

## **4.6 Transportation and Circulation**

This section discusses the road transportation system in the vicinity of the Proposed Project and the impacts of the Proposed Project and alternatives on the transportation system. The analysis in this section is based on available transportation studies, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and San Luis Obispo County traffic data, computer modeling of roadway and intersections, local and regional maps, and discussions with appropriate agencies.

### **4.6.1 Environmental Setting**

#### **4.6.1.1 Background**

The ConocoPhillips Santa Maria Facility (SMF) has been a petroleum oil refinery since its construction in 1955. The SMF is linked to the San Francisco-area Rodeo Refinery by a 200-mile pipeline through which semi-refined liquid products are transferred for upgrading into finished petroleum products. The SMF also produces solid petroleum coke that leaves the Refinery by rail or haul truck and recovered sulfur that is transported by haul truck.

In recent years, the SMF has made significant upgrades to include the installation of emission control devices, a reverse osmosis system, a new water softener unit, changing the water effluent to a tankage system, and eliminating the petroleum coke calciner.

The SMF is currently surrounded by industrial, recreational, agricultural, residential, and open space land uses. Except when shut down for maintenance, the SMF operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

#### **4.6.1.2 Methods of Describing Traffic**

Transportation conditions are often described in terms of levels of service (LOS). LOS describes the existing volume of traffic on a roadway compared to the design capacity of the roadway. The design capacity of a roadway or intersection is defined as the maximum rate of vehicle travel (e.g., vehicles per hour) that can reasonably be expected along a section of roadway or through an intersection. Capacity depends on several variables, including road classification and number of lanes, location and presence of turning lanes, signal timing, road condition, terrain, weather, and driver characteristics. LOS is generally a function of the ratio of traffic volume to the capacity of the roadway or intersection or the delays associated with an intersection. The LOS ratings also use qualitative measures that characterize operational conditions within a traffic stream and their perception by motorists. These measures include freedom of movement, speed and travel time, traffic interruptions, types of vehicles, comfort, and convenience.

Trucks and intersections also affect LOS classifications. Trucks and other large, heavy vehicles or slower moving vehicles affect LOS because they occupy more roadway space and have reduced operating qualities compared to passenger cars. Since heavy vehicles accelerate slower than passenger cars, gaps form in traffic flows that affect the efficiency of the roadway.

Intersections present a number of variables that can influence LOS, including curb parking, transit buses, turn lanes, signal spacing, pedestrians, stop sign arrangements, and signal timing.

The Highway Capacity Manual is widely used in traffic studies for predicting LOS for a range of roadways and intersections (TRB 2000). The Highway Capacity Manual establishes LOS classifications depending on roadway volume to capacity (V/C) ratios for different types of roadways and the volume to capacity ratio and delay at intersections. The Highway Capacity Manual is codified into software, the Highway Capacity Software by the Transportation Research Board. Highway Capacity Software was utilized in this analysis to assess project-related traffic inputs.

The LOS of a roadway or intersection is described on a scale from A to F, with A indicating excellent traffic flow quality and F indicating forced flow conditions and very slow speeds. Level E is normally the maximum design capacity that a roadway or intersection can accommodate. LOS A, B, and C are generally satisfactory. LOS D is tolerable in urban areas during peak hours due to the high cost of improving roadways to LOS C. Caltrans recommends providing a target LOS between LOS C and LOS D on state highway facilities (Caltrans 2002). San Luis Obispo County's current California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) traffic impact thresholds consider LOS C acceptable for County rural roads in the Proposed Project area. Table 4.6-1 identifies LOS definitions and roadway volume to capacity ratios for different road types.

Analyzing intersections is more complicated than analyzing roadways. Intersections with stop signs involve analysis of conflicting traffic, vehicle gaps, vehicle movement priorities, shared lane capacities, and pedestrian influences. The approach detailed in the Highway Capacity Manual and codified in the Highway Capacity Software utilizes a probability approach to determine when gaps are available in traffic. The result is a volume to capacity ratio and a delay, both of which are used to determine LOS. Delay is the amount of time, in seconds, between when a vehicle stops at the end of the intersection queue and when the vehicle first enters the intersection. The distance between intersections is a complicating factor, among others. When two intersections are close together, the Highway Capacity Manual analysis approach is more uncertain. Table 4.6-1 also shows intersection LOS, volume to capacity ratio, and delay.

