

Table 3-5. Comparison of Alternative Impacts

Resource Issue	Proposed Action			Alternative 1			Alternative 2			Alternative 3			No Action		
	Impacts	Significant Impact	Mitigation	Impacts	Significant Impact	Mitigation	Impacts	Significant Impact	Mitigation	Impacts	Significant Impact	Mitigation	Impacts	Significant Impact	Mitigation
Air Quality Air emission standards	Short-term construction emissions exceed PM ₁₀ , NO _x , and VOC Air District thresholds	Yes	No ¹	Short-term construction emissions exceed PM ₁₀ , NO _x , and VOC Air District thresholds	Yes	No ¹	Short-term construction emissions exceed PM ₁₀ , NO _x , and VOC Air District thresholds	Yes	No ¹	Short-term construction emissions exceed PM ₁₀ , NO _x , and VOC Air District thresholds	Yes	No ¹	No additional air emission impacts	No	No
Biological Resources² Designated Critical Habitat, Special Status Wildlife and Plants, Sensitive Habitat Types (Vernal Pools and Riparian)	Short-term effects on critical habitat for the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle and winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon from ground disturbance during construction activities. Removal of elderberry and subsequent effect to Valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Short-term erosion or vegetation removal may impact sensitive habitats.	No ³	No ⁴	Short-term effects on critical habitat for the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle and winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon from ground disturbance during construction activities. Removal of elderberry and subsequent effect to Valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Short-term erosion or vegetation removal may impact sensitive habitats.	No ³	No ⁴	Short-term effects on critical habitat for the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle from ground disturbance during construction activities. Removal of elderberry and subsequent effect to Valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Short-term erosion or vegetation removal may impact sensitive habitats.	No ³	No ⁴	Short-term effects on critical habitat for the winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon during construction activities. Removal of elderberry and subsequent effect to Valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Short-term erosion or vegetation removal may impact sensitive habitats.	No ³	No ⁴	Short-term effects on critical habitat from ground disturbance during maintenance activities. Removal of elderberry and subsequent effect to Valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Short-term erosion or vegetation removal may impact sensitive habitats.	No	No
Cultural Resources⁵ Prehistoric Cultural Resources, Historic Cultural Resources, and TCPs	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No	No
Electric and Magnetic Fields Corona effects, field effects, and health effects	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No	No
Environmental Justice Disproportionate adverse health effects or reduced land values to minority or low-income communities	No disproportionate adverse impacts	No	No	No disproportionate adverse impacts	No	No	No disproportionate adverse impacts	No	No	No disproportionate adverse impacts	No	No	No disproportionate adverse impacts	No	No
Floodplains⁷ Obstruction of flood flows, decreased capacity to convey peak flows, and destabilization of soils.	100-year floodplain disturbance. Short-term effects on floodplain due to temporary construction and work sites. Long-term impacts due to concrete footings.	No ³	No	100-year floodplain disturbance: Short-term effects on floodplain due to temporary construction and work sites. Long-term impacts due to concrete footings.	No ³	No	100-year floodplain disturbance: Short-term effects on floodplain due to temporary construction and work sites. Long-term impacts due to concrete footings.	No ³	No	100-year floodplain disturbance: Short-term effects on floodplain due to temporary construction and work sites. Long-term impacts due to concrete footings.	No ³	No	Insignificant Short-term impacts	No	No

