

4.14 PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

This section describes existing public services and recreation conditions, identifies associated regulatory requirements, evaluates potential project and cumulative impacts, and identifies mitigation measures for any significant or potentially significant impacts related to implementation of the Sustainability Policy and Regulatory Update of the County of Santa Cruz (County) General Plan and Local Coastal Program (LCP) and County Code (Sustainability Update or project). The analysis is based on review of existing studies, including review of fire districts services and spheres of influence reviews (Local Agency Formation Commission [LAFCO] of Santa Cruz County 2016), and the County of Santa Cruz Emergency Management Plan, as well as information developed for the proposed project. For information regarding public utilities such as water, wastewater, solid waste, and energy facilities, refer to Section 4.16, Utilities.

4.14.1 Environmental Setting

4.14.1.1 Fire Protection

Local Fire Protection Agencies

Fire protection in California is the responsibility of the federal, state, or local government. Fire protection within Santa Cruz County is provided by 13 entities, including nine fire protection districts (FPDs), two community service areas (CSAs), and two city fire departments. Each fire agency's service area is illustrated in Figure 4.14-1. All of these fire agencies serve unincorporated areas of the county except the City of Santa Cruz Fire Department, whose service area is within the city limits. Each fire protection district conducts its own planning process including the development of a master plan, if the district maintains a master plan. However, most fire protection agencies are supported by mutual aid agreements with other jurisdictions.

Approximately 43% of the entire county consists of unincorporated lands outside a fire district or city that provides fire protection. This resulted in the formation of CSA 48, also known as Santa Cruz County Fire. CSA 48 is a special district governed by the County Board of Supervisors. (All CSAs are formed and operate pursuant to the County Service Area Law [Government Code section 25210 et seq.]). Santa Cruz County currently contracts with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for the administration of CSA 48 including operational oversight and supervision of all career and volunteer firefighters (LAFCO 2021b).

Under state law, the fire agencies in Santa Cruz County can provide the following services: fire protection services, rescue services, emergency medical services, hazardous material emergency response services, ambulance services, and other services relating to the protection of lives and property is critical to the public peace, health, and safety of the state. Each agency's service area and staffing levels are summarized in Table 4.14-1. According to a recent review by LAFCO, 54% of the fire agencies in the county (seven out of 13) meet the state standard for two staff members per shift. Only 15% of the agencies (two out of 13) meet the national standard of four staff per shift (LAFCO 2021b).

Table 4.14-1. Fire Protection Services within Santa Cruz County

Fire Department	Service Area	Fire Stations	Staffing Levels	Planning Areas
Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District (FPD)	63 square miles in Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey counties	1	Staff not reported	Salsipuedes
Ben Lomond FPD	Community of Ben Lomond and the surrounding area	1	1 full-time (FT) employee, 1 part-time (PT) employee, 30 volunteer firefighters	San Lorenzo Valley
Boulder Creek FPD	21 square miles from Boulder Creek and Brookdale	2	1 FT employee, 1 PT employee, 43 volunteer firefighters	San Lorenzo Valley, Skyline
Branciforte FPD	Unincorporated area between the cities of Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley	1	3 FT employees, 13 volunteer firefighters	Carbonera, Summit
Central Fire District ¹	55 square miles encompassing the communities of Live Oak, Capitola, Soquel, Aptos, Rio Del Mar, and La Selva Beach	7	101 FT employees, 1 PT employee, 3 seasonal personnel, 10 volunteer firefighters	Aptos, Aptos Hills, Live Oak, Soquel, La Selva Beach, San Andreas, Summit
Pajaro Dunes FPD (County Service Area [CSA] 4)	0.2 square miles in Pajaro Dunes in south coastal Santa Cruz County	1	Staff not reported	Pajaro Valley
Santa Cruz County Fire (CSA 48)	286 square miles of rural Santa Cruz County's	10	Staff not reported	Countywide (outside of other district boundaries)
Felton FPD	Community of Felton and the surrounding area	1	1 FT employee, 1 PT employee, 28 volunteer firefighters	San Lorenzo Valley
Pajaro Valley FPD	52 square miles in the unincorporated portions of south Santa Cruz County, surrounding the City of Watsonville	1	Staff not reported	Aptos Hills, Eureka Canyon, Pajaro Valley, Salsipuedes
Santa Cruz City Fire Department	City of Santa Cruz	4	Staff not reported	NA
Scotts Valley FPD	22 square miles, including the City of Scotts Valley and the surrounding area	2	22 FT firefighters, 3 FT Battalion Chiefs, 1 FT Fire Chief, 2 FT and 1 PT administrative personnel, 15 volunteer firefighters	Carbonera, San Lorenzo Valley, Skyline, Summit
Watsonville City Fire Department	14 square miles including the City of Watsonville and the surrounding area	2	Staff not reported	Pajaro Valley
Zayante FPD	Community of Zayante and the surrounding area	3	3 FT firefighters, 2 PT employees, 22 volunteer firefighters	San Lorenzo Valley, Skyline

Source: LAFCO 2021b, Pajaro Valley FPD 2021, County GIS.

Notes: CSA = County Service Area; FT = full-time; FPD = Fire Protection District; PT = part-time.

¹ In 2021, Aptos/La Selva and Central FPDs were consolidated to form a new district known today as the Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County (LAFCO 2021a).

Calls for service include all fire unit responses to calls made within each jurisdiction. Each fire agency keeps track of the number of calls, type of incident, and response time. Based on staff’s analysis, fire service

providers attend to several types of emergency calls, beyond fire-related situations such as medical calls, mutual aid, and vehicle accidents. LAFCO staff has identified 14 different types of calls responded by fire agencies (LAFCO 2021b). Table 4.14-2 presents the service populations, annual call data from 2015 to 2020, and average response time for each fire agency.

State Fire Agencies

CAL FIRE has mapped areas of significant fire hazards in the state through its Fire and Resources Assessment Program (FRAP). As further explained in Section 4.17, Wildfire, these areas are referred to as Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) and are identified for Federal Responsibility Areas (FRAs), where federal agencies have responsibility for wildfire protection, State Responsibility Areas (SRAs), where CAL FIRE has responsibility for wildfire protection, and Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs), where local fire protection agencies have responsibility for wildfire protection. Different FHSZs (moderate, high, and very high) are based on a hazard scoring system using subjective criteria for fuels, fire history, terrain influences, housing density, and occurrence of severe fire weather where urban conflagration could result in catastrophic losses.

