4.9 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Note: After the Draft EIR was released, the applicant chose to remove the car wash facilities from the Project site, and use of the car wash area is no longer part of the proposal. All references to future use of the car wash area have been removed from the project description and the impact analysis.

This section focuses on the availability of water supplies for the fire protection system and solid waste disposal. Other utilities and service systems (e.g., water and wastewater treatment and stormwater drainage) are not addressed in this section because they would not be affected by the Project. Repaving the hammerhead turnaround~~/car wash area~~ would not affect utilities and service systems.

4.9.1 Existing Conditions

4.9.1.1 Water Supplies

The Project would be served by Goleta Water District (GWD), which is the water purveyor for the City of Goleta. The service area encompasses approximately 29,000 acres and includes the City of Goleta, University of California, and Santa Barbara Airport (City of Santa Barbara property); the remainder of the service area is located in unincorporated Santa Barbara County. According to GWD's 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (2010 UWMP)[1] (GWD 2011), GWD provides water service to approximately 86,950 residents through a distribution system that includes over 270 miles of pipeline, as well as eight reservoirs ranging in individual capacity from 0.3 million gallons to over 6 million gallons. GWD has a total combined storage capacity of approximately 20.2 million gallons.

GWD draws its water supply from four sources. Surface water from Lake Cachuma is GWD's primary water supply. GWD has an entitlement of 9,322 acre-feet per year (AFY) (not including "spill water"), although the actual amount available depends on hydrologic conditions. GWD also receives surface water from the State Water Project (SWP), from which it has a maximum contracted amount of 4,500 AFY, plus a drought buffer amount of 450 AFY and 2,500 AFY of special drought buffer from DWR. The SAFE Ordinance, however, (see Section 4.9.3, Regulatory Framework) requires that, for planning purposes, 3,800 AFY of SWP deliveries is considered the maximum amount expected in a normal year. Thus, the 2010 UWMP assumes that 3,800 AFY is available in a normal year during the planning period. The actual amount available from the SWP varies according to hydrologic conditions. Recycled water produced by Goleta Sanitary District's wastewater treatment plant provides up to 1,150 AFY of tertiary treated recycled water, primarily for landscape irrigation, and has the capacity to ultimately produce 3,000 AFY.

Groundwater is extracted from the Goleta Groundwater Basin, the North-Central portion of which is an adjudicated basin pursuant to the *Wright v. Goleta Water District* Judgment (November 17, 1989, SBSC Case No. SM57969) (the Wright Judgment). Based on the Wright Judgment, GWD has a court-determined right to pump and treat 2,350 AFY of the court-defined

[1] The source of data provided in this section, except where otherwise noted, is GWD's Final 2010 Urban Water Management Plan Update (GWD 2011). UWMPs are required to be updated every 5 years. The draft 2015 UWMP is not expected to be released for public review until November 2016; therefore, the current 2010 UWMP is still the official document used by GWD.

annual safe yield of the basin. The Court Order filed April 30, 1992, recognized GWD's right to store its annual entitlement in the basin. GWD may also inject water supplies into the basin (such as Cachuma Project spill during high rainfall years) to recharge the basin and replenish groundwater supplies. The injected recharge volumes are then available to GWD in the future in addition to deferred extractions, providing a variable increase in the annual allotment that can be tapped, as needed, during drought conditions. The practice is known as banking. Unexercised groundwater rights at the end of a year revert to a stored water right in the basin. As outlined in its 2015 Annual Report, at the end of 2015, GWD had a total of 45,952 acre-feet of water stored in the basin. GWD currently estimates that approximately 6,000 acre-feet will be produced from the basin in 2016 (J. Heaton, personal communication 2016).

In response to the ongoing multiyear drought, GWD declared a Stage I Water Shortage Emergency in March 2014 in compliance with the Drought Preparedness and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Drought Plan) (GWD 2014). In September 2014, GWD declared a Stage II emergency, and in May 2015, GWD declared a Stage III emergency. The Drought Plan outlines conservation goals and demand reduction measures for five stages of drought. During the current stage, the customer conservation goal is targeted at 35 percent and measures are implemented to reduce water waste, including restrictions on the use of potable water, promoting leak detection, restricting landscape irrigation, the use of tiered rates, and encouraging all commercial customers to post water shortage signs, among others.

Water demand in GWD service area is expected to increase steadily over the long-term planning horizon. The 2010 UWMP's (GWD 2011) estimates of future water demand in the UWMP are based on moderate and high levels of population growth in the service area. It also evaluated the available supplies for each of these growth scenarios during three water-year types: a normal water year, a single dry year, and multiple dry years. Under normal conditions, GWD currently has adequate supplies for both the moderate and high projections, and given the moderate demand scenario, GWD has adequate supplies to meet projected growth until 2035. Under all other scenarios, a deficit exists. GWD has established a number of measures that could be implemented to provide an adequate supply for long-term growth, including additional water conservation measures and increased use of recycled water.

4.9.1.2 Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste from within the City of Goleta is disposed of at the Tajiguas Landfill, located approximately 14 miles west of Goleta. This landfill can process up to 1,500 tons of trash per day and has a remaining capacity of approximately 4 million cubic yards. It accepts a variety of materials, including agricultural, asbestos, construction/demolition, industrial, and mixed municipal. A chipping and grinding facility for green waste also is located at the landfill (CalRecycle 2016).

4.9.2 Regulatory Framework

4.9.2.1 Federal

No federal regulations relevant to the provision of emergency water supplies have been established.

