



# CHAPTER 7

## Public Services and Facilities Element







CITY OF SAN MATEO  
City Hall



# PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

## INTRODUCTION

Public services and facilities contribute to San Mateo’s high quality of life. The City of San Mateo is committed to ensuring our community is safe and has adequate and equitable infrastructure and services. The Public Services and Facilities Element is not one of the required elements for a General Plan. However, the City understands the importance of public services and facilities, and the goals, policies, and actions in this element work to maintain and enhance these services as our community changes. This element covers the following topics:

- Community safety
- Water supply
- Wastewater and flood-control infrastructure
- Energy and telecommunications infrastructure
- Public facilities
- Child care and schools
- Seniors and aging adults
- Healthcare and social services
- Solid waste

## RELEVANCE TO GENERAL PLAN THEMES



### Sustainability in this Element:

- Manages wastewater and stormwater to protect water quality in our waterways.
- Supports a resilient building stock that reduces or eliminates carbon emissions.
- Maintains the quality of public services as the city grows.
- Supports solid waste reduction and recycling.
- Supports plans for water management and conservation.



### Environmental Justice in this Element:

- Provides for the equitable distribution of public services and facilities throughout the city so that everyone, including vulnerable residents such as children, low-income households, and seniors, can thrive in San Mateo.
- Supports efforts to explore creative options such as reduced permit fees, reduced impact fees, and tax incentives to provide better healthcare services in equity priority communities.
- Commits to code enforcement that advances equity.



### Community Engagement in this Element:

- Continues to support public facilities, such as libraries, schools, and child care centers that engage with the community and help them discover, enjoy, connect, and learn in an ever-changing world.
- Ensures that the San Mateo community is informed about potential public services and facilities improvements in their neighborhood by applying outreach and engagement strategies that encourage broad representation and are culturally sensitive.





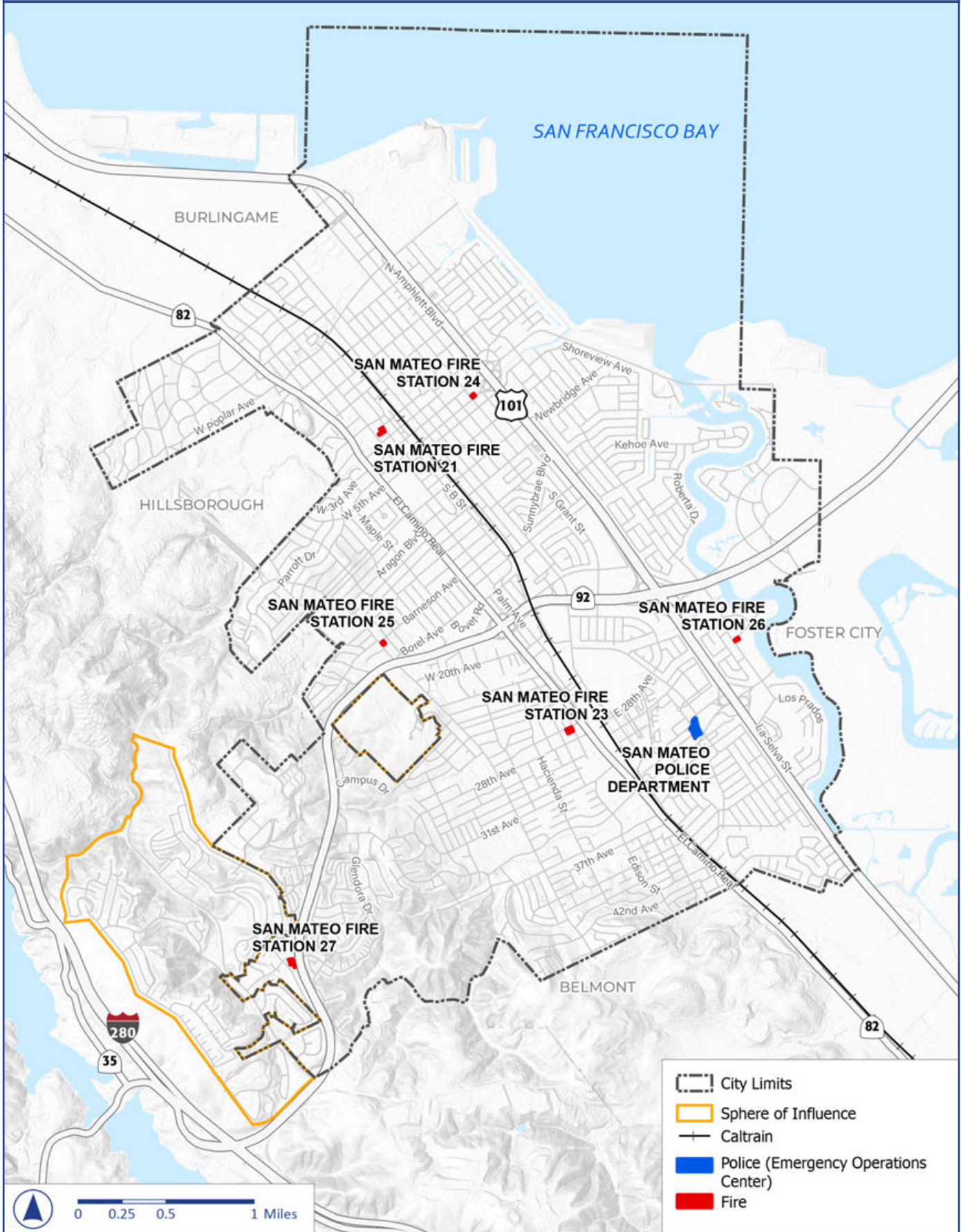
## COMMUNITY SAFETY

Community safety services, such as law enforcement, fire personnel, and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Readiness are vital to protecting the community's health, safety, and welfare. The San Mateo Police Department (SMPD) is a 24/7 comprehensive community policing department that provides many types of services, including responding to crime, enforcing traffic and parking regulations, and working with the city's youth on education and community-building programs. Fire services are provided by the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department (SMC Fire), a separate agency that serves San Mateo, Belmont, and Foster City. SMC Fire's goals are to meet the State fire protection requirements for all land uses. There are six fire stations in San Mateo, each of which has one fire engine staffed by one Fire Captain and two Firefighters/Engineers. Figure PSF-1 shows the police and fire stations in San Mateo.

