

4.8 PUBLIC SERVICES

This section analyzes the proposed Fire Station 10 Project's impacts on fire protection services. Since the proposed Project was determined in the Initial Study (Appendix B) not to have any adverse effects on additional public facilities for services (i.e., police protection, schools, parks, and libraries), such facilities do not require further study in this EIR.

4.8.1 Existing Setting

The 1.21-acre Project site is located in western City of Goleta (City) along Hollister Avenue, north of the Sandpiper Golf Club and east of the recently developed residential Hideaway complex. In addition to the Project site, western Goleta contains a number of dense housing developments, an elementary school, a large resort hotel, the public Sandpiper Golf Course, the Ellwood Bluffs, and an oil and gas processing facility.

Existing Fire Protection Services

Fire protection services for the City and portions of the surrounding unincorporated areas of the County are currently provided by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCFD), which currently operates out of three fire stations with the City (see also Figure 2-2). The SBCFD was formed in 1957 and is governed by the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (Health and Safety Code §§ 13800, et seq.). The closest fire station to the Project site is Station #11, located at 6901 Frey Way, just off Storke Road and south of Hollister Avenue and the Camino Real Marketplace (approximately 2.2 miles away by City streets). Fire Station 11 houses six on-duty firefighters per shift serving an estimated population of 21,594 people for a firefighter to population ratio of 1:3,599 (City of Goleta 2006). Although the number of firefighters at Fire Station 11 (six per shift) does not currently meet the City's "ideal goal," as expressed in the General Plan, of providing at least one firefighter per 2,000 residents, the population served per firefighter is less than the maximum of 4,000 that can be adequately served. Per the City's General Plan, SBCFD currently provides a Citywide firefighter to population ratio of 1:4,909, which exceeds the City's minimum standard for fire protection services (City of Goleta 2006).

The SBCFD has implemented a dynamic deployment system for its fire engines, in addition to the traditional static deployment system from fire stations when the station's engine is in-house. Dynamic deployment allows for the dispatching of engines already on the road to emergency calls rather than dispatching by a station's "first in area," as has been the previous practice. Basically, dynamic deployment uses a Global Positioning System (GPS) to monitor the exact location of each engine in real time. Previously, when an engine was out on routine (nonemergency) activities, such as inspections or training, the engine company was considered in-service and its exact location at any given moment in time was not known to County Dispatch. However, with dynamic deployment using the

County's GPS, County dispatch has real-time information on the exact location of each engine at all times and can dispatch the closest, un-engaged engine to an emergency incident, regardless of which fire station's service area the call originates from (Ron Pepin, Captain, Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District, personal communications, May 16, 2013). This precludes the need for an in-service engine to have extended run times when another fire engine would be closer. The SBCFD has also added a battalion chief as the fourth firefighter on scene, in order to meet the two-in-two-out rule.

Although the City is served by three fire stations, response times to the western Goleta area, and particularly the unincorporated community of Winchester Canyon, are considered underserved with a longer response time than those called for by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) typical urban standard and the City's adopted standard of five (5) minutes. Western Goleta contains a number of dense housing developments, an elementary school, a large destination resort hotel, the public Sandpiper Golf Course, the Ellwood Bluffs, and an oil and gas processing facility. Because of these factors, the need for a fire station to serve western Goleta has long been documented as a priority by the City, the County of Santa Barbara (County), and SBCFD.

4.8.2 Regulatory Setting

State

California Fire Code. Chapter 5 of the 2007 California Fire Code includes requirements for new development regarding access for fire-fighting apparatus and personnel, and fire protection water supplies (fire-flow).

California Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The mandated California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (CalOSHA) requirement for firefighter safety, known as the two-in-two-out rule, is also applicable. This rule requires a minimum of two personnel to be available outside a structure prior to entry by firefighters to provide an immediate rescue for trapped or fallen firefighters, as well as immediate assistance in rescue operations.

Local

City of Goleta General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan. The Goleta General Plan identifies three standards under Public Facilities Element Policy PF 3.1 with respect to the provision of fire protection services, which are derived from guidelines by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District.

These standards include:

- A firefighter-to-population ratio of one firefighter on duty 24 hours a day for every 2,000 persons in population is considered "ideal," although a

countywide ratio of one firefighter per 4,000 population is the absolute minimum standard;

- A ratio of one engine company per 16,000 population, assuming four firefighters per station, represents the maximum population that the SBCFD has determined can be adequately served by a four-person crew; and
- A five-minute response time in urban areas.