Table 4.14-2. Fire Protection Service Populations, Average Annual Calls and Response Times

Fire Protection Agency	Service Population	Average Calls Per Year (2015-2020) ¹	Average Response Time
Aromas Tri-County FPD	5,850	—	—
Ben Lomond FPD	7,132	496	5 minutes
Boulder Creek FPD	5,226	1,200	6 minutes
Branciforte FPD	1,715	202	8 minutes
Central FD	90,377	8,049	6 minutes
Pajaro Dunes FPD (County Service Area [CSA] 4)	250	136	10 minutes
Santa Cruz County Fire (CSA 48)	24,206	2,071	14 minutes
Felton FPD	6,051	666	8 minutes
Pajaro Valley FPD	18,154	921	7 minutes
Santa Cruz City Fire Department	68,381	8,536	6 minutes
Scotts Valley FPD	20,171	2,122	5 minutes
Watsonville City Fire Department	53,536	5,935	4 minutes
Zayante FPD	5,043	144	11 minutes

Source: LAFCO 2021b.

Notes: CSA = County Service Area; FD = Fire District; FPD = Fire Protection District.

¹ Average calls per year is based on the number of calls received in the years 2015-2020. Calls and response times were not reported for Aromas Tri-County FPD.

4.14.1.2 Police Protection

County Sheriff's Office

Police services in the unincorporated areas of the county are provided by the County Sheriff's Office, which also operates the County jails. The County Sheriff's Office provides primary law enforcement services in the unincorporated areas of the county. The Sheriff's Office provides public protection and law enforcement through the enforcement of local, state, and federal laws. In 2020, the Sheriff's Office had 340 total employees: 176 peace officers, 99 correctional officers, and 65 professional staff (Santa Cruz County Sheriff 2020).

Approximately half of Santa Cruz County's resident population lives in unincorporated areas. The Sheriff's Office operates out of its headquarter facilities in Live Oak, and there are seven Sheriff stations located throughout the county (see Table 4.14-3) (County of Santa Cruz 2017). In 2020, the Sheriff's Office received over 108,000 calls for service that were responded to by the patrol division (Santa Cruz County Sheriff 2020). The County Sheriff's Office has indicated that the department is currently staffed at minimum levels and does not consider its department to be sufficiently staffed. There is also an existing need to relocate/provide expanded County jail facilities. Although no plans are currently proposed, expansion of the County's existing Rountree jail facility in South County could be considered in the future.

Table 4.14-3. Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department Facilities

Sheriff Facilities	Location	Service Area
County Sheriff Headquarters	5200 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz County
Aptos/La Selva Sheriff's Service Center	171 Aptos Village Way Suite T1, Aptos	Aptos, Rio Del Mar, Seascapes, Seacliff, and La Selva Beach
Boulder Creek Sheriff's Service Center	13210 Central Avenue (SR 9), Boulder Creek	Boulder Creek
Cabrillo Sheriff's Office	6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos	Cabrillo College
Live Oak/Soquel Service Center	5200 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz	Live Oak, Soquel and Summit
North Coast Substation	75 Marine View Avenue, Davenport	Davenport
San Lorenzo Valley Sheriff's Service Center	6062 Graham Hill Road, Suite A & B, Felton	Ben Lomond, Bonny Doon, Brookdale, Felton, Mount Hermon, and Zayante/Lompico
South County Service Center	790 Green Valley Road, Watsonville	Corralitos and Freedom

Source: County of Santa Cruz 2021.

California Highway Patrol

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is responsible for patrolling state highways and county roadways, enforcing traffic regulations, responding to traffic accidents, and providing service and assistance to drivers in disabled vehicles. CHP maintains a mutual aid agreement with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and assists local governments during emergencies when requested. Santa Cruz County is located within the CHP Coastal Division, whose service area includes 325 miles along the Central Coast with 11 area offices, one resident post, two commercial vehicle inspection facilities, and three communication/dispatch centers. These facilities are staffed by nearly 700 uniformed and non-uniformed employees. The area office in Santa Cruz County (Office 720) is located at 10395 Soquel Drive in Aptos (CHP 2021).

4.14.1.3 Schools

There are 10 public school districts located within the county with a total enrollment of nearly 40,000 students at the kindergarten to high school levels, as well as one community college district (Cabrillo) and one state university (UCSC) that offer education in the county. Two additional school districts are located outside of the county but serve some residents in within the county. Existing school districts are summarized in Table 4.14- (Santa Cruz County Office of Education [SCCOE] 2021).

SCCOE is a public agency charged with providing educational leadership, resources, and services to schools to ensure quality educational opportunities for all students. This mission is accomplished through partnerships with teachers, school districts, nonprofits, parents, businesses, and other governmental agencies. Direct instructional programs are offered through special education, alternative education and regional occupational programs. District services are provided in the areas of professional development and fiscal services.

The County and individual jurisdictions provide the procedures for project applicants to pay school impact fees as part of local development approvals to ensure that adequate school facilities continue to be provided in the county. Development impact fees are collected for the following districts: Aromas-San Juan Unified School District, Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District, Happy Valley Elementary School District, Live Oak School District, Loma Prieta Joint Union School District, Mountain Elementary School District, Pacific Elementary School District, Pajaro Valley Unified School District, San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District, Santa Cruz City Schools, Scotts Valley Unified School District, and Soquel Union Elementary School District. All fees are collected at the time of issuance of a building permit.

Table 4.14-4. Santa Cruz County School Districts

District	Number of School Facilities	Existing Enrollment (2019-2020)	County Planning Area Served
Aromas-San Juan Unified School District	2 Elementary/Middle (K-8) 1 High (9-12)	1,028	Western San Benito County, northern Monterey County, and eastern Santa Cruz County
Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District	1 Elementary (K-6)	142	Bonny Doon
Happy Valley Elementary School District	1 Elementary (K-6)	113	Carbonera
Live Oak School District	4 Elementary (K-5) 1 Charter (K-8) 1 Middle (6-8)	1,814	Live Oak
Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary	1 Elementary (K-5) 1 Middle (6-8)	493	Summit
Mountain Elementary School District	1 Elementary (K-6)	153	Soquel
Pacific Elementary School District	1 Elementary (K-6)	120	North Coast
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	18 Elementary (K-5) 1 School of the Arts (K-8) 1 Charter (K-12) 6 Middle (6-8) 4 High (9-12) 1 Adult School	19,772	Aptos, Pajaro Valley
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	2 Elementary (K-5) 1 Middle (6-8) 1 High (9-12) 2 Charter	5,415	San Lorenzo Valley
Santa Cruz City Schools			
♦ Santa Cruz Elementary	4 Elementary (K-5) 1 Alternative School	1,976	NA - City of Santa Cruz
♦ Santa Cruz High	2 Middle (6-8) 4 High (9-12) 1 Charter 3 Alternative	4,574	Soquel and City of Santa Cruz
Scotts Valley Unified School District	2 Elementary (K-5) 1 Middle (6-8) 1 High (9-12) 1 Charter	2,717	Carbonera
Soquel Union Elementary School District	3 Elementary (K-5) 1 Middle (6-8)	1,908	Soquel

Source: California Department of Education 2021, SCCOE 2021.