The City works with the San Mateo County EMS to respond to medical emergency needs. The County's EMS system is a public/private partnership between a private consulting service that offers ambulance service and paramedic first response, fire service agencies in San Mateo County, and the County Health Services Department's EMS office.

While community safety services are invaluable to San Mateo, the City also recognizes and understands that code enforcement to address safety issues has the potential to both benefit and harm low-income households. The City believes and will work towards a future where code enforcement is used to advance equity, while still continuing to provide high-quality service to the community.

Figure PSF-1 Fire and Police Services



Source: City of San Mateo, 2022; ESRI, 2022; PlaceWorks, 2023.  
 Note: This map is included for informational purposes and is not adopted as part of this General Plan.



## GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

**GOAL PSF-1** Protect the community’s health, safety, and welfare by maintaining adequate police, fire, and life safety protection.

### POLICIES

**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 1.2 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 1.3 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).



**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.

### ACTION

**Policy PSF 1.8 Police and Fire Cover Assessments.** Complete standard of cover assessments or staffing studies periodically for Police and Fire Services to ensure that appropriate response times, staffing and levels of service are available to meet community needs as the City’s population grows.

## WATER SUPPLY

San Mateo receives water from two primary providers: the California Water Service (Cal Water) and Estero Municipal Improvement District (EMID). Cal Water’s Mid-Peninsula District, which includes the City of San Carlos, serves the majority of San Mateo, while EMID provides services to the bayside portions of San Mateo east of Seal Slough and Foster City.

Cal Water and EMID distribute and sell water directly to consumers; however, both agencies receive their water supply from the San Francisco Regional Water System (SF RWS) operated by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Most of San Mateo’s current water supply comes from Hetch Hetchy reservoir and the Tuolumne River watershed in the Sierras, while the remaining supply comes from the Alameda Creek and San Mateo County watersheds. Figure PSF-2 identifies the watersheds in San Mateo.

Given that drought will be a persistent challenge in California and could affect future water supply, the City will continue to require water conservation and support alternatives to the current water supply to increase the resilience of this critical resource. In addition, the City will continue to explore strategies to increase the water supply such as the SF-Peninsula Regional PureWater project that would turn wastewater from San Mateo and other areas into drinking water.

This section focuses on policy direction for water supply and flood-control infrastructure. Policy direction for protecting and enhancing the city’s waterways can be found in the Conservation, Open Space, and Recreation Element, and policies and actions to protect the community from flooding and sea level rise are in the Safety Element.

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

**GOAL PSF-2** Support access to a safe, sustainable, and resilient supply of water for San Mateo.

### POLICIES



**Policy PSF 2.1 Supplemental Water Sources.** Support efforts by California Water Service, Estero Municipal Improvement District, and adjacent jurisdictions to develop supplemental and resilient water sources.

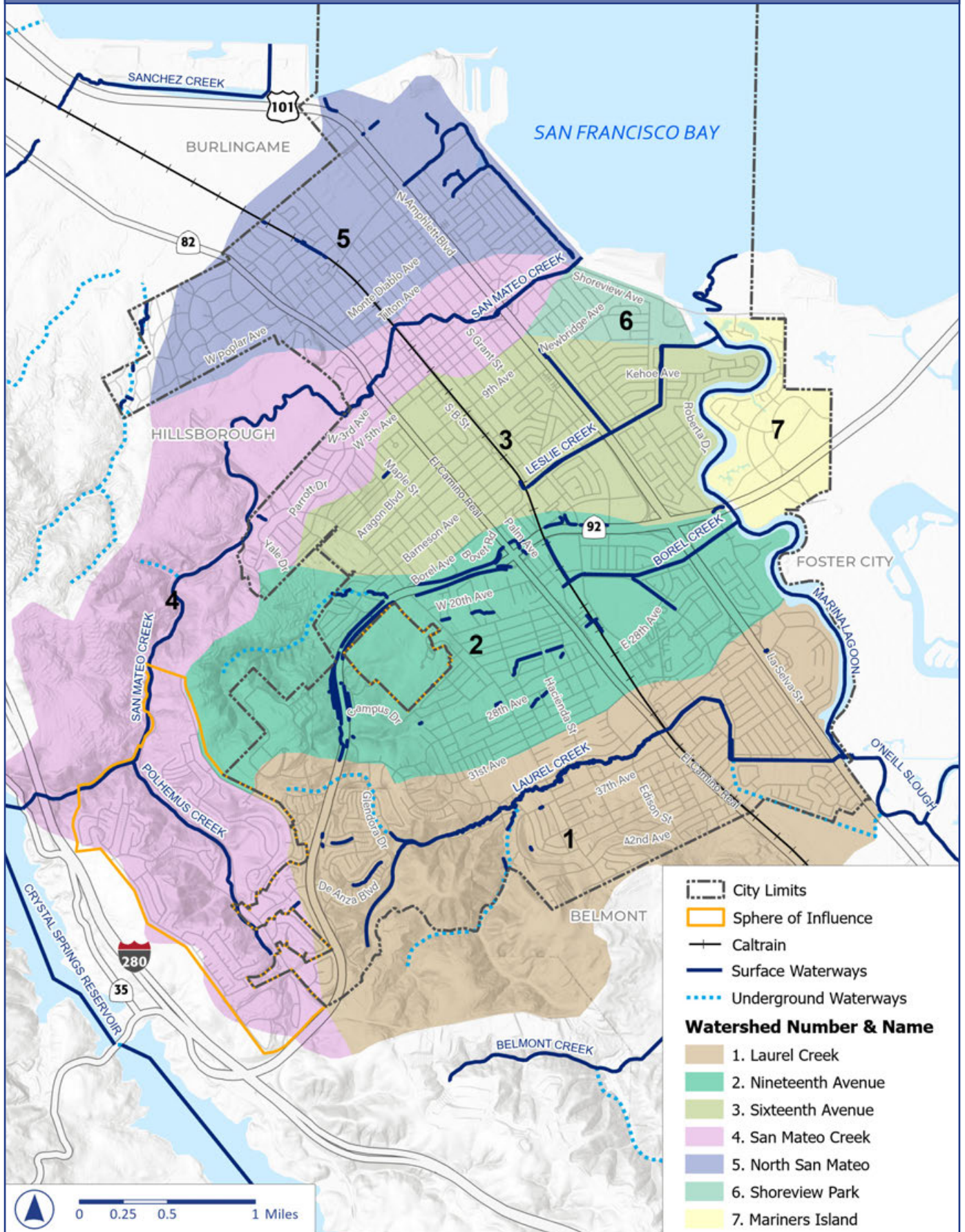


**Policy PSF 2.2 Water Supply Planning.** Coordinate with Cal Water and Estero Municipal Improvement District upon each update of their respective Urban Water Management Plans to ensure there is an adequate and sustainable water supply for current and future development.