Determining a roadway's potential to present a traffic flow problem is a complicated process; therefore, a screening approach is often utilized. The screening approach involves comparing the roadway class with a traffic volume level for each LOS. The screening levels are developed by making generic assumptions for the data input in the Highway Capacity Manual calculations. The screening approach is only used for roadways and not for intersections.

**Table 4.6-1 Level of Service and Volume to Capacity Ratio Parameters**

| LOS | Traffic Conditions   | Roadway Volume to Capacity Ratio |                             |             |             | Intersection             |          |
|-----|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------|
|     |  | Multi-Lane Freeway <sup>a</sup>  | 2-Lane Highway <sup>b</sup> | Arterial    | Intersect   | Volume to Capacity Ratio | Delay(s) |
| A   | Free-flow conditions with unimpeded maneuverability. Stopped delay at signalized intersections is minimal.   | 0.30                             | 0.15 - 0.26                 | 0.00 - 0.60 | <0.60       | 0 - 0.6                  | < 10     |
| B   | In the range of stable flow, but the presence of other users in the traffic streams begins to be noticeable.   | 0.50                             | 0.27 - 0.42                 | 0.61 - 0.70 | 0.60 - 0.69 | 0.61 - 0.70              | < 15     |
| C   | In the range of stable flow, but marks the beginning of the flow in which the operation of individual users becomes significantly affected by intersections with others in the traffic stream. | 0.71                             | 0.43 - 0.63                 | 0.71 - 0.80 | 0.70 - 0.79 | 0.71 - 0.80              | < 25     |
| D   | High-density but stable flow. Speed and freedom to maneuver are severely restricted, and the driver experiences a poor level of comfort.   | 0.89                             | 0.64 - 0.99                 | 0.81 - 0.90 | 0.80 - 0.89 | 0.81 - 0.90              | < 35     |
| E   | Near capacity. Operations with significant delays and low average speeds.  | 1.00                             | > 1.00                      | 0.91 - 1.00 | 0.90 - 0.99 | 0.91 - 1.00              | < 50     |
| F   | Forced or breakdown flow. Operations with extremely low speeds, high delay.  | —                                | —                           | > 1.00      | > 1.00      | > 1.00                   | > 50     |

a. Volume to capacity ratio for level terrain when passing is allowed

b. Volume to capacity ratio for vehicle speed of 65 miles per hour (mph)

Source: TRB 2000, Caltrans 2002, San Luis Obispo County 2009

Table 4.6-2 shows the screening traffic volume levels for determination of LOS for roadways. Caltrans develops its own screening criteria for determining LOS on the roadways under Caltrans jurisdiction. Some factors that affect these capacities are intersections (in the case of surface roadways), degrees of access control, roadway grades, design geometries (horizontal and vertical alignment standards), sight distance, levels of truck and bus traffic, and levels of pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

**Table 4.6-2 LOS Screening Classifications and Roadway Daily Volumes**

| Roadway Class               | Number of Lanes   | LOS Classes |        |        |        |         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
|                             |                   | A           | B      | C      | D      | E       |
| <b>Santa Barbara County</b> |                   |             |        |        |        |         |
| Freeway                     | 6                 | 44,000      | 74,400 | 88,800 | 99,900 | 111,000 |
| Freeway                     | 4                 | 29,600      | 49,600 | 59,200 | 66,600 | 74,000  |
| Arterial                    | 4                 | 23,900      | 27,900 | 31,900 | 35,900 | 39,900  |
| Arterial                    | 2                 | 12,000      | 14,000 | 16,000 | 18,000 | 20,000  |
| Major                       | 4                 | 19,200      | 22,300 | 25,500 | 28,700 | 31,900  |
| Major                       | 2                 | 9,600       | 11,200 | 12,800 | 14,400 | 16,000  |
| Collector                   | 2                 | 7,100       | 8,200  | 9,400  | 10,600 | 11,800  |
| <b>Caltrans</b>             |                   |             |        |        |        |         |
| Freeway                     | per lane per hour | 710         | 1,170  | 1,680  | 2,090  | 2,350   |

