

## **4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

### **4.12.1 Introduction and Methodology**

This section analyzes the proposed project’s potential impacts to existing and planned public services, including fire protection, police protection, schools, parks and recreation, and libraries. Public services throughout the project area are provided according to service standards, response times, and approved ratios established by the City of Oceanside and the City of Carlsbad. Potential project impacts associated with increased demand on public services, including fire and police services, were evaluated per correspondence with the Cities of Oceanside and Carlsbad’s fire and police personnel.

### **4.12.2 Existing Conditions**

#### **Fire Protection**

The Oceanside Fire Department provides fire protection services to the City of Oceanside. The department mission is the preservation of life, property, and the environment. This is accomplished by providing “highly-trained emergency service personnel using the most modern equipment; specialized prevention and training officers; and a dedicated administrative support staff” (Oceanside Fire Department 2014a).

The Oceanside Fire Department serves over 180,000 residents and visitors throughout an area of 41 square miles. The Fire Department services are provided by 124 personnel, including 115 sworn personnel. The following apparatus are in service full time:

- Fire engine trucks (6)
- Quint ladder truck (1)
- Tiller truck (1)
- Ambulances (4)
- Brush engines (2)
- Rescue/light and air unit (1)
- Water tender truck (1)
- Command vehicle (battalion chief) (1)
- Command and interoperability trailer (1)
- Incident support trailer (1)
- Confined space trailer (1)
- Courier truck

In addition to the equipment listed, a mass casualty response vehicle will be added to the equipment inventory (Oceanside Fire Department 2014a).

The Oceanside Fire Department has eight firehouses located throughout the City. Of these stations, the closest to the project site are Fire Station 2, located approximately 1.3 miles west of the project site at 1740 South Ditmar Street, and Fire Station 3, approximately 1.5 miles north of the project site at 3101 Oceanside Boulevard (Oceanside Fire Department 2014a).

The City of Oceanside has entered into an automatic aid agreement with the Cities of Carlsbad and Vista. Per the agreement, when an emergency call comes in to dispatch, the nearest emergency responder is notified regardless of the jurisdictional boundaries. The fire station located closest to the project site is City of Carlsbad Fire Station 1, which is approximately 1 mile south of the project site. Therefore, non-Oceanside Fire Department fire stations would most likely be notified in the event of an emergency, including City of Carlsbad Fire Stations 1 and 3, located approximately 1 mile and 1.5 miles south of the site, at 1275 Carlsbad Village Drive and 3701 Catalina Drive in Carlsbad, respectively.

The Oceanside Fire Department calls for service for 2012 were as follows:

- Total responses – 17,791
- Fire responses – 809
- Emergency medical service responses – 13,411
- Vehicle accidents – 1,837
- Service calls – 617
- Gas leaks – 111
- False alarms – 553
- Other – 453 (Oceanside Fire Department 2014a)

In addition to providing emergency response services, non-emergency functions are continually performed by the fire department, including fire investigations, plan checks for all new development, fire prevention inspections, and public education and informational programs (Oceanside Fire Department 2014a).

In the City of Carlsbad Fire Department, Fire Operations is the largest division and is responsible for fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical service delivery, and disaster mitigation. The Operations Division is led by the division chief, with three shift battalion chiefs leading Platoons A, B, and C. Personnel in each platoon consist of captains, engineers, and firefighter/paramedics working an alternating 24-hour shift schedule. The fire training battalion chief manages

personnel training, the administrative battalion chief manages business and support services, and the emergency medical service manager ensures continuous quality improvement in the emergency medical services provided. Fire Operations personnel respond to more than 10,000 calls for service annually (Carlsbad Fire Department 2014).

To respond to emergency incidents throughout the city, the City of Carlsbad Fire Department maintains a fire suppression staff of 75 and a fleet of emergency vehicles that includes the following:

- Type 1 engines (5)
- Ladder truck (1)
- Heavy rescue vehicle (1)
- Ambulances (3)
- Trench rescue trailer (1)
- Command vehicles (5)

In addition to the front-line apparatus noted above, the City of Carlsbad has reserve apparatus that can be immediately placed in service in the event additional staffing is needed or when front-line apparatus experience mechanical issues (Carlsbad Fire Department 2014).

