

7.14 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES (NEW)

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7.14.1 INTRODUCTION

The proposed project analyzed in the Monterey Plus EIR was the Monterey Amendment and the Settlement Agreement. The Monterey Plus EIR considered five “elements” of the Monterey Amendment as follows:

- *Changes in the procedures for allocation of Table A water and surplus water among the SWP contractors;*
- *Approval to permanent transfers of 130,000 acre feet and retirement of 45,000 acre-feet of SWP long-term water supply contracts’ Table A amounts;*
- *Transfer of property known as the “Kern Fan Element property” in Kern County;*
- *Water supply management practices; and*
- *Restructured water rates.*

This REIR has changed the description of the Kern Fan Element property transfer to be:

- *Transfer of property known as the "Kern Fan Element property" in Kern County and its development and continued use and operation as a locally owned and operated groundwater banking and recovery project.*

There are no revisions to the other elements of the Monterey Amendment or of the Settlement Agreement, and no changes have been made relating to them in this REIR. (See discussion in Introduction/Executive Summary.)

This REIR does not supersede the analysis of the Monterey Plus EIR but supplements the Monterey Plus EIR. The Monterey Plus EIR focused on the transfer of the KFE property, which was fully analyzed in the Monterey Plus EIR. This REIR did not identify any new impacts or changes to impacts caused by the transfer of the KFE property. Therefore, this REIR focuses on the development and continued use and operation of the KWB as a locally owned and operated groundwater banking and recovery project (“KWB activities”).

The Monterey Plus DEIR Section 7.14 identified potential impacts to public services and utilities as a result of the transfer of the Kern Fan Element. Substantial new information is presented in this section, however, that replaces text from DEIR Section 7.14 that discusses KWB activities. All other text in DEIR Section 7.14 remains unchanged. In addition to the impacts discussed below, to the extent they apply, indirect impacts as a result of population growth are presented in Chapter 8, Growth-Inducing Impacts, and indirect impacts from potential cropping changes are presented in Section 10.1, Cumulative Environmental Impacts. Impacts on water supply are described in Section 7.1, Surface Water and Groundwater Hydrology. Impacts on energy use are described in Section 7.16, Energy.

Table 7.14-1 identifies the potentially affected environmental resources from impacts of KWB activities on public services and utilities.

TABLE 7.14-1**IMPACTS OF KWB ACTIVITIES ON PUBIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES**

Proposed Project Element	Potentially Affected Environmental Resources	Impact Number
Transfer of Kern Fan Element lands, and KWB activities	Changes in public services and utility capacity associated with construction and operation of groundwater storage facilities	7.14-1

During public review of the Notice of Preparation for the Monterey Plus EIR, interested parties submitted no comments related to public services and utilities.

7.14.1.1 Analytical Method

Effects on utilities and public services were identified by comparing existing service capacity and facilities against KWB activities and the ability of a service provider to continue to provide a level of service that would meet public needs. The evaluation of potential impacts on public services and utilities was based largely on a review of KWBA's annual compliance and management reports. Additional background information on current services was obtained through consultation with KWBA staff and other appropriate agencies.

This analysis included a review of the environmental setting, impacts, and mitigation measures related to public services and utilities, to the extent they apply, presented in the 1997 Monterey Initial Study and Addendum (see Appendix 7-6a).

7.14.1.2 Standards of Significance

The following standards of significance are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. For purposes of this REIR, impacts on public services and utilities would be considered potentially significant if the KWB activities would:

- result in substantial adverse physical impacts resulting from the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities;
- substantially exceed wastewater treatment requirements or require construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities, storm water facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects; or
- generate enough solid waste to exceed landfill capacity or substantially shorten the life of a landfill.

7.14.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**7.14.2.1 Physical Setting in 1995****Fire Protection**

Fire protection services are provided by the Kern County Fire Department (KCFD). KCFD provides fire protection and emergency medical services to unincorporated areas of Kern County and to the cities of Arvin, Delano, Maricopa, McFarland, Ridgecrest, Shafter, Taft, Tehachapi, and Wasco.

Law Enforcement

Kern County Sheriff's Office

The Kern County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) provides law enforcement services in unincorporated Kern County, including the Kern Fan Element lands. The Sheriff's Office, which enforces local, state, and federal laws, is responsible for crime prevention, ground and air patrol, crime investigation, the apprehension of offenders, regulation of noncriminal activity, and a number of related and support services. Headquarters for the Sheriff's Office is located at 1350 Norris Road in Bakersfield.