Sources: TRB 2000; Santa Barbara County 1996

#### 4.6.1.3 Existing Conditions

SMF traffic traveling northbound from the Project Site uses the following route: State Route 1 (Willow Road which turns into Mesa View Drive into Cienaga Street) north to S. Halcyon Road; S. Halcyon Road, which turns into N. Halcyon Road, to E. Grand Avenue; east on E. Grand Avenue to the U.S. Highway 101 northbound ramp. This route is referred to as the Northbound Route. State Route 1 intersects twice with S. Halcyon Road. The southern segment of S. Halcyon Drive that is south of Arroyo Grande Creek prohibits truck traffic due to a significant grade up to the Nipomo Mesa (SLOC 2006).

SMF traffic traveling eastbound to State Route 166 from the Project Site uses the following route: State Route 1 (Willow Road) east to Willow Road (local); east on Willow Road to Pomeroy Road; south on Pomeroy Road to W. Tefft Street; east on W. Tefft Street to U.S. Highway 101 southbound ramp; south on U.S. Highway 101 to State Route 166 interchange; east on State Route 166. This route is referred to as the Eastbound Route.

SMF traffic traveling southbound toward Santa Barbara County from the Project Site uses the following route: State Route 1 (Willow Road/Guadalupe Road) east and then south to State Route 166; east on State Route 166 (Main Street in Santa Maria) to U.S. Highway 101 southbound Ramp at Bradley Road. This route is referred to as the Southbound Route.

Figure 4.6-1 shows the three traffic routes for the Proposed Project. The following subsections discuss relevant roadways.

**State Route 1** from the SMF entrance north to Halcyon Road is primarily a north-south, two-lane arterial; portions of the roadway have a median turning lane near certain intersections. State Route 1 from the SMF entrance east to Willow Road (local) is an east-west, two-lane arterial. State Route 1 south of Willow Road is a north-south, two-lane arterial. Stretching from Willow Road south to W. Clark Avenue, State Route 1 is locally known as Guadalupe Road. It becomes Cabrillo Highway south of the town of Guadalupe and Casmalia Road south of Black Road.

**Halcyon Road** is a county-managed, north-south, two-lane collector road with access from the Project Site via State Route 1 (Mesa View Drive). The intersection at S. Halcyon Road and State Route 1 is controlled by a four-way traffic signal.

**Grand Avenue** is an Arroyo Grande-managed, east-west, four-lane arterial with access from the Project Site via N. Halcyon Road. The intersection at Grand Avenue and N. Halcyon Road is controlled by a four-way traffic signal. The intersection at Grand Avenue and the U.S. Highway 101 northbound on-ramp is controlled by a four-way traffic signal.

**El Camino Real** is an east-west, four to five-lane arterial with access from the Project Site via N. Halcyon Road. The intersection at El Camino Road and N. Halcyon Road is controlled by a four-way traffic signal. El Camino Real provides access to U.S. Highway 101 southbound.

**Brisco Road** is a north-south, three-lane collector road with access from the Project Site via El Camino Real. The intersection at Brisco Road and El Camino Real is controlled by a four-way traffic signal. Brisco Road provides access to U.S. Highway 101 northbound.

**Willow Road** is a county-managed, east-west, two-lane minor arterial with access from the Project Site via State Route 1. The intersection at Willow Road and State Route 1 is controlled by a stop sign on Willow Road. Eastbound Willow Road ends at Pomeroy Road.

**Pomeroy Road** is a county-managed, north-south, two-lane collector road with access from the Project Site via Willow Road. The intersection at Pomeroy Road and Willow Road is controlled by a stop sign on Willow Road.

**W. Tefft Street** is a county-managed, east-west, five-lane (shared median) arterial with access from the Project Site via Pomeroy Road. The intersection at W. Tefft Street and Pomeroy Road is controlled by a three-way traffic signal. W. Tefft Street provides access to U.S. Highway 101.

**State Route 166** is an east-west, two- to four-lane arterial that stretches between the towns of Guadalupe, Santa Barbara County, and Mettler, Kern County, where it connects with Interstate 5. State Route 1 and U.S. Highway 101 provide separate access from the Project Site to State Route 166.