4.14.1.4 Parks and Recreation

The Santa Cruz County Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Services Department (County Parks) manages 43 parks and open space properties totaling nearly 1,600 acres and 29 miles of coastline (Santa Cruz County Parks 2018). The County parks system serves the county in two ways: regional facilities that serve the entire county’s population and local parks (e.g., neighborhood, rural, and community parks) that serve unincorporated neighborhoods that are outside an independent recreation and park district boundary. The County’s park system includes 890 acres of county-operated public parks as well as 710 acres of open space (Santa Cruz County Parks 2021). The County’s parks are classified primarily as neighborhood, community, rural, and regional. The County parks system includes park classifications as shown in Table 4.14-5. County parks, as well as state and local parks and open space areas, are shown on Figure 4.14-1.

Table 4.14-5. Summary of Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreational Facilities

Planning Area	Park Type ¹	Existing Parks ²	Proposed New Parks ³	Gross Acreage ⁴	
				Existing	Proposed ³
APTOS	Neighborhood	3	1	15.6	11.4
	Neighborhood/School Facility	4		19.3	
	Neighborhood/Community	1	1	11.8	15.0
	Regional	3		74.6	
APTOS HILLS	Local Rural	1	1	4.2	6.0
	Local Rural/School or Other Facility	2		7.6	
	Regional	1		34.6	
BONNY DOON	Local Rural		1		5.0
	Local Rural/School Facility	1		3.0	
	Local Rural	1		3.8	
CARBONERA	Neighborhood/Local Rural/School Facility	2		7.5	
	Regional	1		19.3	
EUREKA CANYON	Local Rural	2		35.2	
	Local Rural/School or Other Facility	2		9.0	
	Regional		1		N/A
LA SELVA BEACH	Local Rural	5		5.7	6.3
LIVE OAK	Neighborhood	13	7	41.6	43.7
	Neighborhood/Community/School Facility	7		36.5	0.5
	Community	1	3	10.2	92.4
	Neighborhood/Regional	5	2	17.0	8.9
NORTH COAST	Local Rural/School Facility	1		1.0	
	Regional	2	1	115.0	N/A
PAJARO VALLEY	Neighborhood	1		2.1	
	Neighborhood/Local Rural/School Facility	6		29.0	
	Local Rural/Community/Regional	2	1	248.9	N/A
SALSIPUEDES	Regional		1		N/A

Table 4.14-5. Summary of Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreational Facilities

Planning Area	Park Type ¹	Existing Parks ²	Proposed New Parks ³	Gross Acreage ⁴	
				Existing	Proposed ³
SAN ANDREAS	Regional	1		N/A	
SAN LORENZO VALLEY	Local Rural	10	1	39.3	17.7
	Local Rural/School Facility	3		11.0	
	Local Rural/Regional	4		729.5	
SKYLINE	Local Rural		1		N/A
SOQUEL	Neighborhood	3		3.4	
	Neighborhood/Community/School Facility	3		19.0	
	Neighborhood/Community/Regional	3		103.3	
SUMMIT	Local Rural/School Facility	2		8.0	
	Regional		2		N/A

Notes:

- ¹ This table includes parks and facilities that may be owned and/or managed by the County, cities, school districts, or recreation districts.
- ² Existing parks may include properties that have been acquired for a future park site.
- ³ Indicates site/acreage identified for proposed acquisition. N/A indicates proposed park acquisitions that have not yet been defined.
- ⁴ The acreages associated with school sites are expressed in net usable acreage. All other acreage is expressed in gross acres.

In addition, there are four independent recreation and park districts within the unincorporated areas of the county: Alba Road, Boulder Creek, La Selva, and Opal Cliffs, which are not addressed in the proposed Sustainability Update as they are outside of the purview of the County. County Parks completed a Parks Strategic Plan in 2018 identifying major goals. The department manages cultural and recreational programs throughout the county, including youth programs, interpretive nature programs, senior programs, arts programming, cultural services, and special events.

Along with parkland belonging to the County, the municipalities, and the special recreation and park districts, there are also a number of state lands. Approximately 1,500 acres are managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, primarily in ecological reserves focused on conservation and which are not accessible to the public (Santa Cruz County Parks 2021). There are also a number of state forests, parks, and beaches, which are accessible to the public. In addition to County parks, the State of California owns and operates 14 state parks within the county, totaling 42,120 acres (California Department of Parks and Recreation 2021).

In addition to state lands, the Cotoni-Coast Dairies property within the California Coastal National Monument is federally owned land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The property was added to the California Coastal National Monument in January 2017 by President Barack Obama. It is located on the inland side of Highway 1, bordered by the unincorporated communities of Davenport to the south and Bonny Doon to the east. The approximately 5,800-acre preserve spans six watersheds and includes coastal prairies, redwood forests, riparian canyons, and grazing lands. These lands are not

currently open to the public, but the BLM released its approved public access plan in June 2021, which includes 27 miles of multi-use trails, as well as parking and bathroom infrastructure (BLM 2020, 2021). The Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument is expected to open to the public in 2022.

4.14.1.5 Public Libraries

Library services are provided by the Santa Cruz Public Libraries District and are governed by a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that includes all jurisdictions in Santa Cruz County, except for Watsonville, which manages its own public library system. The Library’s Strategic Plan and Facilities Master Plan contains detailed information on the vision and planned improvements for libraries in the county. The City-County library system serves approximately 200,000 residents throughout the county, (Santa Cruz Public Libraries 2013). The Santa Cruz Public Library system includes 10 neighborhood library branches: Aptos, Boulder Creek, Branciforte, Capitola, Downtown Santa Cruz, Felton, Garfield Park, La Selva Beach, Live Oak, and Scotts Valley. Santa Cruz Public Libraries also administers a web-based digital library, a Bookmobile and community-based education and enrichment programs (Santa Cruz Public Libraries 2021). The City of Watsonville operates two facilities—the Main Library and the Freedom Branch Library. The Watsonville libraries provide a both in-person and virtual services, as well as variety of community programs (City of Watsonville 2021).

4.14.2 Regulatory Framework

4.14.2.1 Federal Regulations

International Fire Code

The International Fire Code (IFC), created by the International Code Council, is the primary means for authorizing and enforcing procedures and mechanisms to ensure the safe handling and storage of any substance that may pose a threat to public health and safety. The IFC regulates the use, handling, and storage requirements for hazardous materials at fixed facilities. The IFC and the International Building Code use a hazard classification system to determine what measures are required to protect against structural fires. These measures may include construction standards, separations from property lines, and specialized equipment. To ensure that these safety measures are met, The IFC employs a permit system based on hazard classification. The IFC is updated every three years.

