

3.4 Public Services

This section addresses the provision of public services within the county, including fire protection, law enforcement, and education, and an assessment of the potential impacts to these services resulting from the implementation of the proposed General Plan Update land use diagram and policies. The analysis of water, wastewater and solid waste can be found in Section 3.3, Utilities and Services, and wildland fire prevention and suppression and hazardous materials handling and disposal are discussed in Section 3.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

The General Plan Update covers development in the unincorporated areas of the County and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) focuses on impacts related to that development. However, fire protection and school jurisdictional boundaries in many cases include cities and unincorporated areas. Therefore, this EIR discusses these public services in both the unincorporated County and in cities where it is useful for understanding the existing setting, school enrollment and service levels, or potential facility needs. Existing public services conditions are described in the *Community Infrastructure & Services Technical Report*, July 2008 (Appendix Q), and the *Building Communities Report*, 2002 (Appendix C). These reports, which are available for review at the Planning Division public counter at 3015 H Street in Eureka or for download at <http://humboldt.gov/571/Background-Reports>, are incorporated by reference, and summarized below. Where any discrepancies may exist between the referenced material and the material presented here, the material presented here should be considered as the most up to date and is to be relied on for the environmental setting and analyses.

3.4.1 Public Services - Environmental and Regulatory Setting

Fire Protection

Fire protection services include more than just fire suppression. Local fire departments provide a range of services, including emergency medical services (approximately 80 percent of calls for service include emergency medical interventions), response to traffic collisions and auto extrication, technical rescue (rope, swift water, collapse, and confined space rescue), hazardous materials, and general public assistance responses. As a result, the General Plan Update defines fire protection to include all of the aforementioned services.

Local fire departments are formed specifically to provide community fire protection services within their jurisdictional boundaries or response area. The County's larger population centers of Eureka and Arcata/McKinleyville have fire departments with paid staff and multiple stations. Fire districts in Blue Lake, Shelter Cove (RID No. 1) and Fortuna have recently added paid Chiefs to better handle administrative and incident management responsibilities as well to address the planning and response needs of their communities. Other communities typically have one station staffed by all-volunteers. The smallest communities have the most limited resources, often relying on community contributions and used equipment to provide service.

There are 39 fire departments providing fire protection to unincorporated communities and cities in Humboldt County including: one County Service Area (CSA); seven Community Service Districts (CSDs); 18 Fire Protection Districts (FPDs), one Resort Improvement District (RID), one city fire department, one Joint Powers Authority that is comprised of a city and an FPD, and 12 fire companies in unincorporated towns not associated with local government agencies (including

the Hoopa and Yurok Volunteer Fire Departments) that may be established pursuant to Sections 14825 through 14860 of the California Health and Safety Code.

Since the initiation of the General Plan Update process three volunteer fire companies have formed as fire protection districts. In addition, the Scotia Volunteer Fire Department is part of the new Scotia Community Services District, which was approved by the voters in 2011. For the purposes of this EIR, all of the fire department types listed above may be referred to together as "fire departments" or "fire service providers" and the various special district types that provide fire protection services may be referred to collectively as "districts" or "fire related districts." The City of Trinidad has its own fire department and there are four state, federal, or tribal fire departments that provide seasonal wildland fire protection that also work in cooperation with local fire departments.

In responding to emergencies, local fire departments work closely with law enforcement, public utilities, and ambulance service providers. Fire departments and ambulance companies are dispatched to medical calls simultaneously. In most cases, fire departments arrive on scene prior to the ambulance and are expected to stabilize the patient, gather vital signs, and prepare the patient for transport to the hospital.

North Coast Emergency Medical Services Agency, which is a Joint Powers Authority governed by a Board consisting of one supervisor from each of the three member counties, directs the emergency management services (EMS) system on behalf of Humboldt County. The EMS system consists of the advanced life support and transport provided by the ambulance companies listed below, first responder services provided by the fire departments and other agencies within the County and base hospitals that provide medical control and emergency department receiving facilities. Humboldt County Code Title V, Health and Safety, Division 5, Emergency Medical Services System, establishes the standards for ambulance permits and service rates, both of which are approved by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.