**Clark Avenue** is an east-west arterial with access from the Project Site via State Route 1 (Casmalia Road). Clark Avenue is a two-lane road between State Route 1 (Casmalia Road) and N. Broadway Street. Clark Avenue is a four-lane road between N. Broadway Street and Stillwell Road. Clark Avenue is a three-lane road between Stillwell Road and U.S. Highway 101. The

intersection at State Route 1 (Casmalia Road) and Clark Avenue is controlled by a two-way stop sign on Clark Avenue. Clark Avenue provides access to U.S. Highway 101.

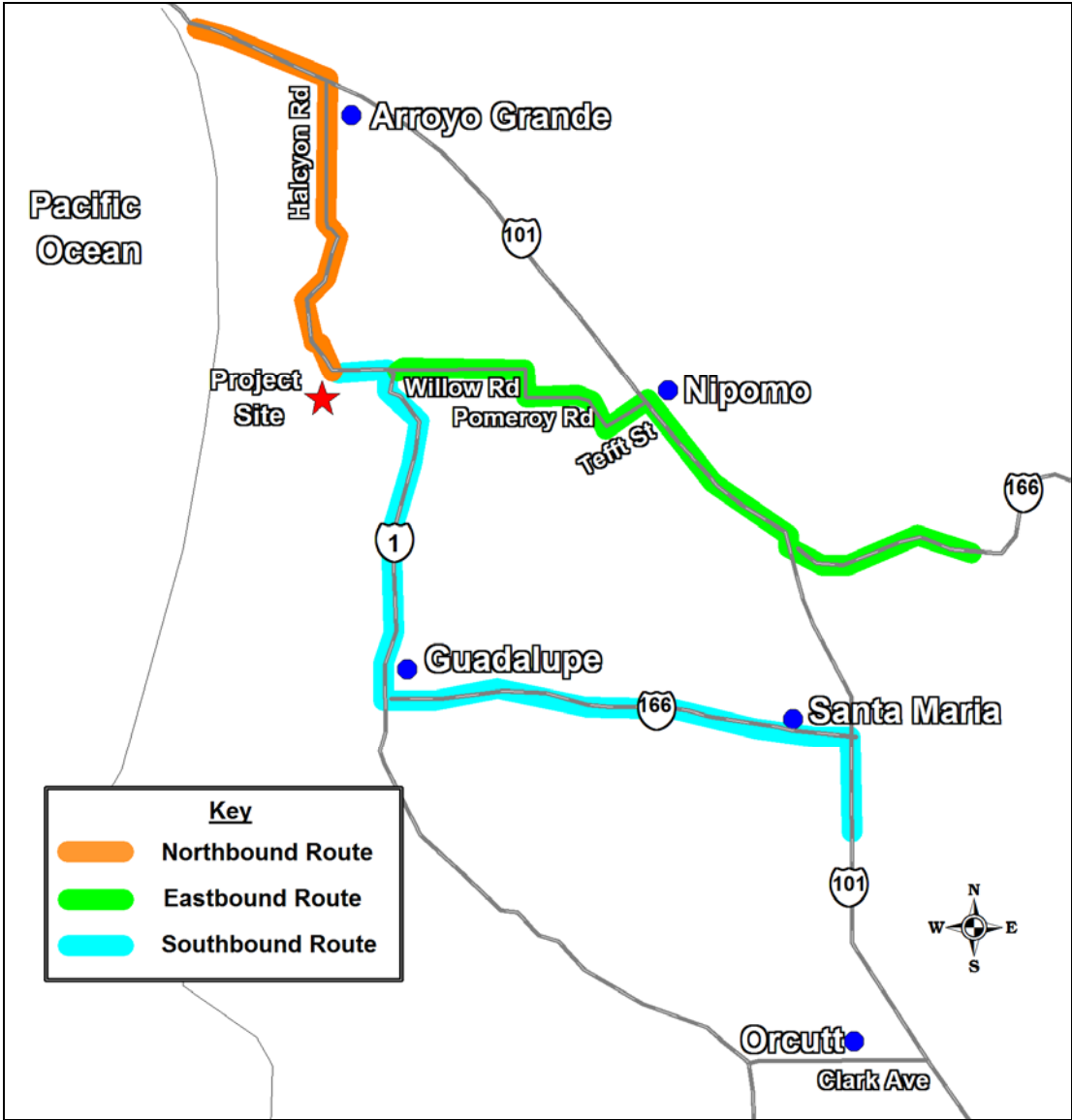
**U.S. Highway 101** is a four- to six-lane highway that extends along the Pacific Coast between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The Brisco Road interchange (Exit 187) on Brisco Road provides access to U.S. Highway 101 from the Project Site for northbound traffic. The Tefft Street interchange (Exit 179) on W. Tefft Street provides access to U.S. Highway 101 from the Project Site for southbound traffic destined for State Route 166. The Exit 175 interchange on U.S. Highway 101 provides access to eastbound State Route 166. The Clark Avenue interchange (Exit 164) on E. Clark Avenue provides access to U.S. Highway 101 from the Project Site for southbound traffic into Santa Barbara County.

