

25. Utilities and Service Systems

Overview

This section provides guidelines for evaluating a project's potential impacts on utilities and service systems, including water supply, wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, solid waste management, and pipelines. The impact analysis includes assessing demand and supply of resources and services, infrastructure capacity, consistency with state and local regulations, and the potential need for expanded facilities to ensure adequate service while minimizing environmental effects.

This topic section is updated from the following section(s) from the existing ISAGs:

2c. Water Resources – Surface Water Quantity

28a. Water Supply – Quality

28b. Water Supply – Quantity

28c. Water Supply – Fire Flow

29a. Waste Treatment/Disposal – Individual Sewage Disposal Systems

29b. Waste Treatment/Disposal – Sewage Collection/Treatment Facilities

29c. Waste Treatment/Disposal – Solid Waste Management

29d. Waste Treatment/Disposal – Solid Waste Facilities

30. Utilities

Thresholds of Significance

Impact analysis guidelines (formerly referred to as “Methodology”) are provided accordingly for the following updated thresholds.

A project may have a significant impact if it would:

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| <p>UTI-1 a. Conflict with applicable state or local requirements related to safe drinking water, water supply, and fire flow, and</p> <p>b. Result in a significant adverse environmental effect due to that conflict.</p> | <p>UTI-2 Substantially increase surface water consumptive use (demand) in the following ways:</p> <p>a. Within a fully appropriated stream reach as designated by the State Water Resources Control Board or where unappropriated surface water is unavailable; or</p> <p>b. By diverting or dewatering downstream reaches, resulting in an adverse impact to one or more of the beneficial uses listed in the Basin Plans.</p> |
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25. Utilities and Service Systems (cont.)

Thresholds of Significance (cont.)

A project may have a significant impact if it would:

- UTI-3** a. Introduce physical development that would adversely affect the water supply of the groundwater basin and/or hydrogeologic unit in which the project is located; or
- b. For a “water-demand project” (as defined in Section 15155 of the State CEQA Guidelines), it cannot be determined that the project would have sufficient water supplies during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry water years for a 20-year projection to serve the project.

- UTI-4** a. Conflict with applicable state or local requirements related to wastewater treatment and/or sewage collection/treatment, and result in a significant adverse environmental effect due to that conflict;
- b. Increase demand to a level that would exceed a wastewater/sewer service provider’s capacity; or
- c. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded wastewater treatment or sewage facilities, the construction or relocation of which would cause significant environmental effects.

- UTI-5** a. Conflict with applicable state or local regulations related to solid waste, including generating solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure that would reduce the local infrastructure’s useful life to less than 15 years, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals; and
- b. Result in a significant adverse environmental effect due to that conflict.

- UTI-6** Cause a substantial disruption or re-routing of an existing utility facility, or substantially increases demand to a level that would require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, telecommunications, or other types of utility facilities, which would cause significant environmental effects.

- UTI-7** Substantially interfere with, compromise the integrity, or affect the operation of an existing pipeline that is currently in operation.

Legend:

 Derived from standards specific to the County

 Derived from a combination of specific County standards and Appendix G of CEQA

25. Utilities and Service Systems (cont.)

Related Technical Terms

The following technical terms related to this topic section have been updated or incorporated:

- Basin Plans
- Individual water system
- Local Enforcement Agency
- Maximum contaminant level
- Onsite wastewater treatment system
- Public water system
- State small water system
- Water Availability Letter
- Water purveyor