

3.11 Public Services

3.11.1 Introduction

This section describes existing public services in the vicinity of the project and evaluates the potential impacts of the project on public services (including fire and emergency, police and criminal justice, and public education services). Potential effects on parks as a public service are addressed in Section 3.12 Recreation. Similarly, Section 3.13 Transportation and Circulation, evaluates potential impacts regarding emergency access during construction. No scoping comments relevant to evaluation of public services were provided during the public scoping period.

3.11.2 Scoping Comments

Comments related to public services impacts were received during the public scoping process. These comments and the location where they are addressed in the public services analysis are provided in Table 3.11-1.

Table 3.11-1 Public Services Scoping Comments

Agency/Entity	Comment	Location in Public Services Section that Comment is Addressed
Garrill Page	Biking has become more and more popular form of recreation and for some people, of transportation. Unfortunately, the increase in popularity has meant increases in heedless behavior, traffic violations and increased speed that endangers pedestrians. Upgrading the multi-use path encourages greater use and abuse, requires more regulation, increased supervision, and added demands on Town staff and services as well as less privacy for town residents. The lengthy period of construction for the FAP Riparian corridor increases traffic disruption and inconvenience for Ross residents and drivers on SFD.	Section 3.11.6, Impact 3.11-1

3.11.3 Environmental Setting

Fire Protection and Emergency Services

The project is located within the Town of Ross and unincorporated Kentfield and would be serviced by the Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD), Kentfield Fire Protection District (KFPD), and Marin County Fire Department. Unit 4 and upper Unit 3 are located in the Town of Ross and serviced by the RVFD. Lower Unit 3 and Unit 2 are located in unincorporated Kentfield and serviced by KFPD and the Marin County Fire Department. All RVFD and KFPD fire stations

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could respond to fire and other needs for emergency services in either jurisdictional area, as needed.

Ross Valley Fire Department

The RVFD service area encompasses the Towns of San Anselmo, Ross, and Fairfax as well as the unincorporated Sleepy Hollow community. The Department provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, fire prevention and inspection, community education, hazardous material spill response, specialized rescue, and vehicle collision response and disaster response to its service area and neighboring areas of Marin County (RVFD, 2020).

The RVFD has four fire stations within approximately 2.5 miles of the project. Fire Station 18 is located at 33 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Ross, approximately 0.2 mile from the project area. The historic Ross Fire Station was built by the Town of Ross in 1926. Fire Station 18 houses the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority transport ambulance, Medic 18, staffed with two paramedic firefighters. The station houses one structural firefighting engine and a reserve fire engine, which can be staffed by off-duty and volunteer personnel as needed (RVFD, 2020).

Kentfield Fire Protection District

The KFPD is a special district formed under the authority of the California Health and Safety Code. The KFPD services the communities of unincorporated Greenbrae, Del Mesa, Kentfield proper and Kent Woodlands, which includes lower Unit 3 and Unit 2 (KFPD, 2019)..

The KFPD Station is located at 1004 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, approximately 0.5 mile from the project area. The KFPD is a member of the California Inter- County Mutual-Aid Plan and the Marin County Automatic and Mutual-Aid Plan, covering emergencies and disasters such as fires, floods, mass-casualty incidents, and earthquakes. All KFPD personnel are certified Hazardous Materials First Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians. The KFPD provides paramedic service through the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority Joint Powers Agreement (KFPD, 2020).

Marin County Fire Department

The Marin County Fire Department serves the unincorporated portion of Marin County's 521 square miles, including lower Unit 3 and Unit 2 which lie within the community of Kentfield (Marin County Fire Department, 2020). The nearest station is the Marin City Station at 850 Drake Avenue, Marin City, approximately 5 miles southeast from the project site (County of Marin, 2020).

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Police and Criminal Justice Services

The Town of Ross Police Department and Marin County Sheriff Department provide police protection services to the project area. Both the Town of Ross Police Department and Marin County Sheriff Department could respond to situations in either jurisdictional area, as needed.

Town of Ross Police Department

The Town of Ross Police Department is located at 33 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, which is along the left bank of Unit 4 and north of Lagunitas Road. The Department provides police services to the Town of Ross and unincorporated Kentfield (Town of Ross, 2020).

Marin County Sheriff Department

The Marin County Sheriff Department serves the unincorporated portion of Marin County's 521 square miles, including lower Unit 3 and Unit 2 which lie within the community of Kentfield (Marin County Sheriff's Office, 2020). The Marin County Sheriff Department headquarters are located at 3501 Civic Center Drive in San Rafael and has three substations located in Kentfield, Point Reyes, and Marin City. The closest substation is at 831 College Avenue in Kentfield, approximately 0.5 mile from the project area. Each substation's area is divided into patrol subareas, which are served by uniformed deputies in marked patrol units. Additional patrol units are assigned during high activity periods as needed.

