

3.10 PUBLIC SERVICES

This section addresses existing public services relating to the La Center Interchange and Ridgefield Interchange Sites. The issues that are addressed include: water supply, wastewater, solid waste, energy, telecommunications, natural gas, law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency medical services.

3.10.1 SETTING – LA CENTER INTERCHANGE SITE

WATER SUPPLY

Clark County is primarily served by public water agencies. The number of wells used by private residences is estimated to be between 17,000 and 25,000 (Clark County, 2004a). A review of Federal and Washington State well databases found 15 wells within 1 mile of the La Center Interchange Site, with three domestic wells located on the site itself ranging in depth from 200 to 400 feet (DOE, 2003). While the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) does not have well logs or construction details for the three domestic wells on-site, the well log for a domestic well adjacent to the La Center Interchange Site at NW 319th and 41st Street indicates an average static water level around 190 feet.

The nearest water supply utility to the La Center Interchange Site is Clark Public Utilities (CPU). CPU supplies water to approximately 27,000 residences and businesses, covering approximately 200 square miles in Clark County. CPU is a customer-owned utility formed by a vote of the people in 1938. It is organized as a not-for-profit municipal corporation under Washington State law. CPU is governed by a three-member board of commissioners and funded through user fees and development charges (Clark County, 2004a).

The source of CPU's water is groundwater aquifers. Groundwater wells in the CPU system have an average depth of 250 feet and generate approximately 6,000 gallons per minute (gpm). Peak demand for water in 2003 was approximately 25 million gallons per day (mgd) and the system has a reliable peak demand pumping capacity of 27 mgd. CPU has instantaneous water rights of 25,156 gpm and annual water rights of 13,846 acre feet/year (Olson Engineering, 2006b). An additional three wells are in the construction phase and will increase capacity to 32 mgd (Olson Engineering, 2006b). The water supply system currently has 34 wells, 26 reservoirs, 52 booster pumps, and 600 miles of distribution lines. Two new water reservoirs were added in 2004 and the system has a total storage capacity of 17 million gallons (Olson Engineering, 2006b). Pipes are made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and are up to 16 inches in diameter; average pipes are 6-8 inches in diameter (Clark County, 2004a). A groundwater well was added to the system in 2004 and two more are currently being developed. The South Lake Well Field project, which would add eight wells to the water supply system and would increase current pumping capacity by 36 mgd, is also planned in the coming years (CPU, 2005).

While the La Center Interchange Site is not currently connected to CPU service, there is a 12-inch diameter water supply pipeline located approximately 1 mile to the east, near the corner of NW La Center Road and NW Eagle Crest Drive. Another 12-inch diameter pipeline is located approximately 1 mile south on NW 299th Street.

WASTEWATER SERVICE

The La Center Interchange Site is not currently served by a public wastewater system. Unincorporated areas in the County are typically served by private septic systems regulated by the Clark County Department of Health. There are approximately 50,000 septic systems in Clark County (Clark County, 2004a), three of which are located within the La Center Interchange Site (Olson Engineering, 2006b). The nearest sewer line is 1 mile east within the City of La Center; the sewage system and treatment plant are owned and operated by the City of La Center. Sewer service is provided to approximately 725 customers in the City of La Center. A new wastewater treatment plant began operation in 2004. The treatment plant is a sequencing batch reactor, which treats wastewater and then discharges effluent to the Lewis River (Olson Engineering, 2006b). The treatment plant has a 0.56 mgd capacity with current flows averaging 0.37 mgd.

SOLID WASTE SERVICE

Solid waste is managed at the state level through the DOE, which approves local solid waste management plans. The Clark County Department of Public Works prepares and updates the local solid waste management plan for Clark County. The current plan is the 2000 Clark County Solid Waste/Moderate Waste Management Plan Update (SW/MWMP). The cities of La Center and Ridgefield agreed to participate in the joint county-city solid waste management plan update. The SW/MWMP is consistent with the Washington State Solid Waste Management Plan issued in 1994. The SW/MWMP lists existing solid waste management programs and facilities, predicts solid waste needs for 20 years, and recommends programs and improvements to the existing system. Solid waste programs are divided into four categories: public education and awareness, business and institutional activities, regional coordination and planning, and disposal and diversion system coordination. The SW/MWMP was published in 2002 and will be updated through amendment. Guidelines for the development and maintenance of the solid waste management plan are found in Washington Solid Waste Management, Reduction and Recycling Act, Chapter 70.95 of the Revised Code of Washington. Minimal Functional Standards (MFS) contain the State siting criteria, design and performance standards, and closure and post-closure maintenance requirements for landfill facilities. The MFS can be found in Washington Administrative Code Chapters 173-351 and Clark County Code Chapter 24.12.040. Enforcement of solid waste regulations is through the Clark County Health Department, formerly known as the Southwest Washington Health District. Solid waste disposal follows the following priorities in order:

