

4.14 PUBLIC SERVICES

This chapter describes the regulatory framework and existing conditions of the City of San Mateo Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Study Area and evaluates the potential public services impacts from adopting and implementing the proposed General Plan 2040 and proposed Climate Action Plan update, and from future development and activities that could occur under the proposed project. A summary of the relevant regulatory framework and existing conditions is followed by a discussion of potential impacts and cumulative impacts related to implementation of the proposed project.

This chapter covers the following public services:

- Fire protection
- Police
- Schools
- Libraries

4.14.1 FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

4.14.1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This section describes regulations, resources, facilities, equipment, response times, and budget for fire protection services.

Regulatory Framework

State Regulations

California Government Code

Section 65302 of the California Government Code requires General Plans to include a Safety Element, which must include an assessment of wildland and urban fire hazards. The Safety and Hazardous Waste Management Element of the existing General Plan 2030 and the Safety Element of the proposed General Plan satisfy this requirement.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is dedicated to the fire protection and stewardship of over 31 million acres of California's wildlands. The Office of the State Fire Marshal supports CAL FIRE's mission to protect life and property through fire prevention engineering programs, law and code enforcement, and education.

California Building Code

The State of California provides a minimum standard for all building design except detached one- and two-family residential dwellings and townhouses not more than three stories above grade plane, through Title 24, Part 2, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), commonly referred to as the

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“California Building Code” (CBC). The CBC incorporates, by adoption, the International Building Code of the International Code Council, with California amendments, and is updated every three years, with supplements published in intervening years. It is adopted by the State, and can be modified on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis, based on local geologic, climatic, and topographic conditions. The City of San Mateo regularly adopts each new CBC update and modifies it under the San Mateo Municipal Code (SMMC) Chapter 23.08, *Building Code*. Commercial and residential buildings are plan-checked by local City building officials and San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department (SMC Fire) for compliance with the CBC. Typical fire safety requirements of the CBC include the installation of sprinklers in most new buildings, including all high-rise buildings, all residential buildings and other facilities; fire resistant rated construction and construction in designated wildland fire hazard severity zones; fire alarm systems and exiting requirements; and fire safety requirements during construction. The CBC also establishes structural stability, and seismic safety for buildings and structures.

California Residential Code

The State of California provides a minimum standard for all building design of detached one- and two-family residential dwellings and townhouses not more than three stories above grade plane, through Title 24, Part 2.5, of the CCR, commonly referred to as the “California Residential Code” (CRC). The CRC incorporates, by adoption, the International Residential Code of the International Code Council, with California amendments, and is updated every three years. Like the CBC, it is modified by the City, as needed, to address local conditions.

California Fire Code

The California Fire Code incorporates, by adoption, the International Fire Code of the International Code Council, with California amendments. The California Fire Code is the official fire code for the State of California (State) and all political subdivisions. It is found in CCR Title 24, Part 9, and, like the CBC, it is revised and published every three years by the California Building Standards Commission. Also like the CBC, the California Fire Code is effective statewide, but a local jurisdiction may adopt more restrictive standards based on local conditions.

The California Fire Code is a model code that regulates minimum fire safety regulations for new and existing buildings, facilities, storage, and processes, including emergency planning and preparedness, fire service features, fire protection systems, hazardous materials, fire flow requirements, and fire hydrant locations and distribution. Typical fire safety requirements include the installation of sprinklers in most new buildings, including all high-rise buildings, all residential buildings, and other facilities; fire resistant rated construction; construction in designated wildland fire hazard severity zones; fire alarm systems and exiting requirements; fire safety requirements during construction; the regulation of hazardous materials not covered by the unified program (described below); and the clearance of debris and vegetation within a prescribed distance from occupied structures in wildfire hazard areas.

Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Program

The routine management of hazardous materials in California is administered under the Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Program (Unified Program). San Mateo’s

hazardous materials programs are administered and enforced under the Unified Program. The California Environmental Protection Agency has granted the City's responsibilities to San Mateo County Environmental Health, including implementation and enforcement of hazardous material regulations under the Unified Program as a Certified Unified Program Agency.

Mitigation Fee Act (California Government Code 66000-66008)

Assembly Bill (AB) 1600, the Mitigation Fee Act, requires a local agency establishing, increasing, or imposing an impact fee as a condition of development to identify the purpose of the fee and the use to which the fee is to be put. The agency must also demonstrate a reasonable relationship between the fee and the purpose for which it is charged, and between the fee and the type of development project on which it is to be levied. This act became enforceable on January 1, 1989.

Local Regulations

San Mateo General Plan 2030

The City of San Mateo General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions that are relevant to fire protection services are primarily in the Safety Element. As part of the proposed project, some existing General Plan goals, policies, and actions would be amended, substantially changed, or new policies would be added. Applicable goals, policies, and actions are identified and assessed for their effectiveness and potential to result in an adverse physical impact later in this chapter under Section 4.14.1.3, *Impact Discussion*.

City of San Mateo Municipal Code

The SMMC includes various directives pertaining to fire prevention and protection. The SMMC is organized by title, chapter, and section, and in some cases, articles. Most provisions related to fire prevention and protection impacts are included in Title 3, *Taxation and Finance*, Title 10, *Peace, Safety and Morals*, and Title 23, *Buildings and Construction*.

- Chapter 3.56, *Transient Occupancy Tax*, Section 3.56.035, *Special Tax*. This section imposes a two percent tax to finance police and fire improvements within the city.
- Chapter 10.16, *Fire Regulations*, outlines certain regulations associated with fire and the fire department. It includes what is prohibited, what to do in a fire zone, and vegetation management requirements.
- Chapter 23.08, *Building Code*, adopts the 2022 CBC as the rules, regulations, and standards within the City as to all matters, except as modified or amended in the SMMC.
- Chapter 23.28, *Fire Code*, adopts the 2016 edition of the CFC as the rules, regulations, and standards within the City as to all matters except as modified or amended in the SMMC. This Fire Code is adopted and enforced by the SMC Fire. As stated in Section 27.56.150, *Fire and Explosive Hazards*, fire and explosive hazards are subject of the fire prevention regulations in Chapter 23.28 of the SMMC.

