

13.0 PUBLIC SERVICES

This chapter describes the existing public services for the project area and any impacts anticipated with implementation of the proposed project. Public services included in this discussion are fire protection, police protection, public schools, and maintenance of public facilities. As described in Chapter 1.0, “Introduction,” the proposed project does not have components that would have a significant effect on public utilities. Therefore, the proposed project would have a negligible effect on public utilities, and this topic will not be discussed further in this chapter.

13.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

13.1.1 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Alta Vista Elementary School is the closest elementary school to the project area. Located in Auburn approximately 3 miles from the project area, the school serves students from kindergarten through 5th grade. The closest middle school to the project area is E. V. Cain Middle School, which is approximately 2 miles from the project area and serves grades 6–8. Placer High School, which serves grades 9–12, is the closest high school at approximately 3 miles from the project area. The project area is within the Auburn State Recreation Area (SRA); there are no schools within this area.

13.1.2 FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection and emergency medical response are provided in the project area by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) under an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation).

13.1.3 POLICE PROTECTION

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) provides rangers for law enforcement in the project area under an agreement with Reclamation. The Placer County (County) Sheriff’s Department in Auburn handles all other police services, and the California Highway Patrol handles traffic-related issues.

13.1.4 OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES

The County Department of Public Works provides road maintenance for Foresthill Road, Lake Clementine Road, and Upper Lake Clementine Road, and State Parks maintains Ponderosa Way by grading the road each spring. State Parks also manages facilities within the Auburn SRA, which encompasses the project area.

13.2 REGULATORY SETTING

13.2.1 FEDERAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS

No federal plans, policies, regulations, or laws related to public services are applicable to the proposed project.

13.2.2 STATE PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS

No state plans, policies, regulations, or laws related to public services are applicable to the proposed project.

13.2.3 LOCAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND ORDINANCES

PLACER COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The following are the relevant goals and policies identified by the *Placer County General Plan* (Placer County 1994) for public services.

- ▶ **GOAL 4.H:** To provide adequate sheriff services to deter crime and to meet the growing demand for services associated with increasing population and commercial/industrial development in the County.
- ▶ **Policy 4.H.2.** The County Sheriff shall strive to maintain the following average response times for emergency calls for service:
 - a. 6 minutes in urban areas
 - b. 8 minutes in suburban areas
 - c. 15 minutes in rural areas
 - d. 20 minutes in remote rural areas
- ▶ **GOAL 4.I:** To protect residents of and visitors to Placer County from injury and loss of life and to protect property and watershed resources from fires.
- ▶ **Policy 4.I.2.** The County shall encourage local fire protection agencies in the County to maintain the following standards (expressed as average response times to emergency calls):
 - a. 4 minutes in urban areas
 - b. 6 minutes in suburban areas
 - c. 10 minutes in rural areas

WEIMAR-APPLEGATE-CLIPPER GAP GENERAL PLAN

The *Weimar-Applegate-Clipper Gap General Plan* contains the following goals and policies relevant to public services in the project area.

- ▶ Require that adequate services are available for proposed developments prior to granting approval.
- ▶ Consider mitigation measures for new developments to reduce the impacts on local services (i.e., schools, parks, etc.).
- ▶ Minimize areas where urban services will be required to protect the rural character of the Weimar, Applegate, and Clipper Gap Communities.

FORESTHILL DIVIDE COMMUNITY PLAN

The *Foresthill Divide Community Plan* (Community Plan), which is currently in draft form, includes the project area. The Community Plan contains the following goals and policies relevant to public services in the project area.

- ▶ **GOAL 3.D.13:** Protect residents of and visitors to Foresthill from injury, suffering, and loss of life and protect property and watershed resources from fires.
- ▶ **Policy 3.D.13-15.** The County shall work with local fire protection agencies, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the U.S. Forest Service to promote the maintenance of existing fuel breaks and emergency access routes for effective fire suppression.

- ▶ **Policy 3.D.13-17.** The County shall continue to work cooperatively with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and local fire protection agencies in managing wildland fire hazards.
- ▶ **GOAL 3.D.14:** Provide adequate Sheriff's services to deter crime and to meet the growing demand for services associated with increasing population and commercial/industrial development in the county.
- ▶ **Policy 3.D.14-2.** The County Sheriff shall strive to maintain the following average response times for emergency calls for service in Foresthill:
 - 15 minutes in rural areas
 - 20 minutes in remote rural areas

13.3 IMPACTS

13.3.1 ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

Potential impacts on fire protection, police protection, public schools, and other public facilities that would result from the proposed project were identified by comparing existing service capacity and facilities against anticipated future demand associated with implementation of the proposed project.

