15 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

This chapter provides an overview of existing utilities and public services for the project area, including water supply, solid waste management, electrical service, natural gas service, telecommunications service, fire and emergency medical response, law enforcement, and public schools. Impacts are evaluated in relation to increased demand for utilities and public services associated with the project and actions needed to provide the services that could potentially lead to physical environmental effects.

The project would not construct residential uses and it is anticipated that the majority of employees would be hired from the local and regional population base. Moreover, construction activities would employ approximately 23 individuals for a relatively short period of time and, therefore, would not result in a substantial adverse effect on existing public services and utilities in the project area (See Chapter 14, Population and Housing). The project is also not expected to result in substantial population growth that would increase the use of existing parks and recreational facilities, schools, libraries, or other public facilities; result in the need for new facilities; or increase the long-term demand for these services. As such, public service impacts related to parks and recreational facilities, schools, libraries, and other community facilities are not evaluated further in this Draft EIR.

Chapter 13, Hydrology and Water Quality, includes discussions regarding the proposed improvements to the onsite stormwater management system, as well as an analysis of the potential for these facility improvements to cause environmental effects. Stormwater impacts are not evaluated further in this chapter.

Analysis provided in this chapter is based on a review of agency documents, consultation with local public service providers, and past environmental documents prepared for power-generating operations at the site.

15.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

15.1.1 UTILITIES

WATER SUPPLY

The existing water system serves the existing Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station and TART and DPW facilities in the southern portion of the site, and wood and inert processing activities (via water trucks) on the northern part of the site. Currently, water is supplied to the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station and adjacent facilities by one onsite groundwater well pumping to three interconnected water storage tanks. The three existing aboveground water tanks, with capacities of 60,000 gallons, 150,000 gallons, and 250,000 gallons, are located within an offsite easement that crosses National Forest Service (NFS) lands immediately west and uphill from the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station property. The water supply storage tanks are under Special Use Permit from the NFS.

The well is capable of producing 100 gallons per minute (gpm) and the pump capacity is approximately 52 gpm. This water system supplies the domestic and fire suppression water requirements for the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station site and includes fire hydrants located at the TART facility, the MRF, the MRF maintenance shop and the Department of Public Works (DPW) shop.

The water system is permitted under a Domestic Water Supply Permit issued by Placer County Environmental Health Services (Public Water System No. 3105779) (Placer County2010). The current maximum day demand for the site is 60,000 gallons per day (gpd), and the current pump capacity is 75,000 gpd (Placer County 2004:3-2; 4-5).

Public Services and Utilities Ascent Environmental

Refer to Chapter 13, Hydrology and Water Quality regarding details of groundwater supply availability.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

The Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) provides sanitary sewer service to the existing MRF and Transfer Station. The boundaries of the District lie within both Placer and El Dorado Counties, extending from Emerald Bay to Dollar Hill, and along the Truckee River to the Nevada County line. Sewage collected from the site flows in a 36" pipe along the Truckee River corridor to the Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (T-TSA) wastewater treatment plant located on the eastern side of Truckee. The Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (T-TSA) was founded in 1972 in response to the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, promulgated to protect Lake Tahoe and Truckee River water quality. T-TSA provides regional wastewater treatment service to several Tahoearea communities through the Agency's five-member sewage collection districts. The member agencies served by T-TSA facilities include:

- ▲ Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD)
- ▲ North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD)
- Alpine Springs County Water District (ASCWD)
- Squaw Valley Public Service District (SVPSD)
- ▲ Truckee Sanitary District (TSD)

The 9.6 million gallon per day (mgd) advanced water reclamation plant provides primary and secondary treatment, phosphorus removal, biological nitrogen removal, filtration, and disinfection. The mainstream treatment processes consist of raw sewage screening, grit removal, primary sedimentation, pure oxygen activated sludge, phosphorus removal, biological nitrogen removal, filtration, and disinfection. Organic sludges are anaerobically digested. Dewatered sludges are transported to sites in Nevada (Rinne 2012).

