

## **2.1.4 Utility and Emergency Services**

### **2.1.4.1 Affected Environment**

Utilities within the SR-74 Widening project limits include:

- Overhead electrical transmission, telephone and cable lines; and
- Underground gas, sewer, water, electric, telephone, and cable lines.

Within the project limits, Southern California Gas (SCG) provides gas, San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) provides electricity, the City of San Juan Capistrano (CSJC) provides sewer, the Capistrano Valley Water District (CVWD) provides water, AT&T provides telephone, and Cox Communications provides cable services. The majority of the utilities are parallel to SR-74 or are located under the existing road. Additionally, utility lines are located parallel or under the arterial roads within the project limits. SDG&E, AT&T, and Cox Communications overhead utility lines diagonally cross SR-74 at Avenida Siega/Shade Tree Lane. (For details regarding utility lines, please refer to design plans sheet nos. 151 to 159.)

Fire protection services for the City are provided through a fire services district that is administered and staffed by the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA). Fire Station No. 7, located approximately 0.5 mi from the project area at 31865 Del Obispo, San Juan Capistrano, currently serves the project area. The OCFA provides emergency vehicles to the project area. The City contracts with the Orange County Sheriff's Department to provide on-site and localized police services. The closest police station, located at 25925 Camino Del Avion, approximately three miles from the project site, currently serves the project area.

### **2.1.4.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### ***Temporary Impacts***

##### ***No Build Alternative***

The No Build Alternative does not require construction; therefore, there will be no temporary impacts to utilities and emergency services.

##### ***Build Alternatives 1 and 2***

The majority of the utilities within the project limits parallel SR-74 or are located under the existing road and do not present conflicts with the improvements identified for the Build Alternatives. The relocation of the following utilities would be required as part of both Build Alternatives:

- SDG&E pedestal and SDG&E transformer.
- SDG&E overhead electric line.
- SDG&E overhead line relocated underground.
- CSJC water line east.
- SDG&E line.
- Four AT&T overhead lines.
- Five COX Communication overhead lines.

In addition to the utilities requiring relocation, two new CVWD water lines are proposed. The addition of the utilities is needed by the City, separate from the proposed project. This project is discussed further in Section 2.4, Cumulative Impacts. There would be a less than significant temporary impact to utilities.

The utilities listed below may require protection in place during construction of either Build Alternative:

- One CSJC water line.
- 10 CSJC sewer lines.
- 12 CVWD water lines.
- One Riverside Water Department water line.
- Six SDG&E underground electric lines.
- Three SDG&E overhead electric lines.
- One SDG&E conduit.
- Two AT&T phone lines.
- One Cox Communications overhead cable line.

Details on exactly which utilities will require protection will be determined during final design. The potential exists for construction activities to encounter unexpected utilities within the project limits. In addition, utility relocations may require short-term, limited interruptions of service.

With protection in place during construction for these utilities, Build Alternatives 1 and 2 would have a less than significant impact on utilities.

Some temporary impacts to emergency response time may occur as part of traffic control and traffic delays during construction. Implementation of a TMP (outlined in Section 2.1.5.4) would be implemented to minimize impacts to all utilities such as power, gas, and sewer, and telephone lines impacted by this project would be

relocated or replaced in kind within the project limits. Therefore, temporary impacts to utilities and emergency services as a result of Build Alternatives 1 and 2 would be considered less than significant.

### ***Permanent Impacts***

#### ***No Build Alternative***

The No Build Alternative does not require construction; therefore, there will be no impacts to utilities.

SR-74 west of the project limits is currently four lanes and upon completion of the County portion, the highway east of the project limits will be four lanes, resulting in a bottleneck under the No Build Alternative. Therefore, emergency services (police, fire, and emergency vehicle services) may be delayed as traffic congestion worsens and the LOS in the project area declines, resulting in significant impacts to emergency services.

#### ***Build Alternatives 1 and 2***

Utilities would be relocated, replaced, or protected in place during construction of either Build Alternative as described above. There will be no long-term disruptions in service as a result of utilities within the study area being relocated or replaced, and there are no permanent impacts to utilities.

Implementation of either Build Alternative is anticipated to result in a positive impact to emergency services by improving the LOS within the project limits and reducing emergency response times. Any sliver takes that include portions of driveways will be reconstructed to meet the new grade of the edge of roadway pavement to allow full and adequate access for emergency services vehicles.

### **2.1.4.3 Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

The following minimization measures should be implemented:

Design, construction, and inspection of utilities that would need to be relocated for the project would be done in accordance with Department requirements. The Department would coordinate with the affected service provider in each instance to ensure that work is during times of low demand and in accordance with the appropriate requirements and criteria.

Coordination with the utility providers would be initiated during the preliminary engineering phase of the project and would continue through final design and construction, consistent with Department requirements.

Coordination efforts would include planning utility rerouting, identifying potential conflicts, ensuring that construction of the proposed project minimizes disruption to utility operations, and formulating strategies for any unanticipated problems that may arise during construction.

The Department would also coordinate with emergency service providers to avoid emergency service delays by ensuring that all providers are aware well in advance of temporary road closures and detours. Please see Chapter 1, Section 1.5.1.12, Construction for details on the TMP.

#### **2.1.4.4 Level of Significance**

The No Build Alternative would have no temporary impacts on utilities. Significant permanent impacts to emergency services would occur due to delays associated with existing and forecast congestion on this portion of SR-74, particularly during the peak hours.

With implementation of the measures outlined above, potential temporary direct or indirect impacts to utilities under the Build Alternatives would be less than significant. There are no permanent direct or indirect impacts to utilities, and the Build Alternative would provide a benefit to emergency services due to the improvement in congestion afforded by the roadway improvements.