

4.6 PUBLIC SERVICES

This section analyzes impacts of the proposed project on the following public services; water and wastewater utility service is addressed in section 4.8:

- ☐ Fire Protection Services
- ☐ Police Protection Services
- ☐ Parks and Recreation
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Solid Waste Disposal
- ☐ Energy – Electrical and Natural Gas Utilities

This section also draws from the City of Santa Cruz *General Plan 2030* EIR (SCH#2009032007), which was certified on June 26, 2012, regarding background information on regulatory setting. The General Plan EIR is incorporated by reference in accordance with section 15150 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Relevant discussions are summarized in subsection 4.3.1. The General Plan EIR is available for review at the City of Santa Cruz Planning and Community Development Department (809 Center Street, Room 107, Santa Cruz, California) during business hours: Monday through Thursday, 8 AM to 12 PM and 1 PM to 5 PM. The General Plan EIR is also available online on the City's website at:

<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/planning-and-community-development/general-plan>.

Public and agency comments were received during the public scoping period in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP). No comments were received regarding public services. Public comments received during the public scoping period are included in Appendix B.

4.6.1 Environmental Setting

Regulatory Setting

There are a number of state laws and regulations governing the provision of specified services. These are discussed in the General Plan 2030 EIR (DEIR volume) on pages 4.6-1-4.6-2, 4.6-5-4.6-6, 4.6-20, 4.6-21-4.6-22, and 4.6-25, which is incorporated by reference. Key applicable regulations are summarized for each service in the following sections.

Study Area

The project area consists of the downtown area generally covered by the Downtown Recovery Plan (DRP) and the Central Business District zone, and specifically the lower downtown area generally between Soquel Avenue and Laurel Street on the north and south, and Cedar Street and the San Lorenzo River on the west and east. (Locations are shown on Figures 1-2 and 2-1 in

Section 3, Project Description.) The study area includes properties adjacent to the western San Lorenzo River levee.

Service providers include the City of Santa Cruz for all services, except for schools, which is provided by Santa Cruz City Schools.

Fire Protection Services

The City of Santa Cruz Fire Department is an all hazard emergency response and fire protection agency that serves the City, the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC), and participates in mutual aid responses within the County and State. The Fire Department also provides various contract services within the County. Agreements include a long-term contract for full fire protection services with UCSC, specialized arrangements for seasonal lifeguards with the City of Capitola and the Santa Cruz Port District, and an automatic aid agreement with County Fire/CalFire into Paradise Park. The City of Santa Cruz Fire Department maintains mutual aid agreements with all surrounding fire agencies to provide, and receive, aid on an as needed basis. The department is also a participant in the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) which allows for statewide mutual aid..

The Fire Department provides a variety of services which include fire protection, marine rescue, technical rope/cliff rescue, advanced life support/paramedic, and hazardous materials emergency response. In addition, the department serves the community through a wide array of non-emergency interactions by providing fire prevention, community risk reduction, public education, disaster preparedness training, and ongoing emergency management preparation.

Existing Facilities and Operations

The City of Santa Cruz Fire Department operates out of four fire stations, including a station at the University of California at Santa Cruz, and houses its administrative functions at a separate office downtown. The Department also maintains a Marine Rescue Headquarters (Station Five) on the Municipal Wharf. The Department has seven fire engines, two fire trucks, and other related vehicles and.

The Fire Department has 66 staff, including 21 firefighters/paramedics, 15 fire engineers, 15 fire captains, 3 battalion chiefs, 1 training chief, 1 marine safety office, 1 marine safety captain, 1 fire prevention technician, 1 fire inspector, 1 deputy fire marshal, 1 PMA/OES manager, and 2 administrative staff. Additionally, the Fire Department utilizes 70 seasonal and 20 year-round part-time staff within the Marine Safety Division. Each shift has 18 assigned personnel. The Fire Department has a minimum staffing standard of 15 firefighters and one battalion chief on duty per day.

The number of service calls received by the fire department in 2016 was approximately 8,200 calls. The majority of the calls are for non-fire emergencies, with about 65% of the calls being for

medical assistance. Average response times from each of the four fire stations is approximately 5 minutes. The Department's goal is to respond to emergency medical calls in less than five minutes 90% of the time and to fire emergency calls within eight minutes 90% of the time.