National Fire Protection Association Standards

Since 1896, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has developed standards directly affecting the fire service at the department level. As an advocate of fire prevention and an authoritative source on public safety, NFPA develops, publishes, and disseminates more than 300 consensus codes and standards intended to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other risks. Their vision is to advocate for the elimination of death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards.

The NFPA has developed standards specifically for volunteer departments known as the NFPA 1720 Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments. NFPA believes that volunteer departments must maximize resources and be able to evaluate and improve firefighter safety and service to meet the modern challenges of local firefighting operations. The 1720 Standards offer a framework for defining levels of service, deployment capabilities, and staffing requirements for volunteer and combination fire departments. NFPA cites that the National Board of Fire Underwriters recommendation is a minimum staffing of seven members on engines in high value districts, and five members on engines in other districts. At present, NFPA mandates a minimum of four firefighters on engines. The 1720 Standards for minimum staff to respond to structural fires based on a low-hazard occupancy (ex. two-story, single-family home without basement and exposures) range from 9 personnel in an urban area (>1,000 people), 10 personnel in a suburban area (500-1,000 people), and 14 personnel in a rural area (<500 people). In remote areas, the minimum staff to respond is directly dependent on travel distance (LAFCO 2021b).

4.14.2.2 State Regulations

California Occupational Safety and Health Administration

In accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, sections 1270 "Fire Prevention" and 6773 "Fire Protection and Fire Fighting Equipment," the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (CAL-OSHA) has established minimum standards for fire suppression and emergency medical services. CAL-OSHA requires that a minimum of two firefighters, operating as a team, conduct interior firefighting operations while a minimum of two firefighters must be positioned outside and remain capable of rapid intervention and rescue if needed pursuant to the State of California's "Two-In, Two-out" law [29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4)]. If there are only three firefighters assigned to a fire engine, the engine company must wait for back-up to arrive before being able to engage in interior firefighting operations to be in compliance with CAL-OSHA regulations.

California Fire Code

The 2019 California Fire Code, which incorporates by adoption the 2018 International Fire Code, contains specialized technical regulations related to fire and life safety. Topics addressed in the California Fire Code include fire department access, fire hydrants, automatic sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire and explosion hazards safety, hazardous materials storage and use, provisions intended to protect and assist fire responders, industrial processes, and many other general and specialized fire-safety requirements for new and existing buildings and the surrounding premises.

Uniform Fire Code

The Uniform Fire Code, Title 24, Part 9 of the California Code of Regulations, contains regulations relating to construction, maintenance, and use of buildings. Topics addressed in the Fire Code include fire department access, fire hydrants, automatic sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire and explosion

hazards safety, hazardous materials storage and use, provisions intended to protect and assist fire responders, industrial processes, and many other general and specialized fire-safety requirements for new and existing buildings and the surrounding premises. The Fire Code also contains specialized technical regulations related to fire and life safety.

School Impacts and Fees

Senate Bill 50 (1998) requires that cities and counties mitigate impacts to school facilities as a condition of approving new developments. SB 50 also authorizes school districts to levy statutory developer fees at levels which may be significantly higher than previously permitted. To levy higher fees the school district must conduct a Needs Analysis and a Fee Justification. This legislation also stipulates that school impact fees are the sole and exclusive method of mitigation for school enrollment impacts.

California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 17620 authorizes school districts to levy a fee, charge, dedication, or other requirement against any construction of new residential, commercial, and industrial uses within their boundaries to fund the construction of new schools or school facilities. CCR section 65995 limits the maximum fee that school districts can assess. Section 65996 designates section 17620 of the Education Code and section 65970 of the Government Code to be the exclusive method for considering and mitigating development impacts on school facilities.

California Health and Safety Code

State fire regulations are set forth in sections 13000 et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code. Regulations address building standards, fire protection and notification systems, fire protection devices such as extinguishers, smoke alarms, high-rise buildings, child care facility standards, and fire suppression training, among other topics

Quimby Act (1975)

The Quimby Act gives cities and counties the authority, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land or payment of in-lieu fees, or a combination of both, for park and recreation purposes as a condition of approval of a tract map or parcel map. The Quimby Act allows fees to be collected for up to 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents to serve the needs of residents of the subdivision and the greater public residing in the jurisdiction.

4.14.2.3 Local Regulations

County of Santa Cruz General Plan/Local Coastal Program

The County of Santa Cruz General Plan/LCP is a comprehensive, long-term planning document for the unincorporated areas of the county and includes the County's LCP, which was certified by the California Coastal Commission in 1994. The County General Plan and LCP provides policies and programs to establish guidelines for future growth and all types of physical developments. The existing Parks and Public Facilities

Element includes objectives and policies that address public services and facilities, including fire and police protection, schools, parks, libraries, and other public services and facilities. The existing Conservation and Open Space Element addresses open space protection, and the Public Safety Element also addresses fire hazards. However, the proposed project includes a new Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation (ARC) Element to replace the existing Conservation and Open Space Element and revisions to the existing Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities (PPF) Element, with amendments to some of the existing goals, policies, and implementation strategies related to parks and recreation, police and fire protection services, and other public services as described in Chapter 3 of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and further reviewed in Section 4.1.3.3 below.

Santa Cruz County Code

Chapter 15.01, Park Land Dedication or In-Lieu Fees

Santa Cruz County Code (SCCC) Chapter 15.01 implements the park and recreation policies of the General Plan/LCP by providing for the orderly development of local park and recreation facilities to serve the residential communities of the County. The chapter sets forth requirements to ensure adequate parklands to serve land subdivisions and residential growth in the County. As stated therein, prior to condition of approval of a tentative subdivision map, the subdivider is required to dedicate land, pay a fee in lieu thereof, or both for community, neighborhood, and rural park or recreational purposes. The chapter describes standards for functional parklands, a formula to determine dedication of land requirements, formula to calculate in-lieu fees, and the procedures for land dedication and parkland review.

Chapter 15.02, Dedications of Land and Fees for School Districts

SCCC Chapter 15.02 provides for the financing of school facilities with development fees and dedications for residential development to prevent “overcrowded” attendance areas. In an attendance area where the Board of Supervisors has concurred that overcrowding exists, as a condition of approval the applicant of a proposed residential development, is required to pay fees, make an equivalent arrangement in lieu thereof, dedicate land, or a combination of mitigation. The chapter also prevents approval of residential development applications in areas of a school district that have been found to be overcrowded and provides the standards for determining whether a district is overcrowded and the procedures to determine appropriate fees and/or land dedication.

