

## 5.19. Utilities and Service Systems

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS				
Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Significance criteria established by CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G.

### 5.19.1. Setting

Utility and services system facilities associated with electricity, domestic (potable) water, stormwater, solid waste, communications, and natural gas are provided and maintained by a variety of local purveyors, including cities, counties, special districts, water agencies, and private companies. Table 5.19 1 lists utility providers in the City of Goleta

**Table 5.19-1. Utility Providers**

- **Natural gas** – Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)
- **Electricity** – Southern California Edison (SCE) & Central Coast Community Energy (3CE)
- **Water** – Goleta Water District
- **Wastewater** – Goleta West Sanitary District
- **Telephone** – Cox Communications
- **Solid Waste** – Santa Barbara County Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division & MarBorg Industries

Sources: City of Goleta, 2025a & 2025b; Marborg Industries, 2025

### Water Supply

Potable water in Goleta is supplied by the Goleta Water District (GWD), which draws from multiple sources including Lake Cachuma, supplemented by imported State Water Project supplies, groundwater from the Goleta Groundwater Basin, and recycled water for non-potable uses such as irrigation. This diversified approach enables GWD to meet the needs of approximately 87,000 residents, businesses, and agricultural users, even during drought conditions (Goleta Water District, 2025).

### Electricity

SCE is the primary electric utility for Goleta, delivering electricity to residential and commercial customers. As a subsidiary of Edison International, SCE serves approximately 15 million people across a 50,000-square-mile area in Southern California. (SCE, 2025).

3CE is a not-for-profit, locally controlled organization that provides clean and renewable electricity to residents and businesses in Goleta and other Central Coast communities. Commencing in October 2021, 3CE began sourcing electricity from renewable energy resources, offering customers competitively priced energy options. While 3CE manages the procurement of electricity, SCE continues to handle electricity delivery, billing, and maintenance of the electrical grid (City of Goleta, 2025a).

## Natural Gas

SoCalGas is the primary natural gas provider for Goleta. As the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, SoCalGas serves over 21 million consumers across more than 500 communities (SoCalGas, 2025a). The company operates the La Goleta Natural Gas Storage Facility, storing natural gas during periods of low demand and supplying it during peak usage times (SoCalGas, 2025b).

### 5.19.1.1. Service System

#### Sewage/Wastewater Treatment

Wastewater collection and treatment services in Goleta are provided by two agencies: the Goleta Sanitary District (GSD) and the Goleta West Sanitary District (GWSD). Customers in the area surrounding and including the Project site are serviced by GSD (GSD, 2025a).

The Goleta Sanitary District (GSD) serves as the regional wastewater treatment provider for the Goleta Valley, with a service area that includes the City of Goleta, the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), Isla Vista, the Santa Barbara Airport, and adjacent unincorporated parts of Santa Barbara County. GSD operates a Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility with a treatment capacity of up to 9.8 million gallons per day (mgd), employing a three-stage process, comprised of the primary (physical separation), secondary (biological treatment), and tertiary (filtration and disinfection) stages. Treated effluent is either recycled for irrigation or discharged offshore. GSD also manages over 132 miles of sewer lines and offers resource recovery services, including biosolids reuse and energy generation (GSD, 2025b).

#### Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste and recycling collection services in the City of Goleta are provided by MarBorg Industries. Under a franchise agreement with the City, MarBorg offers curbside services for residential customers, including collection of trash, recyclables, green waste, and food scraps. Marborg also offers recyclables and green waste collection (City of Goleta, 2025c). Additionally, the company operates a recycling center at 20 David Love Place in Goleta, located approximately 3.4 miles east of the Project site, accepting a range of materials such as e-waste, oil, paint, and textiles. Collected waste is processed at the Tajiguas Landfill and the County's ReSource Center, which includes a materials recovery facility and an anaerobic digestion facility, both co-located approximately 13.4 miles west of the site and outside the Goleta city limits (City of Goleta, 2025d). Table 5.19-2 lists the capacity of the Tajiguas Landfill.

