

4.6 PUBLIC SERVICES & UTILITIES

4.6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

IN THIS SECTION:

- Regulatory Overview
- Fire Protection Services
- Police Protection Services
- Parks and Recreation
- Schools
- Wastewater Treatment
- Solid Waste Disposal
- Electrical & Natural Gas Utilities

This section provide the environmental setting for each of the public services and/or utilities listed above. Section 4.6.3 of this chapter provides the impact analyses for each of these services.

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

There are a number of state laws and regulations governing the provision of specified services. These are discussed below under the applicable service topic.

Pursuant to State law (Government Code Section 54773 et seq.) a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) was established in each county to promote the orderly development of local government agencies and efficient provision of services, to guide development away from prime agricultural land and to discourage urban sprawl. Pursuant to State law, LAFCOs must adopt a Sphere of Influence (SOI) for each governmental agency (including special districts), which is the probable physical boundary and service area of a local government. LAFCO is required to review and approve or disapprove governmental boundary change proposals with regards to spheres of influence, annexation, detachment, reorganization and/or extending services of a local agency.

The California Government Code Section 56430 requires LAFCOs to conduct Municipal Services Reviews (MSRs) that describe the municipal services provided by the agencies that are subject to LAFCO authority. MSRs are comprehensive studies designed to collect and analyze information about the governance structures and efficiencies of service providers, to estimate their ability to meet current and future service needs, and to identify opportunities for greater coordination and cooperation between providers. The Santa Cruz LAFCO completed its report in August 2005, and LAFCO approved the countywide service review in December 2007 (Resolution No. 2007-9). The review is a comprehensive overview of public services within Santa

Cruz County and includes the four cities and over 80 special districts providing municipal-type services such as water, wastewater service, fire protection, police protection, recreation and parks and solid waste. Pertinent findings are provided below for each service.

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

Regulatory Setting

The Uniform Fire Code published by the International Fire Code Institute and the Uniform Building Code (adopted in California as the California Building Standards Code) published by the International Conference of Building Officials both prescribe performance characteristics and materials to be used to achieve acceptable levels of fire protection. Amendments to the California Building Standards effective in 2008 increased the requirements for defensible space and require more fire-resistant building materials and design than prior codes in areas identified as having severe fire hazards.

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), adopted by Congress in October 2000, requires state and local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans as a condition for federal grant assistance. The City of Santa Cruz adopted its “Local Hazard Mitigation Plan” in September 2007. The detailed five-year plan identifies potential natural and man-made hazards, assesses their likely risk, and includes mitigation methods to reduce risks. The potential hazards identified in the plan include wildfires. Mitigation measures proposed to address these risks generally include prioritized actions that include hazard event planning, emergency preparedness coordination and education, facility upgrades, monitoring actions and other actions in response to specific hazards. The mitigation plan will be reviewed and updated every five years.

Existing Facilities, Staff and Operations

The City Fire Department provides fire protection and emergency response for all areas within the City limits and maintains mutual aid agreements with other fire districts in the County, UCSC and California Department of Forestry (CDF) to provide fire protection to areas surrounding the City. The City serves the Paradise Park subdivision through an annexation to the service area that was approved by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Santa Cruz County.

The City of Santa Cruz Fire Department operates out of three fire stations and houses its administrative functions at an office downtown. The three existing City fire stations are: Fire Station #1 at 711 Center Street, Fire Station #2 at 1103 Soquel Avenue, and Fire Station #3 at 335 Younglove Avenue. All facilities meet current building codes, including seismic retrofitting, fire sprinklers, and new electrical systems. The Department also maintains a Marine Rescue Headquarters (Station Four) on the Municipal Wharf.

The Department has five fire engines, one fire truck, and other related vehicles and equipment. The Department addresses its equipment and facilities needs through its planning efforts and budgeting process. The City’s Fire Department is funded through the City’s General fund.

The Department currently is staffed by 18 full-time firefighters, 12 fire engineers, 13 captains, three battalion chiefs, one fire chief, one fire prevention inspector and one deputy fire marshal, two division chiefs, one EMS program manager, and two administrative staff. Each shift has 15 assigned firefighters. The current level of firefighters represents approximately 0.75 firefighter (less than one) per 1,000 residents. The Fire Department has a minimum staffing standard of 12 firefighters and one battalion chief on duty per day.

The number of service calls received by the fire department in 2009 was approximately 6,850 calls. The majority of the calls are for non-fire emergencies, with about 80% of the calls being for medical assistance. Average response times from each of the three fire stations is approximately 3 to 3½ 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.

The existing number of fire stations and equipment/facilities are considered adequate to provide service throughout the City, except that the Department does not have a Training Facility, the construction of which is 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). In the long-term the Department would like to relocate its downtown station and administration facilities in a combined facility with a Training Facility (Oliver, Ramos, personal communication, April 2011).

Wildland Fire Hazard

In addition to fires within developed City areas, the City is subject to "wildfires" in open space preserves and parks adjacent to developed areas. Wildfires are typically caused by human activities and are affected by the type and amount of vegetation, weather, fuel and topography. Wildland fire may be defined as any unwanted fire involving outdoor vegetation. The wildland/urban interface refers to development that has occurred in or near open space areas (City of Santa Cruz, September 2007).

Wildland fires present a risk to open space areas within the City of Santa Cruz and to adjacent residential homes. There are five wildland/urban interface areas within the City, including three areas designated as mutual threat zones – Delaveaga Park, Pogonip, and the Arroyo Seco/Meder Canyon (City of Santa Cruz, September 2007). Additional areas of concern for these wildland/urban interface zones include the Arana Gulch greenbelt property and Moore Creek Preserve, as well as Lighthouse Field and other smaller wildland/urban interface areas throughout the City (Ibid.). Figure 4.6-1¹ identifies areas of the City that pose serious wildfire hazards due to vegetation type, vegetation build-up and topographic conditions.

Mutual threat zones are defined as areas where a wildfire would threaten property within the City of Santa Cruz fire service area, as well as property covered by another fire protection

¹ All EIR figures are included in Chapter 7.0 at the end of the EIR (before appendices) for ease of reference as some figures are referenced in several sections.

service. For major emergencies that require more resources than can be provided by a single agency, the City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, the University of California at Santa Cruz and the State of California have an extensive mutual aid and emergency coordination system. The mutual threat zones are delineated in the Wildland Pre-Suppression Plan, which is used to identify non-State responsibility areas in which any fire is considered a threat to adjacent State responsibility areas. These geographic areas are designated because of the urban development that has occurred along their canyons and the vegetation types that are considered to pose a significant wildfire hazard (City of Santa Cruz, September 2007).

Recent wildland fires in the City of Santa Cruz include the Meder Canyon Fire in 1990, which covered several acres and was consumed in 20 minutes. A number of other wildland fires in the Santa Cruz area including the Santa Cruz Mountains have been a long-standing concern to the City of Santa Cruz. Priorities in the event of a wildfire are life safety, preservation of property and resource conservation (City of Santa Cruz, September 2007). Despite the fact that there has not been a recent wildland fire within the city limits, areas targeted in the City's Hazard Reduction Plan as "likely" to have a wildland fire include the Arroyo Seco/Meder Canyon, DeLaveaga, Pogonip, Moore Creek area and Arana Gulch (Ibid.), although wildland fires can occur in other areas. Increasing use of these areas by residents, transient encampments with fires and young adults exacerbates the risks (Ibid.).

Most wildland fire areas are adjacent to residential or open space areas. Only a few public buildings are immediately threatened by wildland fires. Public buildings that are in threatened areas are the historic Pogonip clubhouse, DeLaveaga Golf Club and associated buildings, 35 schools and day care centers and some park structures. There are eight commercial or industrial structures in the threat zone (City of Santa Cruz, September 2007).

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, street crimes unit, gang unit, dive team, hostage negotiation team, tactical team and School Resource office. 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 is currently staffed by 94 authorized sworn officer positions, of which 88 are filled, 24 non-sworn (civilian) positions, including four community service officers, and three administrative staff. The current staff level represents a per capita ratio of approximately 1.57 sworn police officers per 1,000 city residents. A ratio of 1.5 officers per 1,000 population has been a national accepted minimum standard (Vogel, personal communication, April 2011). The Department has lost approximately ten sworn officers since 2000, and currently is understaffed by at least six officers (Ibid.).

The Department has divided the City into five main beats, and handled 78,132 calls in 2008 and 85,774 calls in 2009. 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.

The City of Santa Cruz funds its Police Department through the City's General Fund, grants, fees and service charges. The City also has a special revenue fund to account for state and federal grants received for police programs. The Department's existing facility and vehicles are adequate for the existing population; major capital improvements including replacing the building HVAC with an energy efficient system (Vogel, personal communication, April 2011).

PARKS AND RECREATION

Santa Cruz offers residents and visitors a wide range of parks, open space, beaches, trails, and recreational opportunities. The City has responsibility for management, maintenance and operation of over 1,700 acres of parks and open space lands, and various community/recreational facilities, and oversees development of new parks and improvements within City-owned parks, open space, and community facilities. The City also manages the Heritage Tree Program, Urban Forest Program, as well as maintains street and median landscaping in public rights-of-way.² 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. Maintenance operations of existing City-owned parks and recreational facilities are funded from the City's General Fund.

Regulatory Setting

STATE REGULATIONS

The Quimby Act (California Government Code §66477) was passed in 1975 and authorizes cities and counties to pass ordinances requiring developers to set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. This provision of the State Subdivision Map Act enables cities and counties to require the dedication of land and/or payment of in-lieu fees for parks and recreation purposes as a condition of approval of a tentative map or parcel map subdivision. AB 1600 amended the Quimby Act in 1982 to hold local governments more accountable for imposing park development fees. The AB 1600 amendment requires agencies to clearly show a reasonable relationship between the public need for the recreation facility or park land and the type of development project upon which the fee is imposed. Cities and counties are required to show a strong direct relationship, or nexus, between the park fee exactions and the proposed project. Local ordinances must include definite standards for determining the proportion of the subdivision to be dedicated and the amount of the fee to be paid by the developer. AB 2936 was adopted as an amendment to

² Heritage trees and urban forest policies and actions are addressed in the BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Chapter 4.8) and AGRICULTURAL, FOREST AND MINERAL RESOURCES (Chapter 4.15) sections of this EIR.

the Quimby Act in 2002, and allows counties and cities to spend up to 10% of their Quimby Act fees to prepare master plans for park and recreation facilities every three years.

LOCAL REGULATIONS

Parks and Recreation Facilities Tax. 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). The current fee is \$3.00 per square foot of residential building. Projects that have dedicated land or fees in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 23.28 (described below) are exempt from this tax.

Public Dedications Pursuant to the California Subdivision Map Act. Chapter 23.28 regulates public dedications, including parks and open space, enacted pursuant to the authority granted by the California Subdivision Map Act in accordance with the City General Plan. Land dedication shall be based on two acres/1,000 population for neighborhood parks and 2.5 acres/1,000 population for community parks. The current in-lieu fee is \$3.00/square foot for each residential dwelling unit to be constructed in the subdivision. Where the residential dwelling unit square footage is not specified as part of the plans for the project, a fee of \$4,780.00 per residential lot is required under the current regulations. Payment shall be at the time of the filing of the final subdivision or parcel map.

Pursuant to section 23.28.020.1 of the City’s Municipal Code, dedication of land or payment of fee in lieu thereof, or both, may be a condition of approval of a final subdivision map or parcel map for park or recreational purposes. (Condominium conversions are exempt from dedication requirements.) The dedication shall be for usable open space that is composed of land that offers natural advantages for the type of facilities to serve the subdivision. A fee in lieu of such dedication shall be required, when no portion of the proposed usable open space is planned to be located within the limits of the subdivision. Only the payment of a fee may be required in the case of a subdivision of fifty or fewer parcels. Section 23.28.020.4 requires establishment of a permanent maintenance program for usable open space lands dedicated under these provisions of this title.