Both the City of Oceanside and the City of Carlsbad maintain a goal of 5-minute response times for fire department responses (Van Voorhees, pers. comm. 2012; Anderson, pers. comm. 2012). Response times to the project site from the Oceanside and Carlsbad stations that service the area from January 1, 2012, through June 13, 2012, averaged 6 minutes 10 seconds, with the fastest response time being 4 minutes 40 seconds, and the slowest response time 7 minutes 50 seconds (Van Voorhees, pers. comm. 2012). In February 2014, the Oceanside Fire Department reported 2,446 unit responses, including 1,393 reported incidents. From the time of call to the first unit on scene, the average response times during that month for emergency medical service calls were 5 minutes 52 seconds, and 6 minutes 27 seconds for fire service calls. For all urgent calls, the reported average response time was 5 minutes 52 seconds (Oceanside Fire Department 2014b).

### **Police Protection**

The Oceanside Police Department provides police protection services to the City. It has 211 sworn and 89 professional staff members who serve more than 175,000 residents in the City, and handle approximately 75,000 calls for service annually (Oceanside Police Department 2014a). The Oceanside Police Department’s mission statement is “to work with the community to build trust and provide quality service that actively prevents crime, reduces the fear of crime and promotes safety” (Oceanside Police Department 2014b).

The police department is located at 3855 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, California 92054. This station is located approximately 4 miles north of the project site and is the closest police station to the site. The Oceanside Neighborhood Policing Sector Map identifies the project site as being located in the Fire Mountain area associated with Districts 12 and 13 of Sector 2.

The Patrol Division is the largest of the divisions in the Oceanside Police Department. It is currently composed of 113 officers and 13 field evidence technicians assigned to the division. The City is divided into four sectors and ten beats, and officers are assigned to a beat for a year at a time (Oceanside Police Department 2014c). In June 2014, City-wide response times for Priority 1 calls, which include life-threatening emergencies, averaged 5 minutes and 39 seconds from the time of call to the first unit on scene (Davis, pers. comm. 2012).

### **Schools**

The Oceanside Unified School District serves the residents of the City of Oceanside; however, the district's southern boundary runs along State Route 78 (SR-78). Since the project site is located immediately south of SR-78, the project site is located within the northern boundary of the Carlsbad Unified School District. The Carlsbad Unified School District serves over 11,000 students in nine elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools, and two alternative schools. According to the Carlsbad Unified School District's school boundary maps, the project site is served by Buena Vista Elementary School, Valley Middle School, Carlsbad High School, and Carlsbad Village Academy. Buena Vista Elementary is located at 1330 Buena Vista Way, Carlsbad, California 92008, approximately 1.5 miles south of the project site. Valley Middle School is located at 1645 Magnolia Avenue, and Carlsbad Village Academy is located at 1640 Magnolia Avenue; both schools are approximately 2 miles south of the project site in Carlsbad. In addition, Carlsbad High School is located at 3557 Monroe Street, approximately 1.8 miles south of the project site in Carlsbad (Carlsbad Unified School District 2014).

### **Parks**

The City of Oceanside maintains 56 parks, recreational facilities, and community centers, including the beach, Buena Vista Lagoon, the San Luis Rey River, Calaveras Lake, Hosp Grove, golf courses, a dog park, skate parks, and trails. The City's General Plan Recreational Trails Element focuses on the provision and maintenance of pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trail systems throughout the City. The City's General Plan Environmental Resource Management Element provides the City's recreational standards for parks, which includes the dedication of 5 acres of park per 1,000 residents (City of Oceanside 2002). In addition, the City Parks and Recreation Division has a Strategic Plan for 2012 through 2014 that was updated in 2011. The Strategic Plan specifies the goals and values of the Parks and Recreation Division, as well as the Division's mission, which is to enhance the "quality of life of Oceanside residents, through people, parks and programs" (City of Oceanside 2011).

The Parks and Recreation Division facilities nearest to the project site consist of the Buena Vista Lagoon, which includes a trail and shoreline located approximately 350 feet west of the project site; Joseph Carrasco Park at Skylark Drive; the South Oceanside School Park at Cassidy Street and Stewart Street; and Lion’s Club Park located at Cassidy Street and Broadway (City of Oceanside 2014a).

### **Libraries**

The Oceanside Public Library system is composed of two libraries, two traveling bookmobiles, and the Oceanside READS Learning Center. The main library facility is the Civic Center Library, approximately 3.7 miles northwest of the project site. The Mission Branch Library is about 4.1 miles north of the project site, and the Oceanside READS Learning Center is approximately 3.5 miles to the northwest of the project site. The bookmobiles are present at different locations throughout the week (City of Oceanside 2014b).

### **4.12.3 Thresholds of Significance**

Based on the significance criteria established by Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et seq.), a significant impact related to public services and facilities would generally occur as a result of project implementation if the project would:

1. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, a need for new or physically altered government 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:
  - a. Fire Protection
  - b. Police Protection
  - c. Schools
  - d. Parks
  - e. Other public facilities.

