

3.2.4 Public Services

This section assesses public services including fire protection, police protection, schools and libraries provided within the unincorporated 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, fire and emergency medical services are provided by Fire Protection Districts (FPD), County Service Areas (CSA) and 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 of San Diego 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 Supervisor's 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 one 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.

Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities

The proposed project would allow small wind turbines and Meteorological Testing (MET) facilities as an accessory use in the unincorporated portions of the County over which the County has land use jurisdiction, subject to specified standards and limitations. 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 result in vegetation ignitions or wildfire from equipment failure. However, future small wind turbines and MET 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**.

Large Turbine(s)

The proposed project amends certain provisions of the County's Zoning Ordinance related to large turbine(s). These updates are necessary to address advancements in technology that have obviated many of the current provisions. The proposed amendments related to large wind turbines consist of updated definitions and requirements related to setbacks, noise, height, and locations where large turbines are permissible. All future large turbine projects will be subject to discretionary review and required to obtain a Major Use Permit. As part of the County's discretionary review process, all future projects would be evaluated under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and would be required to implement measures to minimize impacts to public services, as necessary. Similar to small wind turbines and MET facilities, future large wind turbine projects would not involve any uses that would result in the need for significantly altered services or facilities. If a future large wind turbine project resulted in the need for significantly altered services or facilities, service availability forms would be provided as part of the permitting process, which would indicate whether services are available to the project and what construction and infrastructure would be needed, if any. Therefore, the proposed project would result in **less-than-significant impacts** to public services from the development of large wind turbines.

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 1-4a, 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 would not involve 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.