**Policy PSF 2.3 Water Conservation.** Work with California Water Service, Estero Municipal Improvement District, Bay Area Water Supply Conservation Agency, and other mid-peninsula cities to support local, regional, and statewide water conservation efforts. Encourage all properties to convert to water-efficient landscaping.

Figure PSF-2 Watershed Areas



Source: City of San Mateo, 2022; USGS; ESRI, 2022; PlaceWorks, 2023.  
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- Policy PSF 2.4 Water Supply for New Development.** Require applicants to provide will-serve letters from water purveyors prior to issuing building permits for new development to demonstrate that water supply is available.
- Policy PSF 2.5 Water-Conserving Fixture Retrofits.** Require that all residences and commercial properties that apply for a building permit for alternations or renovations provide proof of water-conserving plumbing fixtures.
- Policy PSF 2.6 Water Offset Requirements.** Require all new development or redevelopment projects to comply with the water conservation and offset policies and requirements imposed by California Water Service or Estero Municipal Improvement District, depending on the water service area in which the project is located.
- Policy PSF 2.7 Water Shortage Plans.** Coordinate with California Water Service and Estero Municipal Improvement District to conduct community outreach and take other steps to ensure compliance with their Water Shortage Contingency Plans during water shortages, such as a drought or supply interruption.
-  **Policy PSF 2.8 Water Efficiency.** Support increased water efficiency in all new development and existing building stock.

## ACTIONS

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- Action PSF 2.9 Recycled Water.** Continue working with California Water Service, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency, the City of Redwood City, and Silicon Valley Clean Water to develop an advanced water purification facility that treats wastewater from the San Mateo wastewater treatment plant to tertiary treatment standards.
- Action PSF 2.10 Water-Reduction Strategies.** Work with California Water Service, Estero Municipal Improvement District, Bay Area Water Supply Conservation Agency, and other mid-peninsula cities to promote water-reduction strategies and to create an outreach program that will help inform residents and businesses of increased costs, the need for conservation efforts, and available incentives and rebates.
- Action PSF 2.11 Water Usage.** Work with Cal Water to collect and track water use by land use type and make this information available to the community.



## WASTEWATER AND FLOOD-CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE

### Wastewater

Wastewater is produced by using sinks, flushing the toilet, showering, and doing laundry. Commercial services, industrial facilities, and other sources also create wastewater as a part of their normal business operations.

The City of San Mateo maintains wastewater infrastructure through the Department of Public Works. The City's wastewater system treats wastewater to create a healthy and sanitary environment. The City's wastewater system is made up of over 200 miles of sanitary sewer lines, more than 5,000 manholes, and dozens of sewer lift stations. A majority of the wastewater system is over 60 years old, and the City is in the process of upgrading the aging infrastructure. The Sewer System Management Plan, Integrated Wastewater Master Plan, and Clean Water Program are some of the key documents that will guide San Mateo with this effort.

This system moves the wastewater from where it is generated to the San Mateo Wastewater Treatment Plant, where the wastewater gets treated and eventually discharged into the San Francisco Bay. The wastewater treatment plant is jointly owned by the City of San Mateo, City of Foster City, and EMID, and it serves more than 150,000 people and businesses at an average flow of 10 million gallons each day. Because of its location along the San Francisco Bay shore, upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant have been designed to anticipate and be resilient to impacts from rising sea levels.



## Flood-Control Infrastructure

The city encompasses seven major drainages, both artificial and natural, between the Santa Cruz Mountains and San Francisco Bay along the eastern side of the San Francisco Peninsula. Major watersheds include the North Shoreview District, San Mateo Creek, East Third Avenue, 16th Avenue Drain, 19th Avenue Drain, Laurel Creek, and Mariners Island. The City maintains the Laurel Creek Dam, has 130 miles of storm drain lines, and 10 pump stations that all discharge to San Francisco Bay. The city is also protected against high tides and wind-generated waves from San Francisco Bay through a three-mile bayfront levee system.



The Marina Lagoon is a 1,400-acre-foot water storage facility that was created from remnants of O’Neill Slough and Seal Slough and was dredged and leveed to provide flood protection and recreational opportunities. The lagoon captures water flowing from the 16th Avenue Drainage Channel, 19th Avenue Drainage Channel, and Laurel Creek. The three tributaries provide a source of freshwater runoff during the winter. The Marina Lagoon pump station is a critical flood-control infrastructure system. Circulation and water quality in the Marina Lagoon are enhanced by allowing bay water from Belmont Slough to flow into the lagoon at the O’Neil Tide Gate.

The 2004 San Mateo Storm Drain Master Plan provides an assessment of capital improvement projects needed for flood protection. San Mateo’s flood-control infrastructure will continue to play a key role in protecting the community from both sea level rise and extreme storm events as the climate changes.

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

**GOAL PSF-3** Maintain sewer, storm drainage, and flood-control facilities adequate to serve existing needs, projected population and employment growth, and that provide protection from climate change risk.

### POLICIES

**Policy PSF 3.1 Sewer System.** Provide a sewer system that safely and efficiently conveys sewage to the wastewater treatment plant. Implement the Sewer System Management Plan to ensure proper maintenance, operations, and management of all parts of the wastewater collection system.

**Policy PSF 3.2 Sewer Requirements for New Development.** Require new multifamily and commercial developments to evaluate the main sewer lines in the project vicinity, which will be used by the new development and make any improvements necessary to convey the additional sewage flows.

**Policy PSF 3.3 Sewer Overflow Reduction.** Eliminate sanitary sewer overflows, which create a public health hazard for residents and compromises the water quality of the city's creeks, Marina Lagoon, and San Francisco Bay.

**Policy PSF 3.4 Wastewater Treatment Plant.** Operate, upgrade, and maintain the Wastewater Treatment Plant to ensure ongoing wastewater treatment in compliance with regulatory requirements.

**Policy PSF 3.5 Interagency Coordination for Wastewater Planning.** Coordinate future planning of the sewer collection and wastewater treatment plant with the other users of the systems, including the Estero Municipal Improvement District (City of Foster City), the Crystal Springs County Sanitation District, Town of Hillsborough, and City of Belmont.