Pursuant to section 23.28.020.3, natural ravines and natural waterways or other natural areas within the boundaries of a subdivision shall be reserved for public purposes, such as recreation, stormwater disposal, etc., as provided by the General Plan and Coastal Land Use Plan through dedications or easements for public use. Pursuant to section 23.28.040 and in accordance with, the provisions of Article 3.5 of the Subdivision Map Act, the General Plan, and Coastal Land Use Plan, the city shall increase public access to the public natural resources in conjunction with the review of subdivisions of land.

Parks, Community Facilities, and Recreational Programs

The City of Santa Cruz offers 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. These parks, facilities and programs provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages and interests.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY/REGIONAL PARKS

Neighborhood Parks. Neighborhood parks serve the recreational needs of those living within the City's primarily residential neighborhood areas. Neighborhood parks provide recreational facilities such as children's play areas, playing fields, basketball and tennis courts, and picnic areas. Some of the City's community garden plots are also located within neighborhood parks. Community garden provide residents with a space to grow small scale vegetable gardens.

The City's standard is to provide neighborhood parks at a ratio of 2.0 acres per 1,000 people. The location of neighborhood parks is ideally within approximately one-half³ mile of neighborhood areas. There are 23 existing neighborhood parks, as summarized on Table 4.6-1 and shown on Figure 4.6-2, which total approximately 57 acres. There are approximately 45 acres of school playing fields, for a total of approximately 102 acres of neighborhood parks within the City. In accordance with the City's existing General Plan, neighborhood park acreages include both City and non-City managed lands such as public school playing fields. The City of Santa Cruz and City School Districts entered into a joint use agreement in 1963 that allow use of selected school playground facilities and indoor facilities to the City and use of City facilities by the school districts..

To meet increasing demand for off-leash dog use, the Parks and Recreation Department has also designated off-leash areas within neighborhood parks throughout the City. These areas may be fenced or designated through signage. The City has designated the following parks as being available to off-leash dog use:

- ☐ DeLaveaga Park (service road into Lower DeLaveaga Park): sunrise to sunset.
- ☐ Frederick Street Park: off-leash area from sunrise to sunset.
- ☐ Grant Street Park: within off-leash area from sunrise to sunset.
- ☐ Mitchell's Cove Beach: before 10AM and after 4PM.
- ☐ Pacheco Dog off-leash area: fenced area from sunrise to sunset.
- ☐ University Terrace Park: fenced off-leash area from sunrise to sunset.

Community Parks. Community Parks are designed to serve the entire community. They are generally larger than neighborhood parks and offer facilities such as athletic fields, group picnic areas, bike and skateboard parks, lawn bowling, bocce ball, community meeting/event facilities, swimming pools, and locations for outdoor special events. The City's standard for community/regional parks is 2.5 acres per 1,000 people. Ideally these parks are located within 1.5 miles of neighborhood areas.

³ The draft General Plan 2030 indicates neighborhood parks should be within one-half of a mile (about five blocks).

There are six existing community parks, totaling approximately 366 acres within the City as summarized below and on Table 4.6-1, and shown on Figure 4.6-2.

- ❑ Depot Park (8.5 acres), which opened in 2005, presently features a full-size soccer field, a plaza/public art area, a wood ramp bike park, picnic areas, children's' play features, the rehabilitated historic Depot building used for community and recreational programs, a trail connection through the park to the beach area, restrooms, and parking lots. The Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary Visitor Center will be developed within the southern portion of Depot Park, across the street from Monterey Bay and the Municipal Wharf. The Depot Park Master Plan also includes a future site for the Natural History Museum.
- ❑ Harvey West Park (55 acres) presently features ball fields, group picnic areas, a children's playground, two outdoor swimming pools, the Clubhouse/Scouthouse, Wagner and Kids cottages, a Park Rangers' facility, restrooms, and parking areas. The park also features trails through the woodlands, including a trail connection to the adjacent Pogonip trail system. In recent years the pool has been closed seasonally due to City budget constraints and most recently has been operated by a private entity on a limited basis.
- ❑ Lower DeLaveaga Park (35 acres) presently features two soft ball fields, a large turf area, a bocce ball court, a volleyball court, a children's playground, individual and group picnic areas, restrooms and parking lots. Branciforte Creek flows along the western edge of the park, with the forested hillsides of the DeLaveaga greenbelt property rising along the eastern boundary of the developed park. Trail entrances at the edges of the park connect to the trail system within the DeLaveaga greenbelt.
- ❑ DeLaveaga Golf Course (250 acres) is part of DeLaveaga Park and includes a golf course, clubhouse and other open space land used for passive recreation.
- ❑ San Lorenzo Park (13 acres) presently features an open turf area along the San Lorenzo River, a duck pond and stage, a lawn bowling facility, a children's' playground, paved trails, and a restroom. The turf area often serves as a location for outdoor special events.
- ❑ Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park AY Mike Fox Park (4 acres), located along the San Lorenzo River further to the south, features the Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park and a roller-hockey practice area. The 15,000 square foot concrete skate park includes a full pipe, bowls and street skating features.

Regional Parks. Regional parks serve the recreational needs of a regional population and are 150 acres in size or larger. They offer active and passive recreation with activities and amenities not found in neighborhood and community parks, such as large areas of open space, large picnic facilities, golf courses, lake boating, ball fields, multi-use trails. An accepted national standard for regional parks is 20 acres per 1,000 people. City residents are in close proximity to a number of regional parks, each offering an array of activities. These parks include: DeLaveaga Park (upper) and greenbelt preserves within the City, and nearby Henry Cowell and Wilder Ranch State Parks (see Figure 1-2). State and municipal beaches and the Yacht Harbor also offer recreational opportunities serving the regional community as further discussed below.

TABLE 4.6-1: City Parks and Open Space Lands

TYPE	FACILITY	SIZE (in acres)
Neighborhood Parks		
	▪ Beach Flats Park – 122 Raymond St.	0.3
	▪ Bethany Curve Greenbelt – Delaware to West Cliff	2.6
	▪ Central Park – 301 Dakota St.	0.2
	▪ Derby Park – 509 Woodland Way	3.8
	▪ Frederick Street Park – 168 Frederick Street	4
	▪ Garfield Park – 624 Almar Ave.	1.8
	▪ Grant Park – 150 Grant St.	2.4
	▪ John Franks Park – Marnell St.	0.3
	▪ Laurel Park – 301 Center St.	1
	▪ Lighthouse Neighborhood Park – Lighthouse Ave.	1.7
	▪ Mission Plaza – 103 Emmet St.	1
	▪ Moore Creek Overlook – Cypress St.	0.12
	▪ Lower Ocean Street Park – 258-262 San Lorenzo Blvd.	0.5
	▪ Ocean View Park – 102 Ocean View Ave.	2.5
	▪ Rincon Park – 601 Chestnut St.	0.1
	▪ Poets Park – 200 Raymond St.	0.13
	▪ Rincon Park – 601 Chestnut St.	0.1
	▪ Round Tree Park – 205 Nobel	0.13
	▪ Star of the Sea – Frederick St. & Darwin St.	2.1
	▪ Trescony – Trescony St.	2
	▪ Tyrell Park – Santa Cruz Museum	1.5
	▪ University Terrace – Meder Street	8.5
	▪ West Cliff	14.5
	▪ Westlake Park – Bradley Dr. @ Spring St.	6
	▪ School Playing Fields [1]	44.6
	TOTAL ACRES (rounded)	102
Community Parks [2]		
	▪ Depot Park	8.5
	▪ Harvey West Park	55
	▪ DeLaveaga Park – Lower	35
	▪ DeLaveaga Golf Course	250
	▪ San Lorenzo Park – 137 Dakota St.	13
	▪ Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park at Mike Fox Park	4
	TOTAL ACRES (rounded)	366
Greenbelts & Open Space Lands with Recreational Uses		
	☐ Arana Gulch – Agnes St.	68.9
	☐ Arroyo Seco Canyon – Meder St.	N/A
	☐ DeLaveaga Park – Upper (minus Golf Course)	275
	☐ Jessie Street Marsh	2.29
	☐ Moore Creek Preserve	246
	☐ Neary Lagoon – 100 California St.	44
	☐ Pogonip – 333 Golf Club Drive	640
	TOTAL ACRES (rounded)	1,276
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TABLE 4.6-1: City Parks and Open Space Lands

TYPE	FACILITY	SIZE (in acres)
City-Owned Beaches		
	☐ Main Street Beach	26.4
	☐ Cowell Beach	4.9
	☐ Wharf	8.2
	☐ Mitchell's Cove	0.4
	☐ Its Beach (west portions)	N/A
	TOTAL ACRES (rounded)	40
[1] School sites are given credit for ¾ of their field acreage at: Santa Cruz & Harbor High Schools; Branciforte and Mission Hill Middle Schools; Bay View, DeLaveaga, Loma Prieta, Gault, Branciforte & Westlake Elementary Schools; Pacific Collegiate School; Holy Cross		
[2] Loch Lomond Park (100 Loch Lomond Way, Felton) provides recreational opportunities outside City limits.		

Existing Park Deficiencies. The City's desired ratio for neighborhood parks is to provide 2.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. Given an estimated current population of 58,982 (California Department of Finance, May 2010), a total of 118 acres of neighborhood parkland would be required to meet this level of service. Presently the City has approximately 102 acres of neighborhood parkland (including school play grounds). Thus, the City would require 16 additional acres of neighborhood parkland to meet the current desired level of neighborhood parks. According to the Parks and Recreation Department, recreational programming of services currently meets the community's demand. However, like many local jurisdictions, Santa Cruz experiences a shortage of athletic fields. At this point, no plans or funding exists to increase the number of facilities. Currently one one-half acre neighborhood park (Lower Ocean) is scheduled for construction. No others are currently programmed.

The City's desired ratio for community parks is to provide 2.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. Given the current population, a total of 148 acres of community parkland would be required to meet this level of service. The City presently has approximately 366 acres of community parklands, which exceeds the City's desired ratio.

The City of Santa Cruz is not a regional park agency; therefore, the City does not have a desired ratio for regional parks. The City also does not have a desired ratio for open space, but City does, however, provide a substantial level of open space parkland. Together, Pogonip, Arana Gulch, Upper DeLaveaga, Moore Creek Preserve, and Neary Lagoon total approximately 1,500 acres. This represents a ratio of 27 acres of open space per 1,000 people. (Open space and greenbelt lands are discussed further below.)

COMMUNITY FACILITIES, RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS, AND EVENTS

Community facilities, recreational programs, and special events serve the needs and interests of individuals, neighborhoods, groups, and the community of Santa Cruz. Events, held at community facilities and park, attract both residents and visitors.

Community Facilities. Community Facilities provide locales for public events and reservable spaces for concerts, meetings, classes, and other events. In recent years, the City has

coordinated with community organizations regarding operation of some facilities due to City budget constraints. The City owns and maintains a number of community facilities that support social, recreational and special event programs as described below.

- ❑ The Civic Auditorium, dedicated in 1940, is located within downtown Santa Cruz. The auditorium provides space for concerts, expos, and meetings.
- ❑ Louden Nelson Community Center, located to the south of downtown adjacent to Laurel Park, serves as a multi-cultural center for classes, theatre, events, and recreational programs. The community center was originally constructed as an elementary school, but was later reopened as a City facility in the 1970s.
- ❑ The Beach Flats Community Center, presently operated by a community organization, provides programs and services for residents.
- ❑ The Harvey West Park Facilities include a community swimming pool and Clubhouse that offer reservable space for community and private events.
- ❑ The City-owned Natural History Museum is located within the Seabright neighborhood, on the edge of Tyrell Park overlooking Monterey Bay. The exhibits and programs are housed in the modified 1915 Carnegie library building. The Natural History Museum is presently operated by the Museum Association. A proposed new location for the museum is included in the Depot Park Master Plan.
- ❑ The Surfing Museum, also presently operated by the Santa Cruz Surfing Club Preservation Society, is located within the memorial lighthouse at Lighthouse Point.

A community/environmental education center is proposed for the historic Clubhouse in the Pogonip Master Plan but is presently unfunded.

Recreational Programs. Recreational Programs offered by the City Parks and Recreation Department are designed to be affordable and available to residents and nonresidents of all ages and interests. Activities include a variety of classes and outings, sports leagues, and programs for older adults. Classes and programs are held at various City parks, beaches, and community centers, and at other locations such as schools.