Ambulance service within Humboldt County is provided by the following:

- Arcata/ Mad River Ambulance. Serves the coastal area from Manila north to the Del Norte County line and east along S.R. 299 to Lord Ellis Summit (Service Area I).
- Hoopa Ambulance. Serves eastern portion of the County primarily north of S.R. 299 (Service Area II).
- City Ambulance, of Eureka. Serves the Eureka area and most of the area south of Eureka to the Mendocino County line and east to the Trinity County line (Service Areas III - V).
- Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR). STAR is a volunteer division of Southern Trinity Health Services, a non-profit community health center, and serves a portion the eastern County along S.R. 36 east of the Larabee area.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has responsibilities for wildland fire protection and resource management. See Section 3.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, for a comprehensive discussion of wildland fire responsibilities within Humboldt County. CAL FIRE is responsible for suppressing wild land fires within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) (generally defined as areas classified by the State Board of Forestry containing forest and range habitat) and provides structural fire protection services only to CSA 4, Trinidad area, under contract to Humboldt County. The CAL FIRE Humboldt-Del Norte Unit also provides fire dispatch services year round under contract to Humboldt County and the Humboldt County Fire Dispatch Co-op. It is not the state's responsibility to provide fire protection services to any building or structure located within state responsibility area unless the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has entered into a cooperative agreement with a local agency for those purposes

pursuant to Section 4142 of the Public Resources Code (Public Resources Code 4136). However, CAL FIRE may provide, when available and to the extent that it does not require additional funds, rescue, first aid, and other emergency services to the public in state responsibility areas (Public Resources Code 4114).

The following table (Table 3.4-1, Fire Protection Services in Humboldt County) contains information regarding each of the fire departments that provide service within Humboldt County.

Table 3.4-1. Geography of Fire Protection Services Delivery in Humboldt County.

Name of Organization	Local Govt. Agency	Department Type	Area in Square Miles		Number of Fire Stations	General Areas Protected
			District	Non-District Response Area		
Lower Klamath Planning Watershed						
Orleans Community Services District	No	Volunteer	0	30.7	1	Orleans/Somes Bar
Yurok Volunteer Fire Company	No	Volunteer	N/A	33.6	2	Weitchpec, Johnsons
Lower Trinity Planning Watershed						
Hoopla Volunteer Fire Company	No	Volunteer	N/A	138	1	Hoopla
Willow Creek Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	6.6	20	1	Willow Creek, S.R. 299
Redwood Creek Planning Watershed						
Orick Community Services District	Yes	Volunteer	2.3	121.5	1	Orick, Bald Hills, Johnson's Road
Trinidad Planning Watershed						
County Service Area No. 4 (Cal Fire)	Yes	Career	23.5	3.7	1	Westhaven, Big Lagoon, Freshwater Lagoon
Trinidad Fire Department	Yes	Volunteer	0.6	1.6	1	Trinidad
Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department	No	Volunteer	N/A	2.7	1	Westhaven
Mad River Planning Watershed						
Blue Lake Fire Protection District	Yes	Combination Career-Volunteer	13.6	107.5	1	Blue Lake, Glendale, S.R. 299

Name of Organization	Local Govt. Agency	Department Type	Area in Square Miles		Number of Fire Stations	General Areas Protected
			District	Non-District Response Area		
Fieldbrook-Glendale Community Services District	Yes	Volunteer	14.4	0	1	Fieldbrook
Ruth Lake Community Services District ¹	Yes	Volunteer	27.37	0	1	Dinsmore
Eureka Plain Planning Watershed						
Arcata Fire Protection District	Yes	Combination Career-Volunteer	62	5.9	3	Arcata, Essex, Jacoby Creek, Manila McKinleyville
Humboldt Bay Fire (Humboldt #1 Protection District and the City of Eureka Fire Department)	Yes	Career	55.8	1	5	Myrtle town, Bayview, Humboldt Hill, Cutten, Freshwater (plus the City of Eureka and College of the Redwoods)
Kneeland Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	37.6	5.9	1	Kneeland, Butler Valley
Samoa Peninsula Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	2.8	0.2	1	Samoa, Fairhaven
Van Duzen Planning Watershed						
Bridgeville Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	193.3	0	1	Bridgeville, Dinsmore
Carlotta Community Services District	Yes	Volunteer	4.4	46.1	1	Carlotta

