

3.1.7 Public Services

This section discusses potential impacts to public services, including fire protection, police protection, schools, and parks, resulting from the implementation of the Proposed Project. The analysis is based on the review of existing resources, technical data, and applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines, as well as the following technical report prepared for the Proposed Project:

- *Soitec Solar Portfolio Project, Emergency Service Capabilities Assessment and Cumulative Impact Mitigation report* (Appendix 3.1.7-1)
- *Groundwater Resources Identification and Allocation Plan* (Appendix 3.1.7-2).

For a discussion regarding wildfire hazards and hazards associated with interference with emergency response resulting from implementation of the Proposed Project please refer to Section 3.1.4, Hazards and Hazardous Materials. A discussion on parks and recreation services can be found in Section 3.2.1, Parks and Recreation.

3.1.7.1 Existing Conditions

The Proposed Project would be located in the Mountain Empire Subregion of southeastern San Diego County (County), an approximately 285,000-acre, largely rural, low-density population area. Figure 3.1.7-1, Public Services in the Project Area, depicts the location of the public services identified in the following discussion.

Baseline public services information was obtained through a review of the *Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the East County (ECO) Substation, Tule Wind, and Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-Tie Projects* (CPUC and BLM 2011), the *Soitec Solar Portfolio Project, Emergency Service Capabilities Assessment and Cumulative Impact Mitigation report*, as listed above, as well as several websites as cited below.

3.1.7.1.1 Regional Overview

Fire Protection

As stated in Section 3.1.4, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, the Proposed Project is located in southeastern San Diego County, a rural area with few residents that is also within an area statutorily designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). The very high fire hazard severity designation can be attributed to a variety of factors including highly flammable, dense, drought-adapted chaparral vegetation; seasonal, strong winds; and a Mediterranean climate that results in vegetation drying during the months most likely to experience Santa Ana winds. Santa Ana winds are

winds originating from the Great Basin that create extreme fire weather conditions characterized by low humidity, sustained high speeds, and extremely strong gusts. These conditions can lead to extremely intense and fast moving fires that cannot be contained until winds shift or wane. Additionally, the fire environment in San Diego County is considered one of several areas that are classified as “wildfire corridors” because a large portion of the fuelbed in the County has not burned in 40 years or more (see Appendix 3.1.7-1). Thus, though the project is located in a rural area with few residents where the number of fires is fewer than in a more urban setting, appropriate responses to fires when they do occur is crucial to avoiding catastrophe. (For more information on the existing fire hazard in the project area, refer to Section 3.1.4, Hazards and Hazardous Materials.)

There are several fire stations that are owned and staffed by San Diego County Fire Authority (SDCFA), CalFire, San Diego Rural Fire Protection District (SDRFPD), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) within the Proposed Project area. The Boulevard area is also serviced by the Boulevard Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department (Station 87). Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands within San Diego County are under a Direct Protection Agreement with CalFire, which specifies that CalFire provides fire response resources and is responsible for conducting investigations regarding the recovery of fire suppression costs. BLM firefighting resources include firefighters, engines, dozers, and similar resources. However, BLM’s firefighting resources may respond from greater distances. In southeastern San Diego County, USFS firefighting facilities can be co-located with firefighting operations of other jurisdictions such as CalFire and San Diego County to share resources. During extended wildland fire attack, federal resources can be mobilized throughout the country as necessary (see Appendix 3.1.7-1).

Additionally, the area has a mutual-aid agreement with the Campo Indian Tribe for fire protection services. The Campo Reservation Fire Station is located at 36190 Highway 94 (see Appendix 3.1.7-1).

In summary, Table 3.1.7-1 below lists the local fire stations and the agencies that supply/man them.

Figure 3.1.7-1 includes the locations of the above listed fire stations. The fire emergencies that may occur at the Proposed Project sites would be primarily responded to by SDCFA’s Boulevard Fire Station, which is approximately 5.9 miles north of the Tierra del Sol solar farm site, 2.2 miles south of the Rugged solar farm site, and 1.5 miles west of the LanWest and LanEast solar farm sites. CalFire’s Whitestar Station, which is expected to be moved from its current location at 1684 Tierra del Sol Road to a co-located station with Boulevard Fire Department within 2 years, would be able to provide secondary response. Additional response would be from the SDRFPD’s Lake Morena Fire Station, Jacumba Volunteer Fire Station, and the CalFire Campo Station, as well as from mutual aid resources from throughout the state when necessary. See table 3.1.7-2, Current Call Volumes for the Boulevard Area Fire Stations.

The average SDCFA response travel time to the Proposed Project facilities varies from roughly 3 minutes to 20 minutes from the Boulevard Fire Station to the most remote portions of the various Proposed Project sites. This response is compliant with the General Plan response time and distance requirements for rural land use zoning which would allow in excess of 20 minutes (see Appendix 3.1.7-1).

Emergency medical response cannot be separated from fire protection response services because the first responders to emergency medical responses are usually fire response units. American Medical Response (AMR) San Diego is the contracted ambulance service provider for the Proposed Project area. AMR's closest location within the Proposed Project area is at 1390 Dewey Place in Campo (ARM San Diego 2012). Due to AMR's very large service area, when an AMR unit responds to a call it can be unavailable for additional calls for extended time periods. In addition to AMR, primary medical response is provided by area fire stations (see Appendix 3.1.7-1).

For more information on fire protection in the Proposed Project area and applicable fire protection laws and regulations, see Section 3.1.4, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Appendix 3.1.7-1, *Soitec Solar Portfolio Project, Emergency Service Capabilities Assessment and Cumulative Impact Mitigation*.

Police Protection

Police protection in the Proposed Project area is served by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol (CHP), and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department (Department) provides general patrol and investigative services to several incorporated cities and all unincorporated areas in the County, including the communities of Jacumba and Boulevard. The Department includes approximately 4,000 sworn and professional employees and is responsible for patrolling a service area of approximately 4,200 square miles (San Diego County Sheriff's Department 2012a). The nearest sheriff's office to the Proposed Project sites is located at 39919 Highway 94 in Boulevard. This office, which is a satellite office to the Pine Valley Substation, serves an area over 200-square-miles, and a population of over 2,000 people (San Diego County Sheriff's Office 2012b). Five sherriff's deputies work out of the Boulevard sherriff's office, each having their own patrol car. They patrol for 10-hour daily shifts and, depending on the day, between 2 or 5 of them will be on patrol at the same time. They are required to live in the area, and when their shift is over they remain on-call until the next day's shift begins (McFadden, pers. comm. 2013). The Department is currently meeting response time goals for rural areas at the Boulevard Sherriff's Office (Clough pers. comm., 2013). The next closest sheriff's office substation to the Proposed Project sites is the Campo Substation located at 378 Sheridan Road in Campo (San Diego County Sheriff's Office 2012b).

CBP also maintains a strong presence in southeastern San Diego County. The Boulevard Border Patrol Station, formerly a substation of the Campo Border Patrol Station, is located at 39701 Avenida de Robles Verdes in the unincorporated community of Boulevard. The Boulevard station is responsible for a patrol area of 500 square miles and two eastbound tactical checkpoints (CBP 2012a). The Campo station, located approximately 20 miles west of Jacumba at 32355 Old Highway 80 in Pine Valley, is responsible for securing approximately 13.1 linear miles of the southwest border, patrolling 417.8 square miles of surrounding territory, and maintaining two traffic checkpoints. The station's area of responsibility includes Campo, as well as areas south of Campo to the border, east to Boulevard, and north to Julian (CBP 2012b). CBP Officers at the Boulevard station patrol east of Jewel Valley Road to the County border with Imperial County. CPB Officers at the Campo station patrol from Jewel Valley Road west to Pine Valley Road (Cook 2013). Therefore, the Proposed Project's solar farm sites are located in the patrol areas of both the Campo and Boulevard CPB stations.

CHP separates the state into eight patrol divisions or areas. The Proposed Project area is located within the CHP's Border Division, which is headquartered in the Clairemont Mesa community of San Diego, and maintains 12 area offices. The closest CHP offices to the Proposed Project are located in the cities of El Cajon and El Centro (CHP 2012).

Schools

Public schools and educational facilities are mandated by the State Department of Education and administered by the San Diego County Board of Education and the San Diego County Office of Education. The Mountain Empire Unified School District serves the Proposed Project area, and includes six elementary schools, one senior high school, and three alternative education schools. The District's schools located closest to the Proposed Project sites are listed below in Table 3.1.7-3 and shown on Figure 3.1.7-1.