**Policy PSF 3.6 Stormwater System.** Operate, upgrade, and maintain a stormwater drainage and flood-control system that safely and efficiently conveys runoff to prevent flooding and protect life and property; minimizes pollutants discharging to creeks and San Francisco Bay; manages stormwater as a resource and not a waste; and protects against the impacts of climate change.



**Policy PSF 3.7 Water Quality Standards.** Manage City creeks, channels, and the Marina Lagoon to meet applicable State and federal water quality standards. Manage City creeks and channels for both flood protection and aquatic resources.



**Policy PSF 3.8 Stormwater Pollution Prevention.** In accordance with requirements in the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit, implement programs, plans, and policies to ensure pollutants are minimized in stormwater runoff.



**Policy PSF 3.9 Green Infrastructure.** Minimize stormwater runoff and pollution by requiring new green infrastructure to treat and improve stormwater quality as part of public and private projects.



**Policy PSF 3.10 New Creekside Development Requirements.** Require that new creekside development protect and improve setbacks, banks, and waterways adjacent to the development projects to increase flood protection and enhance riparian vegetation and water quality. Prevent erosion of creek banks.



**Policy PSF 3.11 Hydrologic Impacts of Creek Alteration.** Ensure that improvements to creeks and other waterways do not cause adverse hydrologic impacts, adversely affect adjacent properties, or significantly increase the volume or velocity of flow of the subject creek.

**Policy PSF 3.12 Levee System.** Continue to assess, maintain, and upgrade the City's levee system. Collaborate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, OneShoreline, and neighboring agencies to ensure adequate flood control and sea level rise protection.

**Policy PSF 3.13 Marina Lagoon.** Continue to maintain the Marina Lagoon as flood control infrastructure that accounts for climate change risks and major flood events.



**Policy PSF 3.14 City Utility Programs Funding.** Maintain adequate, sustained, and dedicated revenue sources for City utility programs to support the sanitary sewer system, stormwater system, and refuse collection.

## ACTIONS

**Action PSF 3.15 City Infrastructure Studies and Master Plans.** Develop and coordinate studies and master plans to assess infrastructure and to develop a Capital Improvement Program for necessary improvements. Incorporate climate change risks, such as the impacts of droughts, increasing storm events, sea level rise, and groundwater changes in the planning process.

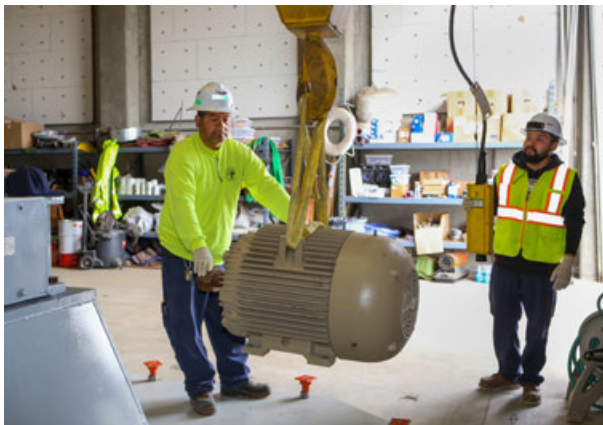
**Action PSF 3.16 Stormwater Treatment.** Continue to participate in the San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, “Flows to Bay,” to ensure compliance with the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit to prevent water pollution from point and non-point sources.

**Action PSF 3.17 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Education.** Partner with other agencies and organizations, such as Flows to Bay, to help inform residents and businesses of ways to protect water quality and prevent stormwater pollution.

**Action PSF 3.18 Stormwater Requirements for Development.** In accordance with State regulatory mandates, require applicable new and redevelopment projects to incorporate site design, source control, treatment, and hydromodification management measures to minimize stormwater runoff volumes and associated pollutants.

**Action PSF 3.19 Green Infrastructure Plan.** Implement the City’s Green Infrastructure Plan through complete streets implementations or private development projects to gradually shift from a traditional stormwater conveyance system (“gray”) to a more natural system that incorporates plants and soils to mimic watershed processes, capture and clean stormwater, reduce runoff, increase infiltration, and create healthier environments (“green”).

**Action PSF 3.20 Stormwater Management Funding.** Establish a dedicated funding source for stormwater management.



# ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

## Energy

In San Mateo, energy mostly comes from electricity and natural gas. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) provide electrical services. PCE purchases electricity that is produced from renewable energy sources and works with PG&E to distribute the electricity to consumers in San Mateo. PG&E is the sole provider and distributor of natural gas services.

Because electric utilities serving San Mateo offer clean electricity options, much of San Mateo's electricity already comes from carbon-free sources. Residents and businesses in PCE's service area, including San Mateo, are automatically enrolled in PCE's ECOplus service, which is distributed to customers through PG&E's existing grid infrastructure. Both PCE and PG&E are required by State law to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy to achieve a standard of at least 60 percent renewable electricity by 2030 and 100 percent electricity from carbon-free sources by the end of 2045. Increasing the amount of locally distributed energy resources from renewable sources, such as rooftop solar energy systems, will reduce the cost of electricity for residents and businesses and enhance the local economy. The City is also pursuing policies and building code changes that will require new and existing buildings to use all-electric energy sources and eliminate natural gas as an energy source. By expanding on-site electricity generation and storage, San Mateo will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and become more resilient to grid failures and power disruptions.

Additional policies and actions that connect energy use and climate change are in the Land Use Element.

## Telecommunications

Telecommunications services, which include wireless internet, cell phone and wireline telephone, cable television, and satellite television, are offered by multiple service providers in the City of San Mateo. Mobile telephone service and wireless internet service is offered by multiple companies, which gives San Mateo residents and businesses a variety of options when choosing a mobile telephone and/or internet service provider.

The backbone of wireless networks consists of long-haul fiberoptic cables that connect major internet hubs over long distances. In San Mateo County, long-haul fiberoptic cables run north to south throughout the county. These networks can be expanded using small cell facilities, which are single small antennae placed on existing utility poles or streetlights along with small pole-mounted radios and other accessory equipment. They help wireless service providers meet the growing demand for wireless services. In general, as of 2019, residential and commercial broadband service levels in San Mateo are consistent with San Francisco Bay Area averages, according to the California Broadband Mapping Program.

## Utility Undergrounding

Undergrounding electrical lines and telecommunications infrastructure helps improve safety and community aesthetics with the added benefits of a more reliable utility and increased property values.