The current maximum 7-day flow during the summer months is 6.4 mgd. TTSA uses a wastewater generation rate of 220 gallons per day (gpd) per equivalent dwelling unit (single-family unit) (Rinne 2012).

ELECTRICITY

An existing overhead power line that extends from the California Pacific Electrical Company (Calpeco) 60-kV transmission line located on the east side of the Truckee River brings electricity to the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station site to power the existing facilities, the TART and DPW facilities, and onsite caretaker residences.

NATURAL GAS

Natural gas service is available to the Eastern Regional Landfill and Transfer Station, TART and DPW area from an existing natural gas pipeline located within Cabin Creek Road and in the access road for the TART and DPW facilities.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD) provides solid waste collection services in the Tahoe area and operates the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station under contract with Placer County. The MRF separates and recycles marketable materials from municipal solid waste, such as paper, cardboard, plastics, wood waste, metals and glass. The facility also receives and recycles source-separated wood waste, pine needles, white goods, and inert materials. The MRF also includes a buy-back facility, where source-separated recyclables are accepted, and a

Ascent Environmental Public Services and Utilities

permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility that accepts hazardous wastes from households and Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators. The MRF also acts as a transfer station; after separation of recyclables, residual solid waste is transported to the Lockwood Regional Landfill in Storey County, Nevada.

The Lockwood Landfill comprises 1,535 acres and accepts municipal solid waste. The capacity of the landfill in the current cell is approximately 40 years, with an additional 200 years of permitted capacity at the site to accommodate the buildout projections for TTSD's service area (Town of Truckee 2011). TTSD and Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station have 76 years remaining on an 80-year contract with Lockwood Regional Landfill for disposal services (Town of Truckee 2011).

15.1.2 FIRE PROTECTION, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE

Fire protection and emergency medical response services in the project area are provided by several entities through automatic aid and mutual aid agreements between the agencies. For the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station area, fire protection services are provided by the North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD), the Truckee Fire Protection District, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and the United States Forest Service (USFS).

Currently fire hydrants are located on the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station and TART and DPW sites. Four hydrants are located near the MRF, two at the MRF Maintenance Shop, two at the TART facility and a two near the DPW shop (Schwall, pers. comm., 2012). Fire sprinkler systems are installed in the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station structure and in the TART maintenance/office building (ECO:LOGIC 2002).

North Tahoe Fire Protection District

The NTFPD protects an area of 31 square miles on the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe. There are six fire stations within the District, located in Alpine Meadows, Tahoe City, Homewood, Dollar Hill, Carnelian Bay and Kings Beach, and staffed by 50 uniformed and support personnel (NTFPD 2003).

TRUCKEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Truckee Fire Protection District (TFPD) is officially responsible for providing services to 125 square miles, including the Town of Truckee and the area extending south along SR 89 to Cabin Creek. TFPD has 49 full-time and 9 part-time and/or volunteer members. The TFPD has a total of eight fire stations with four fire stations that are staffed on a 24-hour basis. TFPD Station #92 is the Main Station for the TFPD and is located approximately 5 miles north (via vehicle vs. as the crow flies) of the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station. The station is staffed by four firefighter/paramedics, a captain and battalion chief (TFPD 2011). The average response time to the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station site is 10 to 12 minutes with good road conditions (Bena, pers. comm., 2012).

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

CAL FIRE cooperates with federal wildland fire agencies, including the USFS, to have the closest agency respond to a wildfire, regardless of jurisdiction. Under the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement, CAL FIRE assists other fire departments within the State when its resources are available. CAL FIRE can access local government fire departments through the same agreement for wildland fire suppression (CAL FIRE 2010).