Community Events. Community Events offered by the City include a variety of cultural and recreational events attracting residents and visitors. Events sponsored by the City are often held in cooperation with organizations and private entities. Some of the events which have been sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department over the years include music/art festivals, chowder cook-offs, and outrigger canoe races. The City Parks and Recreation Department also hosts cultural events in coordination with the Sister Cities Committee.

Community Gardens. Community gardens are public and privately owned lands used for small scale flower and vegetable gardens. These gardens—a specialized type of park—provide the community with food, greenery, and therapeutic and relaxing recreation. The gardens can be created on small, undevelopable parcels of land or as temporary uses on other parcels.

Greenbelt and Open Space Lands

Open space lands provide wildlife habitat, protect natural resources, and offer opportunities for recreation, scenic views, and outdoor/environmental education. The City owns and manages over 1,500 acres of greenbelt and open space lands. The greenbelt properties (Arana Gulch, DeLaveaga, Moore Creek Preserve, and Pogonip) provide large acreages of open space and natural areas encircling the City's urban core. Open space and wetland areas within the City's central area include the San Lorenzo River corridor, Neary Lagoon, and Jessie Street Marsh. Moore Creek (east branch) and Arroyo Seco feature undeveloped canyons within the northwestern area of the City.

Within the City limits, State-owned lands also provide open space and protect natural resources. State Park units featuring open space include Natural Bridges State Beach (SB) and Lighthouse Field SB. Beyond the City limits to the west and north, Wilder Ranch State Park and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park provide vast areas of open space. State parks are described in the following "Coastal Recreation" subsection. The University of California campus lands also feature areas of undeveloped open space. Antonelli Pond, a wetland area within the Moore Creek corridor, is owned and managed by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County.

Management of natural resources and public use within the City's open space areas is guided by master or management plans. These plans provide a long-term vision for each open space area, including guidelines for protecting and enhancing natural and historic resources, and developing trails and other recreational uses.

CITY-OWNED GREENBELT LANDS

In 1979, the City of Santa Cruz identified six properties along the City's boundaries as Greenbelt lands, totaling approximately 1,500 acres. With only DeLaveaga under City ownership at that time, the City embarked on an effort to acquire and protect 1,000 acres over the next 20 years. Today, the City-owned Greenbelt lands include DeLaveaga, Pogonip, Arana Gulch and Moore Creek Preserve. These sites and other natural areas are further described below.

DeLaveaga, located on the City's northeastern boundary, was donated to the City and County as a public park in the late 1800s by Jose Vicente DeLaveaga. Today, the 525-acre upper DeLaveaga is owned and managed by the City of Santa Cruz. (Some parcels, however, are under state ownership as part of the State Armory). Habitat areas within DeLaveaga include oak woodlands, redwood groves, grasslands, coastal prairie, and the west branch of Arana Gulch creek. A Park Master Plan was prepared for DeLaveaga in 1960, which includes a broad range of proposed uses. The plan was not been updated.

Upper DeLaveaga features the municipal DeLaveaga Golf Course and Clubhouse, a disc golf course, an archery range, an approximately 8-mile network of multi-use trails, and parking areas. A gun range, which had been in existence for approximately 50 years, was closed to public use, and the site was remediated after lead contamination was identified. A Golf Course Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2003 and identifies improvements to upgrade the existing golf course, including improvements to the golf course, drainage system, and landscaping, and future construction of a new clubhouse.

Pogonip is located approximately one mile north of downtown Santa Cruz between the University of California campus and the San Lorenzo River corridor. This 614-acre greenbelt was acquired by the City in 1989, and features coastal prairie, woodlands, creeks, springs and a reach of the San Lorenzo River known as Sycamore Grove. An adjacent 25-acre parcel, known as the Wavecrest “greenbelt” parcel, was later purchased by the City in 1997. Pogonip, once part of the Cowell Ranch landholdings, was extensively logged and features historic resources associated with the lime production industry (mid-to-late 18th century). The property also includes a rustic clubhouse, constructed in 1911 as part of the Casa del Rey Golf Course. The two-story Craftsman Bungalow style structure and meadow area were later used for polo grounds. Prior to City ownership, the clubhouse was also used as a private social club, but due to its deteriorated condition, the building has been closed since 1993.

The *Pogonip Master Plan*, adopted by City Council in 1998, addresses public access, recreational uses, historic resource rehabilitation and preservation, and natural resource management and protection. The Master Plan includes a trail system, rehabilitation of the historic clubhouse as a community facility, a permanent agricultural garden site for the Homeless Garden Project, and outdoor education areas. Limited parking within the lower and main meadow areas, minimal improvements to the one-lane access road to the clubhouse, and a Ranger facility are also addressed in the Master Plan. Dogs on-leash are allowed, but off-leash dog and off-trail use is prohibited. Specific uses identified in the plan include:

- ❑ A 9-mile trail system featuring both unpaved service roads and single-track trails open primarily to pedestrians.
- ❑ A multi-use trail (pedestrians, bicycles, horses) connector trail linking Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Pogonip and the University of California property.
- ❑ Rehabilitation of the historic clubhouse to serve as a staging area for educational programs, a meeting and retreat center, and a site for special events.
- ❑ Preservation and interpretation of the historic limekilns, roads and associated features.
- ❑ An outdoor education camp in the lower meadow and a nature/education area within Sycamore Grove.
- ❑ A permanent garden site for the Homeless Garden Project.

To date, the trail system has been implemented including a multi-use regional trail connection linking State Park lands, Pogonip, and the UC campus open space. Limited rehabilitation of the historic Clubhouse has occurred, but it remains closed to public access and complete rehabilitation for public use is presently unfunded. At present, the parking lots, outdoor education areas, and Homeless Garden agricultural garden have not yet been implemented.

Arana Gulch, totaling 67.7 acres, is situated along the City’s eastern boundary, to the north of the Santa Cruz Harbor. Acquired by the City in 1994, this greenbelt property features coastal prairie, riparian and oak woodland, seasonal wetlands, and the lower reaches of Arana Gulch Creek. Historically the property was used for cattle grazing and dairy operations. The current unimproved trail system, much of which existed prior to City ownership as cattle trails or unpaved access roadways, provides pedestrian, bicycle, and on-leash dog use access.

The *Arana Gulch Master Plan*, adopted by the City in 2006 and pending Coastal Commission approval, includes a trail system featuring paved multi-use trails (wheelchair accessible), a new west entrance and bridge spanning Hagemann Gulch, unpaved pedestrian trails, interpretive displays and overlooks. Most of Arana Gulch would continue to remain undeveloped, with a focus on management and protection of the sensitive habitat areas. No on-site parking or restrooms are proposed within the greenbelt property. Specific public use guidelines contained in the Master Plan are outlined below. The Master Plan also identifies three resource management areas for coastal prairie/Santa Cruz tarplant (30.2 acres), riparian and wetland areas, and Hagemann Gulch riparian woodland; resource management guidelines are included in the Master Plan for each of these areas.

- ❑ Provide multi-use wheelchair accessible interpretive trails connecting the surrounding neighborhoods to the Upper Santa Cruz harbor.
- ❑ Establish a new west entrance at Hagemann Gulch to provide a trail connection between Arana Gulch and the Seabright neighborhood. Provide a multi-use trail and bridge crossing over Hagemann Gulch, featuring an interpretive overlook.
- ❑ Provide a pedestrian-only interpretive loop trail encircling the coastal prairie.
- ❑ Improve the existing pedestrian trail along the western edge of the Arana Gulch Creek management area.
- ❑ Allow dogs on-leash on designated trails. Prohibit off-leash dog use and off-trail use to avoid impacts to tarplant populations and other plant and animal species.

Moore Creek Preserve is located on the western edge of the City, north of Highway 1 and extending to the UCSC campus. This 246-acre natural area, acquired by the City in 1998, features the west branch of Moore Creek, coastal prairie, and oak woodlands. The State of California holds two conservation easements over the property. Numerous threatened and endangered plant and wildlife species have been documented within the Preserve. Historically the property was used for cattle grazing.

The *Moore Creek Preserve Interim Management Plan*, adopted by City Council in 2002, serves as a guide for management of the Moore Creek Preserve until preparation/approval of a long term Park Master Plan for the property. The State of California conservation easements include restrictions on various uses and activities. Existing interim uses include hiking trails (approximately 3 miles), cattle grazing, and study, preservation, enhancement and protection of native species and their habitat. Dogs are prohibited within the Preserve. The interim trail system is based primarily on trails and unpaved service roads which existed prior to City ownership and are largely a result of cattle grazing operations. No onsite parking, public access road, or restroom facilities are included in the Interim Plan. A coastal development permit was approved for construction of a bridge to mitigate existing trail impacts to Moore Creek. The *Interim Management Plan* also identifies three plant community resource management areas and addresses specific management of habitat areas for special status species.

CITY-OWNED WETLANDS AND OTHER OPEN SPACE

The City owns and manages several other open space and wetland areas in the central area of the City. These include the San Lorenzo River, Branciforte Creek, Jessie Street Marsh, and Neary Lagoon. In the northwest area of the City, Arroyo Seco and Moore Creek (east branch) canyons provide undeveloped open space areas through residential areas.

The San Lorenzo Riverway includes the lower reach of the River through central Santa Cruz, along the eastern edge of the downtown south to Monterey Bay. The river has been channelized since the late 1950s, with extensive native tree and shrub planting completed as part of the levee improvement project in the 1990s. Multi-use paved trails exist on the levee on both sides of the river, except for a short segment in the vicinity of the County Building north of Soquel Avenue.

Recreational opportunities include trail use, nature viewing, bird watching, and fishing. Public access is provided by a continuous paved pathway/service road, extending approximately 2.5 miles on each levee from Highway 1 southward, provides public access. A new pedestrian-bicycle path was developed that extends north from the northern edge of the western levee, under Highway 1 and connects to the Tannery Arts Project residences.

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.

Neary Lagoon is a City-owned wetland and natural area situated in the central part of the City. Acquired by the City in 1967, the 14-acre lagoon and surrounding riparian and woodland habitat within the management area total 44 acres. Neary Lagoon was originally an oxbow of the San Lorenzo River that was gradually isolated from the main river channel and reduced dramatically in size over the past century.

The Neary Lagoon Management Plan, adopted by City Council in 1992, is a comprehensive guide integrating previous documents prepared. The Management Plan addresses public access and use, hydrology, water quality, vegetation management and habitat restoration, and wildlife and fishery management. Public access includes an interpretive trail system, nature observation areas, interpretive exhibits, and recreational facilities within designated areas. The access is designed to encourage pedestrian use, including wheelchair accessibility. Most of the public use components of the plan have been implemented. Public use guidelines contained in the Management Plan discourage bicycle riding except on designated through trails, and dogs are prohibited within the management area.

Jessie Street Marsh is a City-owned wetland and open space located just to the north of the San Lorenzo River mouth. Historically, Jessie Street Marsh was part of a large tidal estuary open to the San Lorenzo River. After construction of the river levees, the tidal flows were blocked.

Freshwater continues to flow into the marsh area from storm water runoff and springs along the bluff.

The marsh area presently has informal unimproved pathways, with no developed site amenities. A developed trail descends down the bluff from Ocean View Park, along the southern Jessie Street marsh area, to East Cliff Drive. The *Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan*, adopted by the City Council in 1999, was prepared to provide a long-term plan to preserve and enhance the natural resources of the marsh, improve water quality, manage flood waters, and provide appropriate public access. This plan, not yet implemented due to budget constraints, includes recommendations for trails, interpretive signs, overlook and nature viewing areas and improved access to adjacent Ocean View Park to the northeast. An overview of proposed public access management actions:

- ❑ Construct a bridge over the marsh channel and a boardwalk adjacent to the marsh plain near Lemos Avenue and Jessie Street.
- ❑ Construct footpaths within the upper and lower marsh areas, including a connection to East Cliff Drive.
- ❑ Construct a new trail and steps to Ocean View Park and improve the existing trail connection to the adjacent park.
- ❑ Construct gates, fencing and install boulders to inhibit inappropriate public access.
- ❑ Install interpretive signs to create a nature walk experience.