Placing electrical lines underground reduces wildfire risks by eliminating the potential for live electrical wires to ignite fires. Utilities placed underground are also protected from wind and storm events that often disrupt service. Personal safety is also improved by removing the potential for live-wire contact injuries and reducing collision points for automobiles and people, especially those with vision or mobility disabilities, through the removal of utility poles. Although there are many benefits to utility undergrounding, the primary disadvantage is it is more costly to underground utilities compared to the traditional overhead configuration. The City will continue to require private developers to underground utility service connections for new development and underground existing overhead lines when justifiable. The City will also continue to work with PG&E and other utility providers to underground new and existing overhead infrastructure as opportunities arise and funding permits.

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

**GOAL PSF-4** Promote the development of a clean energy supply, energy-efficient technology, and telecommunications facilities that benefit all members of the community.

### POLICIES



**Policy PSF 4.1 Clean Energy.** Support the advancement of a carbon-neutral energy supply.



**Policy PSF 4.2 Energy Conservation.** Support efforts to reduce per-capita energy use.



**Policy PSF 4.3 Building Electrification.** Require electrification for new building stock and reduce fossil fuel usage for existing building stock at the time of building alteration.



**Policy PSF 4.4 Energy Resilience.** Require new development projects to incorporate energy-efficiency measures, electric equipment, solar energy systems, and battery storage into their projects (Building Integrated Photo-Voltaic/BIPV) and encourage existing development to incorporate solar energy systems and battery storage.



**Policy PSF 4.5 Grid Resilience.** Support PG&E's efforts to improve grid resilience and capacity to meet increased electrical demand.



**Policy PSF 4.6 Renewable Energy Neighborhood Microgrids.** Encourage the establishment of renewable energy neighborhood microgrids to support resilience, especially within equity priority communities.



**Policy PSF 4.7 Service Improvement and Expansion.** Seek to ensure adequate energy and communication systems to serve existing and future needs while minimizing impacts on existing and future residents by requiring new development to underground power lines and provide underground connections, when feasible, and prioritizing cellular coverage for all areas of the city while appropriately minimizing visual impacts of cellular facilities, antennas, and equipment shelters.

**Policy PSF 4.8 Access and Availability.** Work with service providers to support access to and availability of a wide range of state-of-the-art telecommunication systems and services for households, businesses, institutions, and public agencies in San Mateo.

**Policy PSF 4.9 Coordinate Infrastructure Improvements.** Combine, to the extent possible, upgrades and repairs to public infrastructure, such as roadways with utility needs, broadband upgrades, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and levees.

**Policy PSF 4.10 Private Utility Undergrounding.** Require new private development to underground service connections onto private property.

**Policy PSF 4.11 Public Wi-Fi.** Provide high-speed internet access to the public at all City facilities.

## ACTIONS

**Action PSF 4.12 Dig Once.** Establish a “dig once” policy, coordinating utility and roadway construction to avoid digging up the right-of-way multiple times, to reduce costs and impacts on the public right-of-way. The policy shall apply to infrastructure, utilities, and broadband whenever possible.

**Action PSF 4.13 Utility Network Undergrounding.** Underground existing electrical and communication transmission and distribution lines in the public right-of-way as funds permit.

**Action PSF 4.14 Utility Undergrounding Requirements.** Amend the San Mateo Municipal Code to require new private development to underground utilities and service connections on and adjacent to the site and to install and maintain signs, streetlights, and street landscaping adjacent to sidewalks.



**Action PSF 4.15 Renewable Energy.** Increase new annual installations of solar or renewable energy systems. Partner with Peninsula Clean Energy to study and implement a sustainable and resilient system that can be used as a pilot program for locally generated power not reliant on outside power sources.



**Action PSF 4.16 Solar Energy.** Promote local partnerships and rebate opportunities that make solar and battery storage simpler and more affordable while ensuring that the permit process is quick and inexpensive.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

San Mateo’s public facilities provide a range of community services that support and enrich the lives of the city’s residents. The San Mateo Public Library operates three physical libraries that have services, programs, and resources for members of all ages, such as Project Read – an adult literacy program, activities for teens, and a Job Seekers Center. It also has an eLibrary that allows users to borrow digital copies of printed material. Other public facilities include City Hall, the Corporation Yard, and the Senior Center and the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. The City is proud to provide these services and facilities for its residents, and it will continue to ensure that all San Mateo residents, particularly those in vulnerable communities such as youths, low-income households, and seniors have access to well-maintained facilities that serve their needs.





The San Mateo County Events Center is a public facility within the city, but it is owned and operated by the County. The Events Center covers 48 acres and includes a park, outdoor space, and 195,000 square feet of meeting space for trade events, corporate meetings, sporting events, festivals, etc.

For background information and policies about the City's park and recreation facilities and programs, please refer to the Conservation, Open Space, and Recreation Element.

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

**GOAL PSF-5** Maintain and develop public facilities, and ensure they are equitably available to all current and future members of the community.

### POLICIES



**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 5.2 Joint Use.** Encourage joint use and public-private partnerships where feasible.

**Policy PSF 5.3 City Hall.** Consider upgrading or expanding City Hall to ensure sufficient space is available and consider establishment of a Downtown facility or civic campus to support City staffing and service needs through the year 2040 and beyond.



**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.

**Policy PSF 5.6 Cultural and Entertainment Facilities.** Encourage the establishment of cultural and entertainment facilities in the Downtown core and allow these types of uses to fulfill retail frontage requirements.

**Policy PSF 5.7 Incentives for Public Facilities.** Provide incentives to developers for projects that include needed space for public facilities in new development.



**Policy PSF 5.8 Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center.** Improve and maintain the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center as an important neighborhood-serving community and recreational facility in the North Central Equity Priority Community.

**Policy PSF 5.9 San Mateo Senior Center.** Maintain and, as feasible, improve the Senior Center as an important facility that serves as an age friendly community space and provides programming, activities, and services for older adults.

**Policy PSF 5.10 Corporation Yard.** Maintain corporation yard facilities with functions such as vehicle repair facilities, equipment and material storage, and administrative office space to support City operational needs.

**Policy PSF 5.11 San Mateo County Events Center.** Promote the physical and aesthetic improvement of the San Mateo County Events Center.

**Policy PSF 5.12 City Property Acquisition.** Seek opportunities to purchase or acquire property to meet current or future needs for the expansion of specific City services and facilities or if there is a demonstrated public need.