13.3.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Based on the Placer County California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Checklist and the State CEQA Guidelines, the proposed project would result in a potentially significant impact on public services if it would have an effect on or result in the need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas:

- ▶ schools;
- ▶ fire protection;
- ▶ sheriff protection;
- ▶ maintenance of public facilities, including roads; or
- ▶ other governmental services.

The proposed project would not affect public schools in the area; therefore, effects of the proposed project on schools will not be discussed further in this chapter. In addition, as mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, the proposed project would have a negligible effect on public utilities, so this topic is not discussed in the impact analysis below.

13.3.3 IMPACT ANALYSIS

IMPACT 13-1	<i>Public Services – Potential Reduction in Emergency Response Times. The proposed project may cause an increase in demand for emergency services. However, adequate access to the proposed trail would be provided for emergency vehicles. Therefore, current emergency response times are not expected to be reduced.</i>
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Significance	<i>Less Than Significant</i>
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Mitigation Proposed	<i>None Warranted</i>
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Residual Significance	<i>Less Than Significant</i>
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See Impact 8-6, “Potential Interference with Emergency Response Routes,” in Chapter 8.0, “Transportation and Circulation,” for further discussion.

IMPACT 13-2 **Public Services – Increase in Demand for Police Services.** *Use of the proposed trail may increase demand for police services in the project area. However, an increase in demand is expected to occur in the project area regardless of implementation of the proposed project. This increase in demand is expected to be proportional to the increase in population in the surrounding area. The proposed project is not expected to significantly increase the demand for police services in addition to increases already occurring due to population increases.*

Significance *Less Than Significant*

Mitigation Proposed *None Warranted*

Residual Significance *Less Than Significant*

Police services in the project area would continue to be provided by State Parks, the California Highway Patrol, and the County Sheriff’s Department. The proposed trail is not expected to significantly increase the number of visitors to the project area above that already expected due to population increases. Therefore, it is expected that the police services would increase over time as needed to accommodate increased visitation to Auburn SRA. The proposed project would not cause a significant additional increase in demand for police services. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

IMPACT 13-3 **Public Services – Increase in Demand for Fire Services.** *Use of the proposed trail may increase demand for fire services in the project area. However, any increase in demand is expected to occur in the project area regardless of implementation of the proposed project. This increase in demand is expected to be proportional to the increase in population in the surrounding area. The proposed project is not expected to significantly increase the demand for fire services in addition to increases already occurring due to population increases.*

Significance *Less Than Significant*

Mitigation Proposed *None Warranted*

Residual Significance *Less Than Significant*

Fire services in the project area are currently provided by CDF. Implementation of the proposed project would bring more people into the immediate area, and there is the possibility (however slight) that a fire could be started in the project area. However, the demand for fire services in the Auburn SRA is expected to increase regardless of implementation of the proposed project. The proposed project is not expected to cause a significant increase in the demand for fire services in addition to increases already occurring due to population increases. It is expected that the fire services would increase over time as needed to accommodate increased visitation to Auburn SRA. In addition, General Fire Prevention Requirements derived from the *Fire Prevention Plan for Industrial, Commercial, and Recreational Operations for the Auburn State Recreation Area* (Appendix F) would be implemented as described in Chapter 15.0, “Hazardous Materials and Hazards,” to further reduce the risk of wildfires. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

IMPACT **Public Services – Increase in Maintenance of Public Facilities.** *Construction of the proposed trail and associated components would create more facilities that would need to be maintained by the County. The amount of maintenance required for the proposed trail and associated components are expected to be small.*

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Significance *Less Than Significant*

Mitigation Proposed *None Warranted*

Residual Significance *Less Than Significant*

Maintenance under the proposed project would include maintenance of the proposed trail and bridges after the first 3 years, servicing of the portable restrooms, and maintenance of signage. The proposed project would not require the construction of any new roadways that would need to be maintained by the County Department of Public Works; however, an increase in visitation may require more frequent maintenance of the roads in the project area. Maintenance of the proposed trail and associated facilities and any road maintenance that may be required are expected to be minimal. Because the County has planned for the construction and maintenance of the proposed trail, and the maintenance of such facilities would be minimal, this impact is considered less than significant.

13.4 MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are necessary.