

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/>)