Fire Station #1 at 711 Center Street is within the downtown area and closest to the project area. Discussions with Fire Department staff indicate that the facility size is inadequate for equipment, personnel, and storage (Frawley, personal communication, May 2017). The Department does not have a Training Facility, the construction of which was included as a recommendation in the Department's "Three Year Strategic Plan, 2009-2011." The Plan also recommends improvements to apparatus bays at Stations One and Three to accommodate new equipment, and investigation of constructing a new fire station at the present Station Two location and relocation of Station Four (Marine Rescue Headquarters) (City of Santa Cruz, April 2012, DEIR volume).

Police Protection Services

The City of Santa Cruz Police Department provides crime protection and prevention activities throughout the City, including patrols, response to calls, education and community outreach. Its range of services include patrol, investigations, traffic, parks unit, neighborhood enforcement team, gang unit, dive team, hostage negotiation team, tactical team and School Resource officer. The Department recently initiated an application for mobile phones/IPADs that allows citizens to download Crime Alerts and crime tips. The City has mutual aid agreements with county law enforcement (Sheriff's Office, Capitola, Scotts Valley, Watsonville, California Highway Patrol, State Parks and UCSC Police Departments).

The Police Department operates out of one police station/headquarters, located in downtown Santa Cruz. The Department's existing facility and vehicles are adequate for the existing population, although additional storage space is needed (Martinez, personal communication, May 2017). The Department is currently staffed by 94 authorized sworn officer positions and 28 non-sworn (civilian) positions, including four community service officers and three administrative staff (City of Santa Cruz Police Department, 2015). The Department plans to begin a study on staffing levels, starting in the summer of 2017 (Martinez, personal communication, May 2017).

With a finite amount of resources, the city is divided into five patrol beats that are designed to maximize coverage and provide efficient response to calls for service: West, East, Beach, Central, and Downtown (City of Santa Cruz Police Department, 2015). The Department has divided the City into five main beats, and handled 103,592 calls in 2015 (Ibid.). Approximately 40% of the annual calls are for service in the Downtown area 2017 (Martinez, personal communication, May 2017). The average response time is four minutes, 22 seconds, which is under the Department's target of four minutes, 30 seconds. Dispatching services are provided through the Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center.

Parks and Recreation

Santa Cruz offers residents and visitors a wide range of parks, open space, beaches, trails, and recreational opportunities. The operates and maintains a range of neighborhood parks, community/regional parks, community facilities, and recreational programs. Most of these parks, facilities and programs are operated and maintained by the City Parks and Recreation Department. Some facilities and programs are operated and organized in partnership with community organizations.

The City has responsibility for manages, maintains and operates more than 1,700 acres of parks and open space lands, including various community/recreational facilities. In addition to maintaining the existing park system, the City must develop new parks or add amenities within existing parks to meeting community recreational needs. The City also manages the Heritage Tree Program, Urban Forest Program, as well as maintains street and median landscaping within public rights-of-way. Within the City limits, open space and beaches are also provided on State-owned lands, including three State Park units and the University of California campus.

The General Plan 2030 established per capita goals for neighborhood and community parks to ensure adequate parks throughout the City. The City's standard is provide neighborhood parks at a ratio of 2.0 acres per 1,000 people with a service radius of ½ mile. The City's goad for community parks is 2.5 acres per 1,000 people with a service radius of 1.5 miles. The City is currently underserved for neighborhood and community parks and requires a total of 57 acres to meet these goals (City of Santa Cruz, February 2017). The City is in the process of preparing a Parks Master Plan; a draft plan was released in February 2017.

There are several neighborhorhood and community parks within proximity to the downtown area. The Mimi de Marta Dog Park is located in the vicinity of the project area. In the project area, the San Lorenzo Riverwalk also provides opportunities for access and recreation. Public access is provided by a continuous paved pathway/service road on each side of the levee, extending approximately 2.5 miles on each levee from Highway 1 southward. A new pedestrian-bicycle path and bridge over Branciforte Creek is being constructed. The Riverwalk's multi-use paved trails not only promote connectivity to and from the project area, but also provide opportunities for running, walking, bicycling, or bird watching. According to the Draft Parks Master Plan,