Public Services and Utilities Ascent Environmental

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The USFS provides fire protection and fire suppression on National Forest System lands in the project vicinity. The project site is located within the area served by the Truckee Ranger District located at 10811 Stockrest Springs Road in Truckee. Three engines are operated out of this facility.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station and TART and DPW facilities are served by the Placer County Sheriff's Department from the Tahoe Station located about 1 ½ miles east of Tahoe City on Highway 28 (2501 North Lake Boulevard, Tahoe City). The Tahoe Station covers the area from the California/Nevada state line on Highway 28 west to the Nevada County line in Truckee and south on Highway 89 to the El Dorado County line in Tahoma. The station also covers Highway 267 from Kings Beach to the Nevada County line in Truckee as well as a small portion of Donner Lake. The communities covered by the station include Kings Beach, Tahoe Vista, Carnelian Bay, Cedar Flat, Dollar Point, Tahoe City, Sunnyside, Pineland, Homewood, Kingswood, Northstar, Martis Valley, Alpine Meadows, Olympic Valley, Lahontan, Timilick, Sierra Meadows, Ponderosa Ranchos and Murphy Meadows (Placer County 2012). The Tahoe Station has 48 positions and is commanded by a Sheriff's captain. Some of the services provided by the Tahoe Station include (Placer County 2012):

- ▲ 24/7 patrol coverage
- Search and Rescue coordination
- ✓ Certified high-altitude dive team. The team is used for rescue and recovery for both swiftwater and underwater operations.
- Boat patrol.
- Bike patrol during special events

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

The project site is located within the patrol area of the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Valley Division's Truckee Area office. A major responsibility of the CHP is to keep important travel routes such as Interstate 80 open during the winter to allow travelers and supplies to flow smoothly and efficiently along with state and county roads, including SR 89 in the vicinity of the project site. The CHP provides assistance with congestion relief, search and rescue, speed enforcement, and support to local law enforcement.

15.2 REGULATORY SETTING

15.2.1 FEDERAL

There are no federal plans or policies addressing public services and utilities that pertain to the project.

15.2.2 STATE

CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT

To minimize the amount of solid waste that must be disposed of by transformation and land disposal, the State Legislature passed the California Integrated Waste Management Act (CIWMA) of 1989 (AB 939), effective January 1990. According to the CIWMA, all cities and counties were required to divert 25 percent of all solid

Ascent Environmental Public Services and Utilities

waste from landfill facilities by January 1, 1995, and 50 percent by January 1, 2000. Each jurisdiction is required to develop solid waste and household hazardous waste plans demonstrating program implementation consistent with the intent of the CIWMA. The plans must promote (in order of priority) source reduction, recycling and composting, and environmentally safe transformation and land disposal.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

The project would be required to comply with Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations regarding energy efficiency. Energy efficiency standards were developed in 2005, partly in response to the State's energy crisis, as well as Assembly Bill 970, which requires improving residential and nonresidential building energy efficiency, minimizing impacts to peak energy usage periods, and reducing impacts on overall state energy needs.

FIRE REGULATIONS

CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) supports the mission of CAL FIRE by focusing on fire prevention. OSFM provides support through a wide variety of fire safety responsibilities including: regulating buildings in which people live, congregate, or are confined; by controlling substances and products which may, in and of themselves, or by their misuse, cause injuries, death and destruction by fire; by providing statewide direction for fire prevention within wildland areas; by regulating hazardous liquid pipelines; by reviewing regulations and building standards; and by providing training and education in fire protection methods and responsibilities.

OSFM is responsible for ensuring implementation of the building standards set forth in the California Fire Code (Part 9 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations).

California Public Resources Code

The California Public Resources Code includes provisions that address fire prevention and minimum fire safety standards related to defensible space for industrial operations and other land uses in SRAs (California Public Resources Code Part 2, Chapters 1 and 2). Applicable fire safe regulations address road standards for fire equipment access, standards for signage, minimum water supply requirements for emergency fire use, and fuel breaks and greenbelts, among others.

CALIFORNIA'S WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE BUILDING CODE

California's Wildand-Urban Interface Building Code protects building from wildfires by addressing: (1) the removal of flammable materials from around buildings, and (2) constructing buildings with fire resistant materials. The list of materials covered includes: roof coverings, fire resistive wall and ceiling-floor assemblies, wall finish material, fire and non-fire related hardware, insulating products, fire doors, fire dampers, electrical appliances and devices. This code covers materials and construction methods for exterior wildfire exposure and is outlined in Chapter 7A of the California Building Code.