#### **4.6.1.4 Project Area Overview**

##### **Existing Roadway Performance**

Access to the SMF is via State Route 1, which is also called Mesa View Drive north of the SMF entrance and is called Willow Road east of the SMF entrance. Access to the freeway system from the SMF depends on whether the intended direction is north, east or south. Northbound traffic takes State Route 1 to Halcyon Road to E. Grand Avenue to U.S. Highway 101. Eastbound traffic takes State Route 1 to Willow Road (local) to Pomeroy Road to Tefft Street to U.S. Highway 101 to State Route 166. Southbound traffic takes State Route 1 to State Route 166 to U.S. Highway 101 at Bradley Road. Currently, the SMF personnel generate approximately 160 roundtrips (320 one-way trips) per day. The SMF normal operations generate approximately five truck roundtrips (10 one-way trips) per day, not including green coke and sulfur-related trips. In 2009, the SMF had approximately 15,009 truck trips (roundtrip) related to green coke and sulfur, which is approximately 41 trucks per day, or 82 one-way truck trips per day. In total, the SMF generates approximately 206 vehicle roundtrips per day or 412 one-way vehicle trips per day.

Figure 4.6-1 Traffic Routes



Recent information on roadway traffic volumes along the three traffic routes is available from Caltrans, San Luis Obispo County, and Santa Barbara County. Using Santa Barbara County thresholds, the traffic on each of the three routes generally operates at LOS A with two applicable segments of U.S. Highway 101 operating at LOC C and one segment on Pomeroy Road operating at LOS D (see Table 4.6-3).

**Table 4.6-3 Existing Traffic for Project-Related Roadway Segments**

| Roadway  | Capacity <sup>a</sup>            | AADT                | LOS |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----|
| <b>Northbound Route</b>                                    |                                  |                     |     |
| State Route 1 at SMF entrance                              | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 6,000               | A   |
| State Route 1 between Halcyon Road and Valley Road         | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 5,186 <sup>c</sup>  | A   |
| State Route 1 between Valley Road and Halcyon Road-South   | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 4,190 <sup>c</sup>  | A   |
| State Route 1 south of Halcyon Road-South                  | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 10,151 <sup>c</sup> | A   |
| Halcyon Road north of State Route 1                        | 7,100 – 9,400 ADT                | 8,106 <sup>c</sup>  | B   |
| U.S. Highway 101 at State Route 227 (Grand Avenue)         | 29,600 – 59,200 ADT              | 53,000              | C   |
| <b>Eastbound Route</b>                                     |                                  |                     |     |
| State Route 1 at SMF entrance                              | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 6,000               | A   |
| Willow Road east of State Route 1                          | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 3,817 <sup>c</sup>  | A   |
| Willow Road west of Pomeroy Road                           | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 4,304 <sup>c</sup>  | A   |
| Pomeroy Road east of Olympic Way                           | 7,100 – 9,400 ADT                | 6,388 <sup>c</sup>  | A   |
| Pomeroy Road north of Sandydale Drive                      | 7,100 – 9,400 ADT                | 11,040 <sup>c</sup> | D   |
| Pomeroy Road north of Tefft Street                         | 7,100 – 9,400 ADT                | 9,240 <sup>c</sup>  | A   |
| Tefft Street west of Mary Avenue                           | 23,900 – 31,900 <sup>b</sup> ADT | 19,159 <sup>c</sup> | A   |
| Tefft Street west of U.S. Highway 101                      | 23,900 – 31,900 <sup>b</sup> ADT | 21,024 <sup>c</sup> | A   |
| U.S. Highway 101 at Tefft Street Interchange               | 29,600 – 59,200 ADT              | 53,000              | C   |
| U.S. Highway 101 at Junction Route 166 East                | 29,600 – 59,200 ADT              | 56,000              | C   |
| <b>Southbound Route</b>                                    |                                  |                     |     |
| State Route 1 at SMF entrance                              | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 6,000               | A   |
| State Route 1 at Oso Flaco Underpass                       | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 5,000               | A   |
| State Route 1 at Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo County Line | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 5,000               | A   |
| State Route 1 at Guadalupe North City Limits               | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 4,000               | A   |
| State Route 1 at Junction Route 166 East                   | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 2,200               | A   |
| State Route 166 at Bonita School Road                      | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 10,200              | A   |
| State Route 166 at Black Road                              | 12,000 – 16,000 ADT              | 10,100              | A   |
| State Route 166 at Blosser Road                            | 23,900 – 31,900 ADT              | 17,800              | A   |
| State Route 166 at State Route 135                         | 23,900 – 31,900 ADT              | 19,000              | A   |
| State Route 166 at U.S. Highway 101                        | 23,900 – 31,900 ADT              | 19,000              | A   |

