

4.12 Public Services and Recreation

This section evaluates the potential impacts related to public services and recreation with implementation of the project.

4.12.1 Existing Setting

Fire Protection and Emergency Services

The Samoa Peninsula Fire Protection District (SPFPD) provides fire services to the communities of Samoa, Fairhaven, and Finntown, as well as the industrial areas. The SPFPD is the result of the merging of the Samoa Fire District, formed in 1902, and the Fairhaven Fire District, formed in 1952, in 1994. As described in Section 3.3.4, the SPFPD submitted an application to the Humboldt County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) for what is known as a “reorganization” consisting of dissolution of the SPFPD and formation of the new Peninsula Community Services District (PCSD). The PCSD was approved by LAFCo in 2017, and approved by voters within the service area in the November 7, 2017 election. It is anticipated that the PCSD will be fully formed by the end of 2018 or early 2019. Subsequent references to SPFPD in this document use only PCSD.

The PCSD is an all-volunteer district and is located out of the station at 1982 Gass Street in the Fairhaven area. A second station is located in the town of Samoa, but is primarily used to store equipment. The PCSD has a Chief Officer vehicle and a beach rescue vehicle (both four-wheel drive pickups). They are emergency response vehicles and are stocked with defibrillators and general medical equipment.

The PCSD responds to approximately 100 calls annually; 40 of these being within their jurisdiction and 60 being calls to aid other districts. The PCSD has mutual aid agreements with the Arcata Fire District and the Humboldt Bay Fire Department (LAFCo 2017).

Police Services

Police services in all unincorporated areas are provided by the Humboldt County’s Sheriff’s Office. Services include criminal investigation, court services, and corrections. The California Highway Patrol is responsible for enforcing traffic laws on roadways within the unincorporated areas and on state highways throughout the county.

The Sheriff’s Office Operations Bureau is made up of seven units under the command of the Undersheriff. The most visible of these units is the Patrol Unit. Sheriff’s Deputies assigned to the Patrol Unit are responsible for responding to emergency calls for service, criminal investigations, and crime prevention through neighborhood and beat patrols. Patrol has one main station in Eureka, and substations in Garberville and McKinleyville. The Main Station in Eureka patrols the Samoa Peninsula.

The Sheriff’s Office also has mutual aid agreements with cities and the California Highway Patrol. Mutual aid is an agreement between agencies where the agency of jurisdiction can request manpower or resources from allied agencies or agencies within the surrounding areas. These agencies could be local or state agencies. According to the County’s General Plan EIR, the Main Station could respond within 10 minutes or less to calls from Samoa (Humboldt County 2017).

Schools

Humboldt County communities are served by 32 public school districts. Additionally, the Humboldt County Office of Education operates several school facilities in addition to private school entities. Only one school, the Peninsula Union Elementary School is located on the Samoa Peninsula. However, it is located more than 0.5 mile north of the project site. The Peninsula Union Elementary School is the only school within the Peninsula Union School District and had a student body of approximately 34 students in 2015 (Humboldt County 2017).

Parks and Recreational Facilities

Within the Samoa Peninsula, Humboldt County owns and maintains one park and two beach parking areas. The park, the Samoa Boat Ramp and Campground, provides 13 RV sites and 25 tent sites, as well as restroom and shower facilities. The Samoa Dunes Recreation Area, which is adjacent to the Samoa Boat Ramp and Campground, is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Additionally, Peninsula Union Elementary School's baseball and soccer fields are available for public use. Other private recreation facilities include the Women's Club and grounds on Rideout Avenue.

4.12.2 Regulatory Framework

Federal

There are no federal policies, plans or regulations applicable to the proposed project with regard to public services and recreation.