Branciforte Creek flows along the boundary of Lower DeLaveaga Park and continues southward, under Highway 1, to its confluence with the San Lorenzo River at the southern end of San Lorenzo Park. The lower one-mile reach of Branciforte creek was channelized in a concrete flood control channel in the late 1950s. From approximately Market Street northward, Branciforte Creek remains a natural channel with native riparian vegetation on the stream banks.

Public trail access is provided along sections of the service access road along the channel. The confluence of the creek and the San Lorenzo River is recognized as an important bird watching area and overlook area. Much of the natural channel is located within private residential properties, though public access is provided along the natural creek channel within Lower DeLaveaga Park. The *San Lorenzo Urban River Plan* includes recommendations for enhancing the creek corridor, improving water quality, and providing interpretive signage.

Arroyo Seco Canyon extends from University Terrace Park/Meder Street southward to just north of Mission Street/Highway 1. An intermittent creek, City sewer line and utility access route extend along the bottom of the canyon. The access route, maintained by the City's Public Works Department, is also used as a trail by residents. Private residential parcels extend into the undeveloped canyon.

Moore Creek Canyon (East Branch) extends from the UC campus lands southward, paralleling Western Drive, to its confluence with the west branch of Moore Creek just north of Highway 1. This corridor features an intermittent creek flowing through a steep-sided canyon bordered by residential areas. The east branch corridor includes private and public parcels.

The *Moore Creek Corridor Access and Management Plan* (1987) includes recommendations for public access, land dedication, open space easements, and resource management. The plan's goal is to provide public access in a manner compatible with private property, existing development, and the constraints of the natural setting. Presently, there is limited public access within the eastern Moore Creek Canyon.

STATE-OWNED OPEN SPACE

Two State Park units, Lighthouse Field and Natural Bridges State Beaches, offer open space and recreational opportunities within the City limits. The UC campus also features large open space areas and trails accessible to the public. State Park General Plans are the primary management documents for State Park units.

Lighthouse Field State Beach (SB) is a 36-acre open space situated along Monterey Bay, featuring coastal terrace, ocean cliffs, and Its Beach. The open space features grassland (primarily non-native), willows, Monterey cypress trees, and eucalyptus groves. The State of California acquired the field area and coastline west of Lighthouse Point in 1978. A 30-year agreement between the State/City/County regarding local management and maintenance of Lighthouse Field SB expired and has not been extended. At present, this State Park unit is managed and operated by California State Parks.

The *Lighthouse Field State Beach General Plan* (1984) identifies two zones within the property. The 32-acre Field Zone is designated as a low intensity use area, featuring trails and open space. The Coastal Zone is designated as a moderate to high-intensity use area, featuring coastal access, the Surfing Museum, a restroom and maintenance facility, picnicking, and parking areas. Use is restricted to day use only, with no overnight parking or camping. The parking lots and restroom/maintenance facility that presently exist were developed further to the south, toward Lighthouse Point, than depicted in the General Plan conceptual development diagram. A parking area along Pelton Avenue that is identified in the Plan has not been constructed. This eucalyptus/cypress grove area is now recognized as overwintering Monarch butterfly habitat.

Natural Bridges State Beach (SB) is a 65-acre open space and wetland situated on Monterey Bay, on the western boundary of the City. Primary resources include the natural rock bridge, a beach, Monarch butterfly over wintering habitat, and the Moore Creek wetland. The initial state park acreage was established in 1933, with additional lands acquired later.

Public facilities identified in the *Natural Bridges State Beach General Plan* (1992) include a visitors' center, picnic areas, trails and walkways, restrooms, and day-use parking areas. The main entrance is presently located at the terminus of West Cliff Drive. The plan proposes developing a new main entrance off of Delaware Avenue, which is the location of the original entrance in the 1950s. Two preserves are designated within Natural Bridges State Beach: the Monarch Butterfly Natural Preserve and the Moore Creek Wetland Preserve.

UCSC – the University of California Santa Cruz is a 2,020-acre campus, of which approximately 53% is located within city limits. The campus offers amenities for active and passive recreation on the main campus, and the north and upper campuses currently are undeveloped and in open space. Active recreation facilities include playing fields and a swimming pool. The main campus and recreational facilities are open to the public during daylight hours for walking, bicycling,

and visiting campus facilities, such as the Arboretum and Chadwick Gardens. Trails throughout the campus, designed primarily to provide access to campus facilities, also provide recreational opportunities for walking and hiking. The “Cowell Wilder Regional Trail” (open to hikers, bicyclists and equestrians) is located on the north campus (outside city limits) and provides a connection to between Wilder Ranch State Park to the west and Pogonip and Henry Cowell State Park to the east (University of California Santa Cruz, September 2006 – DEIR, Volume Two).

Trails

Santa Cruz has an extensive trail network, featuring paved and unpaved pathways connecting open space, parks, the coast, downtown, and neighborhood areas. This network includes multi-use trails, some of which are wheelchair accessible, and hiking only trails. Together, the City-owned greenbelt lands, open spaces and coastal pathways provide over 50 miles of trails. In addition, State Parks, the UC campus lands, and the Santa Cruz Harbor offer many more miles of publicly accessible trails. The paths and trails support walking, jogging, hiking, and bicycling. The city and regional trail systems provide not only recreation, but access to and connections between various parks, recreation facilities, and natural and urban areas. Promenades and hiking trails (including those along the Beach/Boardwalk, San Lorenzo River Corridor, Downtown, and West Cliff Drive) provide opportunities to enjoy unique natural and historic areas. The network of walkways, bikeways, and trails will become increasingly important for

The Santa Cruz Circle Trail concept focuses on establishing a continuous trail route through the City’s greenbelt lands, along the San Lorenzo River, the coastline and the harbor, to create a continuous pathway encircling the City and linking downtown. Santa Cruz also features several regional trail connections, including the California Coastal Trail and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park/Pogonip/UCSC/Wilder Ranch State Park regional trail.

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), in association with other regional agencies, envisions the planning and construction of a Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST). The MBSST Network will be a multi-use system of bicycle and pedestrian facilities that allows the public to enjoy and experience the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary from the vantage point of the shoreline. The master planning process is in progress, and it is envisioned that some of the recent local coastal trail projects will be part of this network, such as the Wilder Ranch Bicycle and Pedestrian Path, the Watsonville Slough Trails, the Monterey Rail/Trail, and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. Specific alignments have not yet been developed in the City of Santa Cruz.

Coastal Recreation

The City’s coastline along Monterey Bay, totaling approximately 4.6 miles, is a prime recreational destination for residents and over two-million visitors a year. Coastal recreation offers opportunities for a variety of activities, including: ocean and wildlife viewing; beach/coastside walking, jogging and bicycling; surfing, bodyboarding, swimming, and standup paddling; fishing; kayaking and boating; windsurfing/kiteboarding; sunbathing; and picnicking. Coastal facilities and visitors centers also offer educational opportunities about the coastal and marine environment.

Coastal recreation within the City of Santa Cruz includes City and State beaches, coastal pathways, the Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz Surfing Museum, Santa Cruz Harbor, and the Boardwalk Amusement Park. Coastal-oriented environmental education facilities include the Seymour Marine Discovery Center at UCSC's Long Marine Laboratory and the future Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Visitors' Center.

CITY BEACHES AND THE MUNICIPAL WHARF

City-owned and managed beaches include Main Beach, Cowells Beach, the western portion of Its Beach, and Mitchell's Cove. Main Beach is a broad expanse of sand extending from the San Lorenzo River mouth west to the Municipal Wharf. Volleyball courts are available on Main Beach. Cowells Beach lies to the west of the wharf, extending to the West Cliff Drive bluff. Both beaches are heavily used by visitors and residents during summer months for sunbathing, wading and swimming. Cowells Beach is also a popular surf break with access from the beach and a stairway along West Cliff Drive. The City of Santa Cruz provides seasonal life guard towers and service on Cowells and Main Beach. Dogs are prohibited by the City on Main Beach and Cowells Beach.

On the coastal bluff along West Cliff Drive, a pedestrian/bicycle path extends from Cowells Beach to Natural Bridges State Beach. Situated along West Cliff Drive, two smaller sandy beaches are accessible by stairways. Its Beach, located to the west of Lighthouse Point, is owned by the City and State. The access stairs are located on State Parks property. Further to the west is Mitchell's Cove, which is open to off-leash dog use during certain hours.

Stairways along the West Cliff Drive pedestrian/bicycle path also provide access to popular surfing breaks, including Steamer Lane and Mitchell's Cove. Stairs are located (east to west) at Pelton Avenue next to the Surfer Statute, Steamer Lane, Its Beach and Mitchell's Cove. Other surfing breaks along West Cliff Drive are not accessible by constructed stairways.

Lighthouse Point, owned and managed by the City, features the Surfing Museum which is located within the Abbott Memorial Lighthouse. The Point offers an overlook of the Steamer Lane surfing area and opportunities for viewing sea lions, otters, migrating whales, and marine birds. A grassy area at Lighthouse Point is used for informal play and picnicking, and special events.

The Municipal Wharf, constructed in 1914, extends 2,700 feet into Monterey Bay and separates Main Beach from Cowells Beach. Popular with visitors and residents, the wharf features public walkways, overlooks, seating areas, interpretive exhibits, restaurants, shops, kayak and boat rentals, and parking areas. Nature viewing and fishing are also popular activities.

STATE BEACHES

Seabright Beach is part of the Twin Lakes State Beach park unit. This wide beach extends from San Lorenzo Point southward to the west jetty of the Santa Cruz Harbor. Access to the beach is provided at the end of Cypress Avenue, a stairway at Third Avenue, and from the Harbor. A restroom is located at the Cypress Avenue entrance. Portable lifeguard towers are installed seasonally. The *Twin Lakes State Beach General Plan* (1992) plan proposes a year-round lifeguard facility and a new restroom between Third Avenue and the jetty. Popular activities include sunbathing, wading and swimming, beach walking/jogging, picnicking, and fires within designated rings. Dogs are restricted to on-leash use only.

A sandy cove beach located within Natural Bridges State Beach is popular for sunbathing, wading and swimming, tide pool visitation and surfing. Its Beach (eastern portion) is part of Lighthouse Field State Beach. This small pocket beach varies in size depending on the season and tides. Popular activities include sunbathing, wading and bodyboarding. Dogs are restricted on on-leash use only. The sandy beach area along the Santa Cruz Boat Harbor is owned and managed by the Port District. To the east within the County, the Twin Lakes State Beach also includes smaller sand beaches.

SCHOOLS

Regulatory Setting

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. In 1998, the California State Legislature enacted SB 50, which made significant amendments to existing State law governing school fees. SB 50 prohibited state or local agencies from imposing school impact mitigation fees, dedications, or other requirements in excess of those provided in the statute. Government Code Section 65995(e) provides that where payment has been made to a school district in accordance with the school fee program that payment is considered full mitigation for school impacts. The legislation also prohibits local agencies from denying or conditioning any project (including a general plan) based on the inadequacy of school facilities.

Section 23.28.030 of the City's Municipal Code regulates dedication of land as a condition of approval of a final subdivision map in accordance with the provisions of Section 66478 of the Map Act.

Schools and Enrollments

Schools and educational services are provided to City residents by the Santa Cruz City Schools District (SCSD), as well as a number of private schools, for grades K through 12. SCSD 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 includes four K-5 schools, one K-6 school and two 6-8 schools serving 2,624 students in grades K-6 (City of Santa Cruz Elementary and High School District, June 2010).

The High School District encompasses much of the northern portion of Santa Cruz County drawing its student population from the communities of: Davenport, Bonny Doon, Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz, Live Oak, Soquel and Capitola. The secondary District includes two middle schools (grades 6-8), three comprehensive schools, a continuation school, an independent studies program and a K-12 home study program with a combined enrollment of 4,217 students (City of Santa Cruz Elementary and High School District, June 2010).

Table 4.6-2 identifies school capacities and projected enrollments. It should be noted that Soquel High School and Delta Charter School are not located within the City. The Branciforte Small Schools campus includes the Alternative Family Education, Ark Independent Studies, Costanoa Continuation School, and Monarch Elementary School. The existing combined

enrollment for the Santa Cruz City Schools is 6,841 students based on data in the District's annual budget (Santa Cruz City Schools, June 2010). Delta Charter School (grades 9-12, located outside City limits) serves 190 students (Ibid.). The enrollment numbers in Table 4.6-2 were provided by the School District during the preparation of this EIR.

