3.2.9 PUBLIC SERVICES

WATER SUPPLY

The nearest municipal water system to the Butte site is located in the City of Oroville, which is over 8 miles away. Current residents on the Butte Site use potable water supplied by a surface water diversion from a spring. The spring ties into the Oregon Gulch, which then ties into the South Fork of the Feather River downstream of Lake Oroville (HydroScience Engineers, 2007). The Butte Site is within the mountain inventory unit of the Butte County Water and Resource Conservation Department.

WASTEWATER SERVICE

Wastewater service on the Butte Site is provided to residences by private septic systems. The nearest municipal system is the Oroville Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) owned and operated by the Sewerage Commission – Oroville Region. The WWTP is a regional treatment plant, which provides wastewater service to the City of Oroville, Thermalito Irrigation District, Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District, California Parks and Recreation Department and the California Department of Water Resources. The collection system includes 3.25 miles of pipeline and two pump stations. The Oroville Regional WWTP treats 3.2 million gallons per day (mgd) with a design average dry weather flow capacity of 6.5 mgd. The WWTP provides screening, primary clarification, activated sludge treatment with secondary clarification, filtration, chlorination, and dechlorination. Treated effluent is discharged to the Feather River (HydroScience Engineers, 2007).

SOLID WASTE SERVICE

The management of non-hazardous solid waste in Butte County is mandated by state law and guided by policies at the state and local levels. Information on Assembly Bill (AB) 939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act is provided in Section 3.9.1.3. The last approved diversion rate for unincorporated areas of Butte County was 31% in 1999. Since this time the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) has approved time extensions for the County. The preliminary diversion rate for 2004 was 39% (CIWMB, 2006a).

Solid waste services are not currently utilized at the site. There are four hauling companies that service unincorporated Butte County. Individuals and businesses in unincorporated Butte County are responsible for contracting with these hauling companies. The nearest transfer station is in Oroville and is operated by Norcal Waste Systems.

Solid waste is transferred from the transfer station to the Neal Road Landfill. The landfill is located at 1023 Neal Road in Paradise, California, which is approximately 22 miles northwest of the Butte Site. The landfill is sited on 190 acres with 140 acres available for disposal. As of July 2005, approximately 22 million cubic yards of disposal capacity were remaining out of a total 25
million cubic yards. The landfill accepts construction and demolition wastes, mixed municipal waste, and biosolids (sludge). On average, the landfill receives 700-800 tons per day and is permitted to receive 1,500 tons per day (Fleming, personal communication, 2006). The landfill has an estimated closure date of 2033 (CIWMB, 2006b).

**ELECTRICITY, NATURAL GAS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The site is connected to PG&E electrical lines, which serve the existing residences. Natural gas in the County is available in urban areas. The nearest natural gas service to the Butte Site is in the Oroville area. AT&T is the local telephone provider for Butte County and provides service to the Butte Site.

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**Law Enforcement**

The Butte County Sheriff’s Department, pursuant to authority granted by Public Law 280, provides law enforcement services to the Butte Site. The Butte County Sheriff’s Office provides public safety services, court security services, search and rescue, coroner services, civil process, incarceration facilities, illicit drug enforcement and waterway safety throughout the unincorporated areas of the County (Butte County, 2005c). Approximately 94 officers and 140 civilians work in the various departments of the Sheriff’s Office (U.S. Department of Justice, 2005).

The Operations Division provides patrol services. The nearest police station to the Butte Site is the main station located in Oroville at 33 County Center Drive (Figure 3.2.9-1). Through agreements with existing tribal casinos, the Sheriff’s Office has entered into agreements to create a Tribal Resource Office program, which assigns two full-time deputies to curb potential criminal activity within casinos (Butte County, 2005c).

The County jail is located in Oroville. The jail has a rated capacity of 614 beds (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 2005). It is operated by 135 correctional staff and civilian employees (Butte County Sheriff, 2006). Programs including the Sheriff’s Work Alternative Program and Electronic Surveillance Program offer detention alternatives.

**Fire Protection**

Fire services are provided to the Butte Site by the Butte County Fire Department, which works cooperatively with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Butte County Fire Department provides fire and emergency medical services to unincorporated Butte County, the City of Biggs, and the City of Gridley. Through automatic and mutual aid agreements the Department serves the City of Oroville, City of Chico, City of Paradise, and surrounding counties. The Department maintains 42 fire stations, 64 fire engines, 1 ladder truck, 2 heavy
Insert Figure 3.2.9-1  Public Services – Butte Site
rescues, 16 water tenders, and two bulldozers. Other apparatus maintained by the Department include air tankers, air attack units, rescue squads, breathing support units, and hazardous materials units (Butte County Fire Rescue, 2006).

Four stations could respond to the Butte Site including Station 51 (2845 Lumpkin Road in Feather Falls), Station 54 (10 Robinson Mill Road, Robinson Mill), 62 (9476 Oro Quincy Highway, Berry Creek), and 64 (22 Walnut Avenue, Kelly Ridge) (Figure 3.2.9-1). The estimated response time to the site varies from 10 – 15 minutes depending on the availability of engines (Butte County Fire Rescue, personal communication, 2005). Each station has one fire engine except Station 62, which operates two fire engines. Stations staff between 3 to 4 sworn officers per engine. Stations are staffed 24 hours a day 365 days a year except Station 51, which is not open during the winter months. There is also a volunteer station, Station 52 located at 1834 Lumpkin Road in Feather Falls. Average response time to the Butte Site varies from 10-15 minutes depending on the availability of engines. CDF and the County Fire Department responded to 15,049 calls for service in 2005. Over two thirds of calls were for emergencies including traffic collisions, rescues and medical aids; fire engines are usually the first to arrive at the scene for medical emergencies. The remainder of calls consisted of: 475 non-wildland fire, 248 wildland fires, 43 hazardous materials response, and 2,854 responses such as general assists, fireworks complaints, false alarms, agency assists, downed power lines, and assists to law enforcement operations (Butte County Fire Rescue, 2006).

**Emergency Medical Services**

Ambulances are privately contracted by Butte County and include First Responder and American Medical Response. The closest emergency room is at Oroville Hospital, which contains a Level III Trauma Center. Oroville Hospital is located at 2767 Olive Highway in Oroville, California, which is approximately 18 miles southwest of the Butte Site.