Improved public access is addressed in the *San Lorenzo Urban River Plan*. This document is the outcome of a planning process initiated by City Council in 1999 to update plans for the San Lorenzo River, Jessie Street Marsh, and Branciforte Creek. The plan serves as a guide for restoring and managing natural resources, riverfront development, and public access improvements for the lower San Lorenzo River. It includes conceptual ideas to promote river-oriented development, site specific recommendations for public areas along the river, and restoration recommendations. The SLURP provides recommendations for locations and designs of plazas, unpaved nature loops, interpretive signage and bird viewing locations. Lighting along

the Riverwalk and exercise equipment on the west side of the river south of Laurel Street were recently added. The existing Downtown Recovery Plan also identifies opportunities for public space within the downtown area to include areas along Cedar Street, near the Civic Center and along the San Lorenzo River.

The City imposes a “Parks and Recreation Facilities Tax” (pursuant to Chapter 5.72 of the Municipal Code) on new residential development (including mobile homes) within the City, payable at the time of issuance of a building permit. The collected taxes are placed into a special fund, and “shall be used and expended solely for the acquisition, improvement and expansion of public park, playground and recreational facilities in the city” (section 5.72.100). Projects that have dedicated land or fees in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 23.28 requirements for subdivisions are exempt from this tax.

Schools

Schools and educational services are provided to City residents by the Santa Cruz City Schools (SCCS), as well as a number of private schools, for grades K through 12. SCCS is composed of two separate districts: the Elementary District (K-6) and the High School District (7-12), governed by a common board and administration. The Elementary District draws students from the City of Santa Cruz and in County locations including Davenport and Soquel. It includes six schools serving approximately 2,000 students. The second district includes two middle schools, three high schools, an independent studies program and a home school program serving a population of 4,660 students (Santa Cruz City Schools, 2017).

The proposed project would be served by SCCS schools including Westlake Elementary, Mission Hill Middle School, and Santa Cruz High School. The capacity of each school serving the project is provided in the City’s General Plan EIR (City of Santa Cruz 2012). The SCCS study found that enrollment was under capacity and that enrollment is forecasted to decline over the next ten years (Decision Insite, 2016). The study incorporated current enrollment capacity, feeder district data, county birth rates and plans for new housing in the forecasting methodology.

Current enrollment data as reported by the State Department of Education was compared to capacity as reported in the City’s General Plan, which is summarized on Table 4.6-1. The middle school and high school have enrollments that are under capacity based on data reported by the state (California Department of Education, 2017). However, Westlake Elementary is very close to capacity.

Local school districts are empowered under state law to impose school impact fees, which are collected by local governments at the time of building permit issuance. The Santa Cruz City Elementary and High School Districts currently charge school impact fees.

TABLE 4.6-1: School Capacities and Enrollments

School	Capacity ¹	Current Enrollment
Westlake Elementary	604	569
Mission Hill Middle	690	594
Santa Cruz High	1,362	1,027
Total	2,656	2,190

Source: City of Santa Cruz 2012, Decision Insite, 2016 and California Department of Education, 2017.

1. As reported in the City's General Plan (City of Santa Cruz 2012).

Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste collection and disposal, including recycling services, are provided by the City of Santa Cruz to residents, businesses and institutions within the City's boundaries, is provided at the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), which includes a sanitary landfill, recycling center, green waste drop-off area, and Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Facility. The City owns and operates this facility, including a Class III sanitary landfill, which is located approximately three miles west of the City off Highway 1 on Dimeo Lane. The site covers 100 acres with approximately 70 acres available for disposal use, and the City's RRF. The RRF only accepts municipal solid waste and serves as a sorting facility to remove any recyclable or composting materials. The Recycling Center accepts a variety of recyclable materials.

In the mid-1990s the permitted disposal area of the landfill increased from 40 to 67 acres. The additional acreage was designed with a liner system that meets EPA requirements for new municipal solid waste landfills. The new area replaced the former leachate evaporation ponds, which were cleaned and closed in 1997. The expansion increased the life of the landfill by approximately 30 years at that time, but the lifespan has been increased through implementation of additional waste reduction measures (City of Santa Cruz, April 2012, DEIR volume).

The City's solid waste operations are in full compliance with federal, state, and local air, water and waste regulations for collection vehicles, processing operations, and landfill disposal operations. The City has implemented several best management practices to improve its solid waste services, including a landfill gas collection system that is used to run an engine to produce electricity and use of bio-diesel for collection and landfill equipment to reduce CHG emissions (City of Santa Cruz, April 2012, DEIR volume).