**Policy PSF 5.13 Inclusive Outreach.** Notify the community of potential public services and facilities improvements in their neighborhood. Use outreach and engagement methods that encourage broad representation and are culturally sensitive, particularly for equity priority communities.



**Policy PSF 5.14 Public Facilities Funding.** Maintain adequate, sustained, and dedicated revenue sources to support maintenance and investment of the City's public facilities.

## ACTIONS

**Action PSF 5.15 Progress Tracking.** Develop and maintain communication tools, such as a dashboard or heat map, to communicate information and updates related to capital improvements and other facility and infrastructure projects to promote community awareness.

**Action PSF 5.16 Restroom Facilities.** Explore the feasibility of installing additional restrooms at City parks and public facilities.



## CHILD CARE AND SCHOOLS

Although the City doesn't have direct control over educational institutions, it can support local schools through efforts like coordinating on construction and improvements, calming traffic along student travel routes, and communicating about major projects and planned growth to help all parties adequately prepare for the future.

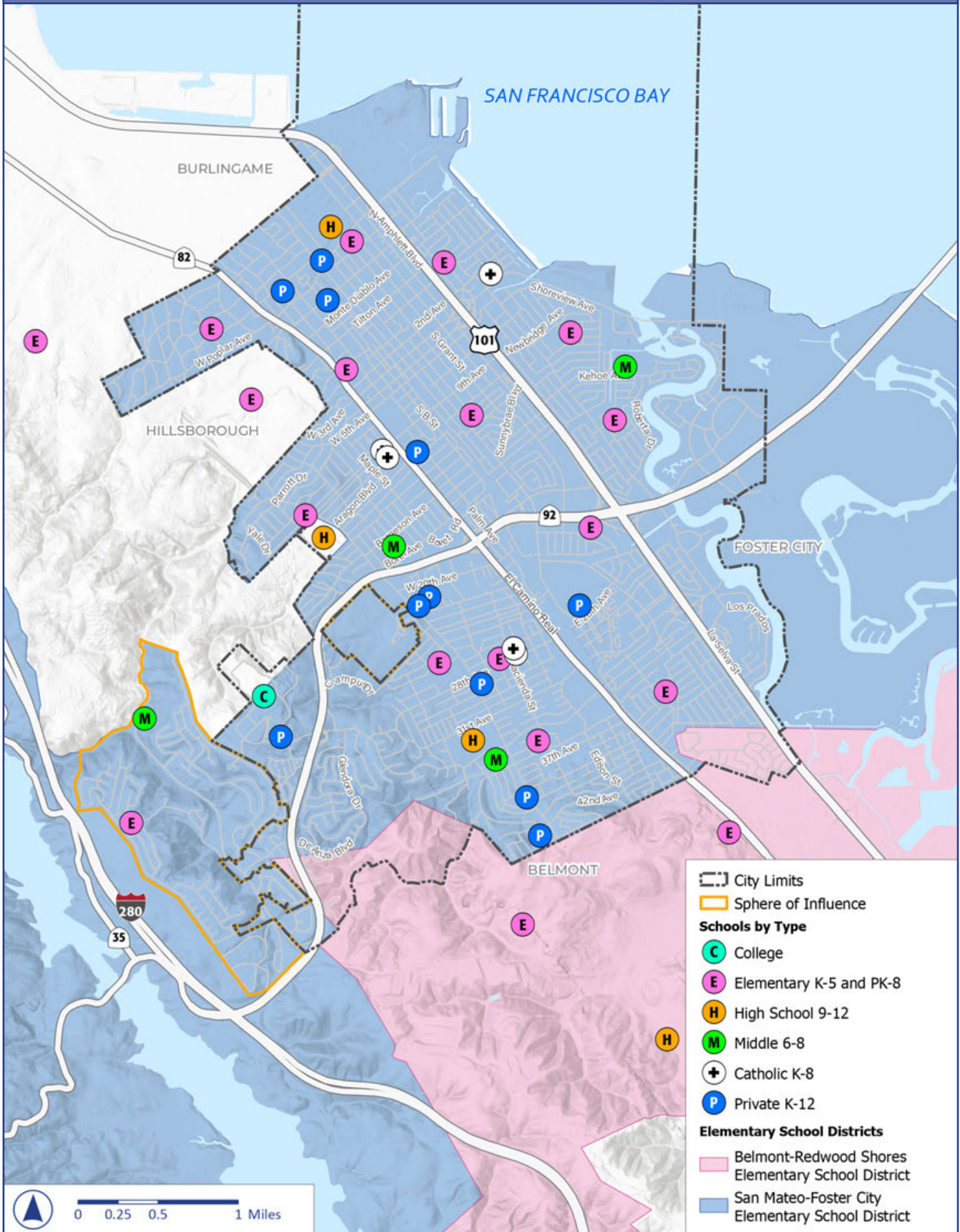
Within the City Limits, there are four public school districts with 19 public elementary, middle, and high schools; the College of San Mateo; and multiple K-12 private schools. A majority of the public school students in San Mateo attend elementary and middle schools through the San Mateo-Foster City School District, and high school through the San Mateo Union High School District, as shown in Figures PSF-3 and PSF-4. Public school students in southern portions of the city adjacent to Belmont are within the Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District and the Sequoia Union High School District. All four public school districts are highly ranked for their quality of education when compared to districts across the San Francisco Bay Area.

The San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) operates the College of San Mateo, a community college that offers associate degrees and certificate programs. These include the Associate in Arts Degree for Transfer (AA-T) and Associate in Science Degree for Transfer (AS-T), which offer guaranteed admission to the California State University system.

Child care facilities are important components of the city's infrastructure. However, working families have historically struggled to find child care services in San Mateo. Affordable and high-quality child care services that are equitably distributed throughout the city allow parents, grandparents, and guardians to work and contribute to the local economy. The City is committed to increasing child care facilities within its City Limits. In 2004, the City adopted a Child Care Development Fee for new residential and commercial development to fund child care facilities. Recognizing the ongoing need to address this challenge, the City will continue to collaborate with child care providers, employers, young families, and other stakeholders and support policies to provide more child care facilities in San Mateo.