Other Public Services

Other public services include hospitals and library services.

There are no major hospitals located in southeastern San Diego County. The closest major hospital is Sharp Grossmont Hospital, located approximately 50 miles west of the Proposed Project sites in the City of La Mesa. The El Centro Regional Medical Center, owned by the City of El Centro, is located approximately 50 miles east of the Proposed Project sites in Imperial County (Google 2012).

Several branch libraries of the San Diego County Library System are located in the Mountain Empire Subregion. The Jacumba Branch is located in the community of Jacumba at 44605 Old Highway 80. Nearby branches of the San Diego County Library system include the Campo–

Morena Village branch (located at 31466 Highway 94 in Campo, approximately 12 miles east of Boulevard) and the Potrero branch (located at 24883 Potrero Valley Road in Potrero, approximately 25 miles east of Boulevard) (County of San Diego 2012).

The discussion applies to each of the individual Proposed Project components. For more specific information, refer to Figure 3.1.7-1 and Section 3.1.7.3 below.

3.1.7.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal Regulations

There are no federal regulations, plans, or standards related to public services that are relevant to the Proposed Project.

State Regulations

There are no state regulations, plans, or standards related to public services that are relevant to the Proposed Project. For information on fire protection regulations see Section 3.1.4.2.

Local Regulations

San Diego County General Plan

Updated (and adopted) in August 2011, the San Diego County General Plan guides future growth in the unincorporated areas of the County and considers projected growth anticipated to occur within various communities. The General Plan, in particular the Land Use, Conservation and Open Space, and Safety elements, contain policies which address public services in the County. Policies relevant to public services are listed below.

Land Use Element

- **Policy LU-12.1: Concurrency of Infrastructure and Services with Development.** Require the provision of infrastructure, facilities, and services needed by new development prior to that development, either directly or through fees. Where appropriate, the construction of infrastructure and facilities may be phased to coincide with project phasing.

Safety Element

- **Policy S-3.4 Service Availability.** Plan for development where fire and emergency services are available or planned.
- **Policy S-6.3 Funding Fire Protection Services.** Require development to contribute its fair share towards funding the provision of appropriate fire and emergency medical services as determined necessary to adequately serve the project.

- **Policy S-6.4 Fire Protection Services for Development.** Require that development demonstrate that fire services can be provided that meet the minimum travel times identified in Table S-1 (Travel Time Standards) (20 minutes in the semi-rural and rural land use designations).

Mountain Empire Subregional Plan

The Mountain Empire Subregional Plan (a component of the County General Plan) establishes goals and policies to guide development within the areas of Tecate, Potrero, Boulevard, Campo/Lake Morena, Jacumba, and the Mountain Empire Balance (including the community of Tierra del Sol) which together comprise the Mountain Empire Subregion of southeastern San Diego County. The goals and policies of the Subregional Plan are intended to be more specific than those of the County General Plan as they consider the distinct history, character, and identity of Mountain Empire communities.

The following goal in the Mountain Empire Subregional Plan relates specifically to public services and the Proposed Project.

- **Public Facilities and Services- Policy 4** Uses proposed for property adjacent to substations or transmission line rights-of-way should be reviewed for possible impacts to the power facilities and vice versa.

Boulevard Subregional Planning Area Community Plan

Located within the Mountain Empire Subregion, the Boulevard Subregional Plan Area encompasses approximately 55,350 acres and includes several unincorporated communities including (but not limited to) Boulevard, Live Oak Springs, and Tierra del Sol. The boundary of the Boulevard Subregional Plan Area can be seen on Figure 3.1.7-1. More specific than those of the General Plan, the policies of the Community Plan reflect the critical issues and concerns that are unique to the area which includes protection and maintenance of the rural lifestyle and community character.

The following policies of the Community Plan are associated with public services and therefore would be relevant to the Proposed Project:

- **Policy LU 5.1.1** Seek funding and promote efforts to provide the necessary facilities, infrastructure, and equipment to support the Boulevard Fire and Rescue Department.
- **Policy COS 2.1.1** Seek funding opportunities to acquire a site and construct a multi-purpose community center for Boulevard.
- **Policy S 1.1.1** Seek funding opportunities for year-round staffing of the Cal-Fire and Boulevard Fire and Rescue Department.

- **Policy S 2.1.1** Seek funding opportunities and sponsors to secure emergency supplies and equipment, including emergency generators and adequate and safe fuel storage.

3.1.7.3 Analysis of Project Effects and Determination as to Significance

The Proposed Project consists of four renewable energy solar farms in southeastern San Diego County. The following impact analysis has been separated into discussions for each of the four solar farms: Tierra del Sol, Rugged, LanEast, and LanWest, as well as a combined discussion of the Proposed Project as a whole. For the purposes of this Program EIR, the Tierra del Sol and Rugged solar farms are analyzed at a project level, whereas the LanEast and LanWest solar farms are analyzed at a programmatic level as sufficient project-level data has not been developed at this time.

Guidelines for the Determination of Significance

The County's Guidelines for Determining Significance do not include a section on Public Services. Therefore, for the purpose of this EIR, Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines applies to the direct and indirect impact analysis, as well as the cumulative impact analysis. A significant impact would result if:

- The project results in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or 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 any of the public services:
 - Fire Protection
 - Police Protection
 - Schools
 - Other Public Facilities.

3.1.7.3.1 Fire and Emergency Medical Response Capabilities

Analysis

Tierra del Sol

A direct increase in demand for fire protection services would occur at the Tierra del Sol solar farm site during construction when there is increased activity, there are higher amounts of fuel on the site, and there are a greater number of ignition sources on the site, including humans. Similarly, an increase in the risk of wildland fire would occur during decommissioning, when there is increased

activity and additional ignition sources on the site. Potential ignition sources during construction and decommissioning include chain saws, wood chippers, grinders, torches, earth moving equipment, and other vehicles, that could create sparks, be a source of heat or leak flammable materials, as well as dynamite and blasting materials, compost piles, and other human activities and waste that would increase the possibility of fire. Construction- and decommissioning-related accidents could result in the need for fire protection services, and the presence of large construction vehicles and equipment on area roadways could impede emergency access such that emergency response times may be temporarily affected.

As stated earlier, response times in the area are currently within the County General Plan guideline of 20 minutes for rural use areas (see Appendix 3.1.7-1). Assuming a National Fire Prevention Association standard response-time speed of 35 miles per hour (mph) that considers average terrain, average traffic, weather, and slowing down for intersections, sites within approximately 11 miles could be reached within 20 minutes of the fire station. This standard response time is appropriate for the Tierra del Sol site since the site does not have any characteristics that would be prohibitive for access. Fire emergencies that may occur at the Tierra del Sol solar farm site would be primarily responded to by SDCFA's Boulevard Fire Station, which is located approximately 5.9 miles north, or an approximately 10-minute drive from the station. CalFire's Whitestar Station, which is expected to be moved from its current location on Tierra del Sol Road to a co-located station with Boulevard Fire Department within 2 years, would be able to provide secondary response. Additional response would be from the SDRFPD's Lake Morena Fire Station, the Jacumba Volunteer Fire Station, and the CalFire Campo Station, as well as from mutual aid resources from throughout the County and state, when necessary. As part of the *Soitec Solar Portfolio Project, Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment and Cumulative Impact Mitigation* report prepared by Dudek in December 2013 (included as Appendix 3.1.7-1), several fire scenarios were modeled for the Tierra del Sol solar farm, one of which was a construction phase fire. The analysis found that under a construction phase fire scenario, the current fire response capabilities would be adequate to meet the County standard of 20 minutes first due with an effective fighting force (see Appendix 3.1.7-1). Therefore, the Tierra del Sol solar farm would not result in the need for increased fire protection facilities or services in the area during construction and decommissioning.

Additionally, as noted in Table 1-10, Summary of Project Design Features and Construction Measures, and discussed in Section 2.5, Land Use and Planning, project design features (PDF) **PDF-TR-1** through **PDF-TR-3** would ensure that a Traffic Control Plan and construction notification procedures would be implemented to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow in the area during construction activities. The Traffic Control Plan would be prepared in consultation with the County and would contain project-specific measures for noticing, signage, policy guidelines, and the limitation of lane closures to off-peak hours (although it is noted that no requirement for

roadway or lane closures has been identified). Also, as noted Table 1-10 and discussed in Section 3.14, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, with implementation of **PDF-HZ-2**, a Construction Fire Prevention Plan (CFPP) would be prepared by the applicant, approved by SDCFA and CalFire within a minimum of 45 days prior to the start of construction and decommissioning. The CFPP would identify potential sources of ignition and fuel during construction and decommissioning, and would detail the specific fire-prevention measures and work restrictions that would be employed during construction and decommissioning. These project design features would help to ensure that the project would not require the need for additional fire prevention services and facilities during construction and decommissioning.