- a. Approximate design capacities
- b. 4-lane arterial plus shared median lane
- c. Per Orcutt Community Plan
- d. The LOS C threshold for three-lane roadway used is based on the median between a two-lane roadway (14,300 ADT) and a 4-lane roadway (34,000 ADT).
- e. ADT

Sources: Caltrans 2009b; SLOC 2009e; SLOC 2007; HCS 1998; SBC 1996; SBC 2004; SBC 2010

### Existing Intersection Performance

Intersections that could be utilized as part of the Project are those between the SMF and U.S. Highway 101 for each of the three traffic routes: the northbound route, the eastbound route, and the southbound route.

**Table 4.6-4 Existing Traffic for Project-Related Roadway Intersections**

| Intersection                                       | Control Type | A.M. Peak Hr |     | P.M. Peak Hr |     |
|--|--------------|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
|  |              | V/C          | LOS | V/C          | LOS |
| <b>Northbound Route</b>                            |              |              |     |              |     |
| State Route 1 (Mesa View Drive)/Halcyon Road       | Signal       | 31.1         | C   | 25.1         | C   |
| State Route 1 (Mesa View Drive)/Gracia Way         | OWSC         | 10.3         | B   | 10.4         | B   |
| State Route 1 (Mesa View Drive)/Valley Road        | OWSC         | 10.0         | A   | 23.3         | C   |
| State Route 1 (Cienaga Street)/Halcyon Road (west) | AWSC         | 39.5         | E   | 104.9        | F   |
| State Route 1 (Cienaga Street)/Halcyon Road (east) | AWSC         | 90.4         | F   | 256.3        | F   |
| <b>Eastbound Route</b>                             |              |              |     |              |     |
| Willow Road/Pomeroy Road                           | OWSC         | 9.2          | A   | 9.8          | A   |
| Pomeroy Road/Sandydale Drive                       | OWSC         | 14.6         | B   | 15.6         | B   |
| Pomeroy Road/Juniper Street                        | OWSC         | 13.5         | B   | 13.7         | B   |
| Pomeroy Road/Tefft Road                            | Signal       | 24.4         | C   | 23.7         | C   |
| Tefft Road/Mary Avenue                             | Signal       | 23.1         | C   | 24.5         | C   |
| Tefft Road/U.S. Highway 101 Southbound Ramp        | Signal       | 49.0         | D   | 60.5         | E   |
| <b>Southbound Route</b>                            |              |              |     |              |     |
| State Route 166/Black Road                         | OWSC         | 11.4         | B   | 15.5         | C   |
| State Route 166/Pine Street                        | Signal       | n/a          | n/a | 17.0         | B   |
| State Route 166/Lincoln Street                     | TWSC         | n/a          | n/a | 10.4         | B   |
| State Route 166/Broadway                           | Signal       | n/a          | n/a | 21.3         | C   |
| State Route 166/Town Center Drive                  | Signal       | n/a          | n/a | 18.7         | B   |
| State Route 166/Miller Street                      | Signal       | n/a          | n/a | 38.6         | B   |
| State Route 166/College Drive                      | Signal       | n/a          | n/a | 0.69         | B   |
| State Route 166/Bradley Road                       | Signal       | n/a          | n/a | 0.61         | B   |