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Existing Conditions

San Mateo County is in Region II of the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid System, which extends one to two counties inland from the Pacific Coast and from Monterey County to the Oregon border.¹ In the event of a wildfire requiring firefighting resources from outside of San Mateo County, mutual aid is typically first lent from other fire agencies in the affected region.

The City of San Mateo is served by the SMC Fire. The department was formed by the establishment of a Joint Powers Authority and represents the merger of fire departments in the cities of Belmont, Foster City, and San Mateo.² The SMC Fire is responsible for protecting lives, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials exposure, providing emergency medical care, offering programs that prepare citizens for emergency, and providing non-emergency services, including fire prevention and emergency preparedness.

Out of the nine fire stations that SMC Fire operates, six of the Stations are located within San Mateo: Station 21 at 120 South Ellsworth Avenue; Station 23 at 31 West 27th Avenue; Station 24 at 219 South Humboldt Street; Station 25 at 1455 Shafter Street; Station 26 at 1500 Marina Court; and Station 27 at 1801 DeAnza Boulevard. SMC Fire staffs two 100-foot tractor-drawn aerial ladder trucks, one out of Station 21 and the other out of Station 23, that respond to all major incidents in the community.³

SMC Fire's Commercial Inspection Program inspects commercial occupancies to ensure fire safety and checks all newly constructed and remodeled buildings for Fire and Building Code compliance. SMC Fire also provides fire investigation services to determine the cause of fires.

The goal for SMC Fire is to respond to 90 percent of all Priority 1 emergency calls in 6 minutes 59 seconds or less.⁴ In 2021, SMC Fire met this goal with an average response time of 5 minutes 28 seconds. A majority of incidents were for rescues and emergency medical services.⁵

SMC Fire serves nearly 161,000 residents with a daytime population around 230,000. The department has 154 full-time employees assigned to administration, fire prevention, training, emergency preparedness, fire operations, and emergency medical services.⁶ Each fire station has one fire engine staffed by one Fire Captain and two Firefighters/Engineers.⁷

¹ San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, Homeland Security Division, Office of Emergency Services, May 2015, *County of San Mateo Emergency Operations Plan*, <https://hsd.smcsheriff.com/sites/default/files/downloadables/1%20-%20Emergency%20Operations%20Plan.pdf>, accessed August 2, 2022.

² San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department, 2022, History, <https://www.smcfire.org/about-us/history/>, accessed August 5, 2022.

³ San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department, 2022, Stations & Apparatus, <https://www.smcfire.org/about-us/station-locations/>, accessed August 5, 2022.

⁴ San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department, 2022, Field Operations, <https://www.smcfire.org/divisions/field-operations/>, accessed August 5, 2022.

⁵ San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department, 2021, *Annual Report: 2021 Edition*, <https://www.smcfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Annual-Report-2021.pdf>, accessed August 5, 2022.

⁶ City of San Mateo Website, Fire Department, <https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/74/Fire>, accessed August 5, 2022.

⁷ San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department, 2022, Stations & Apparatus, <https://www.smcfire.org/about-us/station-locations/>, accessed August 5, 2022.

The 2019 estimated population is 26,808 for Belmont, 33,221 for Foster City, and 108,020 for San Mateo, for a combined total population of 168,049.⁸ This results in an average of one firefighter for every 1,091 persons.⁹ The standard set by the National Fire Protection Association recommends that there be one firefighter for every 1,000 population.

4.14.1.2 STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed project would result in a significant fire protection services impact if it would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection services.
- In combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, result in cumulative fire protection service impacts in the area.

4.14.1.3 IMPACT DISCUSSION

PS-1 The proposed project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection services.

New development in the EIR Study Area would be served by SMC Fire. A significant impact to SMC Fire would result if, in order for SMC Fire to adequately serve the area, increased demand in the EIR Study Area would require the construction of new facilities or the expansion of existing facilities, the construction or operation of which would cause significant environmental impacts.

Development under the proposed project would include new housing and nonresidential development, with associated increases to resident and employee population served by SMC Fire.

The Land Use (LU), Public Services and Facilities (PSF), and Safety (S) Elements of the proposed General Plan contain goals, policies, and actions that require local planning and development decisions to consider and mitigate impacts that potential future development could have on fire protection service facilities. The following General Plan 2040 goals, policies, and actions would serve to reduce impacts to fire protection service facilities and services:

⁸ State of California, Department of Finance, May 2022, *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State — January 1, 2011-2020*, <https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/estimates/estimates-e5-2010-2020/>, accessed August 2, 2022.

⁹ 168,049 overall population/154 full time employees = 1,091 persons per firefighter

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- **Goal LU-12:** Create financial stability for the City by maintaining its ability to pay for public improvements, core infrastructure, and essential services.
 - **Policy LU 12.1: Revenue Generators.** Retain and grow existing businesses and attract new businesses that can generate and diversify the City’s tax revenue and increase job opportunities to ensure the City has adequate resources for infrastructure improvements and essential City services, such as police, fire, parks, recreation, and libraries.
- **Goal LU-14:** Collaborate and communicate with other public agencies regarding regional issues.
 - **Policy LU 14.1: Interagency Cooperation.** Promote and participate in cooperative planning with other public agencies and the jurisdictions within San Mateo County, such as the 21 Elements regional collaboration, regarding regional issues such as water supply, traffic congestion, rail transportation, wildfire hazards, air pollution, waste management, fire services, emergency medical services, and climate change.
- **Goal PSF-1:** Protect the community’s health, safety, and welfare by maintaining adequate police, fire, and life safety protection.
 - **Policy PSF 1.1: Effective Police and Fire Services.** Maintain facilities, equipment, and personnel to provide an effective police force and fire protection to serve existing and future population and employment, as identified in the Land Use Element.
 - **Policy PSF 1.3: Fire Stations.** Coordinate with and support San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department (SMC Fire) to maintain a high level of service by modernizing fire stations, as needed. Provide new stations and improvements to existing stations and training facilities to meet equipment, staffing, and training requirements, as well as Essential Services Building Requirements.
 - **Policy PSF 1.4: Fire Inspections.** Coordinate with and support SMC Fire to maintain fire inspection staffing levels to meet existing needs and the projected 2040 population, employment and development, and inspections mandated by other governmental agencies, consistent with the City’s Building Security Code.
 - **Policy PSF 1.5: Maintenance and Replacement.** Coordinate with and support SMC Fire to provide fire apparatus replacement and maintenance programs to achieve a high state of readiness.
 - **Policy PSF 1.6: Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Readiness.** Maintain the highest level of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) readiness and response capabilities possible by encouraging interagency medical drills and exercises where hospital personnel work with emergency responders in the field and with Emergency Operation Centers and by encouraging citizens to become trained in basic medical triage and first aid through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
- **Goal S-1:** Minimize potential damage to life, environment, and property through timely, well-prepared, and well-coordinated emergency preparedness, response plans, and programs.
 - **Policy S 1.1: Emergency Readiness.** Maintain the City’s emergency readiness and response capabilities, especially regarding hazardous materials spills, natural gas pipeline ruptures, fire

