

2. Communication Systems

Determined not significant by the October 4, 1984 Initial Study, and confirmed by the January 22, 1999 Initial Study.

3. Water

Environmental Setting

The project site is located in the Canoga Park-Winnetka-Woodland Hills-West Hills Community Plan area of the City of Los Angeles. Currently, the northern 18 acres of the site is developed with a 177,200 square foot, 256 bed hospital, 113 assisted living dwelling units with 113 beds, 23,110 square feet of service/administration use, and 21,371 square feet of activity/recreational use. The central 15.8 acres of the site are used for agricultural crops, and the southern 6 acres are undeveloped. Current water consumption on the site for these uses is 77,668 gallons per day (gpd).¹

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) provides water service to the project site and surrounding community. It is their responsibility to insure that the quality of the water meets all applicable standards for drinking water, which are established by the United States Public Health Service. The DWP has an 8 inch main located in El Cañon Avenue, two 12 inch mains located in Mulholland Drive, and a 12 inch main located in Park Ora.

The City of Los Angeles receives its water from three different sources. The largest source is imported water from the Owens Valley and Mono Basin in northern California. This source supplies approximately 82 percent of the City's water and is delivered via the Los Angeles Aqueduct. This supply could be reduced in the future due to pending or future agreements, or litigation. The remainder of the City's water supply is met through the City's San Fernando Valley ground water (12 percent), and imported State Water Project (SWP) water (six percent) from the Colorado River. Both sources are susceptible to reduced yields, particularly in years of less than average rainfall.

Although the City of Los Angeles is currently not experiencing drought conditions, past history has shown that the region is susceptible to long periods of drought. In the past, when drought conditions arose, citywide mandatory water conservation programs were imposed. The Los Angeles City

¹ Consumption rate for all uses other than agriculture assumed at 110% of sewage flow generation rate: 93.5 gpd per hospital bed; 93.5 gpd per residential bed; 220 gpd per 1,000 service/administration square feet; and 330 gpd per 1,000 activity/recreational square feet. Source: City of Los Angeles Wastewater Program Management, Sewer Facilities Charge Guide and Generation Rates, August, 1988. Consumption rate for agricultural use assumed at 1,963.9 gpd per acre. Source: State Water Resources Department, phone conversation with Sergio Fierro, July 12, 1999.