During operations and maintenance, sources of ignition at the site are expected to decrease considerably from existing and construction conditions due to the reduced fuels on the site, as well as decrease from construction conditions due to the reduced number of ignition sources on the site. The equipment on the Tierra del Sol site that presents ignition sources during operations includes transformers, capacitors, electric transmission lines (including the associated gen-tie line between the Tierra del Sol solar farm site and the Rebuilt Boulevard Substation), the operations and maintenance building, the substation, vehicles, and small gas- or electric-powered hand tools. All of this equipment represents a risk of sparking or igniting nearby fuels when combined with vegetation, wildlife, vandals, and/or high wind conditions. The site's inverters, solar panels, and trackers represent potential ignition sources that are considered to have low likelihood of causing fires. As discussed in the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment (see Appendix 3.1.7.-1), there is a lack of specific information documenting solar related fire or emergencies, since the category for solar has not been distinguished from electrical or other structure or industrial fires. However, the Riverside County Fire Department reported the incident rate at 3 older technology solar farms to be 30 calls over a 12-year period. Of these 30 calls, 2 were fire calls; all others were medical or hazardous materials responses. The 30 calls equate to 0.83 emergencies per solar facility per year, which represents a very low incident-generation rate.

The Tierra del Sol solar farm would use newer solar technology with no flammable heating oil, and therefore is expected to generate even fewer emergency fire calls. As stated above, response times in the area are currently within the County General Plan guideline of 20 minutes for rural use areas (see Appendix 3.1.7.-1), and the Tierra del Sol site is located within a 10-minute drive from the SDCFA's Boulevard Fire Station. Based on the documented rate of 0.83 emergency calls per year from older technology solar facilities, it can be concluded that, once operational, the Tierra del Sol solar farm would conservatively generate less than one emergency response call annually. The addition of one emergency call annually would not be expected to substantially impact local fire department response times or availability. Additionally, as part of the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, three fire scenarios were modeled for the operational phase of the Proposed Project, including Tierra del Sol, Rugged, LanEast, and

LanWest, that included a Santa Ana wind-influenced fire, an electrical anomaly or electrical motor fire, and a downed power line fire. For each scenario, the number of firefighters, engines, and water tenders needed was modeled. The analysis found that for all three fire scenarios, the current fire response capabilities would be adequate to meet the County standard of 20 minutes first due with an effective fighting force (see Appendix 3.1.7-1).

An indirect increase in demand for fire protection services could occur where a project causes an increase in population, which could then result in increases in fire emergency service calls. In this case, relatively few of the up to approximately 120 construction workers are expected to relocate to the area during construction. Of the employees required during construction and decommissioning, few are expected to temporarily relocate to the area with their families. Therefore, the temporary increase in workers during construction is not expected to cause a substantial increase in fire emergency service calls, such that an increase in fire protection services would be needed. During operations of the Tierra del Sol solar farm, approximately seven employees would be employed. The permanent addition of seven employees (and their families) to the area is not expected to result in a long-term, indirect increase in emergency services calls, such that an increase in fire protection services or facilities would be needed.

Emergency medical response cannot be separated from fire protection response services because the first responders to emergency medical responses are usually fire response units. Emergency medical response incidents increase with increases in population. The local population would temporarily increase by approximately 120 workers during construction and decommissioning of the Tierra del Sol solar farm, and permanently by up to 7 workers and their families during operations. The additional workers and family members could require emergency medical response services. As stated earlier, AMR San Diego is the contracted emergency medical service provider for the San Diego Rural Fire Protection District (AMR San Diego 2012). AMR's closest location within the Tierra del Sol solar farm area is at 1390 Dewey Place in Campo. Due to AMR's very large service area, when an ARM unit responds to a call it can be unavailable for additional calls for extended time periods of at least 30 minutes and up to a few hours or more. Though fire departments respond to emergency medical calls whether AMR is available or not, they are not always considered to have adequate equipment to respond to certain medical emergencies, particularly when there is no paramedic on the engine. Though emergencies requiring ambulances are rare, should two or more such emergencies occur within the same time frame in the Tierra del Sol solar farm area, response times would be impacted. As part of the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, an emergency medical scenario was modeled for the Proposed Project. The analysis found that the current emergency medical response capabilities may not be adequate to meet the applicable 20-minute response time when emergencies occur simultaneously (see Appendix 3.1.7-1). Therefore, the Tierra del Sol project includes the following project design feature which will

ensure that the Tierra del Sol project contributes the equipment and funds listed below to the local fire and emergency response capabilities:

PDF-PS-1 To ensure that the Proposed Project would not impact fire and emergency response capabilities in the area, each project will contribute the following equipment and funds towards local fire and emergency response capabilities per project:

- One Type VI Fire Engine for a total one-time estimated cost of \$190,000; actual costs may be more at the time of the execution of the agreement.
- Annual funding towards one Type VI Fire Engine Replacement for a total cost of \$19,000, with an annual escalator percentage to be determined.
- Annual funding towards one Type VI Fire Engine Maintenance Vehicle cost of \$9,000, with an annual escalator percentage to be determined.
- Annual funding for one Paramedic staff, total estimated annual cost of \$30,000, with an annual escalator percentage to be determined.
- Annual funding of the San Diego County Fire Authority Defensible Space Grant Program, at \$50/megawatt (MW) per final design of executed project. Additional projects would include additional contributions at \$50/MW.

Alternative mitigation measures may be included, such as staffing, equipment, and other elements that are identified in the Emergency Service Capabilities Assessment and Cumulative Impact Mitigation study (Appendix 3.1.7-1).

As described above, there is adequate fire service coverage in the project area, and the Tierra del Sol project would not result in the need for additional fire services. In addition, the Tierra del Sol project would provide a Type VI fire engine (**PDF-PS-1**) to enable responders to more easily reach the project site with a more maneuverable engine. With the funding of a paramedic unit, as included in **PDF-PS-1** above, the Tierra del Sol project would improve the medical response coverage for the project area, and no additional medical emergency response services would be necessary. Therefore, the project would not result in impacts related to the need for expanded or additional facilities; impacts would be **less than significant**.

Rugged

Impacts to fire protection services from the Rugged solar farm would be similar to those discussed above for the Tierra del Sol solar farm. Fire emergencies at the Rugged solar farm would first be responded to by SDCFA's Boulevard Fire Station, which is located approximately 2.2 miles south, or approximately 3.8 minutes away. During construction and

decommissioning, a temporary increase in emergency service calls would result from the increase in activity and fuels on the site. Construction- and decommissioning-related accidents could result in an increased need for fire protection services, and the presence of large construction vehicles and equipment on area roadways could impede emergency access such that emergency response times may be temporarily affected. However, as discussed above and in the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, should a fire occur at the solar farm during construction or decommissioning, assessment of the fire resources in the area indicates that the current fire response capabilities would be adequate to meet the County standard of 20 minutes first due with an effective fighting force (see Appendix 3.1.7-1). Therefore, the Rugged solar farm would not result in the need for increased fire protection facilities or services in the area during construction and decommissioning.

Additionally, as previously described, **PDF-TR-1** through **PDF-TR-3** would ensure that a Traffic Control Plan and construction notification procedures would be implemented by the construction contractor to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow in the area and on the solar farm sites during construction activities. Also, **PDF-HZ-2** would require the applicant to prepare a CFPP, which would detail specific fire-prevention measures that would be employed during construction and decommissioning. These project design features would help to ensure that the project would not require the need for additional fire prevention services and facilities during construction and decommissioning.

Similar to the Tierra del Sol solar farm, the Rugged solar farm, once operational, would conservatively be expected to generate less than one fire emergency response call annually. The addition of one fire emergency call annually would not substantially impact local fire department response times, and would not result in the need for increased fire protection services in the area. Additionally, as discussed above and in the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, should a fire occur at the solar farm during operations, assessment of the fire resources in the area indicates that the current fire response capabilities would be adequate to meet the County standard of 20 minutes first due with an effective fighting force (see Appendix 3.1.7-1). Therefore, the Rugged solar farm would not result in the need for increased fire protection facilities or services in the area during operation.

