

3.5 Public Services and Utilities

A number of public agencies and utility providers serve the area of the proposed Hemet to Corona/Lake Elsinore (HCLE) Corridor. These agencies were contacted either by RCTC as part of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) process for the EIS/EIR, by the project engineers, or through subsequent contact to obtain information regarding current and anticipated constraints to the proposed HCLE Corridor alternatives.

This section presents the environmental setting of the proposed HCLE Corridor project related to public services and utilities. Specifically, police, fire and emergency medical services, libraries, schools, solid waste, water, electrical, natural gas, and sewer services are discussed. An analysis of the potential impacts to public services and utilities can be found in Section 4.5. Recreation and parkland facilities are discussed in Sections 3.6 and 4.6.

3.5.1 Public Services

3.5.1.1 Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

Fire protection and emergency medical service is provided by the Riverside County Fire Department, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the City of Riverside Fire Department, and the City of Hemet Fire Department. The State, County, and volunteer fire stations that provide service to the County are part of an integrated fire protection system under contract to the State.¹

The Riverside County Fire Department provides structural and wildland fire response, weed abatement, ambulance response, swift water rescue, and Level 1 hazardous material team response. Ambulance service is provided on a contractual basis through the County. The County is part of a mutual aid program with all of the cities in the County for fire response. Through the County's Emergency Command Center, the County's mutual aid coordinator determines whether a city or the County will provide a response upon receipt of a call for mutual aid (RCIP Existing Setting Report [LSA, 1999]).

The Riverside County Fire Department operates 85 fire stations within the County. A total of 51 of these stations, as well as three stations operated by the California Department of Forestry, are located in unincorporated portions of the County. In addition to providing fire protection services to unincorporated areas, the County Fire Department provides fire protection services to 16 cities on a contractual basis. The cities within the HCLE corridor served by the Riverside County Fire Department on a contractual basis are Canyon Lake, Lake Elsinore, Perris, and San Jacinto (RCIP Existing Setting Report [LSA, 1999]). City fire departments provide services similar to that of the County, including hazardous materials accident response and emergency medical service. Fire stations located within the bandwidth of the HCLE Corridor alternatives are station numbers 15 and 59, and stations 4 and 54 are adjacent to a bandwidth, as listed in Table 3.5.A.

¹ Riverside County Fire Department website, October 31, 2001.
(<http://www.rvcfire.org/home/>)

Table 3.5.A - Fire Station Facilities

Station Number	Name & Address	Located Within or Adjacent to Bandwidth for Alternatives
4	Cajalco 17650 Cajalco Blvd. Perris	1a, 1b, H1, H3
15	El Cerrito 20320 Temescal Canyon Road	1a, 1b, H1
54	Homeland 25730 Sultanas Road Homeland	4a, 4c, 4d
59	Mead Valley 19450 Clark Street Perris	1a, 1b, H1, H3

Sources: www.ez2.net/murffire; www.ci.hemet.ca.us/depts/fire; CETAP Alternatives Development Report (Jacobs, 2002)

3.5.1.2 Law Enforcement

Law enforcement services are provided to the HCLE Corridor study area by the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department, and by the police departments of the cities of Hemet, Perris, Corona, and Lake Elsinore. Police services include traffic enforcement and general law enforcement. Table 3.5.B lists Police and Sheriff stations in the HCLE Corridor study area. Figure 3.5.1 shows the locations of law enforcement facilities in the general corridor study area. No police or sheriff stations are located within an alternative bandwidth.

3.5.1.3 Library

The Riverside County Library System (RCLS) operates a system of 24 libraries to serve unincorporated populations of Riverside County. RCLS provides books, videos, and audio tapes for checkout to the public. Other services offered in the libraries are adult and family literacy programs and after school and pre-school programs. One library, Canyon Lake Library located at 31516 Railroad Canyon Road, is within the bandwidth of Alternative 6a. County libraries are identified on Figure 3.5.1.

3.5.1.4 Schools

School districts located within or adjacent to the study area are Hemet Unified School District, Lake Elsinore Unified School District, Menifee Union School District, Perris Elementary School District, Perris Union High School District, and San Jacinto Unified School District. The Mt. San Jacinto Community College District provides advanced educational instruction. School locations are shown on Figure 3.5.1. Table 3.5.C lists existing and planned public schools within and adjacent to the bandwidth for each alternative.