- Waste reduction;
- Recycling, with source separation as the preferred method;
- Energy recovery, incineration and landfilling of separated wastes; and
- Energy recovery, incineration and landfilling of mixed wastes.

Waste from Washington is landfilled in the State or exported to one of three landfills in Oregon. In 2003, one million tons of solid waste were exported. Current capacity at Washington landfills will last until 2052 (DOE, 2005a). Clark County generates approximately 15,000 tons of municipal solid waste per month. Waste collection takes place at transfer stations in Vancouver and Orchards. These stations transfer approximately 640 tons per day. In 2000, Clark County generated 220,456 tons of municipal solid waste (Clark County, 2000). The Washington State recycling rate goal is 50%; in 2000 Clark County had a recycling rate of 31%. Jurisdictions that dispose of solid waste in Oregon facilities are also subject to Oregon statutes, including recycling requirements in the Oregon Administrative Rule 340-93-97, the 1983 Opportunity to Recycle Act, and Oregon Senate Bill 66.

Local Solid Waste Collection

Solid waste collection in the La Center area is provided by Waste Connections, Inc. Solid waste is brought to the Central Transfer and Recycling Center owned by Columbia Resources Company (CRC), a subsidiary of Waste Connections, Inc., located at 11034 NE 117th Avenue in Vancouver, Washington. Recoverable materials are recycled and the remainder of waste is compacted. It is then transported by barge via the Columbia River twice a week to the Finley Buttes Landfill, which is also owned by CRC and is located at 73221 Bombing Range Road in Boardman County, Oregon. The barge, owned by Tidewater, travels 180 miles upriver. From the barge, trucks transport the waste approximately 12 miles to the landfill. During routine maintenance or unexpected events the navigation locks on the Columbia River are closed. Solid waste in this instance is transferred by trucks or rail line. Clark County has contracted service with CRC through 2011. The landfill has a life expectancy of at least 200 years and sits on 1,000 acres. There are 180 million cubic yards permitted, of which 160 million cubic yards are remaining (Rogers, pers. communication, 2005). On average, the landfill receives 600,000 tons per year (Large, pers. communication, 2005). The landfill accepts all non-hazardous wastes including construction and demolition materials. The landfill accepts biosolids although due to the prevalence of land application in Washington, the landfill does not have any existing customers disposing biosolids (Large, pers. communication, 2006). There are no permitted limits on the amount of intake the landfill can receive.

ELECTRICITY, NATURAL GAS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

As with water, CPU provides electricity to areas near the La Center Interchange Site. CPU supplies electricity to approximately 165,000 customers over approximately 667 square miles in Clark County. There are 50 substations, 3,517 miles of overhead power lines, and 3,200 miles of underground lines. Half of this power is derived from the River Road Generating Plant, located in Vancouver and

operated by General Electric. The plant uses combined cycle technology; natural gas is burned in a gas turbine and resulting exhaust powers a steam turbine. The plant uses 42 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. The output of the plant is 248 megawatts or approximately 2.1 billion kilowatt hours per year. The remainder of electricity for CPU is bought from Bonneville Power Administration. This electricity is produced by Federal dams and a nuclear plant in Richland. Peak electrical demand in 2004 was 995 megawatts (CPU, 2005). Power is sent to the Clark and Sara substations where it is transformed from 115 kilovolts (kV) to 12.5 kV. The nearest electrical lines to the La Center Interchange Site are 12.5 kV distribution lines on NW 319th Street, adjacent to the site.