Public Education Services

The College of Marin Kentfield Campus is located at 835 College Avenue, Kentfield, directly adjacent to the left and right bank of Unit 2 and adjacent to the left bank of Unit 3 along Corte Madera Creek. The College of Marin is a public community college and had an enrollment of 13,460 students for the 2018-2019 academic year (College of Marin, 2019).

Kent Middle School is located at 800 College Avenue, with the school's athletic fields located adjacent to Unit 2. Kent Middle School serves grades 5 through 8, with an enrollment of 560 students in the 2019-2020 academic year (Kent Middle School, 2020).

Ross School is located at 9 Lagunitas Road, approximately 0.25 mile from the right bank of Unit 4. Ross School serves grades K through 8 with an enrollment of 394 students in the 2018-2019 academic year (Education Data Partnership, 2020).

There are two public libraries in the project vicinity. The Jose Moya del Piño Library is in the Octagon House at the Marin Art and Garden Center at 30 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Ross, approximately 400 feet from the left bank of Unit 4. San Anselmo Public Library, located at 110 Tunstead Avenue, San Anselmo, is located approximately 1 mile north of the project area.

3.11.4 Regulatory Setting

The following laws, statutes, regulations, codes, and policies would apply to the project and are defined as standard conditions for the project.

Federal Regulations

Although there are multiple federal laws, statutes, and regulations on public services that would generally apply to the project, the federal government and its agencies have delegated

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the authority to implement and satisfy public service requirements to the state of California and its agencies, as discussed below.

State Regulations

California Master Mutual Aid Agreement

The California Master Mutual Aid Agreement is a framework agreement between the State of California and local governments for aid and assistance by the interchange of services and facilities, including but not limited to fire, police, medical and health, communication, and transportation services and facilities to cope with the problems of rescue, relief, evacuation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. The California Master Mutual Aid Agreement provides funding for public services in the project area.

Regional and Local Regulations

Marin County Municipal Code

Chapter 16.16 Uniform Fire Code of the Marin municipal code establishes requirements for storage of flammable liquids and materials as well as the duties of the fire prevention bureau of the Marin County Fire Department.

Marin Countywide Plan

The following goals and policies in the Marin Countywide Plan are relevant to the public services that are serving the project area (Marin County , 2007).

Public Facilities and Services

Goal PFS-1: Adequate Public Facilities and Services. Provide basic public facilities to accommodate the level of development planned by cities and towns and the County.

Public Safety

Goal PS-1: Safe Neighborhoods. Ensure that county neighborhood remains safe places to live.

Goal PS-3: Effective Emergency and Disaster Preparedness. Provide proper emergency and disaster preparedness services through effective and coordinated emergency management plans and procedures.

Policy PS-3.1: Plan Thoroughly for Emergencies. Ensure that the County, its citizens, businesses, and services are prepared for effective response and recovery in the event of emergencies or disasters.

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3.11.5 Impact Assessment Methodology

Significance Criteria

Consistent with State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G (Environmental Checklist) and Marin County Environmental Review Guidelines, the project could have a significant impact if it would:

- 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
 - ii. Police protection
 - iii. Schools
 - iv. Parks
 - v. Other public facilities

Approach to Impact Analysis

The following analysis discusses the potential significant impacts of the project related to public services for the project. This section includes an analysis of potential short-term (construction) and long-term (operation) impacts of the project. Impact evaluations are assessed based on the existing conditions described earlier in this section. Mitigation measures are identified, as necessary, to reduce significant impacts.

3.11.6 Impact Discussion

Impacts Analyzed

Impact 3.11-1: The project would not 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. <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Fire protectionii. Police protectioniii. Schoolsiv. Parksv. Other public facilities	Significance Determination
	Construction: Less than Significant
	Operation and Maintenance: Less than Significant

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Construction

Police and Fire Protection

Project construction would occur over a period of up to seven months and would employ an average of 8-10 construction workers per day. Construction workers likely would come from within Marin County and other Bay Area counties. Construction workers who are residents of Marin County are currently being served by the existing county and individual city/town services, and thus would not represent an increase in demand for these services. While it is possible that some workers might temporarily relocate from other areas, the project is not expected to result in a substantial increase in the local population (as described in Section 3.16 Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Mineral Resources, Land Use and Planning, Population and Housing, Wildfire, and Socioeconomics) and thus not expected to result in increased response times such that new or physically altered facilities would be required to maintain service. Incidents requiring law enforcement, fire protection, or emergency medical services could occur during construction. However, construction of the flood risk reduction project is not expected to generate a substantial increase in demand for these services. The construction would not require construction of new or physically altered facilities to maintain service. Therefore, the impact of project construction on fire and police services would be less than significant.

Schools

Temporary construction of the project would occur near schools in the project area, including immediately adjacent to the College of Marin and Kent Middle School and within 0.25 mile of Ross School. As described above, the project would not generate additional permanent employees or residents in the project area. Project construction is short-term in nature; therefore, it would not indirectly affect local schools as a result of employees moving into the area to work on the project. The concrete channel removal in lower Unit 2 would widen the channel and relocate an informal access path located on the left bank of Corte Madera Creek. The relocated access path would pass through a small portion of undeveloped land within College of Marin property. The relocated access path would not impact any College of Marin buildings or affect College of Marin operations because the relocated path would be located in an undeveloped area adjacent to the creek channel. Therefore, impacts to schools are considered less than significant.

