

**Section 5.14**  
**ELECTRICITY**

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## 5.14 ELECTRICITY

This section addresses the potential impacts of the proposed project with regard to electricity consumption during construction and operation. The analysis identifies the utility that provides electricity services to the project site, describes the existing consumption of electricity at the site, indicates the nature and location of related infrastructure in the local area, and estimates the electricity demands of the proposed project at buildout.

### 5.14.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### ELECTRICITY

##### **Regulatory Framework**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates investor-owned electric power and natural gas utility companies in the State of California. Assembly Bill 1890, enacted in 1996, deregulated the power generation industry, allowing customers to purchase electricity on the open market. Under deregulation, the production and distribution of power that was under the control of investor-owned utilities (e.g., Southern California Edison) was decoupled.

All new construction in the State of California is subject to the energy conservation standards set forth in Title 24, Part 6, Article 2 of the California Administrative Code. These are prescriptive standards that establish maximum energy consumption levels for the heating and cooling of new buildings.

The utilization of alternative energy applications in development projects (including the proposed project), while encouraged, is not required as a development condition. Such applications may include installation of photovoltaic solar panels, active solar water heating systems, or integrated pool deck water heating systems, all of which serve to displace consumption of conventional energy sources (i.e., electricity and natural gas). Incentives, primarily in the form of state and federal tax credits, as well as reduced energy bills, provide a favorable basis for individual builders, property owners, and occupants to install such alternative energy systems.

##### **Electricity Supply and Demand**

Southern California Edison (SCE), a division of Edison International, currently provides electricity service in the project area. Edison facilities include a hydropower and nuclear power facilities and one coal-powered facility: the Big Creek Hydroelectric Plant, the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), and the Mojave Generating Station. SCE maintains and operates transmission and distribution infrastructure to provide purchased power to end users throughout its service area.



According to the California Energy Commission (CEC), SCE is projected to deliver 100.8 million megawatt-hours (MWh) to its customers during 2004.<sup>1</sup> By 2010, SCE's demand is expected to increase to 113.1 million MWh.<sup>2</sup>

In 2004, the HMNMH campus generated a demand for approximately 7,848 MWh of electricity; or equivalent to 23.3 kWh per square foot per year (kWh/s.f./year). This represented approximately 0.007 percent of SCE's electricity deliveries in 2004.

### 5.14.2 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD CRITERIA

Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* contains the Initial Study Environmental Checklist form used during preparation of the project Initial Study, which is contained in Appendix A of this EIR. The Initial Study includes questions relating to electrical service and facilities. The issues presented in the Initial Study Checklist have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this Section. Accordingly, a project may create a significant environmental impact if the following occurs:

- ◆ The project would create demands on electricity supply and infrastructure which exceed the capacity of the utility serving the project site.

Based on this standard, the effects of the proposed project have been categorized as either a "less than significant impact" or a "potentially significant impact." Mitigation measures are recommended for potentially significant impacts. If a potentially significant impact cannot be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of mitigation, it is categorized as a significant unavoidable impact.

### 5.14.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- ◆ **DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH PHASE 1 OF THE PROPOSED MASTER PLAN WOULD INCREMENTALLY INCREASE DEMANDS ON ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES AND DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE.**

*Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation:* Less Than Significant Impact.

*Impact Analysis:* Upon completion of Phase 1, the HMNMH facility would require approximately 4,696 MWh per year more of electricity for a total demand of 12,544 MWh per year, as shown in *Table 5.14-1, Project Electricity Consumption*. In order to provide a conservative analysis, the demand for electricity by buildout of Phase 1 (Year 2007) has been compared to Year 2004 demand. As previously discussed, the total electricity provided in 2004 was 100.8 million MWh of electricity. The increase of 4,696 MWh of electricity would only total approximately 0.005 percent of the electricity provided in 2004.

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1 California Energy Commission. California Energy Demand 2000-2010. Technical Report to California Energy Outlook 2000. Docket #99-CEO-1. June 2000.  
2 *Ibid.*



According to SCE, there are 16 kilovolt (kV) lines that extend underground along McBean Parkway that serve the HMNMH campus. These existing pipelines are considered adequate to serve the project's increased electricity demands. The electrical loads of the proposed project are within the parameters of projected load growth, which SCE is planning to meet in the area.<sup>3</sup> All on-site electricity lines would be installed to serve proposed uses, at the expense of the project applicant. No other improvements related to electricity are necessary.

