

## 5.15. Public Services

<b>PUBLIC SERVICES</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>Would the project:</b>				
(a) 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 public services:				
i) Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v) Other Public Facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Significance criteria established by CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G.

### 5.15.1. Setting

For the area where the proposed Project would be located, public services, including fire and police services, as well as public and private schools, parks and recreational areas, and other public services, are provided by the City of Goleta, Santa Barbara County, special districts, and private entities.

#### 5.15.1.1. Fire Protection

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCFD) serves the City of Goleta and provides fire protection to the Project site and the surrounding area (City of Goleta, 2025). The county has 3 battalions and a total of 16 fire stations, with around 260 full-time equivalent personnel, that respond to all types of emergencies including fire, medical, rescue, and hazardous material incidents (SBCFD, 2022a). Each fire station is staffed around the clock with a minimum of 3 firefighters and a Type I (structure) engine. Specialized equipment such as Type III (wildland) fire engines, water tenders, paramedic rescue ambulances, technical rescue and water rescue equipment are strategically placed throughout the county and are cross-staffed with existing engine personnel (SBCFD 2022b). Three county fire stations are in Goleta (with a proposed fourth one currently in environmental review). The fire station nearest the site is Fire Station 11, located 1.7 miles southeast of the Project site, at 6901 Frey Way, and it also contains a separate building on its premises for the SBCFD Battalion 1 headquarters (SBCFD, 2022c). The current SBCFD response time standard aims to be consistent with the Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) response time standards, which have a goal of first responder arrival within 4 minutes or less for 90% of incidents, and for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit to arrive within 8 minutes for 90% of incidents that require advanced life support (SBCFD, 2022b).

#### 5.15.1.2. Police Protection

Police services for Goleta are provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office (SBSO). The Camino Real Marketplace Sheriff’s Substation is located at 7042 Marketplace Drive and is about 1.5 miles east of the Project site. SBSO has approximately 600 employees and 150 volunteers at more than 25 work sites located throughout the county. Although the number varies, the SBSO currently includes approximately 260 law enforcement deputies and 200 custody deputies (SBSO, 2025). According to the SBCO Public Records Center, the SBSO does not provide response times to specific areas or locations. As per their performance measures, a Deputy Sheriff will arrive at 75 percent of his/her assigned in-progress calls

(person or property) within 8 minutes of dispatch (Personal Communication; Sergeant Calderon, May 20, 2025).

### 5.15.1.3. Schools

The Goleta Unified School District (GUSD) operates public schools within the City of Goleta (GUSD, 2025). There are numerous private and parochial schools in the city as well. The Ellwood Elementary School is located approximately 340 feet east of the Project site, beyond the project-adjacent parking lot. Educational institutions in the general vicinity of the site

- Ellwood Elementary School, 7686 Hollister Ave, 340 feet east
- Brandon Elementary School, 195 Brandon Dr, 0.5 miles northeast
- Dos Pueblos High School, 7266 Alameda Ave, 1.1 miles northeast
- Goleta Valley Junior High School, 6100 Stow Canyon Rd, 3.7 miles northeast

### 5.15.1.4. Parks

The City of Goleta manages approximately 550 acres of parks and open space. The city's park system includes 9 neighborhood parks, 5 community parks, 3 mini parks, 9 neighborhood open spaces, 6 regional open spaces, and 1 community center (City of Goleta, 2025c). The parks and open space nearest the Project are:

- Ellwood Mesa Open Space and Sperling Preserve, 7729 Hollister Avenue, 0.1 miles south
- Goleta Butterfly Grove, 7801 Hollister Avenue, 0.6 miles southeast
- Winchester Park, Calle Real & Bradford Dr, 0.3 miles northeast
- San Migel Open Space, Rio Vista Drive, 0.6 miles northwest
- Winchester II Park, Calle Real & Jenna Dr, 0.3 miles north

### 5.15.1.5. Hospitals

The following hospitals are closest to the site:

- Cottage Urgent Care, 5652 Calle Real, 4.4 miles east
- Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital, 351 South Patterson Avenue, 5.0 miles east

## 5.15.2. Regulatory Background

This section includes a description of the public services regulatory framework. There are no federal regulations associated with public services that are relevant to the proposed Project.

### State

**2010 Strategic Fire Plan for California.** The 2010 Strategic Fire Plan for California was developed in coordination with the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and CAL FIRE to reduce and prevent the impacts of fire in California. Goal 6 of the Plan sets objectives to determine the level of suppression resources (staffing and equipment) needed to protect private and public resources. Specific objectives include, but are not limited to, maintaining an initial attack policy which prioritizes life, property, and natural resources; determining suppression resources allocation criteria; analyzing appropriate staffing levels and equipment needs in relation to the current and future conditions; increasing the number of CAL FIRE crews for fighting wildfires and other emergency response activities; maintaining cooperative agreements with local, state, and federal partners; and implementing new technologies to improve firefighter safety, where available (State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection). The standards outlined are applicable to the SBCFD serving the City of Goleta.