Parks

As discussed in Section 3.12 Recreation, construction of the project would involve the temporary closure of Frederick Allen Park including the Bike Route 20 within Unit 3. The public would not be able to access the park or pathway through the park during the construction period (up to seven months); however, access to the tennis courts would remain open. Bicyclists and walkers on the pathway would be redirected onto adjacent streets and detoured around the construction area. The detour would potentially reduce use of the pathway and temporarily increase use of other facilities. However, the detour would be short-term and pedestrian access would be restored following construction. Construction of the

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project would not generate a need for new park facilities. The impact of project construction on parks would be less than significant.

Other Public Facilities

Project construction is short-term in nature; therefore, it would not indirectly affect nearby libraries as a result of employees moving into the area to work on the project. Construction of the project would not result in the need to construct new libraries or other public facilities and no impacts would occur. Therefore, impacts on other public facilities are considered less than significant.

Operation and Maintenance

Police and Fire Protection

The project does not involve the construction of residences or businesses and would not result in a permanent increase in the local population. During operation, project facilities would be unmanned and would not require a permanent workforce. The project is located in proximity to (and already served by) public services and would be constructed in accordance with all applicable current fire codes and public safety standards. Therefore, operation of the proposed project would not substantially increase the service population (or the number of service calls) within the area and would not necessitate the construction of a new police or fire station or alteration of an existing one in order to meet performance objectives. The project involves improvements along Corte Madera Creek to increase the capacity of the channel and reduce flooding in the Town of Ross and Kentfield areas. The project would also realign the Bike Route 20 multi-use path through Frederick Allen Park to provide access to the creek. Usage of Bike Route 20 is expected to be similar to existing conditions because the multi-use path is an existing pathway. Incidents requiring law enforcement or emergency services, or Town of Ross staff, are not expected to change compared to existing conditions. However, implementation of the proposed flood reduction measures (installing flood walls, stabilizing creek slopes, widening and removal portions of the concrete channel) would enhance safety along Corte Madera Creek and would likely reduce the number of service calls related to flooding emergencies, resulting in a beneficial impact to public services. Overall, the impact of project operation on fire and police services would be less than significant.

Schools

As discussed above, the project would not generate permanent employment and would not cause an increase in local population that would cause increased demand for local schools. The concrete removal in lower Unit 2 would create a new access path at the College of Marin. The new access path would be maintained by the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) and would not put additional demand on public schools. The impact would be less than significant.

Parks

The project includes modifications and alterations to Frederick Allen Park. The modifications to Corte Madera Creek and Frederick Allen Park would not generate additional demand for parks. The modified park would provide seating areas and a realigned pathway for continued

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recreational use. The modified park would also allow for additional interaction with the creek through creek viewing areas and a pathway to the creek. The District would provide maintenance of the creek and pathway over the project life. The project would, therefore, not generate additional demand for park services or maintenance of park facilities; therefore, the impact would be less than significant.

Other Services

The project is proposed to provide enhanced flood risk reduction and stormwater management benefits to the communities of Kentfield and Ross. The project would have a beneficial impact on public stormwater and flood control services. The project would have no adverse effect on other public services.

Mitigation: None required.

Impact 3.11-2: The project would not result in the need for increased maintenance of public facilities, including roads.	Significance Determination
	Construction: Less than Significant
	Operation and Maintenance: Less than Significant

Construction

As described above in Impact 3.11-1, the project would not result in population growth and associated increased use of public facilities during construction. Construction of the project would last up to seven months and would employ an average of 8 to 10 construction workers per day who would not be expected to generate use or maintenance of public facilities. Heavy trucking activity is expected to occur during the material hauling and demolition phase of construction but would temporarily occur over the span of seven months. The haul trucks would not exceed the capacity of area roadways and would not have a long-term impact on the quality of the surrounding roadways. Impacts to public facilities and roads would be less than significant.

Operation and Maintenance

The project involves the construction of a new floodplain area within Frederick Allen Park, realignment of the pathway through the park, and construction of new retaining wall and floodwall segments along either side of the channel and at the margin of the park. The project elements that will be constructed are considered public facilities. The new floodplain area and realigned Corte Madera Creek are being designed to be sustainable. Limited maintenance other than vegetation management and inspections and maintenance of any erosion repairs is anticipated. The District is currently responsible for maintenance of the concrete channel and pathway within the park. The proposed concrete removal and channel modifications will be more resilient to seismic events and less at risk of long-term damage that would risk structural failure. The project will reduce the long-term risk of major maintenance actions to replace the concrete or other major structural maintenance such as reconstruction over time. The long-term impact from maintenance of the public facility will be less than significant.

Mitigation: None required.

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3.11.7 References

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