#### 4.12.4 Environmental Impacts

1. *Would the proposed project result in substantial physical adverse 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 of any of the public services:*
  - a. *Fire protection*
  - b. *Police protection*
  - c. *Schools*
  - d. *Parks*
  - e. *Other public facilities?*

##### **Fire Protection**

As discussed above, both the City of Oceanside Fire Department and the City of Carlsbad Fire Department would serve the project site based on the automatic aid agreement between the two cities. Conversations with representatives from both fire departments confirmed that the two fire stations that would most likely serve the proposed project site are Carlsbad fire stations. Carlsbad Fire Stations 1 and 3 are located approximately 1 mile and 1.5 miles south of the site, at 1275 Carlsbad Village Drive and 3701 Catalina Drive in Carlsbad, respectively (Van Voorhees, pers. comm. 2012; Anderson, pers. comm. 2012). Additionally, representatives from both fire departments confirmed that they anticipate that the fire departments are adequately equipped and staffed to service the proposed project, and they do not anticipate that the proposed project would substantially impact response times in the project area (Van Voorhees, pers. comm. 2012; Anderson, pers. comm. 2012). Therefore, impacts to fire protection services would be less than significant.

##### ***Short-Term Construction Impacts***

During construction, the project would require the delivery of large amounts of construction materials and equipment that may temporarily interrupt traffic flow along area roadways. Though the project's construction activities would not require the closure of Jefferson Street at any time, project design features and construction measures (as described in Table 3-2 in Section 3.2, Project Description), including implementation of a Traffic Control Plan, would be implemented to reduce impacts during construction activities. The Traffic Control Plan would address all activities performed in the public right-of-way of area roadways and would include measures to

maintain a safe, uniform flow of travel for all modes of travel through the work zone. The Traffic Control Plan would also therefore ensure that the fire department has adequate access to and around the construction zone at all times. With implementation of the Traffic Control Plan, short-term construction-related impacts to fire department access would be less than significant.

### ***Long-Term Operational Impacts***

Although the proposed project does not include residential units that would introduce a long-term permanent increase in population to the City of Oceanside, the proposed project would introduce hotel and pavilion uses that would potentially increase the demand for fire protection services, and thus the Oceanside Fire Department's service ratios and response times. The City of Oceanside Municipal Code Chapters 32B and 32C require that new development pay a fee apportioned to the City's public facilities. The proposed project would be required to pay such fees that would provide funds to the Oceanside Fire Department for expanding facilities to better serve the area, as identified in Table 3-2 in Section 3.2. The development impact fee amount would be determined by the impact fee schedule, and no building permit would be issued until the fees have been paid. Additionally, the proposed project buildings would be equipped with fire protection sprinklers and the landscaping plant palette would consist of species with low fire fuel potential. With adherence to the municipal code and payment of required impact fees, impacts to fire protection would remain below a level of significance.

### **Police Protection**

Although the proposed project does not include residential units that would introduce a long-term permanent increase in population to the City of Oceanside, the proposed project would introduce hotel and pavilion uses that would potentially increase the demand for police protection services, and thus the Oceanside Police Department's service ratios and response times. The City of Oceanside Municipal Code Chapters 32B and 32C require that new development pay a fee apportioned to the City's public facilities. The proposed project would be required to pay such fees that would provide funds to the police department for expanding facilities to better serve the area, as identified in Table 3-2 in Section 3.2. The development impact fee amount would be determined by the impact fee schedule, and no building permit would be issued until the fees have been paid. With adherence to the municipal code and payment of required impact fees, impacts to police protection would remain below a level of significance.

### **Schools**

The project consists of the development of three hotels and a meeting pavilion. The City of Oceanside will require proof that the impact fee for non-residential development projects for the applicable school district (in this case, the Carlsbad Unified School District) has been paid prior to issuing building permits (Morris, pers. comm. 2012). The project does not include residential uses, and the proposed hotels and meeting facility would not generate an increase in student population. The project would therefore not cause a need for additional school facilities or services and would not result in impacts associated with new or altered school facilities.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Construction of the proposed project would not disrupt or prevent public access to any of the parks within the City of Oceanside. In addition, the project would not result in a direct increase in population that would cause an increase in demand for new or expanded park and recreational services. The project includes a nature trail along Buena Vista Creek that would be accessible by the public. Overall, impacts would be less than significant.

### **Libraries**

The proposed project does not involve a housing component nor would it result in a direct increase in population that would create the need for new or expanded library facilities. Therefore, impacts to library facilities would not occur as a result of the project.

## **4.12.5 Mitigation Measures**

The proposed project would not result in any significant impacts; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

## **4.12.6 Level of Significance After Mitigation**

Impacts would be less than significant.