15.2.3 LOCAL

PLACER COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The Placer County General Plan (1994) contains a Public Facilities and Services Element, which addresses public facilities and services, water supply, wastewater treatment and disposal, stormwater drainage, landfills, transfer stations, and solid waste recycling, law enforcement, fire protection services, and schools. The policies

contained in the Public Facilities and Services Element, which are relevant to the project include those listed below. Refer to Table 4-1 in Chapter 4, Land Use for a discussion of the project's consistency with the policies.

- Policy 4.C.1. The County shall require proponents of new development to demonstrate the availability of a long-term, reliable water supply. The County shall require written certification from the service provider that either existing services are available or needed improvements will be made prior to occupancy. Where the County will approve groundwater as the domestic water source, test wells, appropriate testing, and/or report(s) from qualified professionals will be required substantiating the long-term availability of suitable groundwater.
- Policy 4.D.5. The County shall encourage pretreatment of commercial and industrial wastes prior to their entering community collection and treatment systems.
- Policy 4.D.8. The County shall require that the onsite treatment, development, operation, and maintenance of disposal systems complies with the requirements and standards of the County Division of Environmental Health.
- Policy 4.G.2. The County shall promote maximum use of solid waste source reduction, recycling, composting, and environmentally-safe transformation of wastes.

15.3 IMPACTS

15.3.1 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pursuant to Placer County's Environmental Questionnaire and CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, an adverse effect on utilities is considered significant if implementation of the project under consideration would do any of the following:

- ▲ Create a water supply demand in excess of existing entitlements and resources;
- Result in the determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments;
- ▲ Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB;
- A Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;
- Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;
- Require or result in the construction of new or expanded landfill facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects; or
- Exceed capabilities of electrical, natural gas service, or telecommunications providers to serve the project.

A public service impact is considered significant if implementation of the proposed project under consideration would do any of the following:

- result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of or need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for
 - fire protection,
 - police protection,
 - schools,

Ascent Environmental Public Services and Utilities

- parks, and
- other public facilities
- result in the increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

15.3.2 METHODS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Impacts on utilities and public services that would result from the project were identified by comparing existing service capacity against future demand associated with project implementation. When possible, a quantitative comparison was used to determine impacts of the project on future demands. Evaluations of potential utilities and public service impacts are based on a review of documents pertaining to the project area, including the Placer County General Plan (1994). Additional information was obtained through consultation with appropriate agencies, a review of letters received during public scoping, and field review of the project site and surroundings.

15.3.3 ISSUES OR POTENTIAL IMPACTS NOT DISCUSSED FURTHER

As described in the introduction to this chapter, public service impacts related to parks and recreational facilities, schools, libraries, and other public facilities are not evaluated further in this Draft EIR. Stormwater impacts are evaluated in Chapter 13, Hydrology and Water Quality. Construction activities would have only minor demands on public utilities and services. It is estimated that a maximum of 23 construction workers would be on the site at any one time and construction is estimated to last 14 months (two 7-month construction periods, May through November, 2013-2014). A temporary water supply and portable toilettes would be adequate to serve worker and construction needs. Further, minimal electricity demands would be required during construction and could be met from the existing line that serves the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station. Natural gas would not be required for construction activities. Therefore, construction-related impacts for water, wastewater, and electrical and natural gas utilities are not addressed further.

15.3.4 IMPACTS ANALYSIS

Impact 15-1

Water Supply Impacts. Water supply on the site is limited to the capacity of the existing well and pump. The Applicant would select a vendor whose gasification technology could conform to water supply capabilities of the well and water supply system serving the site. Additionally, the project includes construction of a second well to provide redundant supply and reliability in the remote event the existing well would fail. The new well would be required to meet water quality and quantity criteria of the Placer County Environmental Health Department. Because adequate well capacity and redundant water supply would be provided with implementation of the project, the project's water supply impacts would be less than significant.