4.9.2.2 State

Urban Water Management Planning Act (Water Code §§ 10610, et seq.)
The Urban Water Management Planning Act was developed to address concerns regarding potential water supply shortages throughout California. It requires information on water supply reliability and water use efficiency measures. Urban water suppliers are required to develop and implement UWMPs to describe their efforts to promote efficient use and management of water resources. GWD is in the process of updating its 2010 UWMP, and a public review draft is currently scheduled to be released in November 2016.

4.9.2.3 Local

Goleta Water District Ordinance No. 91-01, SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance of 1991
The SAFE Ordinance was approved by GWD voters in 1991 and amended in 1994. SAFE sets certain restrictions on GWD use of groundwater, including creation of a *Drought Buffer* of water that is stored in the Central Basin, and that may be pumped and distributed by GWD to existing customers only in the event that a drought causes a reduction in the District's annual deliveries from Lake Cachuma. The Drought Buffer supplies may not be used as a source of supplemental water to serve new or additional demands for District water. SAFE also restricts deliveries to new development by limiting the release of water to new customers to 1 percent of its total potable water supply. A determination of available water allocation for new uses is made on an annual basis.

Goleta Water District Water Conservation Plan (2010)
GWD has adopted an interim Water Conservation Plan (2010) requiring implementation of BMPs to conserve water, which would reduce demand on GWD's water treatment plant capacity. Proposed developments are required to incorporate feasible BMPs into their water system designs, including the use of water conserving fixtures and water efficient landscape and irrigation.

Goleta Water District Water Sustainability Plan (2012)
The preservation and management of natural resources—principally, water supplies—is a foundational and core component of service delivery sustainability for GWD. As a result, GWD and other water providers are particularly vulnerable to environmental conditions and climate change, along with related regulations, that could affect water supplies. The Sustainability Plan includes strategies to protect local water resources and manage emergencies and risk associated with water supplies, yielding high benefits to the District and its customers.

The Plan lists 28 initiatives to promote outcomes and benefits that are described by the Sustainability Guiding Principles. Initiatives were selected based upon identification of best practices, literature review, and an assessment of the District's current service delivery practices, operations, and assets. A strong emphasis has been placed on making infrastructure and programmatic investments that uphold water supply reliability and improve or extend the life of District infrastructure.

2015 Goleta Water District Stage III Water Shortage Emergency Declaration
This May 12, 2015 declaration put into place mandatory water use restrictions in response to persisting drought conditions in California. This District Emergency status aims for a 35 percent district-wide water-use reduction, to be achieved through water use restrictions such as assigned landscape watering schedules, prohibition of outdoor fountains and water features,

prohibition of washing down sidewalks and other hard surfaces, hose nozzle requirement, and correcting plumbing leaks within 48 hours of discovery.

4.9.3 Project Impacts

4.9.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on the City's Initial Study Checklist (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G), the Project would have a significant environmental impact if the Project would:

1. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB.
2. Require or result in construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.
3. Require or result in construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.
4. Have insufficient water supplies available to serve the Project from existing entitlements and resources, or would need new or expanded entitlements.
5. Be served by a wastewater treatment provider that did not have adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand.
6. Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs.
7. Not comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

The Project would not generate any wastewater during construction or after its completion, nor would it require the use of water requiring treatment; therefore, Criteria 1, 2, and 5 are not discussed further. The Project does not incorporate storm drains into its plans or involve the discharge of water into storm drains, so Criteria 3 also is not relevant.

According to the City's Thresholds Manual (City of Goleta 2008), Project impacts on utilities and service systems would be potentially significant if it:

1. Would generate 196 or more tons of solid waste per year after reduction and recycling efforts.

4.9.3.2 Project Impacts

Impact USS-1. Water Supply Availability
Approximately 8,000 gallons of water would be supplied by GWD for dust control during Project construction. After Project completion, water would be used for fire suppression only during emergency situations ~~and for car washing~~. GWD has adequate water supplies to support ~~routine car washing activities and~~ any emergency situations (C. Bennett, personal communication 2016), and any impacts would be **less than significant (Class III)**.

Impact USS-2. Solid Waste Disposal
The Project would produce a minimal amount of construction debris and only about 80 cubic yards of green waste, well under the City's threshold of 196 tons per year. Construction debris would be disposed of at Tajiguas Landfill, and green waste would be disposed of at the landfill or at another green waste facility. Tajiguas Landfill can process up to 1,500 tons of trash per

day, and could accommodate the small amount of waste generated as a result of Project activities. After construction was complete, the Project would not generate any additional solid waste, with the possible exception of a limited amount of green waste due to the need to maintain a cleared area around the emergency access road for fire protection purposes. Therefore, the Project would have a **less than significant (Class III)** impact.

4.9.4 Cumulative Impacts

The Project would only require a small amount of water during construction~~, for car washing,~~ and as needed in the event of a fire. This small, sporadic use would have a negligible impact on local water supplies, and any cumulative impacts would be **less than significant (Class III)**. The Project would also generate minimal amounts of solid waste during construction and operations. Tajiguas Landfill has adequate capacity to accommodate this material in addition to other current demands, and any cumulative impacts associated with solid waste would be **less than significant (Class III)**.

4.9.5 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required because no significant impacts would occur.

4.9.6 Residual Impacts

Impacts USS-1 and USS-2 are less than significant and no mitigation is required.

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