TABLE 4.6-2
School Capacities & Projected Enrollments

School	Capacity	Projected Enrollment
Elementary Schools		
▪ Bay View Elementary	604	547
▪ Delaveaga Elementary	641	633
▪ Gault Elementary	480	450
▪ Westlake Elementary	604	584
SUBTOTAL	2,329	2,214
Middle Schools		
▪ Branciforte Middle	651	471
▪ Mission Hill Middle	690	606
SUBTOTAL	1,341	1,077
High Schools		
▪ Harbor High	1,155	995
▪ Santa Cruz High	1,362	1,137
▪ Soquel High	1,447	997
SUBTOTAL	3,964	3,129
Branciforte Small Schools	517	469
TOTAL ALL GRADES	8,151	6,889
SOURCE: Santa Cruz City Schools		

The Santa Cruz City Elementary and High School Districts currently charge school impact fees. In justification studies conducted in 2006, it was indicated that enrollment in the Elementary School District had exceeded its facility capacity of 2,028 students for K-6 grades and would continue to exceed facility capacity through the 2015-16 school year. Similarly, the High School District also had exceeded its facility capacity of 4,638 students for 7-12 grades.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND COLLECTION

Regulatory Setting

FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS/REQUIREMENTS

The Clean Water Act (CWA) regulates the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States from any point source, enacted in 1972. The California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) have the authority in California to protect and enhance water quality, including administration of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program for discharges, storm water and construction site runoff. The discharge of treated wastewater is included in the NPDES program. Wastewater systems are closely regulated for health and environmental

concerns. The RWQCB regulates operations and discharges from sewage systems through the NPDES permit.

Federal, state and local regulations are enforced by the City of Santa Cruz through permitting, monitoring and inspections of Significant Industrial Users (SIU). SIUs are defined in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 403.3 (t) as:

- ❑ All industrial users subject to Categorical Pretreatment Standards, or
- ❑ Any other user that has any one or more of the following characteristics:
 - An average discharge flow of equal to or greater than 25,000 gallons per day of process wastewater to the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF),
 - Contributes a process wastestream which is 5% or more of the average dry weather hydraulic or organic capacity of the WWTF,
 - Has a reasonable potential to adversely affect WWTF operations, or
 - Violates any pretreatment standard or requirement (in accordance with 40 CFR 403.8 (f) (6)) (City of Santa Cruz website: "Industrial Waste Discharge Program").

LOCAL REGULATIONS/REQUIREMENTS

Chapter 16.08 ("Sewer System Ordinance") of the City of Santa Cruz Municipal Code regulates discharge to sanitary sewer and requires that all wastewater be discharged to public sewers, with the exception of graywater as allowed by Municipal Code Chapter 16.08. Septic tanks and cesspools are not allowed within city boundaries except as specified for limited conditions in Chapter 6.20 of the Municipal Code.

The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District's Rule 216 requires any entity seeking to obtain an Authority to Construct or a Permit to Operate for a Wastewater or Sewage Treatment facility to obtain a permit from the District. The purpose of this Rule is to ensure that the projected served population of a Wastewater or Sewage Treatment facility is consistent with the Air Quality Plan as approved by the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District for addressing the current State Implementation Plan requirements for maintaining federal and state ambient air quality standards.

Wastewater Treatment

OVERVIEW

The City of Santa Cruz owns and operates a regional wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), located on California Street adjacent to Neary Lagoon, that provides secondary level of treatment. The City treats sewage from domestic and industrial sources and discharges the treated effluent into the Pacific Ocean under the provisions of a waste discharge permit (NPDES No. CA0048194) issued by the California RWQCB, Central Coast Region (Order No. R3 - 2005 - 0003). Monterey Bay, into which the region's treated wastewater is disposed, was designated in 1992 as a National Marine Sanctuary. Wastewater influent and effluent characteristics are carefully monitored for compliance with state water quality requirements. The City also participates in a regional receiving water monitoring program with other dischargers in the Monterey Bay area (City of Santa Cruz Water Department, February 2006).

SERVICE AREA

The City of Santa Cruz WWTF serves a population of approximately 130,000 in the cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola and parts of unincorporated Santa Cruz County (see Figure 4.6-3). In addition to the City of Santa Cruz, the WWTF also serves the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District and Community Service Areas (CSA) 10 and 57 as further described below. The City also provides capacity for the City of Scotts Valley to discharge its treated wastewater into the Pacific Ocean via the City's discharge. The City of Santa Cruz accounts for its wastewater system as an enterprise activity, primarily relying on service charges for funding (Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County, June 2005).

The Santa Cruz County Sanitation District provides wastewater collection service for the City of Capitola and the unincorporated communities of Aptos, Soquel and Live Oak. The District receives periodic inquiries regarding sewer service in the La Selva Beach area due to septic problems in that area, but that area lies outside its current sphere of influence (Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County, June 2005).

County Service Areas 10 and 57 (Rolling Woods and Graham Hill) are also served by the City's WWTP. CSA 57 serves the Woods Cove subdivision off Graham Hill Road; the service area encompasses 0.1 square miles and has a current service population of 14 (7 connections). The area is expected to reach a population of 120 by 2015 as a result of buildout of the approved 60-lot Woods Cove subdivision.⁴ CSA 10 serves a portion of the developed Rolling Woods subdivision also located off Graham Hill Road (Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County, June 2005).

TREATMENT LEVELS AND PLANT CAPACITY

Treatment Process. The City's WWTF was upgraded in 1998 to provide secondary treatment in order to meet state and federal waste discharge requirements. The City's treatment plant currently produces wastewater of a quality that would be classified as Disinfected Secondary-23. The treatment process consists of a series of steps, including screening, aerated grit removal, primary sedimentation, trickling filter treatment, solids contact, secondary clarification, and ultraviolet disinfection.

The City's treated wastewater is potentially suitable for some agricultural applications and for limited public access irrigation. However, the level of treatment is not sufficient for general irrigation or unrestricted use on playgrounds, parks, schoolyards, etc. Additional treatment above that currently provided would be needed to meet the state public health and safety requirements for these uses. In addition to the treatment upgrades, a distribution system, including pumps, meters, storage facilities, and separate piping would be required to convey the recycled water to customers (City of Santa Cruz Water Department, February 2006).

⁴ The Board of Supervisors approved the Tentative Map on November 27, 1996. Subsequent to that, the County did supplemental environmental review to consider the developer's request to change from onsite sewage treatment to a transmission main to the City of Santa Cruz. In September 1998, the County filed a negative declaration and the County approved the revised sewer option on October 20, 1998 (County Application Number 98-0121) (McCormick, Santa Cruz LAFCO, personal communication, October 2009).

Treatment Capacity. The WWTF has a permitted wastewater treatment capacity of 17.0 million gallons per day (mgd) (City of Santa Cruz, 2009). In 2009, the WWTP treated 2.84 billion gallons of wastewater effluent at an average daily rate of 9.2 mgd (Ibid.). Daily dry weather flow averaged 8.5 mgd for June, July and August. With the closure of businesses within the city over the last 10 years (including, Lipton, Wrigley, Salz Tannery, and Texas Instruments), the amount of wastewater treated at the facility has decreased over that time period. Approximately 150 acre-feet per year (0.2 mgd) of treated water is retained for use at the treatment plant (Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County, June 2005). The plant also treats excess dry weather flow of approximately ½ mgd from Neary Lagoon, typically from April through October.

The Santa Cruz County Sanitation District has treatment capacity rights of 8 mgd at the City of Santa Cruz WWTF. The City contributes approximately 5.0 mgd with a remaining capacity of 4.0 mgd. The Sanitation District contributes 5.5 mgd with a remaining capacity of 2.5 mgd. Approximately 50% of the wastewater treated at the plant is generated within the City of Santa Cruz. The total remaining treatment plant capacity, therefore, is 7.5 mgd.

WWTF MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS

The agreement between the Sanitation District and the City stipulates that the District shall pay 8/17 (47%) of the project costs for treatment modifications, while operational and maintenance costs are split in proportion to the total flow, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Suspended Solids (SS) actually discharged⁵ by each agency (Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County, June 2005).

The WWTF has been upgraded several times since 1928 when the plant began operations (City of Santa Cruz, 2007-Annual Report). The WWTF was upgraded in 1998 to provide a secondary biological treatment system consisting of trickling filters/solids contact tanks to improve effluent quality and satisfy federal requirements and the California Ocean Plan. According to the City's website⁶, other major accomplishments at the WWTF in the last five years include:

- ❑ Completion of a photovoltaic system.
- ❑ Integration of a 1.3-megawatt cogeneration system into the facility power grid.
- ❑ Completion of a Carbon Absorption Odor Control System.
- ❑ Implementation of staffing reorganization to optimize plant efficiency.

Treated Effluent Disposal

The treated effluent is disposed into the Monterey Bay via a deep ocean outfall constructed in 1987. The outfall extends 12,250 feet on the ocean bottom and terminates one mile offshore at a depth of approximately 110 feet below sea level. A 1,200-foot diffuser at the end of the

⁵ Flows are measured daily and monthly averages are prepared. SS are measured daily and BOD is measured weekly.

⁶ <http://www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us/pw/index.html>, "Wastewater Treatment Facility."

pipe provides an initial dilution of greater than 139 parts seawater to one part wastewater (City of Santa Cruz Water Department, February 2006).

As previously indicated, the City of Scotts Valley discharges its treated effluent via the City's ocean outfall. The Scotts Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant has a permitted capacity of 1.5 million gpd and treats water to secondary and tertiary levels. Secondarily treated effluent that is not used for recycled water is transmitted via a main to Santa Cruz and discharged to the ocean through the outfall shared with the City of Santa Cruz.

Wastewater Collection

The City of Santa Cruz wastewater collection system serves approximately 15,000 connections. The collection system includes 23. The City maintains over 160 miles of sewer pipeline ranging in size from 6 to 54 inches in diameter. The City has a hydraulic model for the sewer system, and continues to focus on collections system projects that reduce infiltration and inflow into the system (Wolfman, personal communication, April 2011).

The City addresses infrastructure needs during the annual budgeting process. The City's proposed 2011-2012 Capital Improvement Program includes a number of projects for improvements to the wastewater system. In addition to rehabilitation and replacement projects, the CIP includes a number of projects where closed circuit TV will be used to identify problem areas and improve maintenance and repairs. The CIP also includes funding for replacing worn and obsolete equipment, and improving automation at the wastewater treatment plant. The CIP is reviewed and adopted annually (Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County, June 2005).

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Regulatory Setting

The City's landfill operation is required to comply with the regulations, plans, and permits required by the California Integrated Waste Management Board and California Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Air Resources Board, and the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District.

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) (Chapter 1095, Statutes of 1989, et seq.) was adopted in an effort to improve planning for solid waste facilities and reduce the volume and toxicity of solid waste that is disposed. The act requires each of the cities and unincorporated portions of counties throughout the State of California to divert 25% by 1995 and 50% by the year 2000 of the solid waste tonnage that was disposed in 1990. It also requires local governments to prepare and implement plans that would improve waste resource management by integrating solid waste management with source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting measures.

City of Santa Cruz Solid Waste Collection and 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, greenwaste 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 67 acres available for disposal use (Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County, June 2005). The City's Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) and Recycling Center is located at the landfill site. 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.

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 (Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County, June 2005).

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, (City of Santa Cruz Department of Planning and Community Development, April 2004), but the lifespan has been increased through additional waste reduction as discussed further below.

Since 1990 the Public Works Refuse Division has focused on maximizing the capacity of the RRF, waste diversion, and implementing environmental improvements to minimize the impacts of the facility to public health and the surrounding environment (City of Santa Cruz Department of Planning and Community Development, April 2004). Major capital improvement projects that have been implemented at the RRF to minimize its impact to the environment include the following:

- ❑ Construction of two triple lined leachate collection impoundments.
- ❑ Construction of a three-mile leachate pipeline from the landfill to the City's sanitary sewer system.
- ❑ Construction of a groundwater cutoff wall downgradient of the landfill's lowest elevation.
- ❑ Construction of a freshwater bypass tunnel system to reroute two streams around the landfill.
- ❑ Construction of two of the four lined cells planned for the 27-acre expansion area.
- ❑ Expansion of the recycling processing facility and conversion to an automated, single-stream processing line.
- ❑ Construction of a gas trench wall to prevent offsite migration of landfill gas.