Chapter 15.03, Parks and Recreation Development Impact Fees

SCCC Chapter 15.03 requires that development project applicants pay a parks and recreation development impact fee or exaction (including, without limitation, payment of a fee, or arrangement of an approximately equivalent exaction) determined by the Board of Supervisors. The purpose of the parks and recreation development impact fee is to mitigate the demand for additional park and recreation facilities in the county generated by new development and to implement the park and recreation policies of the County General Plan/LCP. Parks and recreation development impact fees and exactions collected under this chapter will be used to fund the acquisition of land and construction of improvements for neighborhood, community,

rural and regional parks, open spaces, trails, and coastal access facilities in order to mitigate the marginal demand created by new development.

4.14.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

4.14.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

The thresholds of significance used to evaluate the impacts of the proposed project related to public services and recreation are based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and, if applicable, other agency standards, as listed below. A significant impact would occur if the project would:

PUB-1 Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

- A. Fire protection
- B. Police protection
- C. Schools
- D. Parks
- E. Other public facilities.

REC-1 Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

REC-2 Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

4.14.3.2 Analytical Methods

This analysis describes how the proposed Sustainability Update could result in increased demand on public services in the county. This analysis evaluates existing public services in unincorporated areas of the County of Santa Cruz (County) and the adequacy and capacity of these services, relative to additional demand that may result from the proposed project. Public services analyzed in this section include fire protection, police protection, public schools, parks and recreation, and other public facilities. Where potentially significant impacts on services are identified, mitigation measures are recommended.

Potential Growth Assumptions

Adoption and implementation of the proposed Sustainability Update would not directly result in impacts related to public services or recreation. However, the proposed General Plan/LCP amendments could lead to future development, indirectly resulting in potential impacts related to public services or recreation. The proposed project includes the following components that could lead to population growth and development

of new housing units; the proposed County Design Guidelines component of the proposed project does not include guidelines related to public services:

- Amendments to the General Plan/LCP include policies that support new development, redevelopment, and potential intensified redevelopment, primarily within the Urban Services Line (USL).
- Amendments to the SCCC that include changes to permitted/allowed uses in some zone districts, including encouraging opportunities for residential, mixed-use, and commercial development, as well as amendments that address the criteria for locating future public/quasi-public facilities in agricultural areas.
- Amendments to General Plan/LCP land use and/or zone district maps for 23 specified parcels.

As described in Section 4.0, Introduction to Analyses, this EIR estimates that the proposed project has the potential to accommodate approximately 4,500 housing units throughout the county over existing conditions as shown in Table 4.0-2, with approximately 75% projected to occur within urban areas. Based on the average household size within unincorporated Santa Cruz County, new residential units could generate approximately 11,385 new residents as further explained in Section 4.13, Population and Housing. This EIR also estimates that the proposed project has the potential to accommodate approximately 6,210,000 square feet of non-residential uses as shown in Table 4.0-3, with approximately 60% expected to occur within urban areas. It is estimated that new non-residential development would support approximately 7,050 employees. These forecasts provide an estimate of potential growth that could occur as a result of adoption and implementation of the proposed Sustainability Update for the purpose of evaluation in this EIR. This estimate of growth may or may not occur, and this estimate does not establish a limit to development. Annual limits for residential units are set annually by the County pursuant to Measure J and SCCC provisions as explained in Section 4.13. Additionally, some of this projected development and growth would occur under the existing General Plan/LCP without the proposed project.

EIR Notice of Preparation Comments

Public and agency comments were received during the public scoping period in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP), which is included in Appendix A. A summary of the comments received during the scoping period for this EIR, as well as written comments received, are included in Appendix B. Comments related to population and housing include the following:

- A question was asked as to what building code incentives can be given to home builders to provide fire safe building materials.
- The EIR should update the Fire Risk Assessment maps and include addition of Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) early warning system in the rural areas of the county for better emergency notification.

To the extent that issues identified in public comments involve potentially significant effects on the environment according to CEQA and/or are raised by responsible agencies, they are identified and addressed within this EIR.

4.14.3.3 Project Impact Analysis

Impact PUB-1A: Fire Protection Facilities (Significance Threshold PUB-1). Adoption and implementation of the proposed Sustainability Update could indirectly lead to development that could result in future increased demands for fire protection services, but construction of new or expanded fire stations would not be required. (*Less than Significant*)

The proposed project would not directly result in new development but could indirectly lead to future development and redevelopment throughout the county, but primarily within urban areas within the County's USL. Implementation of the proposed Sustainability Update could lead to development of additional housing units and non-residential development with a potential population increase of approximately 11,385 new residents as explained in Section 4.13, Population and Housing. However, potential growth resulting from the proposed project is not substantially higher than forecast rates and is within historical growth rates. Therefore, the proposed project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County.

Fire protection services in the county would continue to be provided by 13 fire protection districts, which operate 31 full-time fire stations throughout the unincorporated county (LAFCO 2021b). The resulting population growth and new development would result in future demand for fire protection services throughout the county, but primarily within the Central Fire District, which serves most of the properties within the USL. Approximately 75% of the potential population increase and 60% of the potential non-residential development could occur within urban areas.

As of 2021, seven of the 13 fire agencies meet the state standards of two minimum on-duty personnel at any given time. Only two of the 13 agencies, Central Fire District and Scotts Valley FPD, meet federal standards of four minimum on-duty personnel for at least one fire station (LAFCO 2021b). In its most recent Countywide Fire Protection Service and Sphere Review, LAFCO made recommendations to each district to consider meeting the minimum staffing requirements outlined by state and federal standards (LAFCO 2021b).

The review found that multi-year efforts to consolidate two fire agencies: Aptos/La Selva and Central Fire Protection Districts has resulted in the ability to meet current levels of service, maintain local demand expectations, and continue the existing funding sources while maximizing economies of scale, combining best practices, and ultimately lead to cost-savings (LAFCO 2021b). No deficiencies or requirements for additional facilities for Central Fire District were identified in the LAFCO review. In addition, the potential growth resulting from the proposed Sustainability Update is within the growth projections developed for Central Fire District (LAFCO 2021b). Similar findings were made for Santa Cruz County Fire's CSA 48 that is operated by CAL FIRE, except that the LAFCO review indicated that it may be beneficial for the County to consider transitioning CSA 48 into a stand-alone special district. Benefits include having its own board of directors, its own staff, better resident representation, and more local control by the affected communities (LAFCO 2021b).