State

California Occupational Safety and Health Administration

In accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 8 Sections 1270 "Fire Prevention and Fire Equipment," the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration has established minimum standards for fire suppression and emergency medical services. The standards include, but are not limited to, guidelines on the handling of highly combustible materials, fire hose sizing requirements, restrictions on the use of compressed air, access roads, and the testing, maintenance and use of all firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

California Health and Safety Code

State fire regulations are set forth in Sections 13000 et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code, which includes regulations for building standards (as set forth in the California Building Code), fire protection and notification systems, fire protection devices such as extinguishers, smoke alarms, high-rise building, childcare facility standards, and fire suppression training.

Regional and Local

Humboldt County Emergency Operations Plan

Humboldt County adopted an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in 2015 (Humboldt County 2015). The Humboldt County EOP identifies the County's emergency planning, organization and response policies and procedures. It addresses how the City will respond to extraordinary events or disasters, from preparation through recovery, and the responsibilities of each department and emergency

operations center position. It also addresses the integration and coordination with other local governments, including special districts and state agencies.

Humboldt County General Plan

The Humboldt County General Plan does not contain policies that are applicable to the project.

4.12.3 Evaluation Criteria

For the purpose of this EIR, the evaluation criteria and significance thresholds summarized below are used to determine if the project would have a significant effect related to public services and recreation. The following questions are from CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist Section XIV.

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for:

- a. Fire Protection?
- b. Police Protection?
- c. Schools?
- d. Parks?
- e. Other public facilities?
 - Generate population or job growth that substantially affects the service of public services identified above.

In addition to the above, the following questions are from CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist Section XV. Would the project:

- a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
 - Generate population or job growth that substantially affects the use of recreational facilities.
- b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?
 - Include recreational facilities that generate a significant environmental effect or generate population or job growth that requires additional recreational facilities.

4.12.4 Methodology

Potential impacts to public services and recreational facilities are evaluated for both construction and operational activities, as well as the provision of sewer service for the existing development and sewer service for the infill development. The evaluation considers whether the proposed project would affect the communities' existing public services and recreation facilities, including fire and police protection, parkland, and educational services.

4.12.5 Impact Analysis

Impact PSR-1: Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and/or other public facilities?

This impact analysis addresses CEQA Guidelines Appendix G checklist items XIV a-e) identified in Section 4.12.3.

The project consists of providing sewer service to existing facilities and future infill development (consistent with HBAP plan and zoning) under the Short-Term phase and Long-Term phase, respectively.

Short-Term Phase

Operation of the Short-Term phase would result in **no impact** to public services, as it would provide sewer service to existing development.

Long-Term Phase

The assumed number of potential connections and population served by the project's Long-Term phase is provided in Section 3.5.1. The Long-Term phase would provide sewer service for an estimated 273 new residents. As detailed in Section 4.11, Population and Housing, the project's Long-Term phase would remove an existing restriction to residential development. However, the Humboldt county General Plan previously identified that population growth, and the environmental effects of that population growth have been previously accounted for by the General Plan and analyzed within the certified General Plan EIR, which found impacts to public services to be less than significant. Therefore, the project's Long-Term phase would not substantially affect service ratios or response times of fire protection, emergency medical, or police services, or otherwise.

Additionally, no component of this phase of the project would induce growth and by extension increase the need for school services, beyond that which was evaluated in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the project would not require the construction of new or physically altered governmental facilities. The impact related to public services from the Long-Term phase of the project would be **less than significant**.

Summary

During operation of the Short-Term phase, existing service ratios and demand for public service would remain unchanged. Therefore, the Short-Term phase would not require additional facilities in order to provide adequate levels of public services and a **less than significant** impact would occur. During the Long-Term phase, the LCP amendment would allow future infill development to connect to the sewer system. However, environmental impacts of that growth have been previously analyzed in the certified Humboldt County General Plan EIR, which

found impacts to public services to be less than significant. Therefore, the project's Long-Term phase would not result in a substantial need for additional public services and the impact would be **less than significant**.

Significance *Less than Significant*

Mitigation **None Required**

Impact PSR-2: Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

This impact analysis addresses CEQA Guidelines Appendix G checklist item XIV a) identified in Section 4.12.3.

