
4.16 - Utilities

4.16.1 - Introduction

This section describes existing utilities and infrastructure and potential effects from project implementation on the sites and their surrounding areas. It also considers impacts likely to be incurred in the future if additional sites are proposed or if existing sites are modified.

4.16.2 - Existing Conditions

There are no habitable structures at any of the sites, and utility services are not currently provided to any of the tower sites. The only exceptions to this condition are the Big Maria, Box Springs, Elsinore Peak, Red Mountain, Santa Rosa Peak, and Whitewater sites, which currently house existing County communication facilities. Each of these sites, with the exception of Santa Rosa Peak, has commercial power supplied. Due to its distance to available commercial power, Santa Rosa Peak uses only generator power in its operation.

4.16.3 - Thresholds of Significance

According to the CEQA Guidelines' Appendix G, Environmental Checklist, to determine whether impacts to utilities and service systems are significant environmental effects, the following questions are analyzed and evaluated. Would the project:

- a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?
- b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?
- e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project, that it has adequate capacity to serve the projected demand for the project in addition to the provider's existing commitments?
- f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

4.16.4 - Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This section discusses potential impacts associated with the development of the project and provides mitigation measures where appropriate.

Wastewater Treatment

Impact U-1	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? [CEQA Utilities Threshold 16(a)]
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Impact Analysis

Water and sewer facilities will not be necessary for construction and operation of the sites. Therefore, these services will not be provided. As such, the project will not emit wastewater. Since no wastewater will be produced, the proposed project will not exceed wastewater treatment requirements. Therefore, no impact will occur.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

No impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

No impact.

Water or Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Impact U-2	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? [CEQA Utilities Threshold 16(b)]
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Impact Analysis

Construction and operation of the project sites will not require the use of water or wastewater facilities. Water used during construction will be brought in from offsite. Therefore, the proposed project will not require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, and no impact will occur.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

No impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

No impact.

Stormwater Drainage Facilities

Impact U-3	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
	[CEQA Utilities Threshold 16(c)]

Impact Analysis

Once constructed, approximately 25 percent of the area of each site will be covered with impermeable surfaces (buildings, concrete tower footings, etc.). The rest of the area will be open ground. Most of the runoff from impermeable surfaces will be accommodated by and absorbed into the surrounding open ground. The amount that is not will be directed appropriately using swales or other features that are standard in engineering designs to reduce erosion. These features will direct flows in an appropriate manner towards surrounding drainageways, developed storm drain facilities, etc. Given the small size of each site and thus the small amount of water flow likely to be derived from each site, these standard engineering practices will be adequate to meet the drainage needs of each site. Therefore, impacts in this regard will be less than significant.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant impact.

Water Supplies

Impact U-4	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?
	[CEQA Utilities Threshold 16(d)]

Impact Analysis

Operation of the project sites will not require the use of water. Some water will be required during construction for mixing concrete, etc., and water for this purpose will be brought in from offsite. Therefore, the proposed project will not require new or expanded entitlements or resources to supply or serve the project sites. As such, there will be no impact in this regard.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

No impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

No impact.

Wastewater Treatment Capacity

Impact U-5	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? [CEQA Utilities Threshold 16(e)]
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Impact Analysis

The proposed project does not require the use of water or wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, the proposed project will not result in impacts to any wastewater treatment provider.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

No impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

No impact.

Landfill Capacity and Lawful Disposal of Solid Waste

Impact U-6	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? [CEQA Utilities Threshold 16(f) and 16(g)]
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Impact Analysis

During construction, some solid waste in the form of waste construction materials and other debris will be generated at each site. This material will be removed from the site and disposed of at an approved landfill facility in compliance with applicable rules and regulations. Once operational, the tower sites will generate only a negligible amount of solid waste associated with routine maintenance. This waste will also be removed from the sites and disposed of accordingly. Thus, it can be determined that the project's impact in this regard will be less than significant.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant impact.