Construction of the Rugged solar farm is anticipated to require up to approximately 146 temporary employees in the area. Decommissioning is expected to require a similar number of temporary employees. Of the employees required during construction and decommissioning, few are expected to temporarily relocate to the area with their families. Once operational, the Rugged solar farm would require approximately 20 permanent employees who would be expected to reside in the surrounding area. Fire emergencies in the surrounding area would primarily be responded to by SDCFA, CalFire, and the SDRFPD, as well as by the USFS, and the Campo Reservation Fire Station, which are currently well-

positioned, in or near population centers and along the rural road network, to respond to fire emergencies in the area. Both the temporary and permanent increase in population resulting from construction, decommissioning, and operations of the Rugged solar farm are not expected to substantially increase fire service calls, or require the construction of new or expanded facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times.

Emergency medical response cannot be separated from fire protection response services because the first responders to emergency medical responses are usually fire response units. Emergency medical response incidents increase with increases in population. With the increase in the local population, both temporary and permanent due to the Rugged solar farm, an associated increase in the need for emergency medical response capabilities would occur because with only one local emergency medical service provider in the very large service area, any increased demand for services also increases the likelihood that simultaneous medical emergencies would occur and an appropriate response would not be available when needed. As part of the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, an emergency medical scenario was modeled for the Proposed Project. Though the current emergency medical response capabilities may not be adequate to meet the applicable 20-minute response time when emergencies occur simultaneously (see Appendix 3.1.7-1), with the funding of a paramedic unit, as included in **PDF-PS-1** above, the project is not expected to result in the need for additional emergency medical response facilities or services.

As described above, there is adequate fire service coverage in the project area, and the Rugged solar farm would not result in the need for additional fire services. In addition, the Rugged project would provide a Type VI fire engine (**PDF-PS-1**) to enable responders to more easily reach the project site with a more maneuverable engine. With the funding of a paramedic unit, as included in **PDF-PS-1** above, the Rugged project would improve the medical response coverage for the project area, and no additional medical emergency response services would be necessary. Therefore, the project would not result in impacts related to the need for expanded or additional facilities; impacts would be **less than significant**.

LanEast

Impacts to fire protection services from the LanEast solar farm would be similar to those discussed above for the Tierra del Sol solar farm. Fire emergencies at the LanEast solar farm would first be responded to by SDCFA's Boulevard Fire Station, which is located approximately 1.6 miles south or approximately 2.8 minutes away. During construction and decommissioning, a temporary increase in fire emergency service calls would result from the increase in activity and fuels on the site. Construction- and decommissioning-related accidents could result in an increased need for fire protection services, and the presence of large construction vehicles and equipment on area roadways could impede emergency access such that emergency response times may be temporarily affected. However, as discussed above and in the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, should a fire occur at the solar farm during construction or decommissioning, assessment of fire resources in the

area indicates that the current fire response capabilities would be adequate to meet the County standard of 20 minutes first due with an effective fighting force (see Appendix 3.1.7-1). Therefore, the LanEast solar farm would not result in the need for increased fire protection services or facilities in the area during construction and decommissioning.

Additionally, as previously described, **PDF-TR-1** through **PDF-TR-3** would ensure that a Traffic Control Plan and construction notification procedures would be implemented by the construction contractor to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow in the area and on the LanEast solar farm site during construction activities. Also, **PDF-HZ-2** would require the applicant to prepare a CFPP, which would detail specific fire-prevention measures that would be employed during construction and decommissioning. These project design features would help to ensure that the project would not require the need for additional fire prevention services and facilities during construction and decommissioning.

Similar to the Tierra del Sol solar farm, the LanEast solar farm, once operational, would conservatively be expected to generate less than one fire emergency response call annually. The addition of one fire emergency call annually would not substantially impact SDCFA response times and would not result in the need for increased fire protection services in the area. Additionally, as discussed above and in the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, should a fire occur at the solar farm during operations, assessment of fire resources in the area indicates that the current fire response capabilities would be adequate to meet the County standard of 20 minutes first due with an effective fighting force (see Appendix 3.1.7-1). Therefore, the LanEast solar farm would not result in the need for increased fire protection services or facilities in the area during operations.

Construction of the LanEast solar farm is anticipated to require up to approximately 30 temporary employees in the area. Decommissioning is expected to require a similar number of temporary employees. Of the employees required during construction and decommissioning, few are expected to temporarily relocate to the area with their families. Once operational, the LanEast solar farm would require approximately three permanent employees who would be expected to reside in the surrounding area. Both the temporary and permanent increase in population resulting from construction, decommissioning, and operations of the LanEast solar farm are not expected to substantially increase fire emergency service calls or require the construction of new or expanded facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times.

Emergency medical response cannot be separated from fire protection response services because the first responders to emergency medical responses are usually fire response units. Emergency medical response incidents increase with increases in population. With the increase in the local population, both temporary and permanent due to the LanEast solar farm, an associated increase in the need for emergency medical response capabilities would occur. With

only one local emergency medical service provider in the very large service area, any increased demand for services also increases the likelihood that simultaneous medical emergencies would occur and an appropriate response would not be available when needed. As part of the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, an emergency medical scenario was modeled for the Proposed Project. Though the analysis found that the current emergency medical response capabilities may not be adequate to meet the applicable 20-minute response time when emergencies occur simultaneously (see Appendix 3.1.7-1), the LanEast solar farm would similarly include funding for emergency services or paramedic staff, such as that described in **PDF-PS-1** above, and therefore, the project would not result in an increased need for emergency medical response facilities or services.

Overall, for the reasons stated above, and with implementation of project design features such as those described in **PDF-PS-1**, the LanEast solar farm would not result in the need for additional fire or emergency response capabilities, and therefore, would not result in impacts related to the expansion or construction of new facilities. Impacts would be considered **less than significant**.

LanWest

Impacts to fire protection services from the LanWest solar farm would be similar to those discussed above for the Tierra del Sol solar farm. Fire emergencies at the LanWest solar farm would first be responded to by SDCFA's Boulevard Fire Station, which is located approximately 1.5 miles south or approximately 2.6 minutes away. During construction and decommissioning, a temporary increase in fire emergency service calls would result from the increase in activity and ignition sources combined with the high amount of existing fuels on the site. Construction- and decommissioning-related accidents could result in an increased need for fire protection services, and the presence of large construction vehicles and equipment on area roadways could impede emergency access such that emergency response times may be temporarily affected. However, as discussed above and in the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, should a fire occur at the solar farm during construction or decommissioning, assessment of the fire resources in the area indicates that the current fire response capabilities would be adequate to meet the County standard of 20 minutes first due with an effective fighting force (see Appendix 3.1.7-1). Therefore, the LanWest solar farm would not result in the need for increased fire protection services or facilities in the area during construction and decommissioning.

Additionally, as previously described, **PDF-TR-1** through **PDF-TR-3** would ensure that a Traffic Control Plan and construction notification procedures would be prepared by the construction contractor to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow in the area and on the solar farm sites during construction activities. Also, **PDF-HZ-2** would require the applicant to prepare a CFPP, which would detail specific fire-prevention measures that would be employed

during construction and decommissioning. These project design features would help to ensure that the project would not require the need for additional fire prevention services and facilities during construction and decommissioning.

Similar to the Tierra del Sol solar farm, the LanWest solar farm, once operational, would conservatively be expected to generate less than one fire emergency response call annually. The addition of one fire emergency call annually would not substantially impact SDCFA response times and would not result in the need for increased fire protection services in the area. Additionally, as discussed above and in the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, should a fire occur at the solar farm during operations, fire modeling indicates that the current fire response capabilities would be adequate to meet the County standard of 20 minutes first due with an effective fighting force (see Appendix 3.1.7-1).

Construction of the LanWest solar farm is anticipated to require up to approximately 30 temporary employees in the area. Decommissioning is expected to require a similar number of temporary employees. Of the employees required during construction and decommissioning, few are expected to temporarily relocate to the area with their families. Once operational, the LanWest solar farm would require approximately three permanent employees who would be expected to reside in the surrounding area. Both the temporary and permanent increase in population resulting from construction, decommissioning, and operations of the LanWest solar farm are not expected to substantially increase fire emergency service calls or require the construction of new or expanded facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times.