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Geology Subsidence, Landslides, and Seismic hazards	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No	No
Health and Safety Hazardous Materials/ Waste, Electrical Hazards, and Fall Hazards	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No	No
Land Use Proximity of new ROW of transmission lines to residences, loss of prime farmland, effects on recreation and open space, and impacts to traffic patterns during construction	Short-term effects: Reconductoring activities near recreation/open space facilities, tennis club, and the Country Day School. Traffic patterns may be suspended during construction. Long-term effects: Majority of construction within existing ROW. Five residences located within 0.5 miles of new ROW (Seg G). Realignment of transmission line to avoid cemetery. Loss of 6.7 acres of prime farmland for the entire project would not result in significant impacts.	No ³	No	Short-term effects: Reconductoring activities near recreation/open space facilities and the Country Day School. No loss of prime farmland. Traffic patterns may be suspended, resulting in no significant impact.	No ³	No	Short-term effects: Reconductoring activities near recreation/open space facilities, tennis club, and the Country Day School. Traffic patterns may be suspended during construction. Long-term effects: Five residences located within 0.5 miles of new ROW (Seg G). Realignment of transmission line to avoid cemetery. Loss of 6.7 acres of prime farmland for the entire project would not result in significant impacts.	No ³	No	Short-term: New construction activities near recreational park and tennis courts. Traffic patterns may be suspended during construction. Long-term effects: Construction adjacent to existing ROW. Loss of 15.2 acres of prime farmland.	No ³	No	Short-term impacts when maintenance vehicles cross farmland.	No	No
Noise Noise Average Day-Night Noise Levels (L _{dn})	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No	No
Paleontological Resources Destruction of significant fossils	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMs.	No	No

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Socioeconomics Population growth and related inability to meet demand for schools and housing, adverse effect on income, displacement of residents and disruption of businesses, adverse effect on property values.	Short-term effects: Increased employment in the study area. Long-term effects: Loss of farmland.	No ³	No	Short-term effects: Increased employment in the study area. Long-term effects: Loss of farmland.	No ³	No	Short-term effects: Increased employment in the study area. Long-term effects: Loss of farmland.	No ³	No	Short-term effects: Increased employment in the study area. Long-term effects: Loss of farmland.	No ³	No	No impacts expected.	No	No
Soils Erosion, improper drainage, high water erodibility, steep slopes, and compaction.	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMS.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMS.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMS.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMS.	No ³	No	No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMS.	No	No
Visual Resources Altering existing landscapes, effects to areas of high visual quality or scenic landscapes, and consistency with local and county general plans.	Long-term: Five residences located within 0.5 miles of new ROW (Seg G). These residences view two other transmission lines in the general area.	No ³	No	Short-term impacts during the restringing of transmission lines.	No ³	No	Long-term: Five residences located within 0.5 miles of new ROW (Seg G). These residences view two other transmission lines in the general area.	No ³	No	Long-term: ROW located at the Cosumnes River Preserve. Other transmission lines are located in the adjacent ROW.	No ³	No	No impacts expected.	No	No
Water Resources Erosion, compaction, and sedimentation or blockage of drainage, introduction of debris, fill, or contamination into surface water or groundwater, damage to irrigation improvements, and depletion of water resources.	Surface water would be spanned, and revegetation would minimize erosion and sedimentation. No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMS.	No ³	No ⁶	No impacts expected.	No ³	No ⁶	Surface water would be spanned, and revegetation would minimize erosion and sedimentation. No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMS.	No ³	No ⁶	Surface water would be spanned, and revegetation would minimize erosion and sedimentation. No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMS.	No ³	No ⁶	No impacts expected.	No	No
Wetlands Degradation of biological values and wetland functions from excavation, fill, disturbance, or sedimentation, and increased access by humans or invasive species.	Wetlands would be avoided. No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMS.	No ³	No ⁶	Wetlands would be avoided. No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMS.	No ³	No ⁶	Wetlands would be avoided. No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMS.	No ³	No ⁶	Wetlands would be avoided. No impacts, with implementation of design standards and adherence to EPMS.	No ³	No ⁶	No impacts expected.	No	No

¹Western would coordinate with the Air Districts once a project is selected.

²Biological surveys would be conducted for only the action determined in the Record of Decision (ROD).

³Western would adhere to Environmental Protection Measures to minimize impacts.

⁴Western would coordinate with USFWS and CDFG as part of their Section 7 consultation in the event that removal of elderberry bushes (the habitat of the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle).

⁵Surface water and riparian habitat would be spanned and wetlands avoided; however, if they could not be spanned or avoided, Western would confer with USACE, RWQCB, and USFWS.

⁶Class III inventories would be conducted for only the action determined in the Record of Decision (ROD)

⁷Construction in floodplains would require Western to confer with USACE, RWQCB, and California Reclamation Board.