

4.10 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

This section evaluates potential effects of the project on utilities and service systems during both construction and long-term operation. The section includes a discussion of existing stormwater infrastructure serving the project vicinity.

The Fair Oaks Avenue Overhead Bridge (bridge) rehabilitation is not expected to increase demand for potable water, wastewater conveyance and treatment, or solid waste disposal facilities. The rehabilitated bridge will retain similar operating characteristics to the existing bridge. However, the proposed project would relocate/replace an existing city waterline and sewer line beneath the bridge. Please refer to **Section 4.12, Other Environmental Topics**, for a discussion of these topics, as well as hydrology and water quality.

4.10.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The City of Sunnyvale (City) owns and operates approximately 3,200 storm drain inlets, two pump stations and 150 miles of storm drains. Surface runoff from paved areas enters the storm drain system through storm drain inlets, which discharge directly to the Bay.¹ Managing urban runoff minimizes the discharge of pollutants to waterways and prevents and/or minimizes flooding.

Under existing conditions, stormwater travels in sheet flow from the Fair Oaks Overhead Bridge (bridge) center to both ends of the bridge, and into existing storm drain facilities at Kifer Road and Evelyn Avenue. City public works staff has confirmed that the existing storm drain inlets and conveyances have sufficient capacity to serve stormwater associated with the existing bridge.²

¹ Sunnyvale General Plan. 2011. Chapter 6, Safety and Noise.

² Communication with Dan Stevenson, City Environmental Services Department, 2/6/2014.

4.10.2 REGULATORY SETTING

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

Since its enactment in 1972, the Clean Water Act (CWA) has nationally regulated the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the U.S. from any point source. In 1987, amendments to the CWA added section 402(p), which established a framework for regulating nonpoint source (NPS) stormwater discharges under the NPDES. The Phase I NPDES stormwater program regulates stormwater discharges from industrial facilities, large and medium-sized municipal separate storm sewer systems (those serving more than 100,000 persons), and construction sites that disturb five or more acres of land. Under the program, the permit applicant is required to comply with two NPDES permit requirements.

The NPDES General Construction Permit Requirements apply to clearing, grading, and disturbances to the ground such as excavation. Construction activities on one or more acres are subject to a series of permitting requirements contained in the NPDES General Construction Permit. This permit requires the preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), including Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be implemented during construction. Regulated projects include new development or redevelopment that create and/or replace 10,000 square feet or more of impervious surface collectively over the entire project site.

The permit applicant is also required to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Water Quality. The NOI includes general information on the types of construction activities that will occur on the sites. It is the responsibility of the property owner to obtain coverage under the permit prior to project site construction.

Project Consistency

The proposed widening of the bridge deck would result in the addition of 11,252 square feet (sf) of impervious surface area. However, 2,551 sf (or 23%) of this area would be atop already impervious ground surface below. Therefore, the net new impervious area would be just 8,701 sf.

Given that the project site is less than one acre, and would add less than 10,000 square feet of new impervious surface area, the project would be exempt from NPDES permit requirements. Additionally, the City submitted an NOI on April 23, 2013. Therefore, the project would be consistent with NPDES policies and requirements.

Sunnyvale General Plan

The Sunnyvale General Plan (General Plan) includes the following policies related to stormwater, which are presented in Chapter 6, Safety and Noise, and Chapter 7, Environmental Management. The following policies are relevant to the project:

- SN-1.3 Operate and maintain the storm drainage system at a level to minimize damages and ensure public safety.
- SN-1.4a Budget for and construct additional storm drainage detention and pumping facilities as needed, to assure the continued ability to discharge urban runoff and stormwater into channels, creeks and San Francisco Bay.
- EM-8.2 Continue to support the identification and development of approaches to storm water treatment and best management practices to control sources of pollutants through participation in local, regional, statewide and national associations and agencies (e.g. Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVRRP), Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association, Storm water Quality Association, and American Public Works Association and similar organizations).
- EM-8.3 Ensure that stormwater control measures and best management practices (BMPs) are implemented to reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater to the maximum extent practicable.
- EM-8.4 Effectively prohibit illicit discharges and improper disposal of wastes into the storm drain system.
- EM -8.6 Minimize the impacts from storm water and urban runoff on the biological integrity of natural drainage systems and water bodies.
- EM -9.1 Maintain and operate the storm drain system so that stormwaters are drained from 95 percent of the streets within one hour after a storm stops.
- EM-10.2 Consider the ability of a land parcel to detain excess stormwater runoff in flood prone areas and require incorporation of appropriate controls. Require the incorporation of appropriate stormwater treatment and control measures for new and redevelopment regulated projects and/or any sites that may reasonably be considered to cause or contribute to the pollution of stormwater and urban runoff as defined in the current version of the Stormwater Municipal Regional Permit.

Project Consistency

The project would widen the existing bridge deck, resulting in increased stormwater flow to adjacent storm drain inlets. Given that the project site is less than one acre, and would add less than 10,000 square feet of new impervious surface area, the City has indicated that the existing stormwater catchments basins in the project vicinity would have sufficient capacity to accommodate additional flow; therefore, the project would be consistent with the General Plan policies related to stormwater.

4.10.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Significance Criteria

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines identifies environmental issues to be considered when determining whether a project could have significant effects on the environment. The project would have a significant impact related to stormwater systems if it would:

- Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

Discussion of Less-than-Significant Impacts

Would the project require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The drainage pattern in the vicinity of the project would not be altered significantly in the Build Alternative. Stormwater travels in sheet flow from the bridge center to both ends of the bridge, and into existing storm drain facilities at Kifer Road and Evelyn Avenue. The proposed rehabilitated bridge would use the existing drainage system. Since the Build Alternative includes provisions for widening the bridge deck by 6'10", there is a potential for a limited increase in the stormwater collected on the bridge deck and transported to these drains.

As previously discussed, the City found that additional stormwater flow resulting from the widening of the bridge deck would be accommodated by the existing storm drain facilities in the area.

Given the limited increase in stormwater resulting from bridge deck widening, and the current capacity of the existing storm drain facilities in the area, the proposed project would have a negligible effect on storm drain facilities. Therefore, the project would have less-than-significant impacts related to stormwater.

4.10.4 REFERENCES

City of Sunnyvale. Sunnyvale General Plan. 2011. Available:

<http://ecityhall.sunnyvale.ca.gov/cd/GeneralPlan.pdf>.

Communication with Dan Stevenson, Wastewater Operations Manager,
Environmental Services Department, City of Sunnyvale. 2/6/2014.