The Goleta General Plan contains the following additional policies regarding adequacy of public services to serve new developments and which would apply to this Project:

- Public Facilities Element Policy PF 3.2 identifies the western portion of the City near Winchester Canyon as the most under-served area in Goleta, and establishes that the City shall provide a site consisting of approximately 2-acres of land for a proposed Fire Station 10 to serve this area of the City.
- Public Facilities Element PF 3.9 requires all proposals for remodeled development or new development within the City to be review for potential impacts on safety and demand for police services, and establishes design standards for buildings and streets to promote safe environments.
- Public Facilities Element PF 9.2 establishes limitations on the allowance of new development within the City until it can be demonstrated that all public facilities and services, including fire protection services, are adequate.

City of Goleta Coastal Inland Zoning Ordinance. The Inland Zoning Ordinance (IZO § 35-317.7(1)(d)), of Article 3, Chapter 35 of the Municipal Code (the City of Goleta Inland Zoning Ordinance) as adopted by the Goleta Municipal Code, includes a requirement for finding of adequate public services to serve new developments, before approval of a preliminary or final development plan.

City of Goleta Development Impact Fees. The City and the area school districts have implemented separate Development Impact Fees as authorized by law. The City's fees include recreation, transportation, fire, library, public administration, and police fees.

4.8.3 Impact Analysis

Methodology and Significance Thresholds

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. In accordance with Appendix G of the 2017 CEQA Guidelines, impacts to public services would be potentially significant if the proposed project would result in:

- Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service

ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:

- Fire protection
- Police protection
- Schools
- Libraries
- Other public facilities

City of Goleta Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual. The City's adopted Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual provides specific thresholds for conducting CEQA analysis, and provides guidance for assessing the significance of project impacts on public safety, schools, and solid waste. However, the City has not adopted thresholds for determining the significance of a project involving the development of a fire station and its effects on fire protection services. In the absence of such thresholds, the thresholds listed in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines would apply to the proposed Project. Furthermore, the fire protection criteria in the City's General Plan, as discussed in the Regulatory Setting above, provide a guideline that is acknowledged in the impact analysis; however, these criteria do not serve as adopted thresholds.

Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact PS-1: The proposed Project would increase the fire protection services from the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District serving the western Goleta area, and improve service ratios and response times, resulting in a beneficial impact (Class IV).

The proposed Project involves the development of a new 11,600 sf single-story, three apparatus bay fire station to be owned and maintained by the City, but staffed and operated by SBCFD. The station would be staffed by three firefighters at all times, with up to six staff on-site simultaneously between shifts (Martin Johnson, personal communication 2017). As targeted in the City's General Plan, the proposed Project would provide fire protection service within a 5-minute response time to much of the western Goleta area, eliminating existing response time deficiencies to this area and improving Citywide firefighter to population ratios to 1:3,681, bringing the service ratio to a level within the City's minimum service standard. Given that the Project would involve the construction and operation of a new fire station which would improve existing fire protection services, implementation would entail the development of a new governmental facilities; however, impacts of the construction and operation of the Project have been analyzed throughout this report and are determined to be less than significant with implementation of feasible mitigation. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would have a *beneficial impact* (Class IV) on fire protection services for the City and surrounding communities.

Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts

As impacts on public services would be less than significant, no mitigation measures would be required.

There would be no residual impact on public services.

4.8.4 Cumulative Impacts

The Region of Influence for evaluating cumulative impacts on public services, particularly fire protection services, includes those areas in which related past, present, and reasonably probable projects would have the potential to contribute to additional demand for City fire protection services. Therefore, all related projects within the City that generate additional demand for fire protection services, including residential and commercial development, would be within the Region of Influence.

Cumulative development in and around the City would add 2,746 residential units and more than 1,559,000 square feet of new commercial and industrial space (see Table 3-1 in Section 3.0). Additional development would be located on infill sites throughout the City currently serviced by existing SBCFD facilities. Based on City average household size (2.72 persons per household; City of Goleta 2014), the addition of 826 units may result in a potential increase in City population of 2,247 persons, further increasing the City's firefighter to population service ratio to 1:5,158. However, with the addition of the Fire Station 10 Project and these cumulative developments, the City's firefighter to population ratio would be 1:3,869 which is within the City's minimum acceptable fire protection service standard.

Given the proposed Project would serve to enhance fire protection services under cumulative conditions, the Project is not determined to contribute towards a cumulative impact on fire protection services, and would have a direct beneficial impact to fire protection services under cumulative conditions.

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