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, all new development would be required to meet Building and Fire Code requirements that would serve to minimize impacts related to fire. Compliance with existing regulations would ensure that future development and redevelopment resulting from implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts related to demand for fire protection services that would require construction of a new or expanded facility that could result in significant impacts.

Additionally, the proposed Sustainability Update includes policies to that serve to avoid or minimize impacts related to provision of fire protection services. The PPF Element of the proposed Sustainability Update sets forth objectives, policies, and implementation strategies to provide adequate fire protection and emergency medical services in unincorporated areas in the county. Proposed policy PPF-3.4.1. requires review of new developments by the County Fire Marshal or local fire agency, and require adequate access, water supply, and location and mitigations with respect to fire stations. As a standard of approval for development, Policy PPF-3.4.2 requires that adequate water supply, access, and response time for fire protection can be made available in accordance with the County’s Fire Hazards policies. Other proposed policies involve coordination with fire agencies to ensure that sufficient facilities and resources are available and to improve staffing levels and equipment, and working with the Office of Emergency Services to prepare for emergency responses to local disasters as outlined in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (County of Santa Cruz 2015a) and Emergency Management Plan (County of Santa Cruz 2015b). Table 4.14-6 below summarizes the proposed policies that pertain to fire protection and emergency medical services.

Table 4.14-6. Proposed and Retained General Plan/LCP Policies that Avoid/Minimize Impacts Related to Fire Protection Services

Potential Impact	Policies
Fire protection services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require review of new developments by the County Fire Marshal or local fire agency to ensure adequate protection. (PPF-3.4.1) Allow development only if adequate water supply, access, and response time for fire protection is available and appropriate design and mitigation strategies are provided. (PPF-3.4.2) Coordinate with fire departments to plan for future fire stations or improvements to existing staffing levels, stations, and equipment. (PPF-3.4.3) Work with the Office of Emergency Services to be prepared for and participate in emergency responses to local hazards and natural disasters as outlined in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Management Plan. (PPF-3.4.8)

Adoption and implementation of the proposed Sustainability Update would not directly result in new development, but new development accommodated by the proposed project could result in potential additional demand for fire protection services over time. However, future growth would not result in the need for additional fire protection facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response

times in the future. Furthermore, with compliance with federal, state and local regulations in addition to implementation of the proposed Sustainability Update policies and implementation strategies summarized in Table 4.14-5, the proposed Sustainability Update’s potential indirect impact on fire protection facilities would be considered *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures

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

Impact PUB-1B: Police Protection Facilities (Significance Threshold PUB-1). Adoption and implementation of the proposed project could indirectly lead to development that could result in increased police protection service demands. However, future development and growth would not result in the need to construct new or expanded facilities. (*Less than Significant*)

The proposed project would not directly result in new development but could indirectly lead to future development and redevelopment throughout the county, primarily within urban areas within the County’s USL. As described above, implementation of the proposed Sustainability Update could accommodate new development and redevelopment that results in increase of approximately 11,385 new residents by the year 2040, as well as new non-residential development with associated employees. However, potential growth resulting from the proposed project is not substantially higher than forecast rates and is within historical growth rates. This growth would result in increased demand for law enforcement services that would be provided by the County Sheriff’s Office. According to discussions with the Sheriff’s Office staff, there are adequate facilities to serve the projected growth increases associated with implementation of the proposed project, and no additional facilities would be needed to maintain response times; however, staffing is currently at minimal levels. New development and growth accommodated by the project would not substantially reduce response times or require new or physically altered police protection facilities that could result in significant physical impacts.

As previously indicated, there is an existing need to expand the County jail facilities. Future expansion would be expected to occur at the site of the existing Rountree Jail near Watsonville (with or without implementation of the proposed project). The parcel is located within the Airport Influence Area and may contain archaeological resources, biotic resources, expansive soils, and groundwater recharge areas. These potential resource constraints would be analyzed as part of project-specific CEQA review, at such time when the jail expansion would be planned and designed, and would be subject to County policies and regulations to protect resources and avoid/minimize environmental impacts. This future potential expansion is currently required under existing conditions, and the existing and future need would not be increased as a result of the indirect development and growth accommodated by the project.

Additionally, the proposed Sustainability Update includes policies to that serve to avoid or minimize impacts related to provision of fire protection services. The PPF Element of the proposed Sustainability Update sets forth objectives, policies, and implementation strategies to provide adequate fire protection and emergency medical services in unincorporated areas in the county. Proposed Policies PPF-3.5.6 and 3.5.7 direct the County to maintain adequate levels of policing service to protect county residents and businesses and

provide the best level of police protection services at the least cost. Other policies and implementation measures encourage working with the Office of Emergency Services to prepare for emergency responses to local disasters as outlined in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (County of Santa Cruz 2015a) and Emergency Management Plan (County of Santa Cruz 2015b). Table 4.14-7 below summarizes the proposed policies that pertain to police services.

Table 4.14-7. Proposed and Retained General Plan/LCP Policies that Avoid/Minimize Impacts Related to Police Protection Services

Potential Impact	Policies
Police protection services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adequate levels of policing to serve the county. (PPF-3.4.6) • Support all efforts directed at providing the best level of police protection services at the least cost. (PPF-3.4.7) • Work with the Office of Emergency Services to be prepared for and participate in emergency responses to local hazards and natural disasters as outlined in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Management Plan. (PPF-3.4.8)

All new development would be required to comply with the proposed policies under the Sustainability Update, which ensure that adequate law enforcement services are available to serve all areas of the county. The Sustainability Update also includes implementation strategies to review existing levels of service for patrol deputies as they relate to population increases and changes in areas to be served, which would further ensure that adequate police protection facilities are available to serve new development.

Adoption and implementation of the proposed Sustainability Update would not directly result in new development, but new development accommodated by the proposed project could result in potential additional demand for police protection services over time. However, future growth would not result in the need for additional police facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times in the future. Furthermore, with compliance with federal, state, and local regulations in addition to implementation of the proposed Sustainability Update policies and implementation strategies summarized in Table 4.14-7, the proposed Sustainability Update’s potential 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.

Impact PUB-1C: Impacts to Schools (Significance Threshold PUB-1). Adoption and implementation of the proposed project could indirectly lead to development and population growth that would generate school-aged students and enrollments in schools that could potentially exceed capacity of existing school facilities. ***(Less than Significant)***

The proposed project would not directly result in new development, but could indirectly lead to future development and redevelopment throughout the county, primarily within urban areas within the USL. As indicated above, implementation of the proposed Sustainability Update could accommodate development of approximately 4,450 new housing units between 2020 and 2040 with approximately 75% of this growth expected to occur in the USL. The USL is served by four primary school districts, Live Oak School District; Soquel Union Elementary School District, Pajaro Valley Unified School District, and Santa Cruz City Schools, the latter of which provides some service to Live Oak and Soquel. Enrollment would fluctuate annually, but some facilities, particularly in the urban areas, could exceed facility capacity at some schools in some years despite recent trends of declining enrollments at some schools.