**Table 5.19-2. Landfill Capacities**

Landfill Name	Total Capacity (cu.yd.)	Remaining Capacity (cu.yd.)	Remaining Capacity (percent)	Maximum Throughput (tons/day)
Tajiguas Resource Recovery & Sanitary Landfill (Cease operation estimated 2036)	23,300,000	1,944,330	8.3	1,500

Sources: CalRecycle, 2025a

### 5.19.2. Regulatory Background

This section includes a description of the utilities and public service systems regulatory framework.

## Federal

**Clean Water Act Section 402: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.** Section 202 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program to regulate point source discharges of pollutants of Waters of the United States. Discharges or construction activities that disturb one or more acres, which includes the proposed Project, are regulated under the NPDES stormwater program and are required to obtain coverage permit under a NPDES Construction General Permit. The Construction General Permit establishes limits and other requirements such as the implementation of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, which would further specify best management practices to avoid or eliminate pollution discharge into the nation's waters. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issues both general and individual permits under this program. The SWRCB delegates much of its NPDES authority to nine regional water quality control boards. The proposed Project's NPDES permits would be under jurisdiction of Region 3, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) jurisdiction.

## State

**California Government Code – Protection of Underground Infrastructure.** The responsibilities of California utility operators working in the vicinity of utilities are detailed in Section 1, Chapter 3.1, "Protection of Underground Infrastructure" (Article 2 of California Government Code §§4216-4216.9). This law requires that an excavator must contact a regional notification center at least two days prior to excavation of any subsurface installation. Any utility provider seeking to begin a project that may damage underground infrastructure can call Underground Service Alert, the regional notification center. Underground Service Alert will notify the utilities that may have buried lines within 1,000 feet of the Project. Representatives of the utilities are required to mark the specific location of their facilities within the work area prior to the start of project activities in the area. The code also requires excavators to probe and expose underground facilities by hand prior to using power equipment.

**California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989.** Assembly Bill 939 codified the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 in the Public Resources Code and established a hierarchy to help the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and local agencies implement three major priorities under the Integrated Waste Management Act: source reductions; recycling and composting; and environmentally safe transformation and land disposal. Waste diversion mandates are included under these priorities. The duties and responsibilities of the CIWMB have since been transferred to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) after the abolishment of the CIWMB in 2010, but all other aspects of the Act remain unchanged.

The Act requires all local and county governments to adopt a waste reduction measure designed to manage and reduce the amount of solid waste sent to landfills. This Act established reduction goals of 25 percent by the year 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000. Senate Bill 1016 (2007) streamlines the process of goal measurement related to Assembly Bill 939 by using a disposal-based indicator: the per capita disposal rate. The per capita disposal rate uses only two factors: the jurisdiction's population (employment can be considered in place of population in certain circumstances) and the jurisdiction's disposal as reported by disposal facilities. CalRecycle encourages reduction measures through the continued implementation of reduction measures, legislation, infrastructure, and support of local requirements for new developments to include areas for waste disposal and recycling on-site.

**California Code of Regulations (Title 27).** Title 27 (Environmental Protection) of the California Code of Regulations defines regulations and minimum standards for the treatment, storage, processing, and disposal of solid waste at disposal sites. The State Water Resources Control Board maintains and regulates compliance with Title 27 (Environmental Protection) of the California Code of Regulations by establishing waste and site classifications and waste management requirements for solid waste treatment, storage, or

disposal in landfills, surface impoundments, waste piles, and land treatment units. The compliance of the proposed Project would be enforced by the San Francisco RWQCB Region 2 and the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) (formerly the California Integrated Waste Management Board). Compost facilities are regulated under CCR Title 14, Division 7, Chapter 3.1 Section 17850 through 17895, by CalRecycle. Permit requests, Reports of Waste Discharge, and Reports and Disposal Site Information are submitted to the RWQCB and CalRecycle, and are used by the two agencies to review, permit, and monitor these facilities.