Sources: SLOC 2010; SLOC 2007; SLOC 2006; SMC 2010; SMC 2007a; SMC 2007b

## **4.6.2 Regulatory Setting**

### **4.6.2.1 Federal**

The federal government delegates the responsibilities of maintaining and regulating of roadways to state and local governments.

### **4.6.2.2 State**

Caltrans maintains the state highway system, including U.S. Highway 101, State Route 166, and State Route 1, which provide access to collector, access, and local roads in the Proposed Project area. Caltrans generally regulates maximum load limits for trucks and safety requirements for oversized vehicles for operation on highways.

### **4.6.2.3 Local**

#### **San Luis Obispo Council of Governments**

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) is a joint powers authority with a goal of facilitating cooperative regional and subregional planning, coordination, and technical assistance on issues of mutual concern. SLOCOG is the designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency and thereby responsible for all regional transportation planning and programming activities, including developing the Regional Transportation Plan. The Regional Transportation Plan guides transportation policy and is updated every 5 years. SLOCOG plans to address greenhouse-gas emission reductions in the 2010 Regional Transportation Plan update to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 375 (SLOCOG 2010).

#### **San Luis Obispo County General Plan**

The 1979 Transportation Plan within the San Luis Obispo County General Plan incorporates the countywide Circulation Element and provides the following goals related to transportation:

- Goal 1: In developing the County Transportation Plan, the betterment of the quality of life shall be the yardstick against which all plans and programs are measured.
- Goal 2: The County Transportation Plan is patterned after the Regional Transportation Plan and, as such, should be compatible with plans of the several cities within the county.
- Goal 3: The transportation system should be a well-coordinated multimodal system that is sensitive to the needs and desires of its citizens. Similarly, transportation programs should serve to reinforce federal, state, regional, and local agency goals including land use, population, employment, urban development, and environment.

- Goal 4: The transportation system should be compatible with the environment, avoid the despoliation of irreplaceable resources, use available resources wisely, promote the aesthetic quality of the county, and minimize environmental changes.
- Goal 5: In developing the County transportation system, all proposals should be financially and politically feasible and have broad public support.
- Goal 6: Proposed transportation system should be designed to maximize safety and ensure a high quality of facilities using all economically and technically feasible means available.
- Goal 7: Transportation systems should minimize social, environmental, and economic disruption and be designed to meet the needs of all social groups (SLOC 1979).

The Land Use and Circulation Element of the San Luis Obispo County General Plan is currently being updated and is scheduled for Board of Supervisors consideration in August of 2012.

### **San Luis Obispo County Area Plan**

The 1989 South County Coastal Area Plan discusses potential improvements to the roadway system in the coastal area. Specific goals and objectives are not identified.

### **San Luis Obispo County Municipal Code**

The San Luis Obispo County Municipal Code implements the General Plan and provides more specific criteria for development. Traffic regulations, including traffic control devices and turning movements, are articulated in the San Luis Obispo County Municipal Code, Title 15, Vehicles and Traffic (SLOC 2009c). Title 23, Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance, provides standards for proposed developments and new land uses to include parking, street, and frontage requirements. Title 13, Roads and Bridges – Streets and Sidewalks, establishes a road improvement fee to pay for road facilities and improvements related to new development. The County can offer a reimbursement agreement to a developer who constructs a road facility or improvement that exceeds the impact mitigation needs of the new development (SLOC 2009d).

#### **4.6.3 Significance Criteria**

According to Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, traffic impacts would be considered significant if they:

- Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections);
- Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways;
- Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that result in substantial safety risks;

- Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment);
- Result in inadequate emergency access;
- Result in inadequate parking capacity; or
- Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks).