Emergency medical response cannot be separated from fire protection response services because the first responders to emergency medical responses are usually fire response units. Emergency medical response incidents increase with increases in population. With the increase in the local population, both temporary and permanent due to the LanWest solar farm, an associated increase in the need for emergency medical response capabilities would occur. With only one local emergency medical service provider in the very large service area, any increased demand for services also increases the likelihood that simultaneous medical emergencies would occur and an appropriate response would not be available when needed. As part of the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, an emergency medical scenario was modeled for the Proposed Project. Though the analysis found that the current emergency medical response capabilities may not be adequate to meet the applicable 20-minute response time when emergencies occur simultaneously (see Appendix 3.1.7-1), the LanWest solar farm would similarly include funding for emergency services or paramedic staff, such as that described in **PDF-PS-1** above, and therefore, the project is not expected to result in the need for additional emergency medical response facilities or services.

Overall, for the reasons stated above, and with implementation of project design features such as those described in **PDF-PS-1**, the LanWest solar farm would not result in the need for additional fire or emergency response capabilities, and therefore, would not result in impacts related to the expansion or construction of new facilities. Impacts would be considered **less than significant**.

Proposed Project

As previously described, fire emergencies at all four solar farm sites would first be responded to by SDCFA's Boulevard Fire Station, which is located between approximately 1.5 miles and 5.9 miles from the solar farm sites (approximately 2.6 to 10 minutes away). During construction and decommissioning, a temporary increase in emergency service calls would result from the increase in activity and fuels on the site. Construction- and decommissioning-related accidents could result in an increased need for fire protection services, and the presence of large construction vehicles and equipment on area roadways could impede emergency access such that emergency response times may be temporarily affected. However, as discussed above and in the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, should a fire occur at the solar farms during construction or decommissioning, assessment of fire resources in the area indicates that the current fire response capabilities would be adequate to meet the County standard of 20 minutes first due with an effective fighting force (see Appendix 3.1.7-1). Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in the need for increased fire protection services in the area during construction and decommissioning.

Additionally, as previously described, **PDF-TR-1** through **PDF-TR-3** would ensure that a Traffic Control Plan and construction notification procedures would be implemented by the construction contractor to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow in the area and on the solar farm sites during construction activities. Also, **PDF-HZ-1** would require the applicant to prepare a CFPP, which would detail specific fire-prevention measures that would be employed during construction and decommissioning. These project design features would help to ensure that the project would not require the need for additional fire prevention services and facilities during construction and decommissioning.

The Proposed Project, once operational, would conservatively generate up to three fire emergency response calls annually. When compared to the number of calls received by the Boulevard Area Fire Stations annually, as listed in Table 3.1.7-2, the addition of three emergency calls annually would not substantially impact SDCFA response times and would not result in the need for increased fire protection services in the area.

Construction of the Proposed Project would be staggered and is anticipated to require a total of approximately 326 temporary employees in the area. Decommissioning is expected to require a similar number of temporary employees. Of the employees required during construction

and decommissioning, few are expected to temporarily relocate to the area with their families. Once operational, the Proposed Project would require up to 33 permanent employees who would be expected to reside in the surrounding area. The workers and their families would likely reside across the large rural area between Campo and Jacumba and would not constitute a substantial increase in population in the area such that the Proposed Project would substantially increase fire emergency service calls or require the construction of new or expanded facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times because adequate service coverage currently exists.

Emergency medical response cannot be separated from fire protection response services because the first responders to emergency medical responses are usually fire response units. Emergency medical response incidents increase with increases in population. With the increase in the local population, both temporary and permanent due to the Proposed Project, an associated increase in the need for emergency medical response capabilities would occur. With only one local emergency medical service provider in the very large service area, any increased demand for services also increases the likelihood that simultaneous medical emergencies would occur and an appropriate response would not be available when needed. As part of the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, an emergency medical scenario was modeled for the Proposed Project. Although the analysis found that the current emergency medical response capabilities may not be adequate to meet the applicable 20-minute response time when emergencies occur simultaneously (see Appendix 3.1.7-1), with the funding of a paramedic unit (to be located at the Lake Morena Fire Station) and one Type VI Fire Engine for each project to be constructed, as included in **PDF-PS-1** above, the Tierra del Sol and Rugged solar farms are not expected to result in the need for additional emergency medical response facilities or services. Similarly, LanEast and LanWest would provide funding for emergency and fire protection services, and therefore, are not expected to result in the need for additional emergency medical response facilities or services.

Overall, for the reasons stated above, and with implementation of **PDF-PS-1**, the Proposed Project would not result in the need for additional fire or emergency response capabilities, and therefore, the project would not result in impacts related to the need for expanded fire or emergency response facilities. Impacts are considered to be **less than significant**.

3.1.7.3.2 Police Protection

Analysis

Tierra del Sol

Police protection services at the Tierra del Sol solar farm site would primarily be provided by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department office located approximately 5.9 miles north, at 39919

Highway 94 in Boulevard. This office, which is a satellite office to the Pine Valley Substation, serves an area over 200-square-miles and a population of over 2,000 people (San Diego County Sheriff's Office 2012b). The Department is currently meeting response time goals (Cook 2013).

As discussed in Section 1.2.1.1, during construction and decommissioning of the Tierra del Sol solar farm and associated gen-tie line all staging and lay-down areas would be fenced. Once the solar farm is operational, the entire site would be fenced and secured per National Electrical Safety Code (NEESC) standards. Signage in Spanish and English for electrical safety would be placed along the perimeter of the solar farm site and at each gen-tie pole, warning the public of the high voltage and the need to keep out. Signage would also be placed within the solar farm site where appropriate. With these security measures in place, the Tierra del Sol solar farm and gen-tie line are not anticipated to pose a substantial threat of danger to the local population and is not expected to generate a significant number of police response calls. Therefore, construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Tierra del Sol solar farm is not anticipated to generate a need for new or expanded police services or facilities.

During construction and operation of the Tierra del Sol solar farm, the local population would increase, first temporarily by approximately 120 workers, and then permanently by up to 7 workers and their families. These increases of workers in the area are not expected to substantially increase the number of police protection service calls such that new or expanded police facilities or staff would be required to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times because the Department is currently meeting its response time goals and serving a population of over 2,000 permanent residents.

Overall, the Tierra del Sol solar farm site would not result in the need for additional police protective services or facilities, and therefore, would not cause impacts as a result of the need for expanded government facilities. Impacts are therefore considered **less than significant**.

Rugged

The Rugged solar farm would also be primarily served by police protection from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department office located approximately 2.2 miles south, at 39919 Highway 94 in Boulevard. Similar to the Tierra del Sol solar farm, the Rugged solar farm site would also be secured with fencing during construction and operations. Lay-down areas during construction and decommissioning would be fenced, and the entire site would be secured per NEESC standards once operational. With security at the site, the Rugged solar farm is not anticipated to pose a substantial danger to the local population and is not expected to generate a significant number of police response calls. Therefore, construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Rugged solar farm is not anticipated to generate a need for new or expanded police services or facilities.

During construction and operation of the Rugged solar farm, the local population would increase, first temporarily by approximately 226 workers, and then permanently by up to 20 workers and their families. These increases of workers in the area are not expected to substantially increase the number of police protection service calls such that new or expanded police facilities or staff would be required to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times because the Department is currently meeting its response time goals and serving a population of over 2,000 permanent residents.

Overall, the Rugged solar farm site would not result in the need for additional police protective services or facilities, and therefore, would not cause impacts as a result of the need for expanded government facilities. Impacts are therefore considered **less than significant**.

LanEast

Police protection services would be primarily provided to the LanEast site by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department office located approximately 1.6 miles east, at 39919 Highway 94 in Boulevard. The LanEast site is expected to be secured during construction, decommissioning, and operation as the Tierra del Sol and Rugged sites are to be secured. With appropriate fencing, security, and signage, the LanEast solar farm site is not anticipated to pose a substantial danger to the local population and is not expected to generate an increase in the number of police response calls such that expanded police services and facilities would be necessary.

Construction of the LanEast solar farm is anticipated to require up to approximately 30 temporary employees in the area. Decommissioning is expected to require a similar number of temporary employees. Of the employees required during construction and decommissioning, few are expected to temporarily relocate to the area with their families. Once operational, the LanEast solar farm would require approximately three permanent employees who would be expected to reside in the surrounding area. The resulting increases in workers in the area are not expected to substantially increase the number of police protection service calls such that new or expanded police facilities or staff would be required to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times because the Department is currently meeting its response time goals and serving a population of over 2,000 permanent residents.

