

## 4.8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Issues & Supporting Information Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>Would the Project:</b>				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Is the project located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private air strip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Expose people or structures to the risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 4.8.1 Environmental Setting

The Project sites are located in rural area where the primary source of contaminants is pesticides and fertilizers used for agricultural operations. Neither the Old River nor the Connection Slough site is listed on the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List (also known as the Cortese List) (DTSC 2008). There are no Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) sites within 5 miles of the Project sites (EPA 2008).

The Project area contains peat soils. Once ignited, peat fires pose a special hazard because they are very difficult to extinguish. In some cases, islands have been flooded into extinguish peat fires, although even flooding may not always put out the fires (San Joaquin County 1992). The Old River site is classified as having over 9.5 days per year of Critical Fire Weather (Contra Costa County 2005), the highest classification in the county.

## **4.8.2      Regulatory Setting**

### **4.8.2.1      Clean Water Act**

The Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) requirements (Title 40 CFR Part 112) were developed pursuant to the Clean Water Act. SPCCs are intended to reduce the threat of spills of hydrocarbons to navigable waters of the United States.

### **4.8.2.2      Resource Conservation and Recovery Act**

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 USC Section 6922) (RCRA) establishes requirements for the management of hazardous wastes from the time of generation to the point of ultimate treatment or disposal. 42 USC Section 6922 requires generators of hazardous waste to comply with record keeping requirements relating to the identification of quantities of hazardous wastes generated and their disposition, labeling practices and use of appropriate containers, use of a manifest system for transportation, and submission of periodic reports to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or authorized state.

### **4.8.2.3      Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 260**

These regulations were promulgated by the EPA to implement the requirements of RCRA as described above. The regulations define the characteristics of hazardous waste in terms of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and toxicity and list specific types of wastes deemed hazardous.

### **4.8.2.4      Hazardous Materials**

Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 4.5, Chapter 11 contains regulations for the classification of hazardous wastes. A waste is considered a hazardous waste if it is toxic (causes human health effects), ignitable (has the ability to burn), corrosive (causes severe burns or damage to materials), or reactive (causes explosions or generates toxic gases) in accordance with the criteria established in Article 3 Characteristics of Hazardous Waste. Article 4 lists specific hazardous wastes, and Article 5 identifies specific waste categories, including RCRA hazardous wastes, non-RCRA hazardous wastes, extremely hazardous wastes, and special wastes.

### **4.8.2.5      Worker Safety**

Occupational safety standards exist in federal and state laws to minimize worker safety risks from both physical and chemical hazards in the workplace. The California Occupational Health and Safety Administration (Cal/OSHA) is responsible for developing and enforcing workplace safety standards and assuring worker safety in the handling and use of hazardous materials.

Among other requirements, Cal/OSHA obligates many businesses to prepare Injury and Illness Prevention Plans and Chemical Hygiene Plans. The Hazard Communication Standard requires that workers be informed of the hazards associated with the materials they handle. For example, manufacturers are to appropriately label containers, Material Safety Data Sheets are to be available in the workplace, and employers are to properly train workers.

#### 4.8.2.6 Wildland Fire

The California PRC includes fire safety regulations that: restrict the use of equipment that may produce a spark, flame, or fire; require the use of spark arrestors on construction equipment that has an internal combustion engine; specify requirements for the safe use of gasoline-powered tools in fire hazard areas; and specify fire suppression equipment that must be provided onsite for various types of work in fire-prone areas.

#### 4.8.2.7 Local General Plans

Both the Contra Costa County (2005) and San Joaquin County (1992) General Plans contain general goals and policies intended to protect public safety.

### 4.8.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

#### 4.8.3.1 No Project

The Project would not affect hazards or hazardous materials because no development would occur.

#### 4.8.3.2 2-Gates Project

##### a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials

**Less than Significant.** The Project would not require the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Commonly used hazardous materials would be used during construction (e.g., fuels, lubricants), and diesel would be required to power the generators during operations until power was obtained from the PG&E grid. All materials would be handled in accordance with regulatory requirements intended to prevent significant hazards to the public and the environment.

##### b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment

**Less than Significant.** During construction, heavy equipment and vehicles would be present in the Project area. All contractors would be required to adhere to mandatory federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations. Most of this equipment requires a number of petroleum products such as fuel, hydraulic fluids, and lubricants for effective operation. Lubricant and hydraulic fluid changes and replenishment would be required less frequently. Typically, service trucks deliver these types of fluids to the site and then perform the necessary fuel and oil transfers. The risk of small fuel or oil spills is considered possible, but this would have a negligible impact on public health. Any spills would be cleaned up in accordance with permit conditions, as outlined in Section 2.9. During non-working hours, heavy equipment and vehicles in areas that could be accessed by the public would be secured in a general contractor's staging area that would not pose a safety hazard.

**c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school**

**No Impact.** Neither the Old River site nor the Connection Slough site is within one-quarter mile of an existing school, nor are any schools proposed in this agricultural area.

**d. Is the project located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment**

**No Impact.** Neither the Old River site nor the Connection Slough site is located on a hazardous materials site compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

**e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area**

**No Impact.** Neither the Old River site nor the Connection Slough site is located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport.

**f. For a project within the vicinity of a private air strip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area**

**No Impact.** Neither the Old River site nor the Connection Slough site is located within the vicinity of a private air strip.

**g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan**

**No Impact.** The Project is located in remote rural area, and neither construction nor operations would impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

**h. Expose people or structures to the risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands**

**Less than Significant.** Most Project construction would occur in the water, and thus would not pose a fire hazard. Some construction activities would occur in the laydown areas. The fuel tanks on board some construction equipment can contain fuel volumes ranging from 100 to 500 gallons. Accidental ignition could result in a fire, which, depending on the location, could spread. Moreover, given the peat soils, a fire could be difficult to contain because peat fires burn below the ground surface. All construction vehicles and equipment are required by Contra Costa and San Joaquin counties to have fire suppression equipment on board, or they are required to be otherwise present at the work site. They also are required to ensure the availability of an adequate on-site supply of water with all-weather access for fire-fighting equipment and emergency vehicles. Therefore, adherence to Contra Costa and San Joaquin County codes and requirements during construction would reduce the potential for significant fire hazard impacts.

**4.8.3.3 Cumulative Impacts**

The Project would result in a minor, localized potential for impacts associated with hazards or hazardous materials and would not contribute to a cumulative impact in combination with other reasonably foreseeable projects.