hazards, wildland fire risk, earthquakes, pandemics, and flooding. Focus primarily on areas identified by the City as underserved and most vulnerable to loss of life and property due to proximity to hazardous incidences, and work to ensure funding is available to these communities as a key component of emergency readiness.

- **Policy S 1.3: Location of Critical Facilities.** Avoid locating critical facilities, such as hospitals, schools, fire, police, emergency service facilities, and other utility infrastructure, in areas subject to slope failure, wildland fire, flooding, sea level rise, and other hazards, to the extent feasible.
- **Policy S 1.4: Multiple Egress Points.** Require new development to provide at least two points of emergency access (ingress and egress).
- **Policy S 1.6: Emergency Infrastructure and Equipment.** Maintain and fund the City’s emergency operations center in a full functional state of readiness. Designate a back-up Emergency Operations Center with communications redundancies.
- **Policy S 1.7: Defensible Design.** Require that new development support effective law enforcement and fire protection by promoting a safe and accessible public realm, including investing in social gathering spaces, enhancing lighting and safety in public spaces through community-led planning, and ensuring adequate property maintenance.
- **Action S 1.18: Automatic and Mutual-Aid Agreements.** Participate in mutual-aid agreements with other local jurisdictions to provide coordinated regional responses, as necessary, to fire, flood, earthquake, critical incidents, and other hazard events in San Mateo and the surrounding area. Work with local jurisdictions to share resources and develop regional plans to implement disaster mitigation and resilience strategies, such as government continuity, emergency operations centers, and communications redundancies.
- **Action S 1.23: Community Training.** Collaborate with SMC Fire to provide emergency preparedness trainings to maintain and expand existing Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).
- **Action S 1.24: Emergency Infrastructure and Equipment.** Establish systems to ensure that traffic lights at major intersections, communications and radio infrastructure, and other critical infrastructure continues to function in the event of a localized power outage. Repair any damaged sets of infrastructure or equipment as needed to continue City operations.

In addition to the proposed General Plan goals, policies, and actions listed above, see Chapter 4.18, *Wildfire*, of this Draft EIR, for a complete list of goals, policies, and actions that would minimize risk of wildfire, thereby reducing demand on SMC Fire services.

Future development under the proposed project would be required to comply with CCR Title 24 as outlined in Section 4.14.1.1, *Environmental Setting*. The CFC regulates, among other topics, hazardous material handling, emergency access, and fire protection systems, including automatic sprinkler system, fire extinguishers, and fire alarms. The City reviews plans and conducts construction inspections to ensure that new development complies with existing building and fire code requirements. Compliance with Title 24 and SMC Fire’s Fire Prevention Code would ensure any new development proposed in the EIR Study Area meets the most current building and fire codes, thereby increasing safety of the buildings,

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and reducing the likelihood of a fire emergency, subsequently reducing demand on SMC Fire services. In addition, new development is required to pay the City's impact fees that are adopted at the time of future project approval for new residential, retail, office, institutional, and industrial development. As SMC Fire requires new equipment or staffing, the funds for such improvements would be provided through required payment of developer impact fees, the annual budget process, and would rely on the General Fund. Other funding opportunities, such as State and federal grants, may also be available.

While future development under the proposed project would increase demand on fire protection services, growth would occur incrementally. Individual project plan review by SMC Fire, payment of development impact fees, consistency with the proposed General Plan goals, policies, and actions, and compliance with the regulations described under Section 4.14.1.1, *Environmental Setting*, would ensure that SMC Fire is involved as future development is allowed under the proposed project. Furthermore, future construction of new fire stations, or renovation of existing stations, would be subject to separate project-level environmental review pursuant to CEQA, as required, to identify potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures as needed. Compliance with proposed General Plan goals, policies, and actions, existing regulations including payment of development impact fees, and future project-level environmental review would ensure that impacts on fire protection facilities would be *less than significant*.

Significance without Mitigation: Less than significant.

PS-2	The proposed project would not, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, result in cumulative fire protection service impacts.
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As discussed in Chapter 4, *Environmental Analysis*, of this Draft EIR, the cumulative analysis takes into account growth from development under the proposed project within the city combined with the estimated growth in the service areas of each service provider. In the case of fire protection, this would be the service area of SMC Fire.

Compliance with State and local regulations described under Section 4.14.1.1, *Environmental Setting*, and the proposed General Plan goals, policies, and actions listed in impact discussion PS-1, would ensure that fire protection services continue to adequately serve the EIR Study Area. Likewise, the San Mateo County General Plan has policies that encourage coordination between the county and fire protection agencies in order to identify the most efficient delivery of fire protection services, reduce response times, and have a uniform database and communication system.¹⁰ This type of coordination will provide a coordinated approach to fire protection services and ensure that there is adequate coverage in the EIR Study Area.