New development would be assessed school impact fees in most school districts serving areas within the County’s USL and Rural Services Line (RSL). As discussed above, development impact fees are collected for the following districts: Aromas-San Juan Unified School District, Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District, Happy Valley Elementary School District, Live Oak School District, Loma Prieta Joint Union School District, Mountain Elementary School District, Pacific Elementary School District, Pajaro Valley Unified School District, San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District, Santa Cruz City Schools, Scotts Valley Unified School District, and Soquel Union Elementary School District. These fees would be used to fund development of new or expanded school facilities, if needed, to accommodate new student growth. At this time it is not known which facilities would potentially need to be expanded. However, it is expected that any expanded facilities would occur on existing developed school properties and would not result in significant impacts that could not otherwise be identified and mitigated during required CEQA review for a specific improvement. In addition, the proposed Sustainability Update includes policies to consider impacts of new development on school facilities as part of project-level review (PPF-3.2.2) and work with school districts and the County Office of Education to plan for new schools to accommodate future population (PPF-3.2.3) as summarized in Table 4.14-8.

Table 4.14-8. Proposed and Retained General Plan/LCP Policies that Avoid/Minimize Impacts Related to School Enrollments

Potential Impact	Policies
School enrollments and provision of school facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider impacts of proposed development on schools. (PPF-3.2.2) • Work with school districts and County Office of Education to plan for new schools to accommodate future population needs. (PPF-3.2.3) • Cooperate with school districts to provide a method for financing school facilities necessitated by new residential developments causing conditions of overcrowding. (PPF-3.2.4)

With required payment of school impact fees to fund necessary facility expansion and/or additions, if needed, potential impacts 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 project also sets forth measures to avoid and minimize adverse impacts on school facilities. Given that the County and its individual jurisdictions will be required to conduct environmental review prior to any significant expansion of school facilities or the development of new school facilities, as well as current state law requirements that the environmental impact of other new development on school facilities is considered fully mitigated through the payment of required development impact fees, this impact is considered *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures

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

Impact REC-1. Parks and Recreational Facilities (Significance Thresholds PUB-1, REC-1 and REC-2).

Adoption and implementation of the proposed project could indirectly result in increased development and population growth that could result in an indirect demand for parks and recreational facilities. However, the project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment nor would the project result in an increase of use that could result in a substantial physical deterioration of existing park facilities. (*Less than Significant*)

The proposed project would not directly result in new development but could indirectly lead to future development and redevelopment throughout the county, primarily within urban areas within the USL. As described above, implementation of the proposed Sustainability Update could accommodate an increase of approximately 11,385 new residents over the next 20 years. The majority of the potential development and growth (75%) is estimated to occur within urban areas. According to the County's most recent Parks Strategic Plan (Santa Cruz County Parks 2018), approximately 51,776 acres (18.1%) of the county's total area of 285,522 acres are publicly accessible parks, parkland, or open space. The Parks Strategic Plan evaluated park and open space resources and determined that the County provides sufficient parklands for its residents, particularly in comparison to many more dense and more urban places.

Furthermore, the proposed Sustainability Update addresses land uses related to recreation, sets standards for parks, and addresses the provision of adequate park facilities, their funding, sharing with other jurisdictions, and adequate access. Table 4.15-9 describes existing and proposed policies that avoid/minimize impacts related to parks and recreational facilities. These policies include guidance standards for 2-3 net acres of usable classifications of parkland and 5-6 acres of recreational facilities per 1,000 residents in order to maintain acceptable levels of service. Proposed policies also set forth guidelines for development of new parks and placement near compatible uses. There are currently approximately 51,776 acres of publicly accessible parks, parkland, or open space countywide for all Santa Cruz County's 270,861 residents, which equates to approximately 190 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents countywide (Santa Cruz County Parks 2018). The County Parks Department manages 43 neighborhood, community,

regional or rural parks consisting of 890 acres that serve the population of 133,493 in unincorporated areas of the county, which equates to approximately 6.6 acres of usable recreational acres per 1,000 residents. The county’s existing park resources are adequate according to the guidance standards provided in the proposed PPF Element of the proposed Sustainability Update. Because existing countywide parklands are sufficient to serve its population and the County continues to plan for additional parks as summarized in Table 4.14-5, the increase in population accommodated by the proposed Sustainability Update would not substantially increase usage of park facilities such that provision of new facilities would be required.

Table 4.14-9. Proposed and Retained General Plan/LCP Policies that Avoid/Minimize Impacts Related to Parks and Recreational Facilities

Potential Impact	Policies
<p>Provision of adequate parks facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate in funding and sharing recreation facilities with surrounding agencies. (PPF-2.1.6) • Acquire and develop parks according to the following priorities—1) Parks in underserved communities; 2) Parks in unincorporated areas outside city spheres of influence; and 3) Parks within unincorporated areas and within city spheres of influence. (PPF-2.1.7) • Coordinate with school districts to develop joint school/park facilities. (PPF-2.1.9) • Provide neighborhood parks at a standard of 3 usable acres per 1,000 population. (PPF-2.2.1) • Locate neighborhood parks within 0.5 mile of urban residences. (PPF-2.2.2) • Consider mini-park sites as an alternative to meet minimum park acreage requirements if designated neighborhood parks cannot be acquired. (PPF-2.2.3) • Provide community recreation facilities at a standard of 2-3 net usable acres per 1,000 population consisting of 10-25 acres of land, including parks, cultural centers, and community complexes, in central locations in the urban areas. (PPF-2.2.5) • Assign high priority to community parks in Mid-County and South County. (PPF-2.2.7) • Provide recreational facilities at a standard of 5-6 net usable acres per 1,000 persons consisting of varying sizes depending on the recreational opportunities and resources available: includes parks, cultural centers, and community complexes, in the unincorporated rural areas of the County. (PPF-2.2.10) • Establish local rural parks in the rural portions of the County, typically servicing an area within a 4-to-5-mile radius. (PPF-2.2.11) • Establish as system or regional parks. (PPF-2.2.13) • Develop abandoned quarries and landfills for recreational uses. (PPF-2.2.16) • Provide access to wilderness recreation with watershed reserves, where feasible. (PPF-2.2.17) • Provide access to inland water bodies for equestrian, walking, and bicycle trails where appropriate (PPF-2.2.18) • Seek to use existing publicly owned lands where possible for trail systems. (PPF-2.7.3)

