

4.10 Availability of Services Not Provided by the City

As indicated in the previous sections, the provision of services to the population of Holtville is sometimes shared with other agencies. For example, the City relies upon both its own police department, as well as other agencies for law enforcement facilities and services. A detailed discussion of key facilities and services including law enforcement, fire protection, transportation, parks and recreation, library, and drainage is provided in the preceding sections. This section addresses availability of services not provided by the City.

4.10.1 Schools

The Holtville Unified School District consists of one high school, one intermediate school, and two elementary schools. All schools are at full capacity with an approximate enrollment of 2,000 students. The School District provides K-12 facilities and services for the City of Holtville and surrounding unincorporated areas. The school calendar is traditional. The Holtville Unified School District currently has a projected student growth rate of approximately 3% annually. Recent class size reduction requirements have impacted the District by creating a need for additional classrooms in order to meet class size requirements.

The District currently has 5 million dollars in applied funds for modernization. This is 100% funding. These funds are for existing facilities and do not include monies for growth or expansion of facilities. The District did not determine the demand to schools anticipated based on the buildout projection figures provided in Section III of this SAP, however, the District assumes that existing schools would continue to serve the population residing in the City. Additionally, the District has indicated that the incorporation of the SOI into the City would not affect the District's ability to meet the adopted performance standard. Growth and the expansion of school services would primarily be financed through development impact fees. The method of financing and the facilities, personnel, equipment that would be required to meet this demand is not known, and would be determined as growth proceeded in the SOI. The District would benefit from growth in the study area as a result of an increase in developer fees.

4.10.2 Library

The County of Imperial operates eight branch libraries throughout the County. One of those library branches is located in the City of Holtville. The County bears all of the operating expenses for the library, with the exception of weekly maintenance and gardening services.

The Holtville branch library is located at 101 East 6th Street. The library has a full-time staff of 1.2 people, and its hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Programs and services offered by the Holtville branch library include circulation, summer reading clubs, school/group visits, reading advisory - patron assistance, and interlibrary loans. Through the library interloan program, Holtville residents can receive services from any of the County's branch libraries or the SERRA statewide book loan program.

The Holtville Branch Library facility was recently expanded, nearly doubling the size of the facility. The expansion was made possible in large by the fund raising efforts of the Holtville Friends of the Library. The remaining funds are anticipated to be sufficient to cover the cost of retiling the older portion of the library. This is the only facility/service improvement approved at this time.

Individuals living in areas adjacent to the City are already receiving library services through the Holtville Branch Library, and the recent library expansion will meet the needs of the anticipated Year 2020 population.

New library facilities or services are not needed to accommodate the projected Year 2020 population in the Holtville service area. As library utilization increases, staff and library hours may be increased as needed.

Impacts to library facilities/services resulting from population growth and subsequent increases in demand for library services will be mitigated by expanding library hours of operation and expanding library staffing as needed.

4.10.3 Cable Television

Adelphia Communications provides cable television service to the study area. Century Communications complies with all performance standards dictated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Adelphia Communications periodically negotiates franchise renewal with the City. Currently, the City's agreement with Century Communications requires that the service provider finance the expansion of facilities to serve new residential development projects which include 65 homes or more. If the development contains less than 65 homes, the service provider is permitted to distribute the costs of setting up a new service area among its customers.

The increase in population estimated for the Year 2020 will increase the demand for cable services. The expansion of cable television services will require new facilities such as transmission lines, and potentially an additional cable plant. Services could be provided by current personnel, however additional personnel would be required to complete construction and operation of new facilities.

Adelphia Communications will absorb the cost of providing the facilities necessary to expand services into the study area. Where a new portion of the service area consists of less than 65 homes/mile, the company will cover the costs of setting up new service by charging new customers a fee in addition to the basic cost of receiving cable television service.

4.10.4 Telecommunications

SBC provides telecommunications service to the City. The California Public Utilities Commission sets the performance standard through a series of established tariffs. SBC maintains a Central Office in Holtville located at 466 Pine Avenue. The backbone telecommunications facilities currently exist in the SOI to serve that area. An increase in development within the SOI area would not affect SBC's ability to serve the area as no further backbone facilities are needed and expansion of service into

newly developed areas can be accommodated with existing backbone facilities and personnel. SBC will utilize its service fees to finance the expansion of telecommunication service.

4.10.5 Natural Gas

Southern California Gas provides natural gas service to the City of Holtville. SCG currently provides service to the City and SOI, and meets the current demand for natural gas. While SCG currently does not have plans for expansion in the SOI area, SCG has indicated that gas service could be provided to the SOI area to meet anticipated future development. Major improvements are typically developer financed.

4.10.6 Electricity

Electricity is provided to the City of Holtville and SOI by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). Over the past decade, the IID has completed upgrades to many parts of its system. The infrastructure is in place to serve the SOI. Part of that upgrade attempted to balance loads at all substations and anticipate future growth in all areas, including the City of Holtville. A new substation and related transmission and distribution facilities is planned for the Year 2000. The IID will site for future facilities as plans are finalized during buildout of SOI areas. The financing of individual facilities is covered by IID Regulation #15, while larger system improvements are currently financed out of service revenues on an annual basis.

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