The City of Santa Cruz met the state-mandated waste diversion goals of 25% of their 1990 waste-streams from landfill disposal by 1995 and 50% by 2000 through community education and the implementation of expanded curbside recycling programs. In the year 2000, the City established a Zero-Waste goal with the ultimate intention of eliminating the City's need for a landfill. As of

2015, the City had achieved a diversion rate of 65-68%, which exceeds the state requirements (City of Santa Cruz, April 2012, DEIR volume).

Assuming growth trends similar to the past 10-15 years in the City of Santa Cruz, the RRF has more than adequate capacity to accommodate all municipal solid waste generated by City residents, visitors and businesses. Based on continued waste reduction, annual aerial surveys, and calculations, the landfill is estimated to have capacity through the year 2056 (City of Santa Cruz, April 2012, DEIR volume). State law requires that facilities begin planning for future waste disposal/reuse facilities at least 15 years in advance of existing landfill closure dates, which would be around the year 2043.

Electrical and Natural Gas Utilities

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) provides electrical and natural gas service to the City. Incorporated in California in 1905, PG&E is one of the largest combination natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. PG&E and other utilities in the state are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (City of Santa Cruz, April 2012-DEIR volume). It currently provides service to approximately 16 million people throughout a 70,000-square-mile service area in northern and central California from Eureka in the north to Bakersfield in the south, and from the Pacific Ocean in the west to the Sierra Nevada in the east. The service area includes 106,681 circuit miles of electric distribution lines, 18,466 circuit miles of interconnected transmission lines. 42,141 miles of natural gas distribution pipelines and 6,438 miles of transportation pipelines. PG&E and other utilities in the state are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (Pacific Gas and Electric Company, 2017).

The state's per capita electrical use has been the lowest or one of lowest of any state in the nation (California Energy Commission, 2017, U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2017). California is among the top states in the nation in net electricity generation from renewable resources. The state leads the nation in net electricity generation from solar, geothermal, and biomass. California is also a leading producer of electricity from conventional hydroelectric power and from wind, ranking fourth in the nation in both. In 2014, California became the first state in the nation to get more than 5% of its utility-scale electricity generation from its solar resource (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2017). In 2015, California ranked fourth in the nation in conventional hydroelectric generation, second in net electricity generation from all other renewable energy resources, and first as a producer of electricity from biomass, geothermal, and solar energy (Ibid.).

In 2015, the latest year for which data are available, residential, commercial and industrial energy users in the City of Santa Cruz consumed about 245 million kilowatt-hours of electricity and about 12 million therms of natural gas from PG&E. PG&E's power mix in 2015 included 30% from renewable sources, 25% from natural gas, 23% from nuclear, 17% from unspecified sources and 6% large hydropower plants.

There are also over 2,000 residential solar PV systems and about 60 commercial solar PV systems that provide renewable electricity within the City. All residential, commercial, and industrial PG&E electricity accounts will be opted into Monterey Bay Community Power's (MBCP) community choice energy program in Spring 2018. At that time, switching the City's overall electricity procurement to MBCP will increase the proportion of electricity supplied from renewable sources from 30% (with PG&E) to 50% and eventually consumers may elect to pay a premium for electricity from 100% renewable sources.

In 2015, the latest year for which data are available, the City of Santa Cruz's municipal operations consumed about 14 million kilowatt-hours of electricity (~5.7% of overall City use) and about 433,000 therms of natural gas (~3.7% of overall City use). The power mix for municipal operations includes 43% natural gas (from PG&E), 29% electricity (from PG&E), 23% from methane capture and conversion to electricity at the wastewater treatment facility, and 5% solar PV. Methane capture and conversion to electricity and solar PV are considered renewable energy sources. The City plans to install solar PV to increase the proportion of overall energy use met by solar PV from 5% in 2016 to 11% by 2018 and 16% by 2020.

Studies have demonstrated the value and cost-effectiveness of weather-stripping, replacing single pane windows, old appliances and lighting, and increasing insulation in reducing energy use and saving money. Significant energy and cost savings have already been achieved through the implementation of such measures throughout the City of Santa Cruz, although further savings could be achieved (City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program, October 2012). Over the past 15 years, the combined influences of energy efficiency rebate programs, a public education campaign, and significant increases in energy prices have led to a 22% reduction in energy use within Santa Cruz homes. While this drop in energy use is significant, home energy use in Santa Cruz is again on the rise, but still far below 1996 levels (Ibid.).