Short-Term Phase

The Short-Term phase would result in **no impact** to recreational facilities, as it would provide sewer service to existing development.

Long-Term Phase

The Long-Term phase would amend the LCP to allow for future infill development consistent with HBAP and zoning to connect to the proposed project facilities. As discussed in Section 4.11, Population and Housing, the Fairhaven Townsite could result in the addition of 272 persons as a result of project implementation. However, the Humboldt County General Plan previously identified that population growth, and the environmental effects of that population growth have been previously accounted for by the General Plan and fully analyzed within the certified General Plan EIR, which found impacts to recreational resources to be less than significant. Therefore, the project's Long-Term phase would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. The impact would be **less than significant**.

Summary

The Short-Term phase would not directly or indirectly increase use of recreational facilities, as it would only provide sewer service to existing development. The Long-Term phase would allow future infill development to connect to the project facilities consistent with the Humboldt County General Plan. The population, and associated environmental impacts, from future infill development was fully analyzed in the certified General Plan EIR, which found impacts to parks and recreation to be less than significant. Therefore, the impact would be **less than significant**.

Significance *Less than Significant*

Mitigation **None Required**

Impact PSR-3: Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreation facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

This impact analysis addresses CEQA Guidelines Appendix G checklist item XIV b) identified in Section 4.12.3.

Short-Term Phase

The project’s Short-Term phase would allow existing development to connect to the project facilities, and would not include recreational facilities, expansion of recreational facilities, or direct or indirect impacts to recreational facilities. Therefore, the project’s Short-Term phase would have **no impact**.

Long-Term Phase

The Long-Term phase would amend the LCP to allow for future infill consistent with the HBAP and zoning to connect to the project facilities. As discussed in Section 4.11, Population and Housing, the Fairhaven Townsite could result in the addition of 272 persons as a result of project implementation. However, the Humboldt County General Plan previously identified that population growth, and the environmental effects of that population growth have been previously analyzed within the certified General Plan EIR, which found impacts to recreational resources to be less than significant. The project’s Long-Term phase impact would be **less than significant**.

Summary

The Short-Term phase allows existing development to connect to the project facilities; no impact to recreational facilities would occur. The Long-Term phase would allow future infill development to connect; however, the population, and associated environmental impacts, from future infill development was analyzed in the certified General Plan EIR, which found impacts to parks and recreation to be less than significant. The project’s Long-Term operational impact related to recreation would be **less than significant**.

<i>Significance</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>
Mitigation	None Required

4.12.6 Cumulative Impacts

Impact PSR-C-1 Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to cumulative impacts related to public services or recreational resources?

Implementation of the project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, or negatively affect service ratios or response times. The known cumulative projects include small scale uses (such as the Samoa Airfield OWTS) and land use entitlements with negligible cumulative effects (such as the Coast Seafoods project). The STMP would increase population and associated need for public service in the project’s service area. However, the STMP’s certified EIR found all impacts to public services would be less than significant or less than significant after mitigation. Mitigation implemented by STMP’s certified EIR includes measures to reduce the STMP’s increased demand for fire protection and

emergency services. The project's contribution to the cumulative impact to public services would not be considerable.

As noted above the proposed project would have no impact or less than significant impacts to recreational resources. Cumulative impacts to recreational resources were evaluated in the Humboldt County General Plan EIR and found to be less than significant. Although the project provides infrastructure to support future infill development, as noted, that development has already been evaluated in the certified General Plan EIR and found to have less than significant impacts to recreational services. The project's contribution to the cumulative impact would not be cumulatively considerable.

Significance *Less than Cumulatively Considerable (Less than Significant)*

4.12.7 References

Humboldt County. 2017. Humboldt County General Plan Update Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report. April 19.

Humboldt County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). 2017. Agenda Item 8A: Proposed Reorganization of the Samoa Peninsula Fire Protection District to a Community Services District. May 15.

Humboldt County. 2015. Emergency Operations Plan. March.

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