Overall, the LanEast solar farm site would not result in the need for additional police protective services or facilities, and therefore, would not cause impacts as a result of the need for expanded government facilities. Impacts are therefore considered **less than significant**.

LanWest

Police protection services would be primarily provided to the LanWest site by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department office located approximately 1.5 miles east, at 39919 Highway 94 in Boulevard. The LanWest site is expected to be secured as the Tierra del Sol and Rugged sites

would be during construction, decommissioning, and operation. With appropriate fencing, security, and signage, the LanEast solar farm site is not anticipated to pose a substantial danger to the local population and is not expected to generate an increase in the number of police response calls such that expanded police services and facilities would be necessary.

Construction of the LanWest solar farm is anticipated to require up to approximately 30 temporary employees in the area. Decommissioning is expected to require a similar number of temporary employees. Of the employees required during construction and decommissioning, few are expected to temporarily relocate to the area with their families. Once operational, the LanWest solar farm would require approximately three permanent employees who would be expected to reside in the surrounding area. The resulting increases in workers in the area are not expected to substantially increase the number of police protection service calls such that new or expanded police facilities or staff would be required to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times because the Department is currently meeting its response time goals and serving a population of over 2,000 permanent residents.

Overall, the LanWest solar farm site would not result in the need for additional police protective services or facilities, and therefore, would not cause impacts as a result of the need for expanded government facilities. Impacts are therefore considered **less than significant**.

Proposed Project

Police protection services at the solar farm sites would primarily be provided by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department office located at 39919 Highway 94 in Boulevard. This office, which is a satellite office to the Pine Valley Substation, serves an over 200-square-mile area and a population of over 2,000 people (San Diego County Sheriff's Office 2012b).

As discussed above, all of the solar farms would be secured during construction and operation and are not anticipated to generate a significant number of police response calls. Construction of the Proposed Project is anticipated to require up to approximately 326 temporary employees in the area. Once operational, the Proposed Project would require up to 33 permanent employees who would be expected to reside in the surrounding area. The workers and their families would likely reside across the large rural area between Campo and Jacumba and would not constitute a substantial increase in population in the area such that the Proposed Project would substantially increase police service calls or require the construction of new or expanded facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times because the Department is currently meeting its response time goals and serving a population of over 2,000 permanent residents. Since the project would not result in the need for expanded police facilities, impacts are therefore considered to be **less than significant**.

3.1.7.3.3 Schools

Analysis

Tierra del Sol

The demand for new or expanded school facilities and services is determined by permanent increases to the local population. Solar farms do not include housing, and therefore, would not directly cause an increase in population that would require new or expanded schools. Workers would be required during construction and decommissioning activities. However, due to the temporary nature of construction and decommissioning, few workers are anticipated to temporarily relocate their families to the area and enroll their children in area schools. During operation of the Tierra del Sol solar farm, the local population would increase by up to seven workers and their families. Not all employees are anticipated to have school-age children, though some may have more than one child in school. A conservative estimate of an additional seven students attending local schools as a result of the project would represent a 1% increase over existing attendance. Additionally, not all new employees are anticipated to reside in the immediate project area within the local school district's jurisdiction. This increase in the local population is, therefore, not expected to cause a sizeable increase in school-age children who would require new or expanded school facilities in the area. Impacts resulting from new school facilities or expansions of existing school facilities are considered **less than significant**.

Rugged

Similar to the Tierra del Sol solar farm, the Rugged solar farm would also not include a housing component, and therefore, would not directly cause an increase in population that would require new or expanded schools. Workers would be required during construction and decommissioning activities. However, due to the temporary nature of construction and decommissioning, few workers are anticipated to temporarily relocate their families to the area and enroll their children in area schools. During operation of the solar farm, the local population would increase by up to 20 workers and their families. Not all employees are anticipated to have school-age children, though some may have more than one child in school. A conservative estimate of an additional 20 students attending local schools as a result of the project would represent a 2.8% increase over existing attendance. Additionally, not all new employees are anticipated to reside in the immediate project area within the local school district's jurisdiction. This increase in the local population is, therefore, not expected to cause a sizeable increase in school-age children who would require new or expanded school facilities in the area. Impacts resulting from new school facilities or expansions of existing school facilities are considered **less than significant**.

LanEast

Similar to the Tierra del Sol and Rugged solar farms, the LanEast solar farm would also not include a housing component, and therefore would not directly result in an increase in school-age children in the area. Due to the temporary nature of construction and decommissioning, few workers at the site would be expected to temporarily relocate their families to the area and enroll their children in area schools. Once operational, the solar farm would employ up to three people who would be expected to live in the surrounding area. Not all employees are anticipated to have school-age children, though some may have more than one child in school. A conservative estimate of an additional three students attending local schools as a result of the project would represent a 0.5% increase over existing attendance. Additionally, not all new employees are anticipated to reside in the immediate project area within the local school district's jurisdiction. This increase in the local population is therefore not expected to cause a sizeable increase in school-age children who would require new or expanded school facilities in the area. Impacts resulting from new school facilities or expansions of existing school facilities are considered **less than significant**.

LanWest

Similar to the Tierra del Sol and Rugged solar farm projects, the LanWest solar farm would also not include a housing component, and therefore would not directly result in an increase in school-age children in the area. Due to the temporary nature of construction and decommissioning, few workers at the site would be expected to temporarily relocate their families to the area and enroll their children in area schools. Once operational, the solar farm would employ up to three people who would be expected to live in the surrounding area. Not all employees are anticipated to have school age children, though some may have more than one child in school. A conservative estimate of an additional three students attending local schools as a result of the project would represent a 0.5% increase over existing attendance. This increase in the local population is, therefore, not expected to cause a sizeable increase in school-age children who would require new or expanded school facilities in the area. Impacts resulting from new school facilities or expansions of existing school facilities are considered **less than significant**.

Proposed Project

As discussed above, the four proposed solar farms would not include a housing component, and therefore would not directly result in an increase in school-age children in the area. Due to the temporary nature of construction and decommissioning, few workers at the sites would be expected to temporarily relocate their families to the area and enroll their children in area schools. Once operational, the solar farms would employ up to 33 people who would be expected to live in the surrounding area. Not all employees are anticipated to have school-

age children, though some may have more than one child in school. Additionally, not all new employees are anticipated to reside in the immediate project area within the local school district's jurisdiction. A conservative estimate of an additional 33 students attending local schools as a result of the project would represent a 4.6% increase over existing attendance. This increase in the local population is, therefore, not expected to cause a sizeable increase in school-age children who would require new or expanded school facilities in the area. Impacts resulting from new school facilities or expansions of existing school facilities are considered **less than significant**.

3.1.7.3.4 Other Public Services

Analysis

Tierra del Sol

Other public services include hospital and library services. During construction, decommissioning, and operation of the Tierra del Sol project, the local population would temporarily increase by approximately 120 workers during construction and decommissioning, and permanently increase by up to 7 workers and their families during operations. The additional workers and family members could visit local healthcare facilities or libraries. Few of the temporary workers needed during construction and decommissioning activities are expected to relocate their families to the area. Additionally, during operations, the Tierra del Sol solar farm would cause an indirect permanent increase in the local population of up to seven families. The increase in workers to the area is not substantial and is not expected to cause an indirect increase in demand for other public services or facilities. Therefore, impacts as a result of new or expanded other public services or facilities would be **less than significant**.

Rugged

Similar to the Tierra del Sol solar farm, during construction and operation of the Rugged solar farm the local population would increase, first temporarily by approximately 146 workers, and then permanently by up to 20 workers and their families. Decommissioning activities would require a number of employees similar to during construction. The additional workers and their families are not expected to cause an increase in demand for other public services such that new or expanded facilities or services would be necessary. Therefore, impacts as a result of new or expanded other public services or facilities would be **less than significant**.

LanEast

As discussed above, since the solar farm would not include a housing component, it would not directly cause an increase in population that would cause an increase in demand for other public

services. Construction of the LanEast solar farm is anticipated to require up to approximately 30 temporary employees in the area. Decommissioning is expected to require a similar number of temporary employees. Of the employees required during construction and decommissioning, few are expected to temporarily relocate to the area with their families. Once operational, the LanWest solar farm would require up to three permanent employees who would be expected to reside in the surrounding area. The additional workers and their families are not expected to cause an increase in demand for public services such that new or expanded public services or facilities would be necessary. Therefore, impacts as a result of new or expanded other public services or facilities would be **less than significant**.

