

Public Services

This chapter describes the public services for the Project area. For this analysis, public services are defined as police protection, fire protection, schools, libraries, and hospitals. Applicable plans and policies related to public services are presented and potential impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed Project as well as mitigation measures to reduce impacts, as applicable are identified.

14.1 Existing Setting

14.1.1 San Mateo Police Department

SMPD provides law enforcement services to the entire City of San Mateo. The SMPD station is located at 200 Franklin Parkway in San Mateo. Mutual and automatic aid agreements with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department, which is located at 400 County Center in Redwood City, and the police departments in Foster City, Belmont, and Hillsborough augment the City's ability to respond to calls in the jurisdictional boundary areas and to emergency events.

SMPD has 117 sworn police officers and 39 full-time civilian employees who provide police services and public safety dispatching to approximately 100,000 residents for the City (City of San Mateo, 2017).

14.1.2 San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department

San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department (SMCFD) provides fire protection services, including fire prevention and investigations; special operations and training in the Cities of Foster City, San Mateo, and Belmont. Within the City limits of San Mateo, there are six fire stations covering a service area of 15.7 square miles.

SMCFD provides for the safety, health, and well-being of all individuals, property, and the environment through a comprehensive range of programs designed to respond to threats from fire hazards. Its primary activity is response to requests for medical assistance and structure fires. SMCFD has a combined operations staff consisting of 10 engine companies, two truck companies, and 39 daily line personnel. Daily staffing consists of one fire chief, one deputy fire chief, one fire marshal, three operational battalion chiefs and two administrative battalion chiefs. All fire stations are staffed 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Each station has one fire engine staffed with one fire captain and two firefighter/engineers.

14.1.3 Schools and Libraries

The City of San Mateo is served by three public school districts: San Mateo–Foster City School District (SMFCSD), which serves grades pre-kindergarten through grade 8; San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD), which serves grades 9–12; and the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD), which serves high school graduates and anyone over 18. In addition, several private schools are located in the City. The schools closest to the Project site are the Nueva School Bay Meadows Campus, located south of the Event Center parking lot, and the George Hall Elementary School, located approximately 0.75 mile south of the Project site.

14.1.3.1 San Mateo–Foster City School District

SMFCSD operates 20 schools in San Mateo, Foster City, and an unincorporated area west of San Mateo. The district has a total enrollment of approximately 12,500 students (SMFCSD, 2018).

14.1.3.2 San Mateo Union High School District

SMUHSD serves the communities of San Mateo, Burlingame, Foster City, Hillsborough, Millbrae, and San Bruno. SMUHSD operates six high schools, a credit recovery school, a middle college program, and an adult school, serving a total of approximately 9,000 students (SMUHSD, 2018).

14.1.3.3 San Mateo County Community College District

SMCCCD operates three colleges: Skyline College in San Bruno; Cañada College in Redwood City; and the College of San Mateo in San Mateo. Together, they serve approximately 45,000 students (SMCCCD, 2018).

14.1.3.4 City of San Mateo Library Department

The City's Library Department oversees three public libraries: Main Library, Hillsdale Library, and Marina Library (City of San Mateo, 2018). The nearest library, the Hillsdale Library, is approximately 1 mile southwest of the Project site.

14.2 Regulatory Framework

14.2.1 State Regulations

14.2.1.1 Emergency Response and Evacuation Plans

The State of California passed legislation authorizing the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to prepare a Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS), which sets forth measures by which a jurisdiction should handle emergency disasters. Non-compliance with SEMS could result in the state withholding disaster relief from the non-complying jurisdiction in the event of an emergency disaster. The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with OES and the Department of Homeland Security prepared an emergency operations plan to incorporate and coordinate all City facilities and personnel into an efficient organization capable of responding effectively to any emergency. The plan addresses emergency organization, assigns tasks, specifies policies and general procedures, and provides for coordination of planning efforts of the various emergency staff and service elements using the SEMS program as a guideline.

14.2.2 Local Regulations

14.2.2.1 General Plan

The General Plan (City of San Mateo, 2009) contains several polices that apply to public services:

LU 4.8: Library Resources and Services. Continue to maintain a comprehensive collection of resources and services to help the community discover, enjoy, connect, and learn in an ever-changing world while offering quality library services and programs to a diverse community promoting literacy and ongoing learning.

LU 4.10: Police Station. Provide Police Station facilities to meet the facility requirements through 2030. Completed in 2009, the new San Mateo Police Station facility consists of a two-story, 45,000-square-foot main building and includes various functional ancillary and service areas and parking. The new station houses the City's Emergency Operation Center and Dispatch Center. The new police station uses sustainable or "green" technology, incorporating many energy-saving features that will save the City energy costs compared to conventional buildings.

LU 4.11: Fire Stations. Maintain a high level of service by modernizing fire stations. Provide new stations and improvements to existing stations and training facilities to meet equipment, staffing, and training requirements, as well as Essential Services Building Requirements.

LU 4.17: Library Service. Maintain a materials budget, staffing, and service hours for the City's library system that are adequate to meet the community needs, provide current and adequate materials, and meet the continuing changes in information technology.

LU 4.29: Effective Police Services. Maintain facilities, equipment, and personnel to provide an effective police force to serve existing and future population and employment as identified in the Land Use Element.

14.3 Assessment Methods and Thresholds of Significance

To evaluate potential impacts on public services, the locations of public service facilities were compared to the location of the proposed Project. Applicable policies were reviewed. Impacts on public service resources may occur if the proposed Project would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:

- Police protection
- Fire protection
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Libraries

14.4 Environmental Impacts

Impact 14-1. Would implementation of the proposed Project affect police or fire services?

The proposed Project would entail underground infrastructure and, thus, is not expected to increase the number of calls, which would affect the ability of the police and fire departments to provide adequate emergency services to their service areas.

Construction of the new diversion sewer pipelines would occur in roadways and could require the temporary intermittent closure of up to two lanes of traffic. The lane closures could temporarily affect emergency access by emergency vehicles and access to police or fire stations. However, construction of pipeline sections would last up to approximately 13 months. Additionally, implementation of Final PEIR **Mitigation Measure 9-4, Coordinate emergency services during construction** would result in less-than-significant impacts of the proposed Project on emergency services.

Impact 14-2. Would implementation of the proposed Project affect hospitals, schools, and libraries?

The proposed Project would entail underground infrastructure and, thus, would not affect long-term access to area hospitals, schools, and libraries. Further, as described in Impact 13-1, Project implementation would not induce population growth that would necessitate building more public facilities.

Although Project construction would temporarily limit access on roadways near the Project site, coordination with the appropriate authorities would occur prior to road closures, and routing detours would be implemented so access to- and operations of hospitals, schools, and libraries would not be affected. Impacts would be less than significant.

14.5 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure 9-4. Coordinate emergency services during construction is described in Chapter 9.

14.6 References

City of San Mateo. 2009. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of San Mateo General Plan Update*. July 27.

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San Mateo Community College District (SMCCCD). 2018. “District Overview” website. Accessed at: <http://www.smccd.edu/factbook/overview.php>. Accessed January 4.

San Mateo-Foster City School District (SMFCSD). 2018. “District Profile” website. Accessed at: <http://www.smfcsd.net/en/about-smfcsd/about-smfcsd.html>. Accessed January 4.

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