

3.5 Public Services and Utilities

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

This section presents the environmental setting of the proposed WT Corridor project related to public services and utilities. Specifically, police, fire and emergency medical services, schools, cable television, communication service, electrical service, water service, and sewer service are discussed. Recreation and parklands facilities are discussed in Sections 3.6 and 4.6 of this EIS/EIR.

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, and the City of Murrieta Fire Department. As identified in the Riverside County Fire Department web site (October 31, 2001) (<http://www.rvcfire.org/home/>), 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.

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. 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. Fifty-one 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 service to 16 cities on a contractual basis. The cities within the WT Corridor served by the Riverside County Fire Department on a contractual basis are Temecula and Murrieta (RCIP Existing Setting Report [LSA, 1999]). These city fire departments provide services similar to those of the County, including fire prevention, hazardous materials accident response, and emergency medical service. One fire station (No. 12) is located within the 305 m (1,000 ft) bandwidth of Alternative H. Table 3.5.A provides the address.