

3.2.4 Public Services

This section assesses public services including fire protection, police protection, schools, and libraries provided within the unincorporated communities of the County of San Diego (County), and it identifies potential impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project.

3.2.4.1 *Fire Protection*

Within the unincorporated communities of the County, emergency services system, and fire and emergency medical services are provided by Fire Protection Districts (FPD), County Service Areas (CSA), and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Each of these agencies is responsible for structural fire protection and wildland fire protection within their area of responsibility. Some mutual and automatic aid agreements are also in place to enable non-lead fire agencies to respond to fire emergencies outside their district boundaries. There are currently 28 fire agencies that serve the unincorporated County. Additional information regarding fire protection and emergency services is provided in Section 2.6, Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

3.2.4.2 *Police Protection*

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department is the chief law enforcement agency in San Diego County. The Sheriff's Department provides generalized patrol services, as well as law enforcement and investigative services, to the unincorporated communities and rural areas within the County, including the project area. Response times vary based on the location and availability of law enforcement officers and patrol schedules. The Sheriff's Department has a service area of approximately 4,200 square miles and serves a population of over 870,000 people.

The California Highway Patrol is responsible for traffic safety on highways maintained by the state. The California Highway Patrol is divided into eight field divisions; the County of San Diego is within the Border Division. The Border Division maintains 12 area offices, four resident posts, five commercial inspection facilities, two transportation management centers, 900 uniformed officers, and 380 non-uniformed personnel. The Public Facilities Element of the County of San Diego's General Plan requires the County to ensure that adequate facilities are available concurrent with need before giving final approval to subdivisions and certain other projects requiring discretionary approval. Board of Supervisors' Policy I-84 requires the use of standardized service letters to ensure that information obtained from special districts and other facility providers is consistent, timely, and is provided to the appropriate decision-making body.

3.2.4.3 *Schools*

Public schools and educational facilities are mandated by the State Department of Education and administered by the San Diego County Board of Education and the San Diego County Office of Education. Thirty-seven unified, elementary, and high school districts provide service to the residents of the unincorporated County. There are also a number of private, public, and technical/professional schools that serve the County.

3.2.4.4 *Libraries*

The County Library system serves over 1 million residents in the County's unincorporated communities. The County Library system anticipates increased demand for services due to expected population growth and expanded development in unincorporated areas.

The County Public Law Library is a public institution that is open to the general public. The County Public Law Library provides County residents access to information concerning the laws that affect them. There are four locations that serve San Diego residents, including downtown San Diego, Chula Vista, El Cajon, and Vista. Library membership is available to San Diego County residents and all California attorneys.

3.2.4.5 *Analysis of Project Effects*

The proposed project would have a significant impact if it would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of 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, and libraries.

Tier One and Tier Two

The proposed project would not contribute to an increase in housing units or population, which might cause increased need for public services. As analyzed in Section 2.6, operation of the proposed project could potentially pose fire risks from highly flammable hay, bedding, and feed. However, future equine facilities would be developed as an accessory use and would generally be developed in areas where infrastructure and services systems already exist. The proposed project would not require the construction or expansion of additional fire facilities, police facilities, schools, or libraries. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

Tier Three and Tier Four

All future Tier Three and Tier Four equine uses will be subject to discretionary review and required to obtain an Administrative Permit or a Major Use Permit, respectively. As part of the County's discretionary review process, all future projects would be evaluated under CEQA and would be required to implement measures to minimize impacts to public services, as necessary. Similar to Tier One and Tier Two equine facilities, future Tier Three and Tier Four equine facilities would not involve any uses that would result in the need for significantly altered services or facilities, as no increase in housing units or population would occur due to the project proposal. Therefore, the proposed project would result in **less-than-significant impacts** to public services from the development of equine facilities under Tier Three and Tier Four.

3.2.4.6 *Cumulative Impact Analysis*

The geographic scope for this cumulative analysis is the San Diego region, which encompasses the entire County, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas. Cumulative projects within the region would result in an increase in residential, commercial, and industrial development that would require fire protection, police protection, schools, and library services. Such projects include those listed in Table 1-5a, Private Project Not Included in the General Plan Update. In order to maintain adequate levels of services and performance objectives to serve cumulative projects, the construction or expansion of facilities would be required, which would have the potential to result in an adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, cumulative projects would result in a significant cumulative impact associated with the construction of public facilities.

As discussed in Section 3.2.4.5, the proposed project would not impact public services including fire protection, police protection, schools, and library services within the County. Therefore, the proposed project **would not contribute to a cumulative impact** that would adversely affect public services.

3.2.4.7 *Mitigation Measures*

The proposed project will not result in any significant impacts to public services, and no mitigation measures are required.

3.2.4.8 *Conclusion*

The proposed project does not propose facilities or uses that require the construction of new fire, police, school, or library facilities or expansion of existing facilities that would result in adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in significant adverse impacts related to public services.

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