California Highway Patrol

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) provides traffic regulation enforcement, emergency management, and vice assistance on state highways, interstate highways, and other major roadways. The KFE property was traversed and bordered by highways and freeways maintained by CHP's Central Division, including Stockdale Highway, Taft Highway, Enos Lane, and Interstate 5 (I-5).

Solid Waste

No construction-related solid waste was generated in 1995 on the KFE property and the 1995 KWBA annual report does not indicate that any cleanup of illegal dump sites or disposal of other solid waste occurred.

7.14.2.2 Changes in the Physical Setting between 1996 – 2014

Fire Protection

As the largest fire district in Kern County, KCFD provides service to nearly 500,000 people in an approximately 8,000-square-mile area. In addition, KCFD maintains 14 mutual-aid agreements with neighboring fire suppression organizations.¹ KCFD has 46 fire stations throughout Kern County and is divided into seven battalions.² KCFD's Station 25 and Station 53 are the closest fire stations to KWB Lands. Station 25 is located approximately 9.5 miles northwest of KWB Lands at 100 Mirasol Avenue in the community of Buttonwillow. Station 53 is located approximately 6.5 miles east of KWB Lands at 9443 Taft Highway in the city of Bakersfield.

Law Enforcement

Kern County Sheriff's Office

The Kern County Sheriff's Office has 15 substations that are staffed by police, investigators, and supervisors, with each substation having access to all department support services.³ KWB Lands are located within the service areas of the Buttonwillow, Taft, Rosedale, and Lamont Substations.

The Buttonwillow Substation is located at 181 East First Street in Buttonwillow, approximately 10 miles northwest of KWB Lands. The Buttonwillow Substation provides law enforcement services to 1,500 square miles in northwestern Kern County, including the portion of KWB Lands north of Station Road, east of Morris Road, and west of I-5.⁴ The Buttonwillow Substation also houses the Sheriff's Office Rural Crime Investigation Unit (RCIU). The RCIU is a collaborative program designed to have experienced investigators work directly with stakeholders in the agricultural, livestock, and oil production industries.⁵

The Taft Substation is located at 215 North Lincoln Street in Taft, approximately 5 miles southwest of KWB Lands. The substation provides law enforcement services to a 787-square-mile area in

southwestern Kern County.⁶ The Taft Substation's service area includes the portion of KWB Lands south of Station Road, east of Morris Road, and west of I-5.

The Rosedale Substation is located at 10814 Rosedale Highway in Bakersfield, approximately 7 miles northeast of KWB Lands. The Rosedale Substation provides law enforcement services to the unincorporated communities bordering the northwest city limits of Bakersfield, including the portion of KWB Lands north of the Kern River and east of I-5.⁷

The Lamont Substation is located at 12022 Main Street in Lamont, approximately 15 miles southeast of KWB Lands. The Lamont Substation provides law enforcement services to an approximately 840-square-mile area, including the portion of KWB Lands south of the Kern River and east of I-5. The Lamont Substation's response area includes isolated agricultural areas, remote business locations, and Lamont. A large portion of the Lamont Substation's jurisdiction consists of farming and ranching communities that experience rural industrial thefts. As a result, patrol deputies work closely with the Sheriff's Office RCIU to prevent and deter agricultural, livestock, and oil field-related crimes.⁸

California Highway Patrol

The Central Division includes 15 area offices and six resident posts and maintains a mutual-aid agreement with the Sheriff's Office. The closest Central Division CHP office is located at 29449 Stockdale Highway in the community of Buttonwillow.⁹

Solid Waste

Solid waste collection services are provided to KWB Lands by American Refuse. American Refuse provides a 3-yard bin, and additional trash receptacles are located throughout KWB Lands. Refuse is collected weekly and materials such as steel, PVC pipe, and tires are recycled.

Illegal dumping occurs throughout KWB Lands and generally consists of construction and domestic waste, tires, furniture, appliances, and abandoned vehicles. When possible, KWBA staff members identify the source of the trash and contact the responsible party to remove the materials and clean the site. Kern County Environmental Health Services enforces county regulations on dumping; however, KWBA often loads, hauls, and cleans up dump sites.

Any nonrecyclable wastes collected from KWB Lands are transported to the Shafter-Wasco Sanitary Landfill. This landfill is located at 17621 Scofield Avenue in the community of Shafter, approximately 18 miles north of KWB Lands. According to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the Shafter-Wasco Sanitary Landfill has a maximum permitted throughput of 1,500 tons per day (tpd), a total maximum permitted capacity of 21.9 million cubic yards, a remaining capacity of approximately 7.9 million cubic yards, and an anticipated closure date of December 21, 2053. The landfill is classified as a Class III municipal solid-waste landfill facility and is permitted to accept general residential, commercial, and industrial refuse for disposal, including municipal solid waste, construction and demolition debris, metals, green materials, agricultural debris, and other nonhazardous designated debris.¹⁰

7.14.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

With the exception of water supply and energy, the following discussion describes why the KWB activities would not have a direct significant impact on public services and utilities. The use of pumps for groundwater storage facilities could have an effect on water supply and energy use, see Sections 7.1, Hydrology, and 7.16, Energy, respectively.