Further, because the proposed project is program level, and because potential future development would be required to undergo project review at the time of project application, each potential future

¹⁰ San Mateo County, November 1986, *General Plan*, <https://www.smcgov.org/media/101521/download?inline=>, accessed on May 31, 2023.

development would be assessed for impacts to fire protection services. With adequate planning in place in both the City Limits and the unincorporated San Mateo County service area, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact to fire protection services and cumulative impacts would be *less than significant*.

Significance without Mitigation: Less than significant.

4.14.2 POLICE SERVICES

4.14.2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This section describes regulations, resources, facilities, equipment, response times, and budget for police services.

Regulatory Framework

State Regulations

AB 1600, the Mitigation Fee Act, requires a local agency establishing, increasing, or imposing an impact fee as a condition of development to identify the purpose of the fee and the use to which the fee is to be put. The agency must also demonstrate a reasonable relationship between the fee and the purpose for which it is charged, and between the fee and the type of development project on which it is to be levied. This act became enforceable on January 1, 1989.

Local Regulations

San Mateo General Plan 2030

The City of San Mateo General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions that are relevant to police services are primarily in the Safety Element. As part of the proposed project, some existing General Plan goals, policies, and actions would be amended, substantially changed, or new policies would be added. Applicable goals, policies, and actions are identified and assessed for their effectiveness and potential to result in an adverse physical impact later in this chapter under Section 4.14.2.3, *Impact Discussion*.

City of San Mateo Municipal Code

The SMMC includes various directives pertaining to fire prevention and protection. The SMMC is organized by title, chapter, and section, and in some cases, articles. Most provisions related to police protection impacts are included in Title 2, *Administration and Personnel*, Title 3, *Taxation and Finance*, and Title 11, *Vehicles and Traffic*.

- Chapter 2.39, *Police Department*, discusses how the police department is structured and the powers each officer has. It also describes the badges and uniforms of police officers and who can issue badges out.
- Chapter 3.56, *Transient Occupancy Tax*, Section 3.56.035, *Special Tax*. This section imposes a two-percent tax to finance specific police and fire facility improvements within the city.

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- Chapter 11.04, *General Provisions*, outlines the duties of the police officer with regards to traffic and parking.

Existing Conditions

Service

The San Mateo Police Department (SMPD) serves the City of San Mateo from its station at 200 Franklin Parkway. The SMPD is currently seeking to establish a substation for their Traffic Division; this project would serve to provide greater infrastructure and increase the level of service provided with respect to traffic safety enforcement as well as improve response times.¹¹

Other law enforcement services in the area are the California Highway Patrol and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

Staffing

The SMPD has 176 employees, which includes 116 sworn police officers, serving 108,020 residents of San Mateo.¹² This equates to roughly one officer for every 931 residents.¹³ Past studies have shown the national average for a city the size of San Mateo is about 2.0 sworn police officers per 1,000 residents.¹⁴ SMPD is not currently meeting this ratio. SMPD's current officer per resident ratio is 1.07 and has steadily decreased from its peak of 1.26 in the year 2020. The Police Department wishes to operate at a ratio of 1.30 officers per 1,000 residents.¹⁵

Department Organization

The SMPD is organized into four bureaus, which are overseen by captains. The Field Operations Service Bureau (FOSB) is responsible for providing the majority of the department's frontline services. FOSB provides around-the-clock uniformed police protection and responds to all requests for police assistance. The Investigations Services Bureau (ISB) conducts major investigations into crimes against persons, property, businesses, and institutions, and is responsible for covert operations directed toward the apprehension of the most serious and career criminals. The Support Services Bureau (SSB) provides support and development along with neighborhood outreach. SSB also conducts recruitment to ensure that candidates reflect the diverse nature of the community, provides business and fiscal management for the department, and coordinates and facilitates all departmental training. The Communications, Records and Technology Services is the final bureau and manages and integrates technology into police

¹¹ City of San Mateo Police Department, correspondence with PlaceWorks, March 2023.

¹² City of San Mateo, *Adopted 2018-20 Business Plan*, <https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/DocumentCenter/View/65342/Adopted-2018-20-Business-Plan?bidId=>, accessed August 5, 2022.

¹³ 108,020 residents/116 Sworn Officers = 931 residents per officer

¹⁴ City of San Mateo Police Department, correspondence with PlaceWorks, March 2023.

¹⁵ City of San Mateo Police Department, correspondence with PlaceWorks, March 2023.

operations. This is through maintaining a 24-hour emergency dispatch center as well as keeping accurate police records, property and evidence.¹⁶

Call Volume

SMPD responds to approximately 90,000 incidents each year. On average, 1,300 of those are “Priority 1” calls, where the call requires an immediate response and there is reason to believe that an immediate threat to life exists. For those calls, the response goal is to have the responding officer arrive on scene within 7 minutes of the call being dispatched.¹⁷

SMPD is currently meeting the established target response time for Priority 1 calls. In Table 4.14-1, *SMPD Calls and Incidents*, the amount of calls and incidents over 8 fiscal years are shown.

TABLE 4.14-1 SMPD CALLS AND INCIDENTS

	FY14/15	FY15/16	FY16/17	FY17/18	FY18/19	FY19/20	FY20/21	FY21/22
Calls for Service	58,467	76,506	62,106	65,125	67,606	63,717	58,250	60,183
Officer-Initiated Incidents	25,800	34,429	24,369	28,658	25,807	26,091	23,381	25,139
Total Incidents	84,267	110,935	86,475	93,783	93,413	89,808	81,631	85,322

Note: FY = fiscal year
Source: City of San Mateo Police Department, March 2023.

4.14.2.2 STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed project would result in a significant police services impact if it would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police facilities, need for new or physically altered police facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police services.
- In combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, result in cumulative police service impacts in the area.

¹⁶ City of San Mateo Police Department, correspondence with PlaceWorks, March 2023.

¹⁷ City of San Mateo Police Department, correspondence with PlaceWorks, March 2023.