The County’s General Plan and Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance identify specific criteria for determining whether the potential traffic impacts of a project are significant. The criteria include LOS standards for intersections and roadways in the study area and parking requirements. As listed in Table 4.6-1, a total of six LOS designations, A through F, identify the point where volumes exceed the capacity of the roadway system. According to the county, the Proposed Project would result in a significant impact if it causes an intersection operating at satisfactory LOS C to operate at LOS D or worse, or contributes any traffic to a location already operating at LOS D, E, or F. Caltrans considers LOS C to be the worst acceptable LOS for a Caltrans roadway or intersection.

**4.6.4 Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

| Impact # | Impact Description  | Phase      | Residual Impact |
|----------|---|------------|-----------------|
| TR.1     | Traffic associated with the Proposed Project would increase traffic on local roads and the freeway. | Operations | Class III       |

Additional traffic would be generated as a result of the throughput increase operations; however, the number of additional trucks needed to transport produced coke and sulfur would be a nominal four trucks per day. The Proposed Project would not change traffic associated with workers or miscellaneous deliveries.

Currently, the SMF personnel generate approximately 160 roundtrips (320 one-way trips) per day. The SMF normal operations generate approximately five truck roundtrips (10 one-way trips) per day, not including green coke and sulfur-related trips. In 2009, the SMF had approximately 15,009 truck roundtrips related to green coke and sulfur, which is approximately 41 trucks per day, or 82 one-way truck trips per day. In total, the SMF generates approximately 206 vehicle roundtrips per day, or 412 one-way vehicle trips per day.

The Proposed Project operations estimate an increase from 15,009 truck roundtrips per year in 2009 to 19,162 truck roundtrips per year. A portion of this increase, from 15,009 to 17,732, is included in the existing SMF permit and CEQA document. Therefore, this EIR addresses the increase in traffic levels from the permit level of 17,732 to 19,162, an increase of 1,430 roundtrips per year, or approximately 3.9 trips per day. The increase over the 2009 traffic levels would be an additional 11.4 trucks per day.

This traffic level increase would not contribute to a change in LOS or contribute to a substantial change in traffic load. The only intersection that is at an LOS E is the intersection at Tefft and Highway 101 during the PM peak traffic hours. However, the total number of truck trips that could occur as a result of the throughput increase is 4 truck trips per day. In addition, not all of those truck trips would utilize the East Route associated with this intersection, with some going south and some going north, depending on market for the Refinery products. Finally, loaded trucks leaving the Refinery are unlikely to be reaching this intersection during PM peak hours since most trucks are loaded and depart the facility throughout the day. Because of the small number of added truck trips, the other potential routes that could be taken and the low likelihood of using the intersection during PM peak hours, no impacts are assumed. Along roadways, traffic would increase from 0.4 and 1.0 percent in Guadalupe at the Highway 166 interchange (currently an LOS of A). Impacts along the most congested roadways at Pomeroy, for example would increase less than 0.21 percent. Therefore, impacts to project-related local roads and the freeway would be *less than significant (Class III)*.

*Mitigation Measures*

*TR-1 Within 30 days of permit approval, the applicant shall pay South County Area 2 Road Impact Fees to the Department of Public Works for the proposed 0.78 peak hour trip increase in accordance with the latest adopted fee schedule. In addition, after the Willow Road/Highway 101 interchange is completed, the applicant shall end the use of both their northbound and eastbound truck routes, as identified in this document, and shall use the Willow Road Interchange instead.*

*Residual Impacts*

Residual impacts would *less than significant (Class III)*.

**4.6.5 Mitigation Monitoring Plan**

| Mitigation Measure | Requirements   | Compliance Verification          |  |  |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
|                    |  | Method                           | Timing   | Responsible Party                              |
| TR-1               | Within 30 days of permit approval, the applicant shall pay South County Area 2 Road Impact Fees to the Department of Public Works for the proposed 0.78 peak hour trip increase in accordance with the latest adopted fee schedule. In addition, after the Willow Road/Highway 101 interchange is completed, the applicant shall end the use of both their northbound and eastbound truck routes, as identified in this document, and shall use the Willow Road Interchange instead. | Payment and Inspection of routes | Prior to permit issuance and during operations | San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department |