Northwest (NW) Natural provides natural gas for Clark County through the Williams Gas Pipeline. NW Natural services approximately 600,000 residents and businesses in Oregon and Southwestern Washington. The company maintains 15,000 miles of mains and service lines (NW Natural, 2005). The nearest natural gas line to the La Center Interchange Site is a 4-inch line approximately 1 mile south along NW 299th Street (**Figure 3.10-1**). NW Natural is proposing to upgrade this line to a 6-inch line to accommodate anticipated growth along the Interstate 5 (I-5) corridor and associated expansion of the La Center Urban Growth Area (Walstra, pers. communication, 2006).

Qwest provides local telephone service to the La Center Interchange Site. They also have Internet, wireless phone, and long distance phone services. AT&T and Verizon also offer wireless, Internet, and long distance phone services in Clark County. Telephone lines are located along NW 319th Street next to the site. Comcast provides cable and Internet services in Clark County. Other television services include Dish Network and DirecTV.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The La Center Interchange Site is located within the jurisdiction of the Clark County Sheriff's Office, which has two stations: Central Precinct, located at 11608 NE 149th Street in Brush Prairie, Washington, and West Precinct, located at 505 NW 179th Street in Ridgefield, Washington. The Office consists of 131 sworn officer positions and 479 total staff. The Sheriff's Office serves approximately 190,115 individuals in the unincorporated areas of Clark County and the Town of Yacolt (WOFM, 2004). The officer to population ratio is approximately 0.67:1,000, which the Sheriff's Office considers substandard (Lucas, 2005). The Office is divided into the enforcement, custody and support branches. Funding comes from the Clark County budget. The enforcement branch carries out general patrol duties and also includes a drug task force, three canine (K-9) units, a marine patrol unit, reserve units, a SWAT team, and bomb squad. The K-9, SWAT, and bomb squad are multi-jurisdictional and shared with other areas such as Vancouver. The Washington State Highway Patrol has police jurisdiction on I-5. Crime statistics for Clark County are shown in **Table 3.10-1**.

Figure 3.10-1

TABLE 3.10-1
CLARK COUNTY CRIME 2005

| Crime | Number of Incidents |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Homicide | 4 |
| Forcible Rape | 86 |
| Robbery | 69 |
| Aggravated Assault | 149 |
| Burglary | 1,219 |
| Larceny Theft | 3,313 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 658 |
| Arson | 25 |
| Total | 5,523 |

Source: FBI, 2006.

The nearest station to the La Center Interchange Site is the West Precinct. The Public Services Map in **Figure 3.10-2** shows the location of these facilities. This station is approximately 8 miles south of the La Center Interchange Site. The service district is divided into ten beats; the La Center Interchange Site is located in Beat 30. A service grid encompassing 4 square miles around the site averages about 500 calls per year (Salsig, pers. communication, 2005). The average response times for calls to Beat 30 are listed in **Table 3.10-2** (Salsig, pers. communication, 2005). Typically, Beat 30 is staffed by a single officer for two out of three shifts; the graveyard shift is not usually staffed due to the low volume of calls received (E.D. Hovee, 2006a). The West Precinct staffs 39 persons plus seven positions in the Tactical Unit (E.D. Hovee, 2006a).

TABLE 3.10-2
BEAT 30 – 2004 AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES

| Priority Number | Response Time |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 6 minutes |
| 2 | 9 minutes |
| 3 | 21 minutes |
| 4 | 46 minutes |
| 5 | 55 minutes |

NOTES:

- 1 – Life Threatening Situation Occurring;
- 2 – Life Threatening Situation Just Occurred,
Property Threatening Situation in Progress;
- 3 – Delayed Report of Serious Crime;
- 4 – Delayed Report of Non-Serious Crime;
- 5 – other

Source: Salsig, pers. communication, 2005.

Figure 3.10-2

The custody branch of the Sheriff's Office manages the Clark County Jail facilities and correctional programs. The Clark County jail staffs 167 persons, of which 120 are custody officers, 19 are supervisors, 22 are support, and 6 are management. The main jail is a high security facility with 545 beds. The jail also has a work center with 200 beds including in-custody and work release units (Clark County Sheriff, 2005).

Improvements from 2003-2009 are anticipated to include the expansion of detention facilities and the construction of a new administrative building. The cost for these improvements is estimated at \$83.8 million, which would be funded by general obligation bonds, real estate excise taxes, and grants (Clark County, 2004a).