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4.14.2.3 IMPACT DISCUSSION

PS-3	The proposed project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police facilities, need for new or physically altered police facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police services.
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Future development under the proposed project would occur in the ten General Plan Land Use Study Areas and predominantly the form of infill/intensification on sites either already developed and/or underutilized, and/or in close proximity to existing development. Such locations are currently served by the SMPD and potential future development or redevelopment in the EIR Study Area is not anticipated to expand SMPD's service area, which could increase response times or disrupt other performance objectives.

Buildout of the proposed project is projected to occur over a 20-year horizon. While an increase in demand for police protection services would be gradual and is in line with incremental population growth, which would occur with or without adoption of the proposed project, the SMPD has identified that its staffing level has decreased since 2020, and an increase in population would result in a need for increased staffing.¹⁸ As previously described, the SMPD staffing ratios of 1.07 sworn officers to 1,000 residents is below the national staffing average of 2.0 sworn personnel per 1,000 residents.¹⁹ Physical expansion of SMPD facilities may be needed to accommodate increases in staffing and maintain response times.

The SMPD has indicated that existing stations would be inadequate to accommodate future needs; due to this, a new police substation or substantial adjustments, expansions, or renovations to the existing police headquarters facility have been identified as needed.²⁰ SMPD has expressed that it is beginning to initiate plans for a substation for its Traffic Division that will provide greater infrastructure and increase the level of service with respect to traffic safety as well as improve response times.²¹

The SMPD is funded by the City's General Fund, which potential future development would support through the payment of taxes and development fees, among other fees. Future development in San Mateo would be required to pay taxes and development fees, amongst other fees, that would contribute to the General Fund to support the SMPD. Procurement of additional police equipment would occur as needed through the City's annual budgeting process, which financially supports the procurement of needed equipment.

¹⁸ City of San Mateo Police Department, correspondence with PlaceWorks, March 2023.

¹⁹ City of San Mateo Police Department, correspondence with PlaceWorks, March 2023.

²⁰ City of San Mateo Police Department, correspondence with PlaceWorks, March 2023.

²¹ City of San Mateo Police Department, correspondence with PlaceWorks, March 2023.

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The Public Services and Facilities (PSF) and Land Use (LU) Elements contain goals and policies that require local planning and development decisions to consider and mitigate impacts that potential future development could have on public service facilities. In addition to the goals, policies, and actions listed in impact discussion PS-1, the following General Plan 2040 goals and policies would serve to reduce impacts specific to SMPD facilities and services in the EIR Study Area:

- **Goal PSF-1:** Protect the community’s health, safety, and welfare by maintaining adequate police, fire, and life safety protection.
 - **Policy PSF 1.2: Police Station.** Provide police station facilities to meet the facility requirements through 2040. Distribute, locate, and design police support facilities (i.e., substations) as needed to maximize effectiveness, use, accessibility for police personnel, and community interaction.
 - **Policy PSF 1.7: Equitable Code Enforcement.** Continue to use code enforcement to equitably enforce the City’s property maintenance codes to ensure that all residents, specifically those living in equity priority communities, have safe and sanitary living conditions.

In addition to the proposed General Plan goals, policies, and actions discussed above, future development under the proposed project would be required to comply with City’s Building Code (SMMC Chapter 23.08) and pay police protection impact fees and special taxes associated with financing police station capital improvements, as outlined in Section 4.14.2.1, *Environmental Setting*. These measures would pay for some of the costs associated with expanding police services and facilities.

While the proposed project would increase demand on police protection services, growth would occur incrementally. Payment of police protection impact fees and special taxes, consistency with the proposed General Plan goals, policies, and actions and compliance with the regulations described above would ensure that the SMPD is involved as future development is allowed under the proposed project. Though SMPD has indicated that existing stations would be inadequate to accommodate future needs, it has not yet developed any specific plans to construct new facilities. Therefore, it would be speculative to assess the physical effects of those future construction projects and the project’s potential contribution to those effects. Pursuant to Section 15145 of the State CEQA Guidelines, if a particular impact is too speculative for evaluation, no further evaluation is required. Future construction of new or renovated police stations would be subject to separate project-level environmental review pursuant to CEQA, as required, to identify potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures as needed to reduce potential environmental impacts. Therefore, impacts on police service facilities would be *less than significant*.

Significance without Mitigation: Less than significant.

PS-4 The proposed project would not, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, result in cumulative police service impacts in the area.

Cumulative police service impacts would occur from potential future development in the service areas of SMPD and the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office. The proposed project does not include specific

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development projects, as it serves as a guide for future development in the city. Future development projects are currently and will continue to be assessed for impacts to police protection services.

It is unlikely that approval of the General Plan and certification of the EIR would immediately increase the degree or incidence of need for police protection services because anticipated growth under the proposed project is projected to occur incrementally throughout the approximately 20-year buildout horizon. Additionally, compliance with the proposed General Plan goals, policies, and actions discussed in impact discussion PS-3 would reduce the impact that potential future development could have on the SMPD, the San Mateo County Sheriff Department, and the California Highway Patrol. Additionally, development would occur in ten General Plan Land Use Study Areas on a limited number of parcels and in the form of infill/intensification on sites either already developed and/or underutilized, and/or in close proximity to existing residential and residential-serving development and which are covered by existing police services. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact to police protection services and cumulative impacts would be *less than significant*.

Significance without Mitigation: Less than significant.

4.14.3 SCHOOLS

4.14.3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This section describes regulations, resources, facilities, equipment, response times, and budget for schools.

Regulatory Framework

State Regulations

Senate Bill 50

SB 50 (funded by Proposition 1A, approved in 1998) limits the power of cities and counties to require mitigation of school facilities impacts as a condition of approving new development and provides instead for a standardized developer fee. SB 50 generally provides for a 50/50 State and local school facilities funding match. SB 50 also provides for three levels of statutory impact fees. In setting the fees, school districts must prepare nexus studies to demonstrate a reasonable connection between new development and the need for school improvements. The fees may only be used to finance the construction or modernization of school facilities. The fee application level depends on whether State funding is available, whether the school district is eligible for State funding, and whether the school district meets certain additional criteria involving bonding capacity, year-round school, and the percentage of moveable classrooms in use.