LanWest

As discussed above, since the solar farm would not include a housing component, it would not directly cause an increase in population that would cause an increase in demand for other public services. Construction of the LanWest solar farm is anticipated to require up to approximately 30 temporary employees in the area. Decommissioning is expected to require a similar number of temporary employees. Of the employees required during construction and decommissioning, few are expected to temporarily relocate to the area with their families. Once operational, the LanWest solar farm would require up to three permanent employees who would be expected to reside in the surrounding area. The additional workers and their families are not expected to cause an increase in demand for public services such that new or expanded public services or facilities would be necessary. Therefore, impacts as a result of new or expanded other public services or facilities would be **less than significant**.

Proposed Project

As discussed above, since the solar farms would not include a housing component, they would not directly cause an increase in population that would result in increased demand for other public services. During construction, decommissioning, and operation, the Proposed Project would cause an increase in the local population. The additional workers and their families are also not considered substantial such that they would be expected to cause an increase in demand for other public services requiring new or expanded services or facilities. Therefore, impacts as a result of new or expanded other public services or facilities would be **less than significant**.

3.1.7.4 Cumulative Impact Analysis

The geographic extent for the analysis of cumulative impacts associated with public services consists of southeastern San Diego County. This geographic extent is appropriate because public services are provided by local jurisdictions or districts. Cumulative impact analysis for public

services has been conducted using the projects in Table 1-12 and Figure 1-12 in Chapter 1.0, Project Description.

Past development and population growth within southeastern San Diego has impacted the provision of public services and facilities. As the area becomes increasingly developed and the permanent population grows, increased demand is placed on the existing public service system, which can become overwhelmed. As discussed above, southeastern San Diego consists of several small rural communities spread out over a wide geographic area that are generally served by local volunteer and state fire departments, and County law enforcement agencies.

3.1.7.4.1 Fire and Emergency Medical Response Capabilities

The list of cumulative projects includes several other renewable energy projects and transmission projects which would contribute to incremental but small increases in population growth in the area similar to the Proposed Project. The list of cumulative projects also includes several proposed residential subdivisions of various sizes and densities, casinos and resorts/camps, some commercial projects, Border Patrol facilities, and several communication towers. These projects would contribute to an increased need for fire protection services in the area due to the increase of human activity, ignition sources (such as electrical equipment or transmission lines), and combustible fuel in the area.

As previously discussed, the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in permanent population (up to 33 permanent workers at all four solar farm sites and their families) and would result in a minimal contribution to existing and anticipated cumulative effects on fire protection services. The Proposed Project would also result in an increase in construction and decommissioning workers in the area (up to approximately 326 workers total, although no more than 266 workers would be in the area at one time since construction of all four solar farms would not overlap). However, the additional construction and decommissioning workers would be temporary, as would the construction and decommissioning workers for other area projects. Additionally, construction and decommissioning of all reasonably foreseeable cumulative projects would not necessarily occur concurrently with the construction of the Proposed Project. Three of the renewable energy cumulative projects, namely the Tule Wind project, ECO Substation project, and Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Transmission Line project, may overlap with the Proposed Project during certain phases, which could result in a temporary cumulative increase in construction workers in the area that may increase demand for fire protection services associated with fire emergency response calls such that service ratios or response times would be substantially impacted. However, per **PDF-PS-1**, the Tierra del Sol and Rugged solar farms would each contribute equipment and funds toward local fire response capabilities. With implementation of **PDF-PS-1**, service coverage in the project area would be improved, and the Proposed Project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact related to the need for new or expanded facilities.

As discussed previously, emergency medical response cannot be separated from fire protection response services because the first responders to emergency medical responses are usually fire response units. Emergency medical response incidents increase with increases in population. With the increase in the local population, both temporary and permanent due to the Proposed Project and cumulative projects, an associated increase in the need for emergency medical response capabilities would occur. As part of the Emergency Services Capabilities Assessment, an emergency medical scenario was modeled for the Proposed Project and indicated that, due to the limited ambulance service in the area (only one ambulance located in Campo that serves the project area), if more than one medical emergency were to occur simultaneously the ambulance response time for the second (or any emergency after the first) would not meet the County standard for rural areas (20-minute response time when emergencies occur simultaneously (see Appendix 3.1.7-1)). If overlap of the construction schedule occurs with other cumulative projects, emergency response capabilities may be further degraded. However, with implementation of **PDF-PS-1**, which would contribute equipment and funding towards fire and emergency response services, including annual funding for paramedic staff, funding for two new fire engines, and annual funding towards new fire engines and maintenance of fire engines, the Proposed Project would improve emergency response times in the area and would not contribute to a cumulatively significant impact associated with the need for new or expanded emergency services. No new or expanded fire or emergency medical facilities would be required; cumulative impacts would be **less than significant**.

3.1.7.4.2 Police Protection

As discussed above, the list of cumulative projects includes several other renewable energy projects and transmission projects which would contribute to incremental increases in population growth in the area similar to the Proposed Project. The list of cumulative projects also includes several proposed residential subdivisions of various sizes and densities, casinos, resorts/camps, some commercial projects, and Border Patrol facilities. The proposed residential projects, casinos, and resorts/camps would have the greatest potential impacts on police protection services in the area, and would be considered cumulatively significant. The other cumulative projects, including the other renewable energy and transmission projects and Border Patrol facilities, would not contribute substantially to cumulative impacts to police protection services, as these projects, similar to the Proposed Project, do not include permanent or temporary housing components that would cause direct permanent or temporary increases in population. While the majority of the cumulative projects would undergo environmental review, and would be required to demonstrate compliance with CEQA and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) prior to project approval, they would incrementally increase the need for police services, which would have the potential to result in a significant cumulative impact.

Construction and decommissioning (where applicable) of the cumulative projects would be temporary. Construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Project is anticipated to require

up to approximately 326 temporary employees in the area, with a maximum of 266 at one time. Of the employees required during construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Project, few are expected to temporarily relocate to the area with their families. The temporary increase in population resulting from construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Project is not expected to substantially increase police service calls, or require the construction of new or expanded facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times. Construction of cumulative renewable energy projects such as the Tule Wind project, ECO Substation project, and ESJ U.S. Transmission Line project, may overlap with the Proposed Project during certain phases. However, demands placed on local police services would be short-term, intermittent, and would not require the construction and/or expansion of facilities.

Once operational, the Proposed Project would require up to 33 permanent employees who would be expected to reside in the surrounding area. A number of these full-time permanent employees would likely come from the existing population in the area, while others would relocate to the project area. The addition of up to 33 employees and their potential families to the area is a small contribution to the area, compared to the contribution of new employees or residents from the cumulative projects listed in Table 1-12. Sufficient existing housing stock is available in the project area to accommodate the potential indirect increase in population in the area caused by the Proposed Project. Though cumulative impacts resulting from the need for expanded police protection services and facilities due to the combined increase in population in the area from the cumulative projects is considered potentially significant, the Proposed Project's contribution **would not be cumulatively considerable**.

3.1.7.4.3 Schools

As discussed above, the Proposed Project would not include a residential component or directly result in an increase in school-age children in the area, and therefore would not directly impact schools. Construction schedules of cumulative projects, such as the Tule Wind project, ECO Substation project, and ESJ U.S. Transmission Line project, may overlap with the Proposed Project during certain phases. However, temporary construction workers are not expected to relocate to an area with their families, and therefore, are not expected to cause substantial increases in demand for schools in the area.

Once operational, the Proposed Project would require up to 33 permanent employees, some of whom may already reside in the project area and some of whom may relocate to the project area. Similarly, many of the cumulatively considered projects would also result in new employment opportunities in the project area. Overall, the addition of up to 33 employees and their potential families is a small contribution to the area and is not expected to result in a need for new or expanded school facilities.

Therefore, the Proposed Project's indirect impacts would not result in the need for new or expanded school facilities during construction, decommissioning, and operation, and therefore, **would not be cumulatively considerable**.

3.1.7.4.4 Other Public Services

During construction, decommissioning, and operation of the Proposed Project, the local population would increase temporarily by approximately 326 workers during construction and decommissioning, and permanently by up to 33 workers and their families during operation. The potential increase in population in the area would be served by the nearest healthcare centers, hospitals, and libraries as described above in Section 3.1.7.1.2. The closest hospital, Sharp Grossmont Hospital, is located in the City of La Mesa, where it currently services a large suburban population. The additional population in the hospital's service area from the Proposed Project and other cumulative projects is not expected to overwhelm the hospital such that expanded services or facilities would be necessary.