7.14-1 KWB activities could potentially result in the need for new or expanded governmental facilities or an increase in demand for public services and utilities.

1996 – 2014

KWB activities included the construction of new facilities associated with the KWB. These activities have not directly resulted in population changes generating a need for new or expanded governmental facilities. Similarly, these activities have not directly increased water supply treatment and/or distribution facilities, wastewater collection and treatment facilities, or storm water runoff collection facilities.

KWB activities could have resulted in an increased demand for fire protection services, police protection services, and generated solid waste that exceeds landfill capacity.

Fire protection and emergency services are provided to KWB Lands by the KCFD. Station 25 and Station 53 are the closest fire stations to KWB Lands. Livestock grazing, mowing, and prescribed burning reduce fire hazards within and near KWB Lands by minimizing tumbleweeds, which create fire hazards when they pile up along fences near public highways, and by managing excessive plant growth. Prescribed burning occurred primarily on small patches of KWB Lands during winter and spring, when fuel moisture can prevent the active spread of the fire. KWBA personnel conducted and monitored small-scale burns and coordinated with KCFD during large-scale burns (see Section 7.0.4.1.4).

KWB activities did not introduce new land uses that that increased the demand for fire protection services and facilities. There were no fires on KWB Lands by KWBA that required KCFD fire or emergency services between 1996 and 2014. During this time, there have been incidents associated with power lines and other third-party facilities on KWB Lands that required fire protection services that are not due to KWBA activities.

One goal of the KWB Vegetation Management Plan required by the KWB Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (KWB HCP/NCCP) is to control trespass and vandalism that may damage conservation values (see Appendix 7-7c). KWBA contracts with a private security company that conducts daily patrols, monitors authorized access, checks gate locks, and controls traffic on KWB Lands. Security patrols protect the property from unauthorized access and/or unauthorized activities, including fishing, hunting, horseback riding, off-roading, illegal dumping, vandalism, and theft. KWB security removes poachers, target shooters, vagrants, and off-roaders from KWB Lands. Enforcement is provided by the Sheriff's Office Buttonwillow, Taft, Rosedale, and Lamont Substations; the Sheriff's Office RCIU; and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) wardens.

Private security at KWB Lands has minimized the need for police response. Relatively few calls for service to the Sheriff's Office as a result of theft on the property occurred each year. In addition, KWB activities did not introduce new land uses that increased demand for police protection services.

KWB activities did not increase demand for police protection services such that the construction of new or expansion of existing police protection services and facilities were required to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times.

KWB activities did not include any demolition or other similar activities that would generate solid waste. Excavated soils resulting from construction activities were redistributed on KWB Lands to construct other KWB facilities. Excess soil and other organic waste (i.e., cleared vegetation, trees, roots, and grass) were disposed of on-site or removed from the site and hauled to a suitable disposal area.

Solid waste generated during KWB operation was incidental and was collected in a 3-yard bin and in trash receptacles throughout KWB Lands. Illegal dumping occurred throughout KWB Lands, and waste generally consisted of construction and domestic waste, tires, furniture, appliances, and abandoned vehicles. KWBA often loads, hauls, and cleans up dump sites. Materials such as steel, PVC pipe, and tires are recycled. Any nonrecyclable wastes collected from KWB Lands are transported to the Shafter-Wasco Sanitary Landfill. The landfill is permitted to accept a maximum of 1,500 tpd of solid waste. With a permitted capacity of more than 21.9 million cubic yards, a remaining capacity of nearly 7.9 million cubic yards, and an expected closure date of 2053, Shafter-Wasco Sanitary Landfill has sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the KWB's disposal needs.

Therefore, the impact of KWB activities from 1996 to 2014 with regard to public services was ***less than significant***.

In addition, KWB activities from 1996 to 2014 have resulted in benefits to public services resources on KWB Lands as private security at KWB Lands has minimized the need for police response.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

2015 – 2030

Near-term future KWB activities include construction of approximately 190 acres of recharge ponds and three wells under the ongoing Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program (Kern Water Bank Recharge and Recovery Project). Longer-term future construction of approximately 862 acres of additional recharge ponds and associated facilities is anticipated as a result of full build-out. In addition to the new recharge ponds, wells, and associated facilities, other potential ground-disturbing activities could include: fencing, constructing replacement recovery wells, installing and replacing pipeline, and installing weir boxes. Maintenance of existing and new basins, wells, and ancillary facilities would also take place.