Name of Organization	Local Govt. Agency	Department Type	Area in Square Miles		Number of Fire Stations	General Areas Protected
			District	Non-District Response Area		
Lower Eel Planning Watershed						
Ferndale Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	44.2	68.3	1	Ferndale, Port Kenyon, Grizzly Bluff, Centerville Wildcat Ridge
Fortuna Fire Protection District	Yes	Combination Career-Volunteer	29.4	0	3	Fortuna, Hydesville, Fernbridge, U.S. 101 from Rio Dell to Fernbridge
Loleta Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	48.9	0	1	Loleta, Table Bluff, Fernbridge, U.S. 101 from CR to Fernbridge
Redcrest Volunteer Fire Company	No	Volunteer	N/A	26	1	Redcrest, Holmes, Pepperwood Avenue of the Giants
Rio Dell Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	4.6	7.1	1	Rio Dell
Scotia Community Services District	Yes	Combination Career-Volunteer	0.75	0.95	1	Scotia, Stafford, Shively
Middle Main Eel Planning Watershed						
Alderpoint Volunteer Fire Company	No	Volunteer	N/A	196.1	1	Alderpoint, Fort Seward, Blocksburg
Fruitland Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	19.8	4.9	1	Fruitland, Eel Rock
Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Company	No	Volunteer	N/A	49.9	1	Palo Verde
South Fork Eel Planning Watershed						
Briceland Volunteer Fire Department	No	Volunteer	43.9	0	1	Briceland

Name of Organization	Local Govt. Agency	Department Type	Area in Square Miles		Number of Fire Stations	General Areas Protected
			District	Non-District Response Area		
Garberville Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	1.1	56.5	1	Garberville, Benbow
Miranda Community Services District	Yes	Volunteer	0.5	24.2	1	Miranda, Avenue of the Giants
Myers Flat Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	0.7	1.5	1	Myers Flat, Avenue of the Giants
Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Company	No	Volunteer	N/A	4.4	1	Phillipsville, Avenue of the Giants
Redway Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	1.1	2.2	1	Redway
Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Company	No	Volunteer	N/A	31.1	1	Salmon Creek
Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company	No	Volunteer	N/A	2.6	1	Sprowel Creek
Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	36.9	0	1	Ettersburg
Weott Community Services District	Yes	Volunteer	0.5	36.9	1	Weott, Avenue of the Giants
Cape Mendocino Planning Watershed						
Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company	No	Volunteer	N/A	66.5	2	Honeydew
Petrolia Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	11.4	91.7	1	Petrolia, Ocean House
Resort Improvement District No. 1 (Shelter Cove)	Yes	Combination Career-Volunteer	4.8	1.7	1	Shelter Cove

Name of Organization	Local Govt. Agency	Department Type	Area in Square Miles		Number of Fire Stations	General Areas Protected
			District	Non-District Response Area		
Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Company ³	No	Volunteer	N/A	9.4	1	Whale Gulch
Whitethorn Fire Protection District	Yes	Volunteer	4.6	19.5	1 ⁴	Whitethorn, Thorne Junction

¹The Southern Trinity Volunteer Fire Department is associated with the Ruth Lake Community Services District, which is located primarily in Trinity County with district boundaries that also extend into Humboldt County and include the Dinsmore area. The Southern Trinity VFD is dispatched by the Trinity County Sheriff’s Office, including calls for service within the Dinsmore area.

³The Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Company is based in Mendocino County and is dispatched through the Humboldt Fire Dispatch Cooperative to incidents in the southern Chemise Mountain Road area. This area is too far from Shelter Cove for the Resort Improvement District No. 1 supported Shelter Cove Volunteer Fire Department to serve and not accessible by the Whitethorn Fire Protection District.