## Local

**Energy and Telecommunications Policies.** The City of Goleta’s General Plan includes several policies that support energy efficiency, water conservation, wastewater management, and infrastructure reliability. Collectively, the policies ensure that Goleta maintains high-quality utility and telecommunications infrastructure, promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy use, conserves water resources, and provides adequate wastewater treatment and sewer conveyance capacity for all new developments. The following policies in the General Plan generally relate to the proposed Project (City of Goleta, 2006):

- **Policy PF 6.2 Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities. [GP]** The City shall encourage the undergrounding of electrical power lines and other overhead utilities to the greatest extent practical, as follows:
  - a. The City shall pursue funding opportunities to underground existing overhead utilities, including SCE’s dedicated underground funding (“Rule 20A/20B”), private funding, and assessment districts. The City shall establish priorities for locations for potential undergrounding projects.
  - b. To the extent practicable, all utilities shall be required to be placed underground in new development (see related VH 4.14).

**Strategic Energy Plan:** Commits to transitioning municipal facilities and the community-wide electricity supply to 100% renewable power by 2030, with at least 50% of municipal electricity use from renewable sources by 2025. This plan includes initiatives like joining 3CE and implementing building electrification and Electric Vehicle reach codes (City of Goleta, 2025e).

## Water Supply and Conservation:

- **Policy PF 4.1 Water Facilities and Services. [GP/CP]:** The following criteria, standards, and procedures shall apply to water facilities and services:
  - d. Environmental reviews of new development shall evaluate the adequacy of water supply capacity to serve cumulative demand for all existing and planned development, including during extended periods of drought.
  - e. Water piping systems should be interconnected (“looped”) wherever feasible to facilitate the reliable delivery of water to all locations within the city. The distribution system should be sized to provide minimum operating pressure of 45 pounds per square inch (psi) under normal conditions and 20 psi under emergency conditions such as fires.
  - f. Water supply and delivery systems shall be available in time to meet the demand created by new development or shall be assured through the use of bonds or other sureties. An assured water supply and delivery system shall be identified prior to discretionary approvals of projects to the satisfaction of the City. GWD or the project applicant may provide several alternative methods of documentation, including an unconditional “ability to serve” letter from the district.
  - g. The applicant and GWD shall demonstrate prior to issuance of final land use clearance that sufficient capacity shall be available to serve the development and all other cumulative projects within GWD’s service area. This may be evidenced by an unconditional “will serve” letter or

contract for service from GWD. All required water infrastructure for a project shall either be in place at the time of approval of the land use clearance or shall be assured through the use of bonds, payment of fees, or other sureties to the City's and GWD's satisfaction.

**Wastewater Management:**

- **Policy PF 4.1 Water Facilities and Services. [GP/CP]:** The following criteria, standards, and procedures shall apply to water facilities and services:
  - i. The City shall encourage and actively promote long-term water conservation through water-conserving features in new development, including low water-use plumbing fixtures and drought-tolerant landscaping. The City also encourages the reclamation of treated wastewater and development of distribution facilities for reclaimed water to serve appropriate uses and locations.
- **Policy PF 4.2 Sewer Facilities and Services. [GP/CP]** The following criteria, standards, and procedures shall apply to sewer facilities and services:
  - a. The City shall monitor and compare the planned and potential consumption of the available and planned sewer capacity within the service areas of these utilities. If the available and planned capacity of sewerage services is not adequate to serve the planned and potential consumption, then the City shall take one or more of the following three actions in order of priority:
    - 1. Phase development within the City consistent with the Land Use Plan until such time that adequate resources can be identified to provide adequate supplies and improvements and urge other entities in the service areas to also reassess their plans.
    - 2. Reassess the City's Land Use Plan to reduce the demand for services to the degree necessary to match the supply and urge other entities in the service areas to also reassess their plans.
    - 3. Explore and support ways to reduce consumption in order to conserve available capacity and reduce the volume of discharges of treated effluent in ocean waters.
  - b. The City shall encourage effective and cost-efficient organization and delivery systems for provision of wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services within its boundaries.
  - c. The City shall work with the GSD to ensure completion of a Capacity Management Alternatives Study to determine the scope of needed improvements for a higher level of treatment in order to improve the quality of effluent discharged by an outfall into ocean waters offshore from Goleta Beach Park. The City supports completion of this project as quickly as possible. The study should include a full evaluation of alternatives and costs. Alternatives should avoid construction of excess wastewater treatment capacity.
  - d. The City shall encourage recycling of treated wastewater to reduce water consumption and reduce ocean discharges of treated effluent.
  - e. Sewage collection and wastewater treatment capacity shall be available in time to meet the demand created by new development or shall be assured through the use of bonds or other sureties. The adequacy of sewerage facilities shall be identified prior to discretionary approvals of projects to the satisfaction of the City. The applicable sanitation district or project applicant may provide several alternative methods of documentation, including an unconditional "ability to serve" letter from the district.
  - f. The applicant and the applicable sanitation district shall demonstrate prior to issuance of final land use clearance that sufficient capacity and facilities shall be available to serve the development and all other cumulative projects within the