- ❑ Improvement of the landfill gas collection and power generation system.
- ❑ Improvement of leachate containment and erosion control methods.
- ❑ Expansion of environmental monitoring network, including groundwater, soil pore gas, surface water and air quality (City of Santa Cruz Department of Planning and Community Development, April 2004).

The City of Santa Cruz met has 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 regarding the three “R”s (i.e. reduce, reuse and recycle) and the implementation of expanded curbside recycling programs. The programs included the collection of most forms of clean paper (e.g. office, junk mail, newspaper, magazines, paper board, and card board), containers (e.g. glass, metal, aluminum, and plastic nos. 1-7), and yard waste materials. The programs also included the diversion and reuse of construction and demolition debris (e.g. concrete rubble, asphalt, and wood) and wastewater treatment plant sludge. In the year 2000, the City established a Zero-Waste goal with the ultimate intention of eliminating the City’s need for a landfill (City of Santa Cruz Department of Planning and Community Development, April 2004). As of 2009, the City had achieved a diversion rate of 63-65%, which exceeds the state requirements.

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 2058 (Arman, personal communication, April 2011). 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 after the year 2030 and the proposed *General Plan 2030* planning horizon.

Planned programs and improvements include the following as outlined in the *General Plan 2030* Background Report City of Santa Cruz Department of Planning and Community Development, April 2004 include expansion of the waste diversion programs and continued pursuit of operational improvements and efficiencies to increase the life of the landfill. Several capital improvement projects are planned to promote waste diversion, improve the environment, and maintain the landfill’s capacity. These include two additional lined landfill cells and improvements at the wastewater treatment plant to enable food wastes to be added to the digesters to generate gas for energy generation. The City recently acquired a 5.5-acre parcel adjacent to the landfill on the south, which will be used for support uses ancillary to the landfill and RRF uses. Specific uses have not been identified, but the property will not be used for landfill disposal operations.

ELECTRICAL & 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 (Pacific Gas and Electric Company website, 2011). It currently provides service to approximately 15 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 141,215 circuit miles of electric distribution lines, 18,616 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 website, 2011).

The state's per capita electrical use in 2009 was 6,691 kilowatt hour per capita, the lowest of any state in the nation (California Energy Commission website, 2011). Within PG&E's service area, electrical use is projected to increase by approximately 1.22% between 2010 and 2020, which is a lower increase than experienced between 1990 and 2000, but slightly higher than between 2000 and 2010 (California Energy Commission, December 2009). Total efficiency/conservation electricity consumption savings are projected to reach 80,000 gigawatt hours in 2020; the majority of savings from building and appliance standards (Ibid.). State projections indicated that natural gas consumption will increase only minimally during the same time period (Ibid.).

State forecasts show a similar electrical and natural gas trend for the PG&E service area with a slightly higher rate of increase in electrical consumption between 2010 and 2020 (1.27%) (California Energy Commission, December 2009). However, the per capita electricity consumption is projected to slightly decline in PG&E's service area due to continued savings from energy efficiency programs (Ibid.). Forecasts show an overall decrease in natural gas consumption over 1990 levels by the year 2020 (Ibid.).

Data developed as part of the preparation of the City's draft "Climate Action Plan" reveals that approximately 290,000,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity were consumed within the City in 2008 and approximately 18,000,000 therms of natural gas was used. This accounts for municipal, residential and commercial/industrial uses. Nearly 8,000,000 kWh of electricity was generated by renewable sources.

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, September 2010). 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; and
- ❑ 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 (AMBAG, 2008).

4.6.2 RELEVANT PROJECT ELEMENTS

PROPOSED GOALS, POLICIES & ACTIONS

The proposed *General Plan 2030* includes goals, policies and actions that address provision of public services. In general, Policies LU1.3 and LU1.4 seek to ensure that facilities and services required by future development are available and that new development pays its proportional share. The Plan also seeks to provide community services and facilities to meet needs of the population (CC2.1) and update and replace facilities (CC2.1.1).

Goals, policies and actions in the following chapters also address specific public services.

- ❑ The **CIVIC AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES** chapter of the draft *General Plan 2030* includes the following four goals addressing public services:

GOAL CC4 *A sustainable and efficient wastewater system.*

GOAL CC6 *Minimal solid waste production.*

GOAL CC7 *A safe and secure community.*

GOAL CC8 *Excellent educational opportunities and resources.*

These goals address the following public services:

- Wastewater - one goal with three associated policies and eight specific actions;
- Solid Waste Management – one goal with four associated policies and 27 actions;
- Police Protection – one goal with six associated policies and 23 actions ; and
- Schools – two policies with four actions that address school sites and facilities and two additional policies and accompanying actions that address educational programs and safe access to schools.

- ❑ The **HAZARDS, SAFETY & NOISE** chapter of the draft *General Plan 2030* includes two policies and 13 specific actions related to fire protection and safety and provision of emergency access.
- ❑ The **PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE** chapter of the draft *General Plan 2030* includes goals, policies and actions that address parks and recreational facilities, open space, trails and recreation programs. This chapter includes three goals with 16 associated policies and 38 specific actions that address parks, open space and recreational facility public services. A fourth goal with policies and actions address recreational programs, activities and events. These goals are identified below. Several policies and actions in other chapters of the proposed General Plan also seek to protect, preserve and/or manage open space and natural areas throughout the City (CD 1.1.3, LU 2.3, LU 3.11 NRC 1.1 river access)].

GOAL PR1 *Ample, accessible, safe and well-maintained parks, open space, and active recreational facilities.*

GOAL PR2 *High-quality, affordable recreational programs, activities, events, and services for all.*

GOAL PR3 *Well managed, clean and convenient public access to open space lands and coastline.*

GOAL PR4 *An integrated system of citywide and regional trails.*

The draft plan also strives to maintain park service standards, which call for a neighborhood park at ratio of 2.0 acres per 1,000 population (PR1.3.2) and a community parks ratio of 2.5 acres per 1000 population (PR1.3.3). Service standards are not provided for other public services, although Action CC7.1.7 calls for updating and maintaining police response time standards, while Action CC9.4.2 seeks to provide emergency services at accident or disaster scenes within an average time of 4 minutes or less and within 5 minutes or less 90 percent of the time.

- ❑ The **NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION** chapter of the draft *General Plan 2030* includes the following goal with four associated policies and 20 accompanying actions related to energy conservation. 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.

GOAL NRC7 *Reduction in energy use, and significant production and use of renewable energy.*

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The draft *General Plan 2030* includes several policies and actions that address specific improvements or general types of future improvements to public service facilities. Generally, the plan calls for updating and replacing facilities as appropriate (CC2.1.1) and providing community facilities to meet the needs of the City's population (CC2.1). Specific referenced service improvements include maintenance and upgrading the sewer system (CC4.1, CC4.1.1 - CC4.1.3, CC4.1.5); monitoring the wastewater treatment plant capacity to address future needs (CC4.1.8); and exploring the potential for recycling wastewater (CC4.3). The draft Plan the development of a new countywide Emergency Operations Center facility (HZ1.1.5), but a specific location within the City or elsewhere in the county is not identified.

Policy LU4.3 encourages the development and expansion of neighborhood facilities such as parks, schools, daycare centers, and neighborhood commercial services. However, there are no specifically designated new park or school sites. A number of policies promote provision of trails and access to open space lands and the coast (PR4.1 and accompanying actions) with enhancing the recreational value of the San Lorenzo River walkway and East and West Cliff Drive pathways (PR4.1.3) and creating a continuous pathway along the coast by enhancing the physical links between West Cliff and East Cliff Drives and the Beach Promenade (PR4.1.4).

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

The *General Plan 2030* Land Use Map and land use designations are largely unchanged from the 1990-2005 General Plan / Local Coastal Program, except for three new mixed use land designations that have been developed and applied to the following major transportation corridors: Mission Street, Ocean Street, Soquel, Avenue, and Water Street. Some of the draft *General Plan 2030* policies and actions support specific types of land uses and/or development, including new mixed-use use districts and/or intensified redevelopment, as summarized in the LAND USE (Chapter 4.1) section of this EIR.

4.6.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING 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 Result in wastewater flows exceed sewer line or treatment plant capacity or contribute substantial increases to flows in existing sewer lines that exceed capacity.
- 6e Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs.
- 6f Result in the wasteful or inefficient use of energy.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

Based on the significance criteria identified above, the following impact analyses address potential impacts to the City's fire and police services (6a); potential impacts on City park facilities (6b-c); potential impacts on school facilities (6a); potential impacts related to wastewater collection and disposal (6d); potential impacts on landfill capacity (6e); and potential impacts related to energy use (6f).

Potential Future Development & Buildout

Adoption and implementation of the proposed General Plan 2030 would not directly result in increased new development. However, the draft General Plan includes policies and a land use map that support additional development. This potential development, as summarized in the LAND USE (Chapter 4.1) section of this EIR, could result in development of 3,350 residential units, 3,140,000 square feet of commercial, office and industrial development and 300 new hotel

rooms. This level of development could result in an increased population of 8,040 residents and 8,665 new jobs.

The proposed General Plan also includes other policies and actions that could result in development that supports year-round expanded performances, events, and/or visitors. These potential uses include:

- ❑ Supporting a downtown performing arts center or expansion of the Civic Center (HA2.2.5),
- ❑ Amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow development of arts and cultural facilities in a wide variety of districts (HA2.2.4),
- ❑ Supporting Santa Cruz as a year-round conference destination (Policy ED1.4), supporting year-round events (HA3.2.4), and promoting Santa Cruz as a year-round arts destination, and
- ❑ Promoting Santa Cruz as a principal retail, cultural, recreational, entertainment and commercial destination in the region (ED1.1).

New development accommodated under the proposed General Plan will result in the demand for public services. The proposed *General Plan 2030* includes goals, policies and actions that address provision of public services. In general, Policies LU1.3 and LU1.4 seek to ensure that facilities and services required by future development are available and that new development pays its proportional share. The Plan also seeks to provide community services and facilities to meet needs of the population (CC2.1) and update and replace facilities (CC2.1.1). The impacts associated with specific services are presented below.

Impact 4.6-1 Fire Protection

Adoption and implementation of the *General Plan 2030* could indirectly result in increased population associated with potential development that could be accommodated by the Plan that would result in increased fire protection and emergency service demands. However, future development and growth would not result in the need to construct new or expanded fire stations. This is considered a *less-than-significant impact*.

According to the City's Fire Department, there are adequate fire protection facilities to serve the projected growth increases associated with implementation of the proposed Draft *General Plan 2030*. No new fire stations or facilities will be needed to maintain acceptable response times and service levels (Oliver, personal communication, April 2011). New development and growth accommodated by the draft plan would not reduce response times or require new or physically altered fire protection facilities that could 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 to consolidate 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 no significant impacts are expected to occur, as the site is within a developed urban area.

The draft plan includes policies and actions that would serve to reduce impacts on the City's Fire Department. Draft Policy HZ1.2 seeks to respond to emergencies rapidly. Specific actions call for annual review of service calls (HZ1.2.1) and response times and making continuous operational improvements to arrive on emergency scenes within an average time of 4 minutes or less and within 5 minutes or less 90 percent of the time (HZ1.2.2). Additionally, Policy HZ1.4 and its five specific actions seek to continue to meet fire safety and firefighting needs with staff training and equipment maintenance (HZ1.4.1), promoting built-in fire extinguishing and alarm systems (HZ1.4.2), ensuring adequate fire flow to new uses (HZ1.4.3), and continued mutual aid services with other agencies (HZ1.4.4, HZ1.4.5). A number of actions also seek to ensure that new development is sited and designed to accommodate facility emergency access and response (HZ1.2.5, HZ1.2.6, HZ1.5.5) and that street widths are adequate to safely accommodate emergency vehicles (M3.2.3). These policies and actions (as summarized on Table 4.6-3) serve to maintain fire department operations and response time and reduce impacts on fire protection services.