It is estimated that the maximum (peak use) flow for the facility would be 10 gpm (14,400 gpd). The existing maximum water demand at the site (without the project) is approximately 60,000 gpd. When added to the proposed project maximum demand, a total of approximately 74,400 gpd would be required. The frequency with which this rate of water would be required would be rare and would require that peak demands from several onsite facilities (Eastern Regional MRF, Transfer Station, TART facilities) occur simultaneously.

In order to install a second well for the water supply system, the Domestic Water Supply Permit for the existing water system would require amendment. The permit amendment requires the following steps: 1) obtaining a well construction permit; 2) testing the new well to make a determination that the new well can provide adequate quantity and quality; and 3) applying for an amendment to the Water Supply Permit (Ramsey, pers. com. 2012).

As described in the project description, the County would select a vendor whose gasification technology could conform to water supply capabilities of the well and water supply system serving the site. Additionally, the project includes construction of a second well to provide redundant supply and reliability in the remote event the existing well would fail. Further, the new well would be required to meet water quality and quantity criteria of the Placer County Environmental Health Department. Because adequate well capacity and redundant water supply would be provided with implementation of the project, the project's water supply impacts would be **less than significant.**

Impact 15-2

Wastewater Conveyance and Treatment Capacity Impacts. The TTSA advanced water reclamation plant has a permitted capacity of approximately 3.2 mgd. At maximum peak use flow, the biomass facility would discharge 14,400 gpd, which would be less than 0.5 percent of the T-TSA's available capacity. Therefore, adequate treatment capacity is available to serve the proposed biomass facility and no new facilities would be required. This impact would be less than significant.

An existing sanitary sewer collection system serves the existing Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station operations and TART and DPW facilities adjacent to the southern portion of the site. This collection system would be extended to the site to serve the project. Currently, the site's sanitary sewer collection system connects with the NTPUD sewer main, which runs along SR 89. Wastewater is conveyed via NTPUD main and the TCPUD sewer main to the TTSA WRP located east of the Town of Truckee. As part of the project, the existing sewer line would be extended to the site within the existing road alignment. The impacts of this improvement are evaluated throughout this EIR. No additional wastewater conveyance improvements would be required to convey project wastewater to the TTSA reclamation plant.

At maximum peak use flow, the biomass facility would discharge 14,400 gpd The T-TSA advanced water reclamation plant has a permitted capacity of 9.6 mgd, with an existing maximum 7-day flow during the summer months of 6.4 mgd. Therefore, approximately 3.2 mgd of capacity is available for new connections. At maximum peak use flow, the biomass facility would discharge 14,400 gpd, which would be less than 0.5 percent of the T-TSA's available capacity. Therefore, adequate treatment capacity is available to serve the proposed biomass facility and no new facilities would be required. Because no additional conveyance facilities (other than those proposed as part of the project) or wastewater treatment facilities would be required, the construction of which could result in significant environmental impacts, this impact would be **less than significant**.

Impact 15-3

Increased Generation of Solid Waste. The project would generate solid waste during construction and operational activities. Construction activities could produce debris and operational activities would produce biochar and municipal solid waste. Adequate long-term landfill disposal capacity (200 years permitted capacity) is available at the Lockwood Landfill in Storey, Nevada, to meet the project's solid waste generation needs. Therefore, the project's impacts on solid waste disposal would be less than significant.

Solid waste generated by the project during construction would include vegetation from clearing the site and unused or remnant construction materials. Solid waste generated by the proposed project during operational activities, would include operational biochar, and municipal solid waste. Biochar may be used for commercial

products. Biochar is charcoal created by pyrolysis (decomposition of organic material by heating in the absence of oxygen and water) of biomass that can also be used as a soil amendment enhancing plant growth. While there are non-disposal applications for biochar, the feasibility of these uses for the proposed project is unknown at this time. Therefore, for purposes of the technical analysis included herein, it is assumed that all biochar would be hauled to Lockwood Regional Landfill. The 14,000 to 17,000 BDT of woody biomass used in the power generation process would yield an estimated 420 to 850 tons of biochar per year, or between 8 and 16 tons per week.