California Government Code, Section 65995 and Education Code Section 17620

SB 50 amended California Government Code Section 65995, which contains limitations on Education Code Section 17620, the statute that authorizes school districts to assess development fees within

school district boundaries. Government Code Section 65995(b)(3) requires the maximum square footage assessment for development to be increased every two years, according to inflation adjustments. According to California Government Code Section 65995(3)(h), the payment of statutory fees is “deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property, or any change in governmental organization or reorganization...on the provision of adequate school facilities.” The school district is responsible for implementing the specific methods for mitigating school impacts under the Government Code.

Mitigation Fee Act (California Government Code 66000-66008)

AB 1600, the Mitigation Fee Act, requires a local agency establishing, increasing, or imposing an impact fee as a condition of development to identify the purpose of the fee and the use to which the fee is to be put. The agency must also demonstrate a reasonable relationship between the fee and the purpose for which it is charged, and between the fee and the type of development project on which it is to be levied. This act became enforceable on January 1, 1989.

Local Regulations

San Mateo General Plan 2030

The City of San Mateo General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions that are relevant to schools are primarily in the Circulation, Land Use, and Noise Elements. As part of the proposed project, some existing General Plan goals, policies, and actions would be amended, substantially changed, or new policies would be added. Applicable goals, policies, and actions are identified and assessed for their effectiveness and potential to result in an adverse physical impact later in this chapter under Section 4.14.3.3, *Impact Discussion*.

City of San Mateo Municipal Code

The SMMC includes various directives pertaining to schools. The SMMC is organized by title, chapter, and section, and in some cases, articles. Most provisions related to school impacts are included in Title 26, *Subdivisions*.

- Chapter 26.16, *Public Facility Sites*, outlines when a school will be located in a subdivision site, the developer may be required to sell the school site to the school district under the terms and conditions set forth in the Subdivision Map Act.
- Chapter 26.64, *Dedication of Land for Community Purposes*, details how under the authority of the Subdivision Map Act, the Planning Commission may require a subdivider to build or dedicate land to a school site on their development. Section 26.64.020, *School Sites*, outlines how the Planning Commission requires the subdivider to offer a school site to the elementary school district in the area under the terms and conditions set forth in the Subdivision Map Act.

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San Mateo-Foster City School District Facilities Master Plan

Adopted by the board of trustees in 2020, the *San Mateo-Foster City School District Facilities Master Plan* aims to assess the current condition of the school district and predict the needs of the district 10 years down the line.²² The plan also seeks to identify the fiscal requirements to pursue any needs identified. Any fiscal investments that are made will be distributed responsibly in accordance with the student population served.

Measure L

In 2018, the San Mateo Union High School District investigated the feasibility of pursuing another bond program that would support several capital improvement projects. A potential list of projects was developed and then later updated in 2019. In 2020 the bond measure was placed on the ballot. The \$385 million capital facilities bond measure was passed by the community. Three projects were fast tracked that addressed important district needs and was approved by the Board of Trustees; these included Capuchino High School Athletic Complex, Mills High School Athletic Complex, and Camera Surveillance Systems for security at every school site.

In total, 51 capital facilities projects and a bond issuance schedule were identified through the Measure L bond process. Each project is subject to separate project-level environmental review pursuant to CEQA, as required, to identify potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures as needed to reduce potential environmental impacts.

Existing Conditions

The City of San Mateo is served by two public school districts: the San Mateo-Foster City School District (SMFCSD) and the San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD).

San Mateo-Foster City School District

The SMFCSD educates approximately 11,000 students in preschool through eighth grades in 21 schools located in San Mateo and Foster City.²³ With 1,193 staff, SMFCSD has an average of 21:1 pupil to teacher ratio.²⁴ Out of the 21 schools, 19 are in the EIR Study Area.

San Mateo Union High School District

The SMUHSD serves the communities of San Mateo, Burlingame, Foster City, Hillsborough, Millbrae, and San Bruno. Through six high schools, a Middle College program in conjunction with the College of San

²² San Mateo-Foster City School District, July 30, 2020, *Facilities Master Plan for the New Decade*, <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1654109583/smfcsdnet/z7knntsfyircqtvge54r/SMFCSDFMPfortheNewDecadeAdopted7-30-2020.pdf>, accessed August 8, 2022.

²³ San Mateo-Foster City School District, Our District, <https://www.smfcsd.net/our-district>, accessed August 5, 2022.

²⁴ San Mateo Foster City School District, 2022, *Strategic Plan 2022-2027*, <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1656264937/smfcsdnet/uyjuqpjyrvj1roqq9frw/SMFCSD-StrategicPlan2022-2027-Overview.pdf>, accessed on May 31, 2023.

Mateo, an alternative/continuation high school, and an Adult School Program, SMUHSD serves approximately 9,000 students.²⁵ Three of six of the high schools are located in San Mateo. Aragon High School at 900 Alameda de las Pulgas serves approximately 1,730 students.²⁶ Hillsdale High School at 3115 Del Monte Street is a Title I school with approximately 1,200 students.²⁷ San Mateo High School at 506 North Delaware Street serves approximately 1,670 students.²⁸

Funding

As of July 1, 2012, the San Mateo Union High School District collects school impact fees (also known as developer fees) for the San Mateo/Foster City Elementary School District. No fees are charged for new construction or additions that are under 500 sq feet.²⁹

The combined San Mateo Union High School and San Mateo/Foster City Elementary School District school impact fees for the Cities of San Mateo and Foster City are listed below.³⁰

- \$4.61 for Residential Construction
- \$0.75 for Commercial Construction
- \$0.04 sq foot for storage

The High School District portion of school impact fees for the cities of Hillsborough, Millbrae, San Bruno and unincorporated Burlingame are listed below.³¹

- \$1.92 sq foot for residential
- \$0.31 sq foot for commercial

4.14.3.2 STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed project would result in a significant schools impact if it would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered schools, need for new or physically altered schools, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools.
- In combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, result in cumulative school impacts in the area.

