur. The additional staff levels

would be funded through mitigation fees as well as sales and property tax revenue generated by the new development. Therefore, the cumulative impacts to law enforcement service would be *less than significant* in the far term.

It is not expected that growth under the General Plan through 2035 would necessitate the construction of new or expanded Sheriff's Department facilities (Kings County 2009c, p. 4.12-14). In the event that currently unforeseen expansions to Sheriff's Department facilities are needed, the potential environmental impacts associated with their construction would be subject to environmental review on a project-specific basis for each facility, with appropriate mitigation for any impacts identified accordingly. It is expected that any impacts resulting from new or expanded facilities would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the far-term cumulatively impacts to law enforcement services would be *less than significant*.

Other Public Services

Under State law, impacts to school enrollment from new development is deemed to be fully mitigated by state-mandated school impact fees. Thus the impact of far-term cumulative growth under the Kings County General Plan upon schools is considered to be *less than significant*. As discussed under Impact PS-3 above, the WSP solar development would result in no impacts to schools. Therefore, the far-term impact of WSP solar development upon schools would be *not cumulatively considerable*.

Regarding parks, there is currently sufficient parkland within Kings County to meet the demands of growth contemplated under the 2035 Kings County General Plan (Kings County 2009a, p. 4.13-3). Thus the impact of far-term cumulative growth under the Kings County General Plan upon parks is considered to be *less than significant*. As discussed under Impact PS-3 above, the WSP solar development would result in no impacts to parks. Therefore, the far-term impact of WSP solar development on parks would be *not cumulatively considerable*.

As discussed under Impact PS-3 above, the WSP solar development would result in no increase in demand for social services, courts, hospitals, libraries, or other public facilities, and thus would have no impact in terms of requiring new or expanded facilities for such services. Therefore, the far-term impact of WSP solar development on other public services would be *not cumulatively considerable*.

In summary, the cumulative impacts to public services associated with the construction and operation of WSP solar facilities under both near-term and far-term cumulative conditions would be *less than significant*.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

Near Term

The near-term cumulative analysis of public services impacts considers the approved, pending, and completed projects within the western areas of Kings and Fresno counties. These projects are listed in Tables PD-9 and PD-10, and are shown in Figures PD-9 and PD-10, in Chapter 2. *Project Description*. Most of the cumulative projects consist of solar PV generating facilities. The exceptions include two transmission projects – the Gates to Greg Transmission Project (Central Valley Power Connect) – and the Westside Transmission Project.

Fire Protection Services

Fire protection services for the cumulative projects would be provided by the nearest responding stations of the county fire departments and CalFire. The potential demand for fire protection services is expected to be very low at each cumulative site. Thus the collective demand for fire protection services from the cumulative projects would not result in the need for new or expanded facilities. Therefore, the cumulative near-term impact to fire protection services associated with the WSP gen-tie projects would be *less than significant*.

Law Enforcement Services

Law enforcement services for the cumulative projects would be provided by the nearest responding substations of the county Sheriff's departments and CHP. The potential demand for law enforcement services is expected to be very low at each cumulative site. Thus the collective demand for law enforcement services from the cumulative projects would not result in the need for new or expanded facilities. Therefore, the cumulative near-term impact to law enforcement services would be *less than significant*.

Other Public Services

The types of other public services commonly affected by development projects include schools, parks, social services, courts, hospitals, libraries, and other public services. The cumulative projects consist of solar PV generating facilities and transmission facilities which would result in no permanent increases in population or employment, and therefore, would not result in increased demand for these other public services. As such, there would be no need to provide new or expanded facilities for these other public services. Therefore, the cumulative near-term impact to these other public services would be *less than significant*.

Far Term

Fire Protection Services

Development under the general plans of Kings and Fresno counties would result in additional development and population that would increase demand for fire protection services. Fire Department staff and equipment at each county would be augmented over time to meet increases in service demands as they occur. The additional staff and equipment would be funded through mitigation fees as well as sales and property tax revenue generated by the new development. Therefore, the cumulative impacts to fire protection service would be *less than significant* in the far term.

Within each of the affected counties, it is expected that new or expanded fire equipment and facilities would be planned for and constructed as needed to meet the demands of growth planned under their respective general plans. It is expected that any impacts resulting from such new or expanded facilities would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the far-term cumulative impacts to fire protection services would be *less than significant*. As discussed under Impact PS-1, above, the WSP gen-tie facilities would not require or contribute to the need for new or expanded Fire Department facilities, and therefore would have no impact with respect to fire protection services. Therefore, the far-term impact of WSP solar development upon fire protection services would be *not cumulatively considerable*.

Law Enforcement Services

Development under the general plans of Kings and Fresno counties would result in additional development and population that would increase demand for law enforcement services. Sheriff's Department staff and equipment at each county would be augmented over time to meet increases in service demands as they occur. The additional staff and equipment would be funded through mitigation fees as well as sales and property tax revenue generated by the new development. Therefore, the cumulative impacts to law enforcement services would be *less than significant* in the far term.

Within each of the affected counties, it is expected that new or expanded law enforcement facilities would be planned for and constructed as needed to meet the demands of growth planned under their respective general plans. It is expected that any impacts resulting from such new or expanded facilities would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the far-term cumulative impacts to law enforcement services would be *less than significant*. As discussed under Impact PS-2, above, the Westlands Solar Park transmission facilities would not require or contribute to the need for new or expanded Sheriff's Department facilities, and therefore would have no impact with respect to law enforcement services. Therefore, the far-term impact of the WSP gen-tie facilities upon law enforcement services would be *not cumulatively considerable*.

Other Public Services

Under State law, impacts to school enrollment from new development is deemed to be fully mitigated by state-mandated school impact fees. Thus the impact of far-term cumulative growth under the general plans of the affected counties upon schools is considered to be less than significant. As discussed under Impact PS-3 above, the WSP gen-tie projects would result in no impacts to schools. Therefore, the far-term impact of the WSP gen-tie projects upon schools would be *not cumulatively considerable*.

Regarding parks, it is expected that new or expanded parks facilities would be planned for and constructed within each of the affected counties as needed to meet the demands of growth planned under their respective general plans. It is expected that any impacts resulting from such new or expanded park facilities would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the far-term cumulative impacts to with respect to parks would be *less than significant*. As discussed under Impact PS-3, above, the WSP gen-tie facilities would not require or contribute to the need for new or expanded parks, and therefore would have no impact with respect to parks. Therefore, the far-term impact of the WSP gen-tie facilities upon parks would be *not cumulatively considerable*.

As discussed under Impact PS-3 above, the WSP gen-tie projects would result in no increase in demand for social services, courts, hospitals, libraries, or other public facilities, and thus would have no impact in terms of requiring new or expanded facilities for such services. Therefore, the far-term impact of the WSP gen-tie projects other public services would be *not cumulatively considerable*.

In summary, the cumulative impact of upon public services associated with the construction and operation of the WSP gen-tie facilities under both near-term and far-term cumulative conditions would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures:

Westlands Solar Park. No mitigation is required.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors. No mitigation is required.

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