In 2007, Santa Cruz became one of the first municipalities in the nation to require new construction to include the adoption of environmentally superior building materials and designs. Builders in Santa Cruz now use best practices for their construction projects that enhance building energy efficiency and water conservation as well as to improve air quality, waste reduction and recycling, and erosion and runoff control. The Green Building Program currently includes residential and commercial development (City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program, September 2010). Reviews conducted as part of the preparation of the City's draft "Climate Action Plan" indicates that an "award-winning" home under the City's Green Building Program produces a home that is more efficient than standard homes built in 2008 and almost twice as efficient as homes built in 1990 (City of Santa Cruz, September 2010).

The AMBAG Energy Watch Program is a partnership between AMBAG and PG&E, which seeks to reduce energy use in the Monterey Bay region by providing the resources listed below to eligible PG&E customers.

- energy assessments and audits
- direct installation of energy efficient equipment

- technical assistance and financial incentives for energy efficient retrofits in municipal buildings
- energy efficiency seminars and training courses in the region.
- information on other PG&E energy efficiency programs and services

Additionally, the Monterey Bay Regional Energy Plan was prepared by AMBAG to update goals and actions Program regarding energy use in the Monterey Bay region. A draft update to the 2006 Plan reported that the Energy Watch Program tracked and reported the following energy savings in 2008 throughout the region: 5,201,582 kilowatt hours (kWh) for municipalities; 17,697,292 kWh the hospitality industry; and 1,293,653 kWh for residential uses (City of Santa Cruz, April 2012, DEIR volume).

4.6.2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Thresholds of Significance

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); State CEQA Guidelines (including Appendix G); City of Santa Cruz plans, policies, and/or guidelines; and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- 6a Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or need for new or physical 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:
 - Fire Protection
 - Police Protection
 - Schools;
- 6b Increase the use of existing neighborhood and community parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated;
- 6c Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment;
- 6d Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs; or
- 6e Result in the wasteful or inefficient use of energy.

Analytical Method

The proposed project consists of amendments to the City's Downtown Recovery Plan, General Plan, Local Coastal Plan and Zoning Code regarding development in the downtown area and Central Business District. The proposed project would not directly result in new development. However, the proposed Downtown Plan amendment would expand areas for potential additional building height that could accommodate intensified redevelopment of existing developed sites. City staff estimates that the proposed amendments could indirectly lead to development, resulting in a potential net increase of 711 new residential units and 2,200 square feet of office space with a net decrease of approximately 14,700 square feet of commercial building space over existing conditions within the downtown area. The proposed General Plan amendment would increase FAR in downtown areas designated as RVC in the General Plan. The proposed LCP and Zoning Code amendments would not result in changes that could indirectly lead to intensified development. Future service demands and impacts resulting from the project are assessed based on review existing plans and consultation with staff of agencies responsible for provision of services addressed in this section.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The project does not include facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities (6c). The following impact analyses address potential indirect impacts to public services (6a), neighborhood and community parks (6b), landfill capacity (6d), and energy usage (6e).

Impact 4.6-1a: Fire Protection. Adoption of the proposed plan amendments could indirectly result in increased population density associated with potential new development accommodated by the Plan that would result in increased fire protection and emergency service demands. Existing and future development and growth within the City would result in the need to construct new or expanded fire stations, however, the impacts of fire station construction or expansion are not expected to be significant (6a). Therefore this is considered is a *less-than-significant* impact

The proposed project would not directly result in new development, but could lead to intensified development in the project study area with an increased downtown population. According to the City's Fire Department, the existing downtown fire station is inadequate in terms of space and equipment to meet existing needs, which would be further impacted by development and growth that would be accommodated by the proposed project. Should expansion be proposed, it is likely that expanded or new fire facilities would be within developed downtown and/or eastside locations. Expansion or new construction would be considered infill development on sites surrounded by development. New development and growth accommodated by the draft plan would not reduce response times. However, existing and future growth would require new or physically altered fire protection facilities (Frawley, personal communication, May 2017), but

locations for expansion or construction are within developed areas and are not expected to result in significant physical impacts.