²⁵ San Mateo Union High School District, 2022, General Information, <https://www.smuhsd.org/Domain/55>, accessed August 5, 2022.

²⁶ Aragon High School, 2022, Our School, <https://www.smuhsd.org/domain/108>, accessed August 5, 2022.

²⁷ Hillsdale High School, 2022, About Us, <https://www.smuhsd.org/domain/1159>, accessed August 5, 2022.

²⁸ San Mateo High School, 2021, *2021 School Accountability Report Card*, https://www.smuhsd.org/cms/lib/CA02206192/Centricity/Domain/803/2021_SARC%20SMHS.pdf, accessed August 5, 2022.

²⁹ Christina Wudijono, Executive Coordinator to the Associate Superintendent Chief Business Officer, San Mateo Union High School District, June 28, 2023.

³⁰ Christina Wudijono, Executive Coordinator to the Associate Superintendent Chief Business Officer, San Mateo Union High School District, June 28, 2023.

³¹ Christina Wudijono, Executive Coordinator to the Associate Superintendent Chief Business Officer, San Mateo Union High School District, June 28, 2023.

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4.14.3.3 IMPACT DISCUSSION

PS-5	The proposed project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered schools, need for new or physically altered schools, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools.
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A significant impact would result if, in order for the school districts to adequately serve the EIR Study Area, increased school enrollment would require the construction of new facilities or the expansion of existing schools, the construction or operation of which would cause significant environmental impacts.

Increased growth under the proposed project would cause an increase of student population over the next 20 years. The projected increase in students across the EIR Study Area would likely be gradual for the duration of the proposed project as more housing units are incrementally added to the EIR Study Area.

In the case of future subdivisions, which tend to generate families with school-aged children, SMMC Section 26.64.020 outlines how the Planning Commission requires the subdivider to offer a school site to the elementary school district in the area under the terms and conditions set forth in the Subdivision Map Act. Any future construction of new schools would be subject to separate project-level environmental review pursuant to CEQA, as required, to identify potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures as needed. Moreover, the Public Services and Facilities (PSF) Element of the proposed General Plan contain goals, policies, and actions that require local planning and development decisions to consider and mitigate impacts that potential future development could have on school service facilities. The following General Plan 2040 goals, policies, and action would serve to reduce impacts to schools and education services:

- **Goal PSF-5:** Maintain and develop public facilities, and ensure they are equitably available to all current and future members of the community.
 - **Policy PSF 5.1: Equitable Facilities.** Ensure that all San Mateo residents and employees have access to well-maintained facilities that meet community service needs. Encourage the development of facilities and services for vulnerable communities, such as children, low-income households, and seniors, in a variety of settings.
 - **Policy PSF 5.7: Incentives for Public Facilities.** Provide incentives to developers to encourage space for public facilities in new development.
- **Goal PSF-6:** Foster the healthy development and education of children of all abilities, incomes, and backgrounds.
 - **Policy PSF 6.1: School Assistance.** Support efforts by the school district to maintain facilities, equipment, and personnel to provide quality public education to students in San Mateo.

- **Action PSF 6.6: School District Coordination.** Maintain effective, collaborative relationships with all local school districts.

In addition to the mandatory payment of developer impact fees as outlined in Section 4.14.3.1, *Existing Conditions*, for new development pursuant to California Government Code Section 65995, the proposed General Plan goals, policies, and action listed above work to ensure there are adequate school facilities during the buildout horizon of the General Plan. The public school districts that serve the EIR Study Area would continue to collect the development impact fees, which each district has adopted, throughout implementation of the proposed project. Therefore, potential future development would incrementally pay for any needed facility upgrades and expansions, which, pursuant to California Government Code Section 65995, has been deemed sufficient to provide full and complete school facilities mitigation for the impacts from the proposed project, regardless of whether the fees are adequate to fully fund the expansion or construction of needed facilities. While the San Mateo Union High School District does have capital improvements projects outlined and underway, as described through Measure L, these projects were already identified prior to the proposed project.

In addition, as described in impact discussion PS-3, it would be speculative to assess the physical effects of future construction projects and the project's potential contribution to those effects. Future construction of new or renovated school facilities to accommodate growth under the proposed project would be subject to separate project-level environmental review pursuant to CEQA, as required, to identify potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures as needed to reduce potential environmental impacts. Accordingly, with the required payment of developer impact fees for new development pursuant to California Government Code Section 65995 and future environmental review at the project level for any school facility improvements, impacts to the public-school districts that serve the EIR Study Area would be *less than significant*.

Significance without Mitigation: Less than significant.

PS-6 The proposed project would not, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, result in cumulative school impacts in the area.

This cumulative analysis takes into account growth from development within the service area of the school districts within the EIR Study Area. As described under impact discussion PS-5, the proposed project would contribute to increased population that is served by various school districts.

As described in impact discussion PS-5, through the proposed General Plan goals, policies, and action, the payment of school impact fees, and standard environmental review procedures for future school improvement projects, the proposed project would not result in significant impact to schools. Payment of school fees and project-level review of school projects to identify potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures as needed would similarly reduce potential impacts from cumulative development. Therefore, cumulative impacts related to school facilities would be *less than significant*.

Significance without Mitigation: Less than significant.

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4.14.4 LIBRARIES

4.14.4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This section describes the regulations and resources relevant to the San Mateo Public Library (SMPL).

Regulatory Framework

State Regulations

AB 1600, the Mitigation Fee Act, requires a local agency establishing, increasing, or imposing an impact fee as a condition of development to identify the purpose of the fee and the use to which the fee is to be put. The agency must also demonstrate a reasonable relationship between the fee and the purpose for which it is charged, and between the fee and the type of development project on which it is to be levied. This act became enforceable on January 1, 1989.

Local Regulations

San Mateo General Plan 2030

The City of San Mateo General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions that are relevant to libraries are primarily in the Land Use Element. As part of the proposed project, some existing General Plan goals, policies, and actions would be amended, substantially changed, or new policies would be added. Applicable goals, policies, and actions are identified and assessed for their effectiveness and potential to result in an adverse physical impact later in this chapter under Section 4.14.4.3, *Impact Discussion*.