Potential increased population accommodated by the proposed Sustainability Update could result in an increased use of existing parks and recreational facilities, especially in areas within the county's USL and RSL. The potential increased use of parks and recreational facilities would be distributed throughout existing neighborhood and community parks throughout the USL and specific parks and recreational facilities, including school playgrounds and joint use facilities. The proposed project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. Implementation of the proposed project would support future development of recreational facilities but does not directly propose the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. With implementation of the proposed project's policies and implementation strategies, in combination with existing regulations and park impact fees for new development, impacts related to parks and recreational facilities would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures

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

Impact PUB-1D: Other Public Facilities (Significance Threshold PUB-1). Adoption and implementation of the proposed project could indirectly result in increased population associated with potential development accommodated by the project. However, future development and growth would not result in the need to construct new or expanded public facilities. (*Less than Significant*)

As previously indicated, the future development indirectly resulting from the proposed project could lead to increased population throughout the county, with approximately 75% projected to occur in the County USL. This level of growth is similar to planned and projected growth as discussed in Section 4.13, Population and Housing, and would not require new or expanded public facilities not already addressed, such as libraries. Furthermore, the proposed Sustainability Update retains and expands existing policies to ensure adequate provision of public services (Objective PPF-3.1 and its supporting policies and implementation strategies). The proposed project retains and expands existing General Plan/LCP policies to provide libraries within community centers, adjacent to major commercial centers, or in other areas convenient for public use (PPF 3.3.1) and to support adequate library service in all parts of the county. and continue to improve and expand services (PPF-3.3.2). With implementation of the proposed project's policies and implementation strategies, impacts related to libraries and other public facilities would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures

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

4.14.3.4 Cumulative Impact Analysis

The proposed Sustainability Update is applicable to the unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County, and potential impacts to public services provided in the unincorporated county area are addressed in Section 4.14.3.3. Cumulative growth and development is summarized in Table 4.0-1 in Section 4.0 of this EIR. Other cumulative development and growth would occur within the four incorporated cities within the county as well as at UCSC. Each of these entities is responsible for provision and maintenance of public services and parks and recreational facilities within their jurisdictions. While residents from adjacent cities may use facilities within the county and vice versa, there would generally not be overlapping demands that would result in cumulative impacts to public services and parks and recreational facilities. Therefore, no significant impacts are expected to occur at a result of cumulative growth and development.

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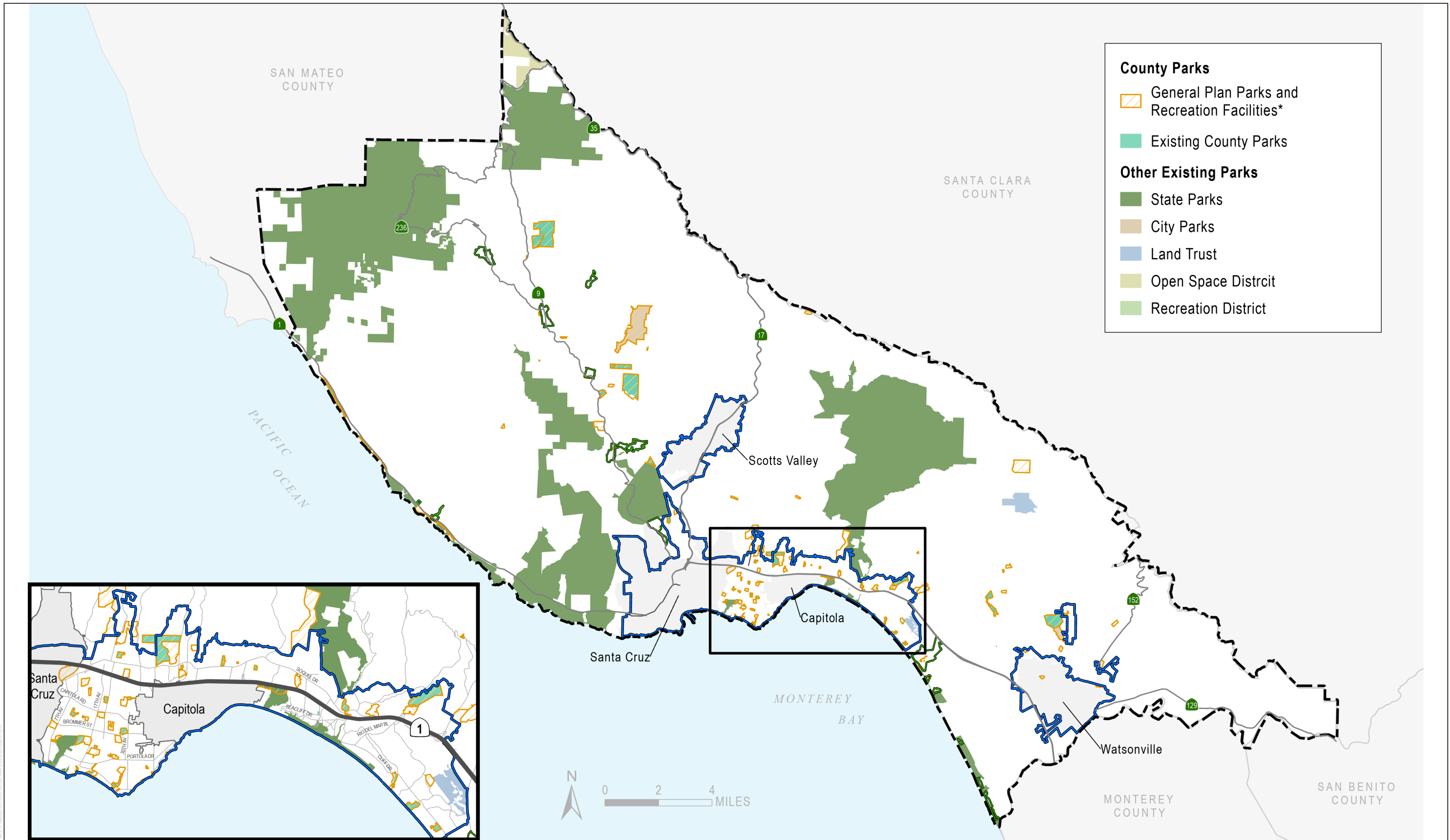
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4.14.5 Figures

Figure 4.14-1. Parks and Recreation Facilities

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County Parks

- General Plan Parks and Recreation Facilities*
- Existing County Parks

Other Existing Parks

- State Parks
- City Parks
- Land Trust
- Open Space District
- Recreation District

SOURCE: County of Santa Cruz 2021

FIGURE 4.14-1

Parks and Recreation Facilities

County of Santa Cruz Sustainability Policy and Regulatory Update

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