The Department's current need for a Training Facility, however, will continue in the future, and the Department plans to investigate the possibility of consolidating administration and training facilities with future fire station improvements, including potential reconstruction of Fire Station Two and relocation of Fire Station One. No sites have been identified for potential relocation. Fire Station Two is located adjacent to a city-owned, paved, public parking lot. If future expansion were to occur at this location, there are no significant impacts are expected to occur, as the site is within a developed urban area.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required as a significant impact has not been identified.

Impact 4.6-1b: Police Protection. Adoption of the proposed plan amendments could indirectly result in increased population associated with potential development that could be accommodated by the Plan that would result in increased police protection service demands. However, future development and growth would not result in the need to construct new or expanded police facilities (6a). This Therefore this is considered is a *less-than-significant* impact

The proposed project would not directly result in new development, but could lead to intensified development in the project study area with an increased downtown population. According to the City's Police Department, there are adequate police protection facilities to serve the potential development and growth accommodated by the proposed project and plan amendments. No additional equipment or facilities will be needed to maintain acceptable response times and service levels (Martinez, personal communication, May 2017). New development and growth accommodated by the proposed project would not reduce response times or require new or physically altered police protection facilities that could result in significant physical impacts (Ibid.). Furthermore, it is expected that the change in use and redevelopment will lead to a reduction in crime and calls for service in the project area (Ibid.).

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required as a significant impact has not been identified.

Impact 4.6-1c: Schools. Adoption of the proposed plan amendments could indirectly result in increased population associated with potential development that would generate elementary school student enrollments that could exceed capacity of existing schools (6a). This is considered is a *potentially significant* impact.

The proposed project would not directly result in new development, but could lead to intensified development in the project study area, resulting in increased student enrollments. To

determine whether the project would result in increased demand for school facilities, potential new enrollment as a result of the project was estimated using Census tract data for downtown Santa Cruz. Project school generation was then compared to existing enrollment and capacity.

American Community Survey 5-year Census data provides information on the number of households with children and enrollment. Based on data for the Census tract that contains the project, 11% of households have children and the average household size is 1.83 (American Community Survey 5-year 2011-2015 Table S1101). Census enrollment data shows that the split of enrollment between elementary, middle, and high school is 51%, 27%, and 23% respectively in this Census tract (American Community Survey 5-year 2011-2015 Table S1401). Given the small household size in the project area, it was assumed that households with children are likely to have one child. Applying this information to the project yields a result of 79 new children. It was assumed that all these children would be enrolled in school, which is a conservative assumption as some of these children would be below school-age. Using these assumptions and the Census data split for enrollment the project would generate 40 new elementary school students, 21 middle school students and 18 high school students.

Based on this approach, it is anticipated Santa Cruz High and Mission Hill Middle Schools would remain under capacity with the project. Westlake Elementary School may exceed capacity with the project as shown on Table 4.6-2. However, the development that may occur as a result of the proposed project plan amendments would occur over time; redevelopment of the study area is estimated to occur over 25+ years. School enrollment associated with future development also would increase over time.

TABLE 4.6-2: School Capacities & Projected Enrollments

School	Capacity ¹	Current Enrollment	Enrollment from Project	Percent Capacity with Project
Westlake Elementary	604	569	40	101 – 111%
Mission Hill Middle	690	594	21	89 – 98%
Santa Cruz High	1,362	1,027	18	77 – 92%
TOTAL ALL GRADES	2,656	2,190	79	

Source: City of Santa Cruz 2012, Decision Insite 2016, and California Department of Education 2017.

Notes:

1. As reported in the City's General Plan (City of Santa Cruz 2012).

The General Plan 2030 (2012) includes a number of policies that serve to mitigate potential impacts to existing school facilities as a result of new residential development and population growth including ensuring and planning for adequate school sites (CC8.2, CC8.2.2) and cooperating with the school district to monitor impacts of housing on elementary school populations (CC8.1.1). The General Plan also encourages joint-use facilities that combine educational and community uses (CC8.2.1). SCCS staff indicated that enrollment resulting from growth accommodated by the City's General Plan 2030 could be accommodated within existing

school facilities, including using Natural Bridges Elementary School, if needed. Additionally, the school district collects school impact fees that can be used for facility expansion and/or installation of classroom modules. Such expansion, if required, would be located within existing development footprints and would not be expected to result in significant physical impacts.