Impacts to library services are considered when a project adds permanent residential population to an area. Library services in the area would not be directly impacted by the Proposed Project, since the Proposed Project would not add housing and therefore would not directly add permanent population requiring expanded library services. Once operational, the Proposed Project would require up to 33 permanent employees who would be expected to reside in the surrounding area and which represent an indirect increase in permanent population to the area. This increase is partially offset by the loss of the Proposed Project's 1,490-acre sites as potential residential development in the area. Similarly, many of the cumulatively considered projects would also result in the permanent conversion of large properties to renewable energy sites that could otherwise have been developed with residences. A number of the full-time permanent employees associated with the Proposed Project, as well as the renewable energy and other non-residential development projects listed in Table 1-12 would likely come from the existing population in the area, while some of them are likely to reside in the cumulative residential projects listed in Table 1-12. Overall, the potential indirect increase in population in the area caused by the Proposed Project would reside in existing house or new residential housing, which would have separate permit and environmental review and approval processes through which impacts related to necessary new or expanded library services or facilities would be addressed and mitigated if necessary.

Therefore, for the reasons stated above, the Proposed Project's impacts relating to the expansion of or addition of new other public services **would not be cumulatively considerable**.

3.1.7.5 Conclusion

With implementation of **PDF-TR-1** through **PDF-TR-3** (requiring site-specific Traffic Control Plans and construction notification procedures), **PDF-HZ-2** (requiring site-specific CFPPs), and **PDF-PS-1** (requiring Tierra del Sol and Rugged solar farms to each contribute equipment and funding to Fire and Emergency Medical Response capabilities), impacts related to the need for expanded or new public services or facilities would be **less than significant**.

**Table 3.1.7-1
Primary Study Area Fire Resources**

Station	Location	Staffing	Apparatus
SDCFA Boulevard, Station 87	39923 Old Highway 94 (Old Highway 80 and Ribbonwood), Boulevard	Two stipend firefighters	Engines: one Type 1, two Type 11, one Type 111; one 2,500-gallon water tender
CalFire Whitestar Fire Station	1684 Tierra del Sol Road, Boulevard	Captain, two firefighters (three during fire season), one battalion chief, one hand crew	One Type 111 engine; one dozer
SDRFPD Jacumba Fire Station	255 Jacumba Street, Jacumba	Two stipend firefighters	Engines: One Type 111, one Type 1; one 1,500-gallon water tender
SDRFPD Lake Morena Fire Station	29690 Oak Drive, Campo	Captain, two firefighters, one reserve	Paramedic Assessment Engine (Type I)
Campo Indian Reservation	36210 Church Road, Campo	Varies	Engines: one Type 1, one Type 111; one aerial ladder truck
CalFire McCain Valley Prison Camp	2550 McCain Valley Road, Boulevard	30 firefighters from the camp, typically used for wildland fires, flood control, and community projects	Two Emergency Crew Transport Vehicles
Calfire Campo ^a	31577 Highway 94, Campo	Two to six firefighters depending on the season	Two engines and one pickup truck
Campo Volunteer Fire Station ^b	437 Jeb Stuart Road, Campo	22 volunteer fire fighters	One type 1 engine, one patrol, one squad car, one water tender
USFS	Cameron, Cottonwood, or Glenciff	Four firefighters per company in season	Two Type III engines
BLM	No local fire resources	N/A	N/A

Sources: See Appendix 3.1.7-1.

^a Johnson, pers. comm. 2013.

^b Shoemaker, pers. comm. 2013.

**Table 3.1.7-2
Current Call Volumes for Boulevard Area Fire Stations**

Station	Annual Calls	Annual Calls
Boulevard Fire Station	379	1.03
Jacumba Volunteer Fire Station	169	0.46
CalFire Whitestar	311	0.85
Total	859	2.35

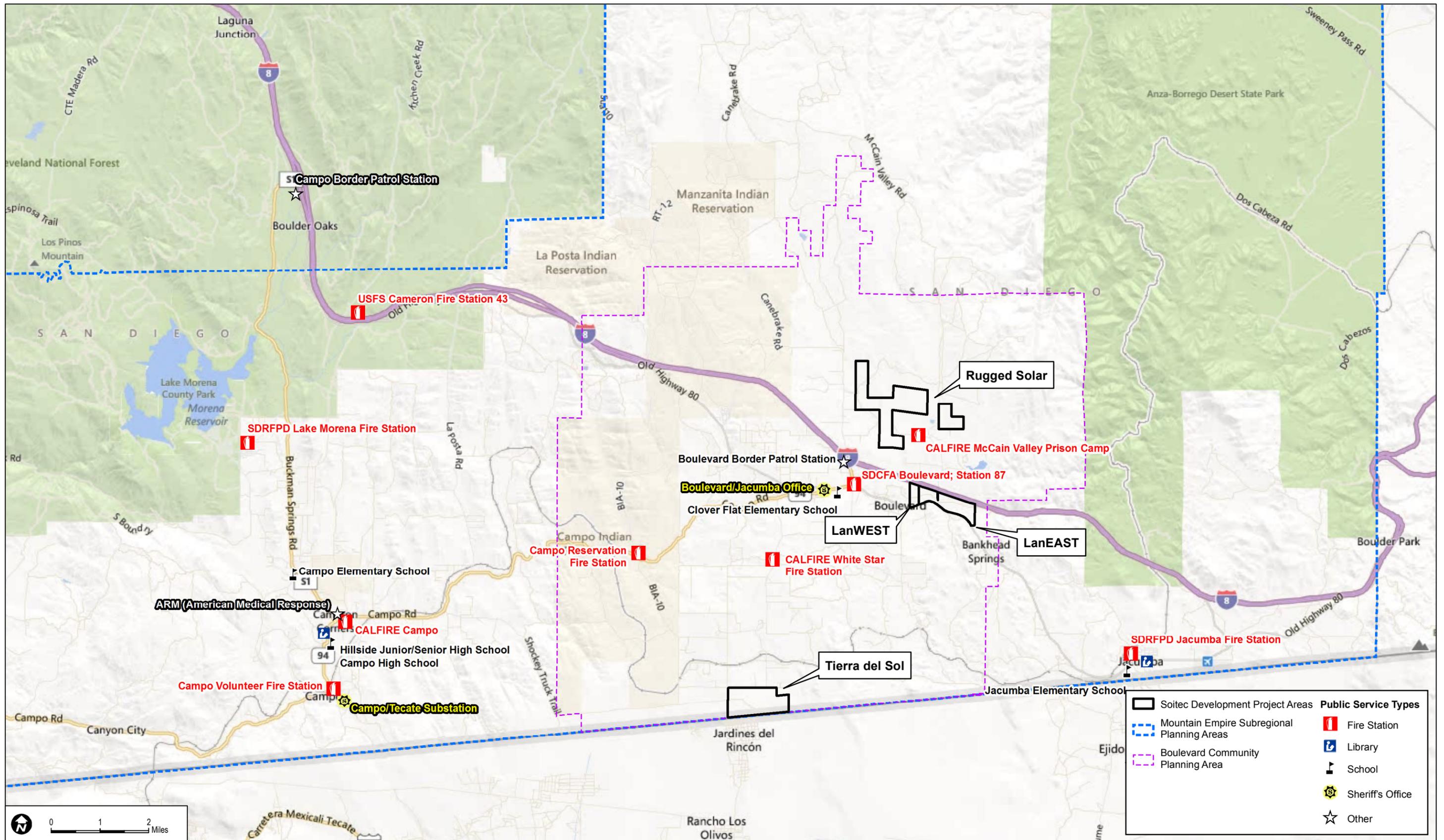
Source: See Appendix 3.1.7-1.

**Table 3.1.7-3
Area Schools**

School	Grades	Address	Number of Students 2010–2011 School Year
Campo Elementary School	K-8	1654 Buckman Springs, Campo	425
Campo High School	9-12	31360 Highway 94, Campo	36
Clover Flat Elementary School	2-8	39639 Old Highway 80, Boulevard	160
Hillside Junior/Senior High	7-12	31360 Highway 94, Campo	41
Jacumba Elementary School	K-1	44343 Old Highway 80, Jacumba	57

Source: Mountain Empire Unified School District 2012.

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Public Service Types	
	Soitec Development Project Areas
	Mountain Empire Subregional Planning Areas
	Boulevard Community Planning Area
	Fire Station
	Library
	School
	Sheriff's Office
	Other

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