

## 3.5 Energy

This section discusses existing energy supplies and energy use in the vicinity of the proposed project, presents the associated regulatory framework, and provides an analysis of potential impacts to energy supplies that would result from construction and implementation of the proposed project.

### 3.5.1 Environmental Setting

The electrical system in Western Riverside County is mostly supplied by Southern California Edison (SCE). Some smaller agencies, such as City of Riverside and Moreno Valley Utility, supply energy primarily to municipal customers within their service area. SCE currently serves the project area within unincorporated Riverside County and City of Perris (California Energy Commission, 2015). Electrical generation technologies present in Riverside County include: wind energy, geothermal energy, biomass/transformation, solar energy, and hydroelectric.

### 3.5.2 Regulatory Framework

#### State

##### ***California Energy Commission (CEC)***

The CEC regulates the provision of natural gas and electricity within the state. The CEC is the state's primary energy policy and planning agency. Created in 1974, the CEC has five major responsibilities: forecasting future energy needs and keeping historical energy data, licensing thermal power plants 50 megawatts (MW) or larger, promoting energy efficiency through appliance and building standards, developing energy technologies and supporting renewable energy, and planning for and directing the state response to energy emergencies.

##### ***California Public Utilities Commission***

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates privately owned electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation companies, in addition to authorizing video franchises. In 1911, the CPUC was established by Constitutional Amendment as the Railroad Commission. In 1912, the Legislature passed the Public Utilities Act, expanding the Commission's regulatory authority to include natural gas, electric, telephone, and water companies as well as railroads and marine transportation companies. In 1946, the Commission was renamed the California Public Utilities Commission. It is tasked with ensuring safe, reliable utility service is available to consumers, setting retail energy rates, and protecting against fraud.

##### ***2005 California Energy Action Plan II and 2008 Update***

The California Energy Action Plan II is the state's principal energy planning and policy document (California Energy Commission, 2008). The plan identifies state-wide energy goals, describes a coordinated implementation plan for State energy policies, and identifies specific action areas to ensure that California's energy is adequate, affordable, technologically advanced, and

environmentally sound. In accordance with this plan, the first priority actions to address California's increasing energy demands are energy efficiency and demand response (i.e., reduction of customer energy usage during peak periods in order to address system reliability and support the best use of energy infrastructure). Additional priorities include the use of renewable sources of power and distributed generation (i.e., the use of relatively small power plants near or at centers of high demand). To the extent that these actions are unable to satisfy the increasing energy and capacity needs, clean and efficient fossil-fired generation is supported.

### 3.5.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

#### Significance Criteria

This section addresses potential impacts of the proposed project on energy supplies in the project area. The impact significance criteria are based on guidance provided by Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines regarding significant environmental effects. Appendix G contains sample questions that are intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts. Potential impacts not listed in Appendix G must also be considered. For this Draft EIR, the proposed project would have a significant impact if it would:

- Cause a substantial increase in overall or per capita energy consumption or cause wasteful or unnecessary consumption of energy.
- Require construction of new sources of energy supplies or additional energy infrastructure capacity, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.
- Conflict with applicable energy efficiency policies or standards.

#### Impact Analysis

**Impact 3.5-1: The project could have a significant impact if it would require additional energy use that could result in wasteful consumption, affect local and regional energy supplies, or conflict with applicable energy efficiency policies or standards.**

The proposed project would construct a new water conveyance facility connecting the existing emergency release structure to the Perris Valley Channel. Construction of the conveyance facility would require use of non-renewable energy in the form of gasoline and diesel to power construction equipment. The contractor trailers would be supplied with electricity from the local power grid. This energy usage would be temporary and consistent with basic needs of a construction effort of this size. Concrete production and soil processing equipment may be temporarily installed on the site, but no unnecessary electricity would be consumed. The project would provide important public safety improvements for the local community and would not be considered unnecessary, inefficient, or wasteful. Impacts to energy supplies for construction would be less than significant.

The proposed project would not increase operational energy usage once constructed. Although some electronic controls would be installed at the release valve, the system would be used only rarely for periodic testing. No new employees would be required to maintain the facility. In the

event of an emergency drawdown, the operational activity associated with an emergency release would involve the passive, gravity driven movement of water through the levees and channels to the Perris Valley Channel. The only component of the project requiring energy supply would be the automated valve to release water during an emergency drawdown. The possibility of an emergency release of water from Lake Perris has only a small chance of occurring (for example, if a seismic event of sufficient magnitude were to impair the dam). Thus, the use of energy anticipated for operation of the proposed project would not result in wasteful consumption, affect local and regional energy supplies, or conflict with applicable energy efficiency policies or standards. Impacts to energy supplies for operation would be less than significant.

**Significance Determination:** Less than Significant.

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## References

California Energy Commission. *California Energy Maps*. Accessed April 13, 2016.  
[www.energy.ca.gov/maps/serviceareas/electric\\_service\\_areas.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/maps/serviceareas/electric_service_areas.html).

California Energy Commission. *State of California Energy Action Plan*. Accessed April 13, 2016.  
[www.energy.ca.gov/energy\\_action\\_plan](http://www.energy.ca.gov/energy_action_plan).