Figure PSF-3 School Sites and Elementary School Districts

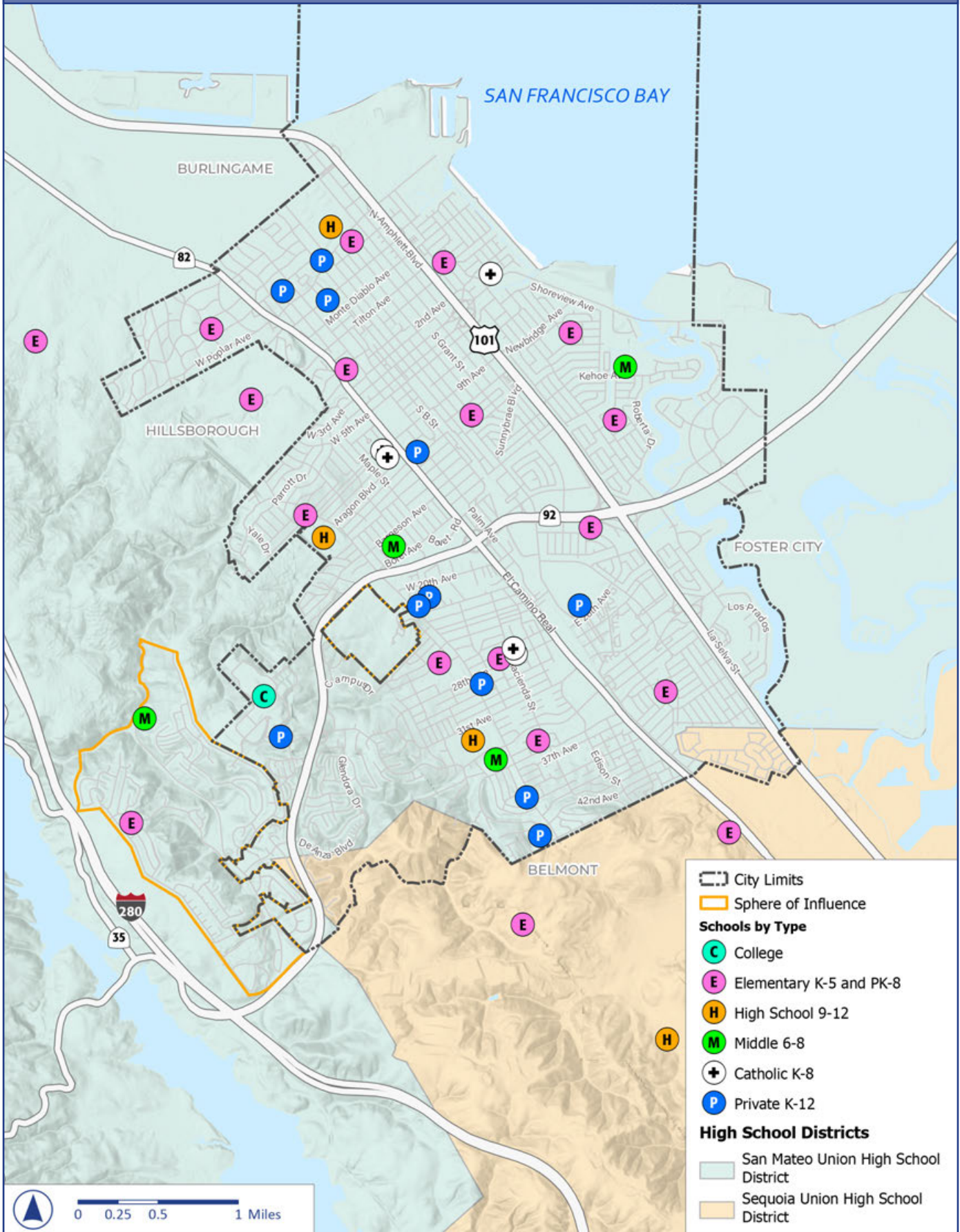


Source: City of San Mateo, 2022; ESRI, 2022; PlaceWorks, 2023.

Note: This map is included for informational purposes and is not adopted as part of this General Plan.



Figure PSF-4 School Sites and High School Districts



Source: City of San Mateo, 2022; ESRI, 2022; PlaceWorks, 2023.

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## GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

**GOAL PSF-6** Foster the healthy development and education of children of all abilities, incomes, and backgrounds.

### POLICIES

- 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.
- Policy PSF 6.2 Child Care Needs.** Support the provision of child-care programs and facilities to meet the needs of children of all abilities, incomes, and backgrounds through 2040.
- Policy PSF 6.3 Provision of Child Care.** Encourage public and private agencies and employers to provide child-care services and facilities.
- Policy PSF 6.4 Child Care Centers at Public and Quasi-Public Facilities.** Encourage retention of existing child care centers and support programs at public and private school sites and other quasi-institutional facilities because of their suitability for such uses and proximity to adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- Policy PSF 6.5 Child Care Centers in Residential and Employment Areas.** Encourage child care centers in residential neighborhoods where they meet City standards and at employment centers.
- Policy PSF 6.6 Recreation Centers.** Consider offering full-day, licensed child care at City recreation centers to meet working families' needs or offering space for other operators to do so.
- Policy PSF 6.7 Child Care Homes Resources.** As feasible, support existing and new licensed family child care homes with available housing-related and small business resources.

### ACTIONS

- Action PSF 6.8 School District Coordination.** Maintain effective, collaborative relationships with all local school districts.
- Action PSF 6.9 Child Care and New Construction.** Encourage new residential and nonresidential development to include space for child care by taking the following actions:
- a. Provide incentives for inclusion of space for a child care center, or housing units for licensed family child care providers, in a new development.
  - b. Promote child care to developers as an amenity favored by the City.
  - c. Continue to implement the developer impact fee for funding child care facilities.
  - d. Encourage housing developers to include units that meet size and functionality requirements to support the operation of licensed family child care home providers.

## SENIORS AND AGING ADULTS

The 65 and older population is San Mateo’s fastest growing age group, and they benefit from dedicated programming and policies to ensure that seniors can age in San Mateo with dignity, independence, and connection to the wider community. San Mateo has a history of planning for older adults that began in 1986 with the establishment of the San Mateo Senior Citizen Master Plan Task Force and the first Senior Citizen Master Plan, which conducted an exhaustive study of the needs of older adults and prepared recommendations, two of which were the creation of the Senior Citizens Commission and the construction of the Senior Center.



Led by the Parks and Recreation Department, the Senior Citizens Commission, and the Age-Friendly Task Force, San Mateo is committed to working towards a more accessible and inclusive community for all ages. In 2020, San Mateo joined the AARP’s Network of Age Friendly Communities, and in 2022 the City and community members completed the Age Friendly Action Plan, which provides a guide for assessing and improving major aspects of public life including the physical environment, government programs, activities, and social norms.