## Local

**City of Goleta General Plan Safety Element.** The purpose of the City’s public services policies is to maintain the safety and security that is essential and integral to the quality of life in the City. The following policy in the General Plan Safety Element generally relates to the proposed Project (City of Goleta, 2006):

### **Policy SE 1: Safety in General.**

Objective: To avoid siting of development or land use activities in hazardous areas, and where this is not feasible, to ensure that adequate mitigation measures are incorporated into the project design to reduce risks to acceptable levels.

#### Policy SE 1.1: Maintenance of Maps and Resources of Hazards

The City shall require that new development be located and designed to avoid areas of high hazard risk, including but not limited to floodplains, unstable slopes, and high fire hazard areas. Where avoidance is not feasible, development shall incorporate mitigation measures to reduce risks to acceptable levels.

## **5.15.3. Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

### **Thresholds of Significance**

A significant impact on public services would be expected to occur if the proposed Project resulted in any of the impacts noted in the CEQA Appendix G checklist. In addition, the County of Santa Barbara’s Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (2021), which has been adopted by the City of Goleta (adopted by Resolution 08-40) includes thresholds of significance for potential impacts on area schools. Specifically, under these thresholds, any project that would result in enough students to generate the need for an additional classroom using current State standards would be considered to result in a significant impact on area schools.

The City’s adopted Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual notes current State standards are: Grades K-2, 20 students per classroom; Grades 3 -8, 29 students per classroom; and Grades 9 – 12, 28 students per classroom. However, the State of California classroom size standards are as follows: average class sizes of 31 (not to exceed 33) for kindergarten, 30 (not to exceed 32) for Grades 1 – 3), and 29.9 (or the district’s average number of students per teacher in 1964, whichever is greater) for Grades 4 – 8.

### **Impact Analysis**

**(a) Would the project 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 public services:**

#### **i. Fire Protection**

*LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.* The proposed Project would not require fire protection services during construction or operation and maintenance except in an emergency. The Project site would be served by the SBCFD, which aims to arrive within 4 minutes or less for 90% of incidents. The proposed BESS facility would include redundant safety systems to prevent and mitigate potential hazards, such as integrated temperature, voltage, and current protection, and anti-islanding functionality that automatically shuts down the system during grid disturbances. Battery enclosures would feature gas igniters and overpressure vents to safely release flammable gases during thermal runaway events, reducing explosion risk. Safety measures would include both software and physical isolation controls. The Project Applicant would coordinate with the City of Goleta and Santa Barbara County Fire Department to implement fire prevention

systems and emergency protocols. Prior to operations, the Applicant has committed to providing site-specific training for emergency personnel and designating a point of contact, as described in Section 4.11.1. The BESS design would follow applicable standards that would be specific to the battery technology chosen, including, but not limited to, National Fire Protection Association 855 (standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems) and Section 1206 of the California Fire Code. The construction and operation of the proposed Project would not result in a need for additional fire protection facilities or affect response times or other service performance. The result would be a less than significant impact.

#### **ii. Police Protection**

*LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.* The proposed Project would not require police services during construction or operation and maintenance beyond routine patrols and response. As with fire services discussed in Item (a) above, the construction and operation of the proposed Project would not result in a need for additional police facilities or affect response times or other service performance criteria. The majority of construction-related activities would be located away from major emergency access routes and are not expected to interfere with emergency response times. The result would be a less than significant impact on police services.

#### **iii. Schools**

*LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.* The proposed Project would not result in an increase in population within the area. Construction of the Project would take place over approximately 8 months and would not require the relocation of workers' families to the City of Goleta. A discernable increase in families or in school-age children would not be expected as a result of the short-term construction activities and any workers who might temporarily migrate to the area. The Project would not result in an increase in students, and therefore the Project would not generate the need for an additional classroom under current State standards.

After construction, Scale Microgrids, LLC's current operations and maintenance team would conduct equipment maintenance of the Project that would primarily involve technician inspections and general site upkeep. Dispatch would be managed remotely from a regional control center. After commissioning, qualified technicians would perform routine inspections and maintenance to ensure safe, reliable BESS operation over the Project's lifespan. There would be no additional workers as a result of this Project. Therefore, the Project would not increase the population in a way that would cause the need for expanded schools. The result would be a less than significant impact.

#### **iv. Parks**

*NO IMPACT.* The proposed Project would not increase the region's population. Construction of the Project would take place over 8 months and would require only a small construction workforce on any given day. While it is possible that workers traveling to the area may use existing public services or amenities such as parks, the potential increase in use and demand would be minimal and temporary and would not contribute substantially to the physical deterioration of existing facilities. Consequently, the Project would not increase any long-term demands on existing parks in the area surrounding the Project site, and no new or expanded park facilities would be required because of the proposed Project.

#### **v. Other Public Facilities**

*NO IMPACT.* The proposed Project would not increase population and would not affect other governmental services or public facilities that would lead to the requirement of new or expanded facilities to be developed. Therefore, no impact on other public facilities is expected.

### **5.15.3.1. Impact Conclusions and Mitigation Measures**

The proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to public services and no mitigation measures are recommended.