### 5.19.3. Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

#### Thresholds of Significance

A significant impact would be expected to occur if the proposed Project resulted in any of the impacts noted in the above checklist. In addition, the County of Santa Barbara's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (2021), which has been adopted by the City of Goleta (adopted by Resolution 08-40) provides the following applicable thresholds to determine whether significant utility impacts would occur:

**Threshold USM-1.** A project would result in a significant impact if the construction, demolition, or remodeling of a commercial, industrial, or residential development that is projected to create more than 350 tons of construction and demolition debris. For new construction projects, it is estimated that a 28,000 square foot commercial/industrial building would create this amount of waste.

**Threshold USM-2.** A project would result in a significant impact on the City's landfill capacity if it would generate more than 196 tons of solid waste per year, after a 50% reduction credit is given due to recycling efforts.

**Threshold USM-3.** Projects with a project-specific impact as identified above (196 tons/year or more) are also considered to have a cumulatively significant impact. Additionally, projects that would generate more than 40 tons or more tons per year (but less than 196 tons per year) of solid waste are considered to have a less than significant but adverse (i.e., a Class III) impact to regional solid waste and mitigation should be recommended.

#### Impact Analysis

Thresholds USM-1, USM-2, and USM-3 are addressed in Checklist Items (d) and (e).

**(a) Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. The proposed Project would involve construction of a new BESS facility. Construction activities would generate a minimal demand for water or wastewater treatment and no demand for natural gas facilities. The Project would not require the relocation, expansion, or development of new utility systems beyond the Project itself. The electrical point of interconnection (POI) of the BESS with the electric grid would be within the existing SCE substation co-located with the EGS adjacent to the BESS site. A roughly 200-foot underground generation-tie line would run from the BESS transformer pad to the substation (see Figure 4-3). This design eliminates the need for new offsite power poles or conductors. The BESS would include built-in, redundant safety protections and automatic shutdown features, with ongoing system updates and safety communications provided by the supplier. The Project would not require expansion of any existing facilities or require additional facilities. During routine operation and maintenance the Project would be unmanned and would not create any need for new or expanded utilities or service systems.

**Water, Wastewater Treatment or Storm Water Facilities.** The proposed Project would generate minimal demand for water or wastewater treatment. A water truck would be on-site to support dust suppression during ground disturbing work. Water used for dust control would be dispersed onsite and would either evaporate or be absorbed into the ground; therefore, no wastewater generation is anticipated from this use.

Concrete would be required for foundations and any excess concrete from construction would be disposed of at an approved site away from the work area. Dewatering may be necessary if groundwater is encountered. Portable toilets would be provided for construction work crews and would be removed after construction is completed and these toilets will be maintained by a licensed sanitation contractor.

The proposed Project would not result in any increased stormwater flow entering stormwater drainage systems and therefore would not require, or result in the construction of, new stormwater drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities.

Upon completion of construction, the proposed Project would not generate any demand for water or wastewater treatment. There would be no sanitary sewer hookup at the site. Existing wastewater and water treatment facilities are adequate to accommodate the miniscule demand generated by the proposed Project. Thus, the Project would have less than significant impact that would not cause the need for the construction or expansion of water or wastewater treatment facilities or storm water drainage.

**Electric Power, Natural Gas, or Telecommunications Facilities.** No new natural gas or telecommunications facilities would be required in support of the Project. The existing electric power system at the EGS, including the existing substation, would remain in service during construction and commissioning of the Project. The Project would contribute to the stability of the City's power grid, by storing and discharging energy. These activities would not cause significant environmental effects, and impacts would be less than significant.