The capacity of the Lockwood Landfill in the current cell is approximately 40 years with an additional 200 years of permitted capacity at the site to accommodate the buildout projections for TTSD's service area (refer to 14.1.2 Setting above). Because adequate long-term landfill disposal capacity is available at the Lockwood Landfill to meet the project's solid waste disposal needs, the project's impacts on solid waste disposal would be **less** than significant.

Impact 15-4

Increased Demand for Electricity. The project would produce two MW of electricity for distribution through Calpeco's electrical grid that would also satisfy onsite electrical needs during plant operation. Overall, the project would result in a net surplus of electricity. Therefore, the project would have a **beneficial** electricity impact.

The proposed project would produce two MW of electricity for distribution through Calpeco's electrical grid that would also satisfy onsite electrical needs during plant operation. Overall, the project would result in a net increase in electricity supply on a yearly basis. The applicant will make reasonable efforts during the building design to meet LEED Standards. Once the specific technology vendor has been chosen the applicant will work through a LEED Scorecard to determine the feasibility of LEED Certification for the proposed facility.

An existing overhead power line that extends from Calpeco's 60-kV transmission line on the east side of the Truckee River brings electricity to the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station site to power the existing Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station, the TART and DPW facilities, and onsite caretaker residences. With implementation of the project, this line would be extended to the project site. The impacts of this extension are evaluated throughout this EIR. Because the project would result in a net increase in electricity supply on a yearly basis, the project would have **beneficial** electricity impacts.

Impact 15-5

Increased Demand for Natural Gas. There would be some increase for demand of natural gas because the project would use a minimal amount of natural gas during start-up for boiler warm-up before biomass fuels are introduced, and for controlled cool down of the boiler during shut down. Natural gas is delivered to the Eastern Regional MRF and Transfer Station area via a pipeline located in Cabin Creek Road and the access road to the TART and DPW facilities. No additional facilities would be required. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

Implementing the proposed project would increase demand for natural gas compared to existing conditions because a small amount of natural gas would be used during start-up for boiler warm up before biomass fuels are introduced and for controlled cool down of the boiler during shut down. An existing natural gas line is located in Cabin Creek Road adjacent to the project site. No additional facilities would be required. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

Impact 15-6

Fire Protection, Emergency Medical Services, and Police Protection Impacts. While construction and operation of the biomass facility would increase the demand for police and emergency medical services compared to existing service requirements of adjacent facilities, this demand would be minor and would not change the daily operational needs (e.g., staffing or equipment) for the fire, emergency medical response, and police protection agencies. Further, adequate fire protection measures and setbacks would be in place to appropriately minimize fire hazard risks at the site and would not result in the need for expanded fire protection services. Therefore, this would be a less-than-significant impact.

Construction activities and site operations at the biomass facility would increase the demand for police and emergency medical services over existing service requirements of the adjacent facilities. A substantial increase in service calls is not anticipated based on the fire safety systems that are planned for the facility and the relatively small number of workers present on the site (Bena, pers. com. 2012). Further, no new or expanded public services facilities or personnel (e.g., fire stations, police station) would be required as a result of the project.

While stockpiles of biomass material would increase the risk of fire on the project site, the project would be required to include extensive fire protection measures to ensure fire risks are minimized. These measures include fire hydrants with minimum fire flow requirements, automatic sprinkler system, fire alarm system, access, vegetation clearance around facilities, fire extinguishers, and compliance with construction codes and local and national construction standards.

As described in Chapter 16 "Hazardous Materials and Hazards", Placer County's fire and life safety regulations identified in Placer County Code Chapter 9, Article 9.32 include provisions that would prevent wildland fires. The USFS requires a minimum building setback of 30-feet from surrounding properties. A minimum of 50-feet of setback would be provided with the project. Further, as described in the Chapter 3, Project Description, there is the opportunity to implement hazard reduction thinning on national forest land adjacent to the project site to further reduce wildfire potential. Further, as discussed in Chapter 16, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, mitigation has been recommended to prevent the inadvertent combustion of fuel storage piles. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the project would result in the need for expanded fire protection services. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant.**

15.4 MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are necessary.