**Table 5.14-1  
Project Electricity Consumption**

Land Use	Development Statistics	Consumption Factor <sup>1</sup>	Electricity Consumption
Existing HMNMH Campus	332.992 k.s.f.	23.3 kWh/s.f./year	7,759 MWh/year
Phase 1	538.355 k.s.f.	23.3 kWh/s.f./year	12,544 MWh/year
Phase 2	650.355 k.s.f.	23.3 kWh/s.f./year	15,153 MWh/year
Buildout of HMNM Plan	916.611 k.s.f.	23.3 kWh/s.f./year	21,357 MWh/year
k.s.f. = thousand square feet kWh = kilowatt-hour s.f. = square feet MWh = Megawatt-hour			
<sup>1</sup> Consumption factors from South Coast Air Quality Management District <i>CEQA Air Quality Handbook</i> (April 1993).			

Although the proposed project would create additional demands on electricity supplies and distribution infrastructure, these demands are well within the service capabilities of SCE. Thus, impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

*Mitigation Measures:* No mitigation measures are required.

*Level of Significance After Mitigation:* Not applicable.

- ◆ **DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH PHASE 2 OF THE PROPOSED MASTER PLAN WOULD INCREMENTALLY INCREASE DEMANDS ON ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES AND DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE.**

*Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation:* Less Than Significant Impact.

Upon completion of Phase 2, the HMNMH facility would require 7,305 MWh more of electricity per year for a total demand of 15,153 per year of electricity; refer to *Table 5.14-1*. Since electricity demand has not been estimated yet for Phase 2 buildout (Year 2015) and in order to provide a conservative analysis, total demand for the Phase 2 has been compared to the demand estimated for Year 2010. The total electricity demand for Phase 2 development would only equal 0.006 percent of the 2010 demand (7,305 MWh of 113.1 million MWh). Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

*Mitigation Measures:* No mitigation measures are required.

*Level of Significance After Mitigation:* Not applicable.

<sup>3</sup> Per written communications with Joe Montoya, Customer Service Planner with Southern California Edison on September 13, 2004.



- ◆ **DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH BUILDOUT OF THE PROPOSED MASTER PLAN WOULD INCREMENTALLY INCREASE DEMANDS ON ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES AND DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE.**

*Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation:* Less Than Significant Impact.

*Impact Analysis:* Upon buildout of the proposed HMNMH Master Plan, the HMNMH facility would require 13,509 MWh more of electricity per year for a total demand of 21,357 MWh per year of electricity; refer to Table 5.14-1. Since electricity demand has not been estimated yet for Year 2030 (project buildout) and in order to provide a conservative analysis, total demand for the proposed project has been compared to the demand estimated for Year 2010. Upon buildout of the proposed HMNMH Master Plan (Year 2030), the total electricity demand would only equal 0.02 percent of the 2010 demand (21,357 MWh of 113.1 million MWh). Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

*Mitigation Measures:* No mitigation measures are required.

*Level of Significance After Mitigation:* Not applicable.

#### **5.14.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

- ◆ **DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER CUMULATIVE PROJECTS IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY, WOULD INCREMENTALLY INCREASE DEMANDS ON ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES AND DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE.**

*Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation:* Less Than Significant Impact.

*Impact Analysis:* Development of the proposed project and related cumulative projects would result in the consumption of approximately 224,232 MWh of electricity per year (refer to Appendix C for cumulative electricity consumption calculations). As previously discussed, SCE deliveries are expected to be 113.1 million MWh per year by 2010. As such, the cumulative electricity demand would represent 0.20 percent of SCE's annual power deliveries.

It is expected that the electrical loads of the proposed project and related projects are within the parameters of projected load growth, which SCE is planning to meet in the area. All electricity lines and other system improvements would be installed, in whole or in part, at the expense of development project applicants, and would serve to avoid adverse impacts to the electricity distribution system.

Although the proposed project and related cumulative projects would create additional demands on electricity supplies and distribution infrastructure, these demands are well within the service capabilities of SCE. Thus, cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

*Mitigation Measures:* No mitigation measures are required.



*Level of Significance After Mitigation:* Not applicable.

### **5.14.5 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS**

Implementation of the proposed project (Phase 1, Phase 2, and buildout) would not result in any significant unavoidable electricity demand impacts with the imposition of the recommended mitigation measures. As such, no significant unavoidable impacts would result from implementation of the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital Master Plan.



Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital  
Master Plan  
Program Environmental Impact Report

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