These activities would not directly result in changes in population generating a need for new or expanded governmental facilities or an increase in demand for public services and utilities. Similarly, these activities would not directly increase water supply treatment and/or distribution facilities, wastewater collection and treatment facilities, storm water runoff collection facilities, and/or solid waste collection and disposal.

KWB activities could potentially have a direct impact by increasing the demand for fire protection services, police protection services, and generated solid waste that exceeds landfill capacity.

Fire protection and emergency services are provided to KWB Lands by KCFD. In the event of a fire during KWB activities, KCFD's Station 25 and Station 53 are the closest fire stations to KWB Lands and would provide first response.

Livestock grazing, mowing, and prescribed burning would continue to be implemented on KWB Lands to reduce fire hazards within and near KWB Lands by minimizing tumbleweeds, which create fire hazards when they pile up along fences near public highways, and by managing excessive plant growth. Prescribed burning would continue to occur primarily on small patches of KWB Lands during winter and spring, when fuel moisture is likely to prevent active spread of the fire. KWBA personnel would continue to conduct and monitor small-scale burns and would coordinate with KCFD during large-scale burns (see Section 7.0.4.1.4). KWB activities would not introduce new land uses that would increase demand for fire protection services and facilities. Therefore, KWB activities would not increase

demand for KCFD fire protection services such that the construction of new or expansion of existing fire protection services and facilities would be required to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times.

One goal of the KWB HCP/NCCP Vegetation Management Plan is to control trespass and vandalism that may damage conservation values (see Appendix 7-7c). KWBA would continue to contract with a private security company that conducts daily patrols, monitors authorized access, checks gate locks, and controls traffic on KWB Lands. Security patrols would continue to protect the property from unauthorized access and/or unauthorized activities, including fishing, hunting, horseback riding, off-roading, illegal dumping, vandalism, and theft. KWB security would continue to remove poachers, target shooters, vagrants, and off-roaders from KWB Lands. If necessary, enforcement of the security would continue to be provided by the Sheriff's Office Buttonwillow, Taft, Rosedale, and Lamont Substations; the Sheriff's Office RCIU; and the CDFW wardens.

Private security on KWB Lands minimizes the need for police response. It is anticipated that relatively few calls for service to the Sheriff's Office would occur each year. In addition, KWB activities would not introduce new land uses that increase demand for police protection services.

Therefore, KWB activities would not increase demand for police protection services such that the construction of new or expansion of existing police protection services and facilities would be required to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times.

KWB activities would not include any demolition or other similar activities that would generate solid waste. Excavated soils resulting from construction of future KWB facilities, such as recharge ponds and recovery wells, would be redistributed on KWB Lands. Excess soil and other organic waste (i.e., cleared vegetation, trees, roots, and grass) would be disposed of on-site or removed from the site and hauled to a suitable disposal area.

Solid waste generated during KWB operation would be incidental and collected in a 3-yard bin and in additional trash receptacles located throughout KWB Lands. However, illegal dumping has occurred throughout KWB Lands in the past and would likely continue to occur in the future. Wastes would consist of construction and domestic waste, tires, furniture, appliances, and abandoned vehicles. KWBA would load, haul, and clean up the dump sites as it has in the past.

Any nonrecyclable wastes collected from KWB Lands would be transported to the Shafter-Wasco Sanitary Landfill. The landfill is permitted to accept a maximum of 1,500 tpd of solid waste. With a permitted capacity of more than 21.9 million cubic yards, a remaining capacity of nearly 7.9 million cubic yards, and an expected closure date of 2053, Shafter-Wasco Sanitary Landfill has sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the KWB activity disposal needs. Therefore, KWB activities would not generate waste materials that exceed permitted capacity of the Shafter-Wasco Sanitary Landfill.

Waste materials would not be generated or generated in small quantities when KWB recovered water would be used beyond KWB Lands. No new water conveyance facilities outside of KWB Lands to convey KWB-recovered water would be constructed for this purpose; KWB participants already have facilities in place to convey and exchange recovered water.

Therefore, the impact of KWB activities from 2015 to 2030 to public services would be ***less than significant***.

In addition, KWB activities from 2015 to 2030 are likely to result in benefits to public services resources on KWB Lands as private security at KWB Lands has minimized the need for police response.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

ENDNOTES

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7. Kern County Sheriff's Office. 2015. Rosedale Substation. Available: <http://www.kernsheriff.com/FieldOps/Substations/Rosedale/Pages/default.aspx>. Accessed November 25, 2015.
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