This General Plan also addresses aging adults in the Conservation, Open Space, and Recreation Element, through policies and actions focused on providing inclusive and accessible recreational programs and activities that are age-integrated, as well as in the Circulation Element with a policy that supports safe routes for seniors which are strategies and projects that make it safer for seniors walk around the city.

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

**GOAL PSF-7** Deliver public services and facilities that serve the needs of seniors, are age friendly, and allow San Mateo residents to age in place.

### POLICIES

**Policy PSF 7.1 Universal Design.** Encourage Universal Design, a design concept that encourages accessibility for people of all ages, in new residential construction and major remodels.

**Policy PSF 7.2 Healthy Aging.** Support institutions and initiatives that promote healthy aging, both at home and in care centers.



**Policy PSF 7.3 Outreach to Seniors.** Provide regular and timely communication to seniors and aging adults about the services, programs, and other opportunities available to these groups of people. Use age-appropriate outreach channels to disseminate information.



## ACTIONS

- Action PSF 7.4 Age Friendly City.** Support the City’s commitment to becoming an Age-Friendly City by continuing to implement the Age Friendly Action Plan.
- Action PSF 7.5 Comprehensive Senior Services.** Study the effectiveness of existing senior services and explore ways to increase and strengthen these services in coordination with senior service providers. Comprehensive services include addressing senior nutrition, mental health, and transportation.
- Action PSF 7.6 Senior Volunteers.** Continue the volunteer program by recruiting/encouraging participation of seniors with certain skills and experience.
- Action PSF 7.7 Caregiver Support.** Collaborate with private, nonprofit, faith-based and public community service organizations, including the County of San Mateo, to offer support for caregivers of seniors and people with disabilities.

## HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

### Healthcare

Healthcare facilities in San Mateo, such as hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies, and social services in neighborhoods help to create a healthier city where residents can take care of their physical and mental health and social welfare. In San Mateo, two of the biggest healthcare providers are the San Mateo County Hospital, a public hospital operated by the San Mateo County Health Department, and Mills Health Center, a healthcare facility that is part of Sutter Health’s Mills-Peninsula Medical Center. These facilities provide community members access to a diverse range of care, including primary care, emergency services, dental care, cancer services, behavior health care, mental illness, gynecology and women’s health, and more.

### Social Services

The City of San Mateo does not directly provide social services but does have partnerships with and provide finance assistance to agencies and community-based organizations to provide social services to residents who need support.

The San Mateo County Department of Human Services has offices across the San Francisco Peninsula where community members can receive assistance to participate in State and federal social welfare programs. Community Health Advocates, a statewide nonprofit, collaborates with the City of San Mateo to provide insurance counseling and advocacy for Medicare



recipients. Social Vocational Services (SVS), another California-wide nonprofit, has a local office in the city where community members with development/intellectual differences can participate in unique programs that are tailored to their needs. Locally based nonprofit organizations, such as Peninsula Family Services and Samaritan House San Mateo, support children, families, older adults, and community members in need with a variety of social services programs that not only enrich the individuals but also contribute to a better community.

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

**GOAL PSF-8** Support access for all residents to healthcare facilities, social services, and other important community health amenities.

### POLICIES

- Policy PSF 8.1 San Mateo County Hospital.** Encourage the County to maintain County Hospital services in the city to provide access to medical care for all residents.
- Policy PSF 8.2 Mills Health Center.** Support the Mills Health Center remaining in San Mateo and encourage the continued provision and expansion of high-quality medical care services.
- Policy PSF 8.3 Health Centers.** Support the development of healthcare centers and the County’s efforts to provide mobile clinics that are dispersed throughout the city. Avoid the concentration of health centers in any one neighborhood.
- Policy PSF 8.4 Social Services.** Support the provision of social services. Balance the need for social services in each neighborhood while ensuring that services are dispersed throughout the city and not concentrated in any one neighborhood.
- Policy PSF 8.5 Vulnerable Populations.** Support local religious institutions, nonprofit organizations, and community-based organizations in providing services and facilities for vulnerable populations.

### ACTIONS



**Action PSF 8.6 Community Healthcare Facilities.** Evaluate options to support existing and potential community healthcare facilities in equity priority communities through a variety of mechanisms, such as reduced permit fees and reduced impact fees.



**Action PSF 8.7 Incentives for Support Services.** Study and, as feasible, implement economic incentives to encourage and sustain the development of support service uses, particularly in equity priority communities.

## SOLID WASTE

The City contracts with a private waste management company to provide residential and commercial solid waste collection, composting, and recycling services to San Mateo. Solid waste is transferred to the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos where recyclable materials are sorted and separated. The remaining solid waste is disposed of at the Los Trancos Canyon (Ox Mountain) landfill in Half Moon Bay.

Solid waste in landfills emits methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, as it decomposes. Efforts to divert waste away from landfills helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and raises awareness of our individual impact on the environment. Educational campaigns to repair, reduce, reuse, and recycle have helped reduce trash generation. In addition, State laws requiring many kinds of solid waste to be diverted from landfills have also significantly decreased the amount of trash that ends up in a landfill. Between 2015 and 2022, the City achieved a diversion rate of 73 percent. This means that close to three-quarters of all debris produced in the city is sent to recycling, composting, or alternative fuel centers instead of the landfill. The City aims to continue to increase this diversion rate over the life of this General Plan through ongoing active leadership to reduce trash and increase source reduction, recycling, and composting.

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

**GOAL PSF-9** Reduce the generation of solid waste and increase the diversion of waste from landfills.

### POLICIES



**Policy PSF 9.1 Solid Waste Disposal.** Support waste reduction and diversion programs to reduce solid waste materials in landfill areas in accordance with State requirements.



**Policy PSF 9.2 Recycling.** Support programs to recycle solid waste and require provisions for on-site recycling in new development, in compliance with State requirements.



**Policy PSF 9.3 Composting.** Maintain the curbside composting program and expand composting of organics in accordance with State requirements.

### ACTION



**Action PSF 9.4 Waste Reduction.** Reduce waste sent to landfills by San Mateo's residents, businesses, and visitors, as required by State law and San Mateo Municipal Code, by mandating recycling and compost programs, setting aggressive waste-reduction goals for all development, and implementing appropriate solid waste rates to recover cost of services provided. Supportive actions for waste reduction are detailed in the Climate Action Plan.