The proposed project would not directly result in new development, but increased population resulting from development accommodated by the project could increase student enrollments in grades K-12, which could exceed existing school facility capacities at one school depending on the timing and rate of growth. With required payment of school impact fees to fund necessary facility expansion and/or additions, in conjunction with potential reuse of the former Natural Bridges Elementary School if needed, the impact would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. Potential addition or expansion of school classroom facilities is not expected to result in significant physical impacts due to the location of existing facilities within developed footprints.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required beyond payment of school impact fees that will be collected at the time of issuance of a building permit.

Impact 4.6-2: Parks and Recreation. Adoption of the proposed plan amendments could indirectly result in increased population associated with potential development that could be accommodated by the Plan that would result in increased demand for parks and recreational facilities that could result in some deterioration of existing parks and recreational facilities (6b). Therefore this is considered is a *potentially significant* impact.

The proposed project would not directly result in new development, but could lead to intensified development in the project study area, resulting in increased population and in increased demands for park and recreational facilities. Census data for the tract that contains the downtown project study area shows an average household size of 1.83 (American Community Survey 5-year 2011-2015, Table S1101). Based on this data the proposed project could indirectly result in an increase in the downtown residential population, which currently houses approximately 1,300 people. As previously discussed, the City currently does not meet the desired level of service for neighborhood and community parks and is deficient by approximately 57 acres. Thus, existing developed neighborhood parks could be considered at capacity use, in general, based on the City's park service standards. Based on the City's parks standards set forth in the General Plan, the indirect population that could result from the project would result in the need for approximately 4.5 acres of additional park land.

The proposed project consists of a series of plan amendments and no specific development projects are proposed at this time. At a program level, the City has embarked on the preparation of a Parks Master Plan to identify park needs and improvements. It is expected that this plan will be considered by the City Council in late 2017. Additionally, the City's General Plan 2030 includes a number of policies that serve to mitigate potential impacts to existing parks and

recreation facilities as a result of new residential development and population growth. The policies, which are summarized on Table 4.6-3, address development of new parks which would lessen the projected increased use of existing parks, as well as, maintenance of existing parks and recreational facilities. The General Plan seeks to update and modify park system and park services to accommodate changes in the population and its recreational need (PR1.1.1). A number of policies and actions seek to provide a system of parks and recreational facilities (PR1.1.1), planning for new parks and facilities (PR1.1.2, PR1.1.4), evaluating and acquiring parks (PR1.1.3, PR3.2 [parcels that provide access to City-owned open space lands]), developing new or expanding existing athletic fields (PR1.2.2), and coordinating with local schools to expand park and recreation opportunities (PR1.2.1, PR1.2.3). To this end, the plan establishes service standards (PR1.3, PR1.3.2, PR1.3.3), seeks to ensure that adequate park land is provided in conjunction with new development (PR1.3.1), and requires park dedication or payment of in-lieu fees from new development (PR1.7, PR1.7.1). While specific new park locations are not designated in the proposed General Plan 2030, the policies and actions set forth a strategy to plan and acquire additional park lands in the future. The plan also seeks to ensure that ongoing maintenance needs are addressed in the development and funding plans for any new or expanded parks, recreational facilities, or open space areas (PR1.3.4, PR1.10). Maintenance of the City's Parks and Facilities tax also is recommended (PR1.9, PR1.9.1, PR1.9.2).