**(b) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?**

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. During construction limited amounts of water would be used for dust control and to make concrete for foundations. This would be a short-term need associated with construction and would end with the completion of construction. The volume of water required for dust control is not known. However, the amount of water for dust suppression during construction is considered to be nominal in comparison to available municipal water supply.

Water for construction activities would likely be sourced from GWD and delivered via truck as there are currently no wells onsite. The water may be collected from a metered connection to an existing hydrant located adjacent to the site entrance. Detailed design review may identify additional required improvements, such as new water meter and connections to the water and fire water main system at driveway entrances, and additional fire hydrants. Upon completion, the proposed Project would not generate any demand for water, unless there was a fire. Therefore, the proposed Project would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years, and impacts would be less than significant.

**(c) Would the project result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?**

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. The proposed Project would generate minimal wastewater during construction. The proposed Project would provide portable toilets for construction workers and the waste would be disposed of through a treatment facility with adequate capacity. As discussed in Item (a) above, existing wastewater facilities would adequately accommodate the minor demand caused by Project construction while serving existing commitments. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

**(d) Would the project generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?**

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. Construction debris and waste generated during construction of the Project would be staged onsite, then separated and recycled or disposed of at the nearest solid waste and recovery facility, the Tajiguas Landfill.

Total solid waste generated by construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to be minor compared to the capacity of local recycling infrastructure and existing landfill. The site is currently vacant, and the waste generated would be limited to construction materials and not include demolition debris. The waste

generated during construction would include concrete, aggregate, wood, and metal, along with the materials necessary to construct the BESS. The Tajiguas Landfill is not expected to close for at least a decade, and has a remaining capacity of 1,944,330 cubic yards.

The City's Threshold USM-1 states that a project would result in a significant impact if the construction, of the development is projected to create more than 350 tons of construction and demolition debris. For new construction projects, it is estimated that a 28,000 square foot commercial/industrial building would create this amount of waste. The proposed Project's BESS units and ancillary structures would occupy approximately 0.4 acres of the site, which equates to approximately 17,000 square feet. Although the proposed Project would not construct a typical building, this is below the threshold of significance for construction waste.

Additionally, the City has implemented a mandatory Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Recycling Program to divert at least 65% of C&D waste from landfill disposal in accordance with state law. In addition, diversion reporting is required after construction in accordance with the City of Goleta's Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Program Waste Reduction and Recycling Guidance Document. The applicant will be required to substantiate how a 65% diversion factor was achieved during construction. Compliance with adopted Green Building Code requirements will reduce the project's short-term waste generation impacts to a less than significant level.

During operation, the proposed Project would be unmanned and would not generate notable quantities of solid waste that require landfill disposal. Occasionally individual batteries may need to be replaced, and the battery would be returned to the manufacturer for recycling and disposal.

During decommissioning, the entire BESS unit would be removed, and returned to the manufacturer's recycling facility, where recycling and disposal would take place. Therefore, the impact of solid waste disposal on local infrastructure and landfill capacity would be less than significant.

**(e) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

NO IMPACT. The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which emphasizes resource conservation through the reduction, recycling, and reuse of solid waste guide solid waste management requires localities conduct a Solid Waste Generation Study (SWGS) and develop a Source Reduction Recycling Element (SRRE). The proposed Project would operate in accordance with these applicable Solid Waste Management Policy Plans by recycling materials where feasible. As identified in Table 5.19-2, Landfill Capacities, the Tajiguas Resource Recovery & Sanitary Landfill serving the site has 1,944,330 cubic yards of available capacity to accommodate Project construction solid waste disposal needs. The Project is not anticipated to generate a substantial amount of waste during construction, when compared to the available capacity of the nearest landfill. A detailed Decommissioning Plan would be prepared prior to BESS facility installation, identifying the procedure for recycling and reclaiming much of the materials generated by the Project. Project solid waste disposal would not result in the need for new or expanded landfill facilities. Therefore, the proposed Project would comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. No impact would occur.

### **5.19.3.1. Impact Conclusions and Mitigation Measures**

The proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems, and thus, no mitigation measures are required.