Detention facilities include the Larch Corrections Center, which is a minimum-security facility that has the capacity for 164 male inmates. There is also a juvenile detention center in downtown Vancouver. The Sheriff's Capital Facilities Plan anticipates expansion of the jail to include a 500-bed maximum-security facility, replacement of the Central Precinct, replacement of marine patrol facilities, and remodeling/expansion of the jail records management department. The estimated cost of improvements is \$83.89 million (Clark County, 2004a). Other facilities proposed include a 400-bed work release detention center.

If the La Center Interchange Site is annexed to the City of La Center, as has been proposed, it would be under the jurisdiction of the La Center Police Department, which provides law enforcement services to incorporated areas of La Center. However, if the La Center Interchange Site were to be taken into Federal trust for the Tribe, the Tribe has indicated, pursuant to the MOU with Clark County (DEIS Vol. I, **Appendix C**) and the Environment, Public Health and Safety (EPHS) Ordinance (Section 3(A) and 3(B) (**Appendix U** of FEIS), that the Clark County Sheriff's Office would continue to be the law enforcement authority in the absence of a Tribal law enforcement authority.

FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Clark County Fire District (CCFD) Number 12 provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the La Center Interchange Site. CCFD serves approximately 13,000 persons and an area of approximately 65 square miles including the cities of La Center and Ridgefield, and the communities of Enterprise, Highland, Pioneer, and Sara. Services primarily include emergency and non-emergency response, basic and advanced life support, hazardous materials response, and medical transport in partnership with American Medical Response (AMR). CCFD 12 also works with the Clark County Fire Marshal to enforce the fire code and provide public education and outreach. The fire district is funded primarily by property tax revenues. However, CCFD 12 may start a Local Improvement District (LID), if needed, to obtain funds from developers to help pay for improvements. Improvements to the department include a new main station and a new Ridgefield station. CCFD 12 constructed a new main station at 911 N 65th Avenue in Ridgefield that opens in

2006. The Ridgefield Station will likely be replaced in the next 10 to 15 years (Bartel, pers. communication, 2005).

CCFD 12 operates out of four fire stations of which two are staffed full time and one is staffed 90% of the time; volunteers staff the remaining station. In addition to these four stations, there is a station shared by CCFD 12 and two other fire departments. In the department there are eight full-time firefighters, three full-time chief officers, one full-time administrative assistant, 22 part-time firefighters, and 25 volunteer firefighters (including residents and interns). Equipment includes a 75-foot aerial ladder truck, five fire engines, a fire-rescue boat, two water tenders, two brush rigs, four command vehicles, and an advanced life support ambulance staffed at the paramedic level, shared with AMR (Bartel, pers. communication, 2005).

The department maintains response time goals listed in their strategic plan. Within a zone designated as populated the response time goal is 5 minutes, for the suburban zone it is 6 minutes, and for rural zones it is 8 minutes. CCFD 12 calls for service in 2004 (the most recent year available) are shown in **Table 3.10-3**.

TABLE 3.10-3
CCFD 12 CALLS FOR SERVICE 2004

| Type of Call | Number of Calls |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Structure | 56 |
| Vehicles | 56 |
| Vegetation | 20 |
| Emergency Medical | 637 |
| Rescue | 180 |
| Hazardous Conditions | 18 |
| Service Calls | 90 |
| False Alarms | 110 |
| Other | 30 |
| Total | 1,197 |

Source: Bartel, pers. communication, 2005.

The La Center Interchange Site is located in the rural zone with a response time goal of 8 minutes. Response times are usually less than this due to the proximity of the site to the La Center Station #12-3 located at 414 E Cedar Ave, in La Center, which is approximately 2 miles to the east. The La Center Station is one of the stations staffed full time. The next closest station is Main Station (Pioneer Station) located at 26506 NE 10th Avenue, in Ridgefield, approximately 4 miles southeast of the La Center Interchange Site. When the Main Station moves to its new facilities, it will be approximately 3 miles southeast of the La Center Interchange Site. There is no threat of wildfire on the La Center Interchange Site.

The nearest hospital is Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital, which is located 10 miles south of the La Center Interchange Site at 2211 NE 139th Street in Vancouver, Washington. It has an emergency room but is not a designated trauma center. Trauma patients are referred to Southwest Washington Medical Center, which is located 20 miles southeast of the La Center Interchange Site at 400 NE Mother Joseph Place in Vancouver, Washington. Southwest Washington Medical Center includes an emergency room and a Level II trauma center. Life Flight is used for emergency air transportation. Life Flight services are used on average less than twice a year for significant burns or Level I trauma care.

Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA) provides emergency services in Clark County including 911 dispatching, ambulance contract oversight, and emergency management. Clark County is a part of Emergency Medical District #2 in Washington. Services are provided to unincorporated areas as well as to seven cities within the County including Battle Ground, Camas, La Center, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal, and Yacolt. CRESA is the dispatcher for all initial calls for both AMR and CCFD 12.

3.10.2 SETTING - RIDGEFIELD INTERCHANGE SITE

WATER SUPPLY

There are currently no water supply connections to the Ridgefield Interchange Site. The nearest existing line is a 16-inch diameter CPU line located on the east side of the Ridgefield Interchange Site adjacent to NE 10th Avenue. Additional information for CPU is provided under the description of the La Center Interchange Site. There are two domestic water wells on the Ridgefield Interchange Site and approximately 22 identified wells within 1 mile of the site. Similar to the La Center Interchange Site, most of the wells in the vicinity of the site are used for domestic purposes and have depths ranging from 200 feet to approximately 600 feet (DOE, 2003).

WASTEWATER SERVICE

The Ridgefield Interchange Site does not currently have wastewater service. The nearest service is provided by the City of Ridgefield. The City of Ridgefield collects wastewater at a treatment facility adjacent to Lake River in downtown Ridgefield; treated effluent is then discharged to Lake River (Clary, pers. communication, 2005). The treatment facility has an average daily flow during the maximum month of approximately 300,000 gallons per day (gpd) and has a permitted capacity of 500,000 gpd. The nearest sewer line is located 1,500 feet south of the Ridgefield Interchange Site. The Capital Facilities Plan for the City of Ridgefield projects a gravity line will serve the site and run from the southeast corner to the northwest corner of the site (Clary, pers. communication, 2005). Planned improvements to the system include a sewer interceptor line that will serve eastern and southern portions of Ridgefield (Clary, pers. communication, 2005).

SOLID WASTE SERVICE

Solid waste disposal information for the Ridgefield Interchange Site is the same as described for the La Center Interchange Site.

ELECTRICITY, NATURAL GAS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Electrical, natural gas, and telecommunications providers are the same as those given for the La Center Interchange Site. The nearest electrical lines are 12.5 kV lines which surround the site and run adjacent to NE 279th Street, NE 10th Avenue, and N 65th Avenue. The nearest natural gas line is a 6-inch low pressure line which runs along N 65th Avenue west of the Ridgefield Interchange Site and S 5th Street south of the Ridgefield Interchange Site (Walstra, pers. communication, 2006) (**Figure 3.10-3**).

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement services for the Ridgefield Interchange Site are provided by the City of Ridgefield Police Department. The Ridgefield Police Department provides service through a budgeted staff of 7 sworn officers and the chief of police who operate out of the police station at 116 North Main in Ridgefield (City of Ridgefield, 2008). The department is funded through the city general fund. The department provides services to schools, handles code and animal complaints, and provides patrol services. Patrol services run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Some services including SWAT are shared with the Clark County Sheriff's Department (Stuckenschneider, pers comm., 2005). Ridgefield Municipal Court is located in Battle Ground and handles misdemeanors. Ridgefield shares a judge and prosecutor through an interlocal agreement with Battle Ground and La Center. Felonies are handled by the District Court in Vancouver. If the Ridgefield Interchange Site were to be taken into Federal trust for the Tribe, services would be contracted from the Clark County Sheriff's Office as discussed in **Section 2.6.3**. The nearest Sheriff's station is the West Precinct, located at 505 NW 179th Street in Ridgefield. This station is approximately 6 miles south of the Ridgefield Interchange Site.

FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Fire protection and emergency medical services for the Ridgefield Interchange Site are the same as those described for the La Center Interchange Site. The nearest fire station to the Ridgefield Interchange Site is the main Pioneer Station #12-1. While plans have been made to move this station, both the old and new station sites are located less than 1 mile from the alternative project site. The nearest emergency room is located at the Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital, located 8 miles south of the Ridgefield Interchange Site.

Figure 3.10-3