TABLE 4.6-3
Proposed General Plan Policies & Actions that Avoid or Reduce
Fire Protection Service Impacts

Type of Measure / Action	Policies / Actions
PROVIDE ADEQUATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE & PREPAREDNESS	• Adequate emergency response times: HZ1.2, HZ1.2.1, HZ1.2.2 • Ensure emergency preparedness: HZ1.1; HZ1.1.1 (annually update the Emergency Operations Plan.); HZ1.1.2 (City staff training) • New development design and access to maintain emergency response times with adequate access: HZ1.1.3, HZ1.2.5, HZ1.2.6 • Ensure that street widths are adequate to safely serve emergency vehicles: M3.2.3
PROVIDE ADEQUATE FIRE PROTECTION	• Meet fire safety & firefighting needs: HZ1.4, HZ1.4.1 (staff training and equipment maintenance) • Adequate emergency response times: HZ1.2, HZ1.2.1, HZ1.2.2 • Adequate fire flow: CC3.4.1, HZ1.4.3 • Pre-fire surveys of select buildings: HZ1.2.3 • Fire prevention: HZ1.4.2 (built-in extinguishing & alarm systems), HZ1.5.6 (abatement of hazardous buildings and conditions) • Adequate emergency access in new development: HZ1.2.5, HZ1.2.6, HZ1.5.5 • Promote fire safety & prevention programs: HZ1.5.8
REDUCE WILDLAND FIRE HAZARDS	• Reduce wildfire hazards: HA1.5, HZ1.5.1, • Regulate development siting/design to reduce wildland fires: HZ1.5.3 (setbacks), HZ1.5.4 (fire-resistant/retardant building materials), • Continued mutual aid with other agencies: HZ1.4.4, HZ1.4.5 • Promote fire safety & prevention programs: HZ1.5.8 • Maintain & update wildland interface zones: CD1.4.4

Future growth could result in an indirect increased risk of wildfires in the urban-rural interface and adjacent to the City's greenbelt areas. None of the major vacant sites are within identified fire hazard zones. The City does not have the resources to adequately police and protect greenbelt areas, which increases the frequency of illegal camping that can result in fires in limited access and canyon areas (City of Santa Cruz, September 2007). Despite the fact that there has not been a recent wildland fire within the city limits, residential development into or adjacent to wildland/urban interface areas increases the danger to life and property should a fire occur. Areas targeted as "likely" to have a wildland fire include the Arroyo Seco/Meder Canyon, DeLaveaga, Pogonip, Moore Creek area and Arana Gulch. Increasing use of these areas by residents, transient encampments with fires, and young adults looking for a place to gather exacerbates the risks (Ibid.).

Policy HZ1.5 seeks to reduce potential wildfire hazards through regulation of development in and adjacent to fire hazard areas (HZ1.5.2) with adequate siting, design, and emergency access provided by new development to reduce potential hazards and facilitate emergency response (HZ1.5.3, HZ1.5.4, HZ1.5.5). The City of Santa Cruz also has initiated a number of wildfire mitigation programs in recent years including vegetation management programs at DeLaveaga Park and at the Arroyo Seco Canyon areas (City of Santa Cruz, September 2007). The City continues to maintain cooperative agreements to work with the County, UCSC, the California Department of Forestry and other fire protection agencies to collaboratively avoid or minimize the threat from wild-land/urban interface fires. The City's adopted "Local Hazard Mitigation Plan" (City of Santa Cruz, September 2007) also includes the following mitigation strategy to avoid or reduce potential wildfires that have been included in the draft General Plan.

- ❑ Cooperative fire protection agreements with other agencies.
- ❑ Reduction of fire risk in wildland/urban interface areas through improved vegetation management and appropriate code enforcement.
- ❑ Promotion of built-in fire extinguishing and warning fire alarm systems.
- ❑ Creation of a proactive (not reactive) hazard abatement program.
- ❑ Land use planning to reduce incidence of human caused wildfire.
- ❑ Adequate staffing to meet needs of City population and development.
- ❑ Fire prevention programs in schools, institutions & commercial buildings.

Conclusion. Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* would not directly result in new development, but new development accommodated by the plan would result in demands for fire protection services. However, there are adequate fire protection facilities to serve the projected growth increases associated with implementation of the proposed *Draft General Plan 2030*, and no additional equipment or facilities will be needed to maintain acceptable response times and service levels (Oliver, personal communication, April 2011). New development and growth accommodated by the draft plan would not reduce response times or require new or physically altered fire protection facilities that could result in significant physical impacts. Furthermore, the proposed *General Plan 2030* includes goals, policies and actions that set forth measures to avoid and minimize adverse impacts on fire protection services as summarized on Table 4.6-3. With implementation of these proposed policies and actions, as well as implementation of the City's "Local Hazard Mitigation Plan", the

proposed *General Plan 2030*'s indirect impact on fire protection services would be considered less-than-significant.

Mitigation Measures

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

Impact 4.6-2 Police Protection

Adoption and implementation of the *General Plan 2030* 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 stations. This is considered a *less-than-significant impact*.

According to the City's Police Department, there are adequate police protection facilities to serve the projected growth increases associated with implementation of the proposed Draft *General Plan 2030*. No additional equipment or facilities personnel will be needed to maintain acceptable response times and service levels (Vogel, personal communication, April 2011). New development and growth accommodated by the draft plan would not reduce response times or require new or physically altered police protection facilities that could result in significant physical impacts.

The draft plan includes policies and actions that would serve to reduce impacts on the City's Police Department. Policy CC7.1 and its specific accompanying actions seek to ensure adequate police training and resources. Specific actions seek to ensure appropriate police staff, stations, equipment and training to meet demands of increased population and tourism (CC7.1) and implement officer training and crime prevention programs (CC7.1.2, CC7.1.3). Additionally, the draft plan seeks to provide and rapid and timely response to emergencies (CC7.1.6, HZ1.2) with updating and maintaining police response time standards (CC7.1.7). Specific actions call for annual review of service calls (HZ1.2.1) and response times and making continuous operational improvements to arrive on emergency scenes within an average time of 4 minutes or less and within 5 minutes or less 90 percent of the time. (HZ1.2.2). A number of policies also seek to reduce police service demand through land use planning and project designs (CC7.2.5, CC7.2.7). Other actions promote cooperate with other County agencies on public safety and police issues (CC7.3, CC7.3.1, CC7.3.2). Taken together, these policies and actions (as summarized on Table 4.6-4) serve to ensure adequate police department operations and response time and reduce police protection service demand, and, thus, reduce potential impacts on police protection services.

Conclusion. Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* would not directly result in new development, but new development accommodated by the plan would result in demands for police protection services. However, there are adequate police protection facilities to serve the projected growth increases associated with implementation of the proposed Draft *General Plan 2030*, and no additional

equipment or facilities will be needed to maintain acceptable response times and service levels. New development and growth accommodated by the draft plan would not reduce response times or require new or physically altered police protection facilities that could result in significant physical impacts. Furthermore, the proposed *General Plan 2030* includes goals, policies and actions that set forth measures to avoid and minimize adverse impacts on police protection services as summarized on Table 4.6-4. With implementation of these proposed policies and actions, the proposed *General Plan 2030*'s indirect impact on police protection services would be considered less-than-significant.

Mitigation Measures

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

TABLE 4.6-4
Proposed General Plan Policies & Actions that Avoid or Reduce
Police Protection Service Impacts

Type of Measure / Action	Policies / Actions
PROVIDE ADEQUATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE & PREPAREDNESS	• Adequate emergency response times: HZ1.2, HZ1.2.1, HZ1.2.2 • New development design and access to maintain emergency response times with adequate access: HZ1.1.3, HZ1.2.5, HZ1.2.6
PROVIDE ADEQUATE POLICE PROTECTION	• Ensure appropriate staff (including training), stations, equipment to meet population demands: CC7.1, CC7.1.1, CC7.1.2 • Timely response: CC7.1.6, CC7.1.7, HZ1.2, HZ1.2.1, HZ1.2.2 • Update police response standards: CC7.1.7 • Reduce demand through land use planning & project designs: CC7.2.5, CC7.2.7 • Participate in crime reduction & prevention programs: CC7.1.3, CC7.2.2, CC7.2.3

Impact 4.3 Parks and Recreation

Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* could indirectly result in increased development and population growth that would result in an indirect demand for parks and recreational facilities. However, the estimated growth would not increase use of parks or recreational facilities such that a substantial physical deterioration would occur. With implementation of proposed policies and actions, in combined with existing regulations, impacts to parks and recreational facilities is considered a *less-than-significant impact*.

The proposed *General Plan 2030* will result in additional development and population growth, resulting in increased demands for park and recreational facilities. The Plan seeks to provide neighborhood parks at a ratio of 2.0 acres per 1,000 residents and to provide community parks at a ratio of 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents. This is the same standard included in the

City's existing General Plan. As previously discussed, the City currently does not meet the desired level of service for neighborhood parks and is deficient by approximately 16 acres. Thus, existing developed neighborhood parks could be considered at capacity use, in general, based on the City's park service standards.

The projected population increase of 8,040 new residents would result in an additional need for 16 acres of neighborhood parks and 20 acres of community parks to meet the proposed park service standard. Under existing conditions and with future growth, a total of 32 additional neighborhood park acres would be required to meet the City's service standard.⁷ The City currently has sufficient community park land as summarized on Table 4.6-1.

The *General Plan 2030* does not identify any specific new park and recreation facility sites. Thus, the increased population accommodated by the proposed General Plan would result in an increased use of existing parks and recreational facilities. The largest projected increases in population would be distributed along existing transportation corridors throughout the City and in downtown. Thus, it is anticipated that the increased use of parks and recreational facilities would be distributed throughout existing neighborhood and community parks. A geographically widespread increase in use would not likely result in substantial physical deterioration of specific parks and recreational facilities, although maintenance is an ongoing requirement, including school playgrounds and joint use facilities.

The proposed *General Plan 2030* does not include any goals or policies regarding construction or expansion of a specific park or recreational facility, the construction or expansion of which may result in potentially significant impacts. The draft plan does call for developing new or expanding existing athletic fields (PR1.2.2), and coordinating with local schools to expand park and recreation opportunities. However, specific sites or locations are not identified. As specific park and recreational facility expansion projects are proposed in the future, project-specific environmental analyses will be completed as required to analyze potential significant impacts and provide the appropriate project-level mitigation as may be needed.

The proposed *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 accommodated by the draft *General Plan 2030*. The policies, which are summarized on Table 4.6-5, 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 plan seeks to update and modify park system and 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). Thus, while specific new park locations are not

⁷ This is based on an existing population of 58,982 in 2009 and 102 existing acres of neighborhood parks and 366 acres of community parks as summarized on Table 4.6-1.

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 draft plan also seeks to ensure 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, PR1.91, PR1.9.2).

A number of policies and actions also promote provision of trails and access to open space lands and the coast (PR1.4) with enhancing the recreational value of the San Lorenzo River walkway and East and the West Cliff Drive pathways (PR4.1.3) and creating a continuous pathway along the coast by enhancing the physical links between West Cliff and East Cliff Drives and the Beach Promenade (PR4.1.4).

TABLE 4.6-5
Proposed General Plan Policies & Actions that Reduce Parks Impacts

Type of Measure / Action	Policies / Actions
PLAN & PROVIDE FOR NEW PARKS	• 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, 1.7.1 • 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	• 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	• 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	▪ 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

Conclusion. Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* would not directly result in new development, but new development and increased population accommodated by the plan would result in demands for parks and recreational facilities. Increased use of existing parks and school playgrounds is

expected to be spread out throughout the City so that no substantial deterioration would occur at any one facility. 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 4.6-5, as well as compliance with local regulations, the proposed *General Plan 2030*'s indirect impact on parks and recreational facilities would be considered less-than-significant.

Mitigation Measures

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

Impact 4.6-4 Schools

Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* could indirectly result in increased development and population growth that would generate elementary school student enrollments that could exceed capacity of existing schools. This is considered a *potentially significant impact*.