TABLE 4.6-3: General Plan 2030 Policies & Actions that Reduce Parks Impacts

Type of Measure / Action	Policies / Actions
PLAN & PROVIDE FOR NEW PARKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide & manage parks: PR1.1 • Develop and maintain city Master Parks Plan: PR1.1.2, PR1.1.4 (plan for adequate parks and recreation facilities) • Level of Service standards: PR1.3, PR1.3.2, PR1.3.3 • Evaluate lands for small parks: PR1.1.3 • Coordinate with schools to expand parks: PR1.2.1, PR1.2.3 • Examine developing new or expanding existing athletic fields: PR1.2.2 • Development park dedication or in-lieu fees: PR1.7, PR1.7.1 • Maintain a Parks and Recreation Facilities excise tax on new construction: PR1.9, PR1.9.1, PR1.9.2 • Acquire parcels that provide access to City-owned open space lands and coast: PR3.2
ENSURE MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure ongoing maintenance: PR1.3.4 • Identify maintenance funding sources: PR1.10 • Protect & Manage open space: LU2.3 LU2.3.1, LU2.3.2, LU2.3.3, LU2.3.4 (UCSC), LU3.11 • Greenbelt Management: LU2.3.3, LU3.11.3, NRC6.3
PROVIDE ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE LANDS & COAST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure access to open space lands and coast: PR1.6.5, PR3.1 • Coastal access: PR3.2, PR3.3, PR3.3.5 • Access to river & riparian: NRC1.1, NRC1.1.2
PROVIDE TRAILS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide and maintain Integrated trail system: PR4.1, PR4.1.1 ▪ Provide and maintain trails in parks: PR4.2, PR4.2.1, PR4.2.2 ▪ Require development to dedicate trails or easements along planned trail routes: PR4.2.3

Furthermore, the City imposes a “Parks and Recreation Facilities Tax” (pursuant to Chapter 5.72 of the Municipal Code) on new residential development (including mobile homes) within the City, payable at the time of issuance of a building permit. The collected taxes collected are placed into a special fund, and “shall be used and expended solely for the acquisition, improvement and expansion of public park, playground and recreational facilities in the city” (section 5.72.100). Projects that have dedicated land or fees in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 23.28 requirements for subdivisions are exempt from this tax.

Mitigation Measures

With implementation of the proposed General Plan 2030 goals, policies and actions that set forth measures to avoid and minimize adverse impacts on parks and recreational facilities as summarized on Table 4.6-2 and required payment of park fees, the proposed project’s indirect impact on parks and recreational facilities would be considered less-than-significant.

Impact 4.6-3: Solid Waste. Adoption of the proposed plan amendments could indirectly result in increased population associated with potential development that could be accommodated by the Plan, which could result in indirect generation of solid waste that could be accommodated within the remaining landfill capacity (6d). This Therefore this is considered is a *less-than-significant* impact.

The proposed project would not directly result in new development, but could lead to intensified development in the project study area, resulting in increased residential and employee population and that would result in increases in solid waste generation. This would be offset by an estimated decrease in existing commercial uses by approximately 14,000 square feet. The City’s population is estimated to increase by approximately 1,300 residents as a result of the proposed plan amendments. No development projects are proposed at this time, but development indirectly accommodated by the proposed project is estimated by City staff to occur over 25 years. Thus, impacts to the City’s landfill are not expected to be significant as the landfill has been estimated to have a remaining capacity through the year 2058 (City of Santa Cruz, April 2012, DEIR volume).

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required as a significant impact has not been identified.

Impact 4.6-4: Energy Use. Adoption of the proposed plan amendments could indirectly result in increased population associated with potential development that could be accommodated by the Plan, which could result in indirect increased energy demands, which would not be wasteful or an inefficient use of resources (6e). This is considered is a *less-than-significant* impact.

Future development would be accommodated by the proposed Plan amendments could result in increased development with consumption of electricity and natural gas for lighting, heating and cooling of residences and other buildings. Energy use resulting from potential new development was factored into the greenhouse gas emissions calculations as discussed in Section 4.2, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The analysis indicates that residential and commercial uses that comply with the 2016 California Title 24 are 28% and 5% more efficient, respectively, than the 2013 Title 24, and energy efficiency will increase as older buildings are replaced.

Overall, the future consumption of electrical and natural gas resources would not represent unnecessary, inefficient, or wasteful use of resources given the ongoing implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan and General Plan 2030 policies that address lighting and energy conservation measures. Specifically, General Plan GOAL NRC7 seeks to reduce energy use with a significant production and use of renewable energy. Its four policies and accompanying actions would promote reduction of electricity and natural gas consumption, use of renewable energy sources, and use of energy-efficient lighting, vehicles, and water fixtures and appliances.

In addition, new structures will be required to be constructed in accordance with specifications contained in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations and the City's Green Building Regulations. Anticipated changes in state building and energy efficiency requirements to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions will also reduce the rate of energy consumption increases. Such measures have been factored into California energy forecasts which predict an overall reduction in per capita use of electricity due to energy efficiency standards and conservation.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required as a significant impact has not been identified.