Strategic Plan 2018-2023

The *Strategic Plan 2018-2023* for San Mateo Public Libraries will serve as a communication tool and provide guidance on operational decisions.³² The plan allows public libraries in San Mateo to anticipate and respond to changes while keeping their core values intact. Key topics in this plan include lifelong learning, technology, outreach and marketing, user experience, and supporting and developing staff.

Existing Conditions

The San Mateo Public Library (SMPL) is composed of three branches: the Main library at 55 West 3rd Avenue, the Hillside Library at 205 West Hillside Boulevard, and the Marina Library at 1530 Susan Court. SMPL receives approximately 25,000 visitors annually and has a collection of 1,418,219 items with 245,736 print materials. SMPL offers cultural programs organized by community advisory groups, writing workshops, Grab & Go crafts/STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) kits, reading buddies,

³² San Mateo Public Library, 2018, *Strategic Plan 2018-2023*, <https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/DocumentCenter/View/65607/San-Mateo-Public-Library-Strategic-Plan-2018-2023>, accessed August 16, 2022.

science/health seminars. Teen sewing workshops, book discussion, financial education series, and e-book classes. SMPL has a staff of 54 full-time equivalent employees and 504 volunteers.³³

Currently, the demand for outreach library services is high, but SMPL is around 25 percent understaffed, and the retention rate for staff is low.³⁴ Some of the branches in the SMPL are also in need of renovations and upgrades.³⁵

4.14.4.2 STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed project would result in a significant library impact if it would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered libraries, need for new or physically altered libraries, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for libraries.
- In combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, result in cumulative library impacts in the area.

4.14.4.3 IMPACT DISCUSSION

PS-7	The proposed project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered libraries, need for new or physically altered libraries, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for libraries.
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A significant impact would result if in order for the library system to adequately serve the city, increased demand in the EIR Study Area would require the construction of new facilities or the expansion of existing library facilities, the construction or operation of which would cause significant environmental impacts. New residential and non-residential development would increase the resident and daytime population of San Mateo, increasing utilization of library services. This increased demand for library services could impact library facilities if construction activities for new and expanded facilities would result in adverse environmental impacts.

As discussed in Section 4.14.4.1, *Environmental Setting*, demand for library services and programs is high but the existing library facility lacks adequate space, which inhibits the library's ability to meet the community's library needs.³⁶ The SMPL has indicated that some existing libraries are over 50 years old

³³ San Mateo Public Library, 2021, *Impact report 2020 – 2021*, <https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/DocumentCenter/View/87210/2020-2021-Impact-Report>, accessed August 5, 2022.

³⁴ James Moore, San Mateo City Librarian, April 2023.

³⁵ James Moore, San Mateo City Librarian, April 2023.

³⁶ James Moore, San Mateo City Librarian, April 2023.

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and are in need of upgrades to expand community meeting rooms and relevant technologies that contemporary library users like.³⁷ At the moment, there are no plans for expansion or relocation of library services.³⁸ Staffing has also been difficult to retain, and currently SMPL is roughly 25 percent understaffed.³⁹ When fully staffed, there is good coverage of on-site needs, but there is a high demand for more outreach activities especially in areas of San Mateo that do not have a library; to meet this demand, more staff would be necessary.⁴⁰

Based on the increased projected buildout and population growth of San Mateo by 2040 under the proposed project, the SMPL would likely need to expand to accommodate potential new users. Future construction of new libraries would be subject to separate project-level environmental review pursuant to CEQA, as required, to identify potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures as needed.

The Public Services and Facilities (PSF) Element of the proposed General Plan contains goals and policies that require local planning and development decisions to consider and mitigate impacts that potential future development could have on libraries. In addition to the proposed General Plan policy listed in impact discussion PS-1 regarding adequate resources for infrastructure improvement and the proposed General Plan goals, policies, and action listed in impact discussion PS-5 pertaining to public facilities, the following General Plan 2040 goal and policies would serve to reduce impacts to libraries and library services:

- **Goal PSF-5:** Maintain and develop public facilities, and ensure they are equitably available to all current and future members of the community.
 - **Policy PSF 5.4: Library Resources and Services.** Continue to maintain a comprehensive collection of resources and services to help the community discover, enjoy, connect, and learn in an ever-changing world. Continue to offer quality library services and programs to a diverse community promoting literacy and lifelong learning. Maintain a materials budget, staffing, and service hours for the City's library system that are adequate to meet the community needs and meet the continuing changes in information technology.
 - **Policy PSF 5.5: Library Facilities.** Maintain capital investment for essential repairs and space-enhancements to meet current and future needs of library patrons and community organizations.

It is expected that new growth under the proposed project would most likely occur incrementally over the next 20 years. The potential need for future library facility expansions would be assessed as development occurs. Adherence to the proposed General Plan goals, policies, and action discussed above would ensure that there is a *less-than-significant* impact relating to the provision of new or physically altered library facilities.

Significance without Mitigation: Less than significant.

³⁷ James Moore, San Mateo City Librarian, April 2023.

³⁸ James Moore, San Mateo City Librarian, April 2023.

³⁹ James Moore, San Mateo City Librarian, April 2023.

⁴⁰ James Moore, San Mateo City Librarian, April 2023.

PS-8 The proposed project would not, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, result in cumulative library impacts in the area.

The geographic context for the cumulative library impacts would occur from potential future development under the proposed project, combined with impacts of development on lands adjacent to the city.

A significant cumulative environmental impact would result if this cumulative growth would exceed the ability of San Mateo libraries to adequately serve the EIR Study Area, thereby requiring construction of new facilities or modification of existing facilities. As described in impact discussion PS-7, existing facilities are already not meeting the demands of the city and the payment of taxes would ensure adequate library services over the course of the General Plan buildout. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact to library services and cumulative impacts would be *less than significant*.

Significance without Mitigation: Less than significant.

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