Future residential development accommodated by the proposed *General Plan 2030* could result in construction of 3,350 new residential units. Based on student generation rates per dwelling unit of 0.273 for grades K-6 and 0.207 for grades 7-12⁸, future development and growth could result in the addition of 915 students in grades K-6 and approximately 695 students in grades 7-12 for a total potential increase of 1,610 students by the year 2030.

The existing combined enrollment for the Santa Cruz City Schools is 6,841 students (Santa Cruz City Schools, June 2010). The addition of additional students in the next 20+ years could increase this total by approximately 1,610 students with approximately 915 elementary school students and 695 high school students. There would be adequate high school capacity to accommodate this growth. Elementary school enrollments could exceed school facility enrolments depending on the timing of growth. Discussions with the school district indicated that the level of enrollment likely could be accommodated within existing school facilities, including using Natural Bridges Elementary School, if needed, which is currently leased as a charter school. 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 *General Plan 2030* 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 accommodated by the draft *General Plan 2030*. The policies, which are summarized in Table 4.5-6, address 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 plan also encourages joint-use facilities that combine educational and community uses (CC8.2.1).

⁸ Student generation rates were determined in the School Districts' "Developer Fee Justification Study" (October 5, 2006).

Conclusion. Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* would not directly result in new development, but increased population resulting from development accommodated by the plan could increase student enrollments in grades K-12, which could exceed existing school facility capacities depending on the timing and rate of growth as the increase would not happen all at once. 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. Implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* includes goals, policies and actions also set forth measures to avoid and minimize adverse impacts on school facilities as summarized on Table 4.5-6.

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.

TABLE 4.5-6
Proposed General Plan Policies & Actions that Reduce School Impacts

Type of Measure / Action	Policies / Actions
PLAN FOR SCHOOL SITES	• Ensure and plan for adequate future sites for educational facilities: CC8.2, CC8.2.2 • Monitor impact of housing on elementary school populations: CC8.1.1 •
COORDINATE WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT	• Cooperate with school district : CC8.1.1
MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES & ENCOURAGE JOINT-USE FACILITIES	• Encourage joint-use facilities for educational and community uses: CC8.2.1 • Maximize educational, developmental, and recreational opportunities: CC8.3

Impact 4.6-5 Wastewater Collection & Disposal

Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* could indirectly result in increased development and population growth that would result in indirect generation of wastewater that could be accommodated by the existing wastewater treatment plant and collection system improvements, as needed and supported in the General Plan. This is considered a *less-than-significant impact*.

Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* would not directly result in increased population or new development. However, the draft General Plan includes policies and a land use map that support additional development. As indicated above, anticipated development accommodated by the proposed plan could result in an increase in population and employees that would result in increases in wastewater generation.

Wastewater generation can be generally estimated based on water demand. Typically, wastewater flows are derived from water demand. The City Public Works Department generally estimates wastewater flows as a percentage of water use. Based on the water demand rates identified in Table 4.5-4 in the WATER SUPPLY (Chapter 4.5) section of this EIR, this would equate to an average daily wastewater flow increase of approximately 0.55 million gallons as summarized in Table 4.6-7. This amount is well within the remaining treatment plant capacity – both the permitted capacity as well as the City’s remaining portion (4.0 mgd). No major sewer line problems or constraints have been identified (Wolfman, personal communication, April 2011), and sewer line replacement would be scheduled in the future as needed.

TABLE 4.6-7
Estimated Project Wastewater Flows

General Plan Use	Amount	Annual Water Demand (MGY)	Average Daily Water Demand (gpd)	Average Daily Wastewater flow (mgd)
Residential - SFD	840 units	60	165,385	0.124
Residential - MFD	2,510 units	64	175,345	0.158
Commercial	1,087,983 sq. ft.	72	197,260	0.158
Hotel Rooms	311 rooms	11	30,140	0.024
Office	1,273,913 sq. ft.	23	63,100	0.055
Industrial	776,926 sq. ft.	9	24,660	0.020
TOTAL		239	655,890	0.539
Assumes 75% of total residential units (3,350) are multi-family units. Wastewater generation assumed as 90% of multi-family residential water use, 75% of single-family residential water use, and 80% of non-residential water use.				

The Draft *General Plan 2030* includes goals, policies and actions that set forth measures to avoid provide adequate services. Goal CC4 and its three supporting policies and eight accompanying actions seek to maintain a sustainable and efficient wastewater system. These include maintenance and upgrade of the wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems (CC4.1, CC4.1.1 and CC4.1.3). Periodic updates of wastewater master plans are supported (CC4.1.5), including monitoring treatment plant capacity and development of a plan to address future needs (CC4.1.8). The plan calls for exploring the potential for tertiary treatment and recycling wastewater (CC3.10, CC4.2, CC4.3). Table 4.6-8 summarizes policies that directly or indirectly address wastewater collection or treatment.

Conclusion. Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* would not directly result in new development, but new development accommodated by the plan would result in increased growth with resulting increases in wastewater generation. However, the City’s wastewater treatment plant has adequate capacity to

serve anticipated growth, and with implementation of proposed policies and actions, the collection system will be maintained and upgraded as needed. Thus, there would a less-than-significant impact on wastewater treatment and collection facilities.

Mitigation Measures

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

TABLE 4.6-8
Proposed General Plan Policies & Actions that Reduce Wastewater Impacts

Type of Measure / Action	Policies / Actions
ENSURE ADEQUATE PROVISION OF SERVICES	▪ Ensure that facilities and services required by a development are available: LU1.3 ▪ Report annually on the state of City facilities and services: LU1.3.2 ▪ Ensure that new development pays its proportional share of the costs of expanded infrastructure needed to serve new development: LU1.4
WASTEWATER	▪ Provide adequate, environmentally sound wastewater system: CC4.1 ▪ Maintenance, upgrade & planning sewer system: CC4.1, CC4.1.1 - CC4.1.3, CC4.1.5 ▪ Monitor wastewater treatment plant capacity to address future needs: CC4.1.8 ▪ Explore recycling wastewater: CC3.10.1, CC4.2, CC4.3

Impact 4.6-6 Solid Waste Disposal

Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* could indirectly result in increased development and population growth that would result in indirect generation of solid waste that could be accommodated within the remaining landfill capacity. This is considered a *less-than-significant impact*.

Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* would not directly result in increased population or new development. However, the draft General Plan includes policies and a land use map that support additional development. As indicated above, anticipated development accommodated by the proposed plan could result in an increase in population and employees that would result in increases in solid waste generation. The City's population is estimated to increase by approximately 8,040 residents due to development and growth accommodated by the proposed plan.

Development and growth accommodated under the proposed plan is estimated to result in a solid waste generation of approximately 20 tons per day based on a per capita rate of 5.0 pounds/day provided by City staff (Arman, personal communication, April 2011). This amount of solid waste could be accommodated within the remaining capacity of the City's landfill, which is on expected to have capacity through the year 2058 (Ibid.).

The Draft *General Plan 2030* includes goals, policies and actions that set forth measures to reduce solid waste generation and promote recycling as summarized on Table 4.6-9, which would further reduce the net increase in solid waste. In particular, Policy CC6.1 seeks to achieve a “zero waste” goal. The City has also achieved a solid waste reduction of 63-65%, which exceeds the state requirement of a 50% reduction by the year 2000. With increasing waste diversion, the landfill capacity has expanded (Arman, personal communication, April 2011).

Conclusion. Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* would not directly result in new development, but new development accommodated by the plan would result in increased growth with resulting increases in solid waste generation. However, the City’s landfill has adequate capacity to serve anticipated growth. Thus, there would a less-than-significant impact on wastewater treatment and collection facilities.

Mitigation Measures

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

TABLE 4.6-9
Proposed General Plan Policies & Actions that Reduce Solid Waste Impacts

Type of Measure / Action	Policies
REDUCE SOLID WASTE	• Zero Waste goal: CC6.1 • Reduce recyclable materials at landfill: CC6.4.4, CC6.1.13 (plastic bags), CC6.1.17 & HZ2.1.4 (ban polystyrene foam), CC6.4.4
PROMOTE / SUPPORT RECYCLING	• Prepare & implement recycling and reduction plans and incentives to encourage recycling: CC6.1.1, CC6.1.2, CC6.1.3, CC6.1.7 (new development), CC6.1.14 • Provide efficient waste & recycling service: CC6.2, CC6.2.2 • Encourage use of recycled materials: CC6.1.9, CC6.1.10, CC6.1.12, CC6.1.19 (industrial uses) • Require commercial, industrial recycling & waste audits: CC6.1.4, CC6.1.5, CC6.1.6 (cement/asphalt recycling) • Develop food waste & composting program: CC6.1.15, CC6.1.16
LANDFILL MANAGEMENT & PLANNING	• Develop comprehensive operating plan for Resource Recovery Facility: CC6.3, CC6.3.1 • Develop waste management alternatives: CC6.1.18 • Efforts to extend landfill life: CC6.4, CC6.4.2

Impact 4.6-7 Energy Use

Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* could indirectly result in increased development that would result in indirect energy demands, which would not be wasteful or an inefficient use with implementation of state and local regulations and proposed *General Plan 2030* policies and actions. This is considered a *less-than-significant impact*.

Future development would be accommodated by the draft *General Plan 2030* would result in consumption of electricity and natural gas 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 Appendix E. The calculations show an energy demand of approximately 40,650 megawatt hours and 9,600 therms in 2030 without implementation of energy efficiency measures or standards. This estimated electrical use represents a per capita use of approximately 1,800 kwh per capita, which is below state projections for the PG & E planning area

Overall, the future consumption of electrical and natural gas resources would not represent unnecessary, inefficient, or wasteful use of resources given the implementation of proposed policies that address lighting and energy conservation measures. Several policies in the proposed *General Plan* promote energy conservation, which could minimize or incrementally reduce the consumption of these resources. Specifically, 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. A summary of the proposed *General Plan 2030* policies that serve to reduce energy and fossil fuel consumption is presented in Table 4.6-10.

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.

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. However, future construction activities would result in the irretrievable commitment of nonrenewable energy resources, primarily in the form of fossil fuels (including fuel oil, natural gas, and gasoline) for automobiles and construction equipment.

Conclusion. Adoption and implementation of the proposed *General Plan 2030* would not directly result in new development, but new development accommodated by the plan would result in increased demand for electric and natural gas services. However, with implementation of local and state regulations, as well as proposed

General Plan 2030 policies and actions, energy-efficient building designs, material and appliances would be incorporated into future developments and energy use would not be considered wasteful or inefficient. Thus, there would a less-than-significant impact related to energy use.

Mitigation Measures

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

TABLE 4.6-10
Proposed General Plan Policies and Actions that Reduce Energy Use

Type of Measure / Action	Policies / Actions
ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY	♦ Reduce electricity and natural gas use by 20%: NRC7.1.1 ♦ Adopt Model Lighting Ordinance: NRC7.1.2 ♦ Improve energy efficiency in parks: NRC7.1.10 ♦ Continue to install energy efficient systems in park and recreational facilities: NRC7.1.11 ♦ Install energy-efficient street lighting: MC.2.10
PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY	♦ Increase local use and production of renewable energy: NRC7.1.3 ♦ Require passive heating and cooling in new development: NRC7.1.4 ♦ Require City facilities to increase green electricity: NRC7.1.5
PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION	♦ Reduce consumption of fuels: NRC7.3.1 ♦ Purchase City vehicles with fuel efficient or alternative fuel systems: NRC7.3.2, NRC7.3.4 ♦ Establish telecommuting for City staff: NRC7.3.3 ♦ Investigate partnerships with UCSC for electric car use: NRC7.3.5 ♦ SEE TABLE 4.4-4 in Chapter 4.4 for policies-actions to reduce auto use.
PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENT WATER PROVISION & USE	♦ Install energy and water efficient appliances: NRC7.4.1 ♦ Require new development to use high efficiency fixtures: NRC7.4.2 ♦ Support gray water collection and reuse: NRC7.4.2, NRC7.4.3
EDUCATION & COORDINATION	♦ Cooperate with other agencies: NRC7.1.7 ♦ Educate public: NRC7.1.8 ♦ Support legislation on renewable energy: NRC7.1.9

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