The table above indicates that of the approximately 1,900 square miles served by local fire departments; nearly 40 percent is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of a local agency. The average response area outside district boundaries for a local agency is over eight times its jurisdictional boundary. Local agencies serve approximately 637 square miles outside of their district boundaries. Volunteer fire companies serve approximately 560 square miles.

Approximately 84 percent of the population of the unincorporated area resides within the boundaries of a fire related district. However, in the areas outside the greater Humboldt Bay area, Trinidad area, and Lower Eel River valley, significant portions of the population reside outside fire related district boundaries.

The importance of fire related districts has increased since the state legislature amended the State Subdivision Map Act in 2013 to require that all subdivisions of parcels located in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) be within the boundaries of a county, city, special district, political subdivision of the state, or another entity that is organized solely to provide fire protection services that is monitored and funded by a county or other public entity (Government Code Section 66474.02). There are approximately 340,000 acres of privately owned property in the County within the SRA that are not located within the boundaries of a fire related district. Consequently, parcels in these areas cannot be subdivided without the provision of structural fire protection services meeting the definition of the Government Code.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement services within Humboldt County are provided by each of the seven cities within their jurisdictional boundaries, the Hoopa and Yurok Tribe within their respective tribal lands, and the Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office provides a variety of public safety services countywide, including court and corrections services and law enforcement services for the unincorporated areas of the County. 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, substations in Garberville, Willow Creek, and McKinleyville, and four resident deputy posts.

The Sheriff's Office has mutual aid agreements with cities and the California State 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.

Response Times. While specific data on response times can be difficult to determine for rural or semi-rural areas, the Sheriff's Office has provided estimates of response times for service calls originating in communities within the County as part of the Community Services and Infrastructure Technical Report process. Industry standards recommend five- to ten-minute response times. The cities of Eureka and Arcata have set a standard of a five-minute response to calls for service.

Table 3.4-2 below displays the communities or areas served by Sheriff's sub-stations and average response times for each. Based on anecdotal information provided by the Sheriff's Office, Deputies are capable of responding to calls for service in less than 10 minutes in over half the communities analyzed. In the more rural areas of the County, maximum response times may reach 50 minutes because of longer travel distances, varied topography, available resources, and the location of the Sheriff Deputy on patrol in relation to the incident.

Table 3.4-2. Sheriff's Office Sub-Station Areas Patrolled and Average Response Times.

Station <i>Maximum Response Times</i>	Planning Watersheds and CPAs Patrolled	Communities with Response Times 10 Minutes or Less	Areas with Response Times Greater than 10 Minutes
Main Station <i>30 Minutes Maximum Response Time</i>	Eureka Plain and Lower Eel and portion of Van Duzen Planning Watersheds Arcata, Avenue of the Giants, Eureka, Fortuna, Freshwater, Hydesville-Carlota, Jacoby Creek and Rio Dell Community Plans; Humboldt Bay, and Eel River Area Plans	Acata South Eureka Myrtle town Indiano la Jacoby Creek Manila Samoa	Bridgeville Fortuna Freshwater Hydesville-Carlotta Loleta Rio Dell Riverside Scotia Redcrest
Northern Area Command Station <i>40 Minutes Maximum Response Time</i>	Redwood Creek (Orick area); Trinidad; and Mad River Planning Watersheds Arcata, Blue Lake, McKinleyville, Trinidad-Westhaven Community Plans; Humboldt Bay, McKinleyville, Trinidad, and North Coast Area Plans	Blue Lake Fieldbrook Glendale McKinleyville Trinidad Westhaven	Big Lagoon Orick

Station <i>Maximum Response Times</i>	Planning Watersheds and CPAs Patrolled	Communities with Response Times 10 Minutes or Less	Areas with Response Times Greater than 10 Minutes
Garberville Station <i>50 Minutes Maximum Response Time</i>	South Fork Eel; Mendocino; Middle Fork Trinity Avenue of the Giants; Garberville-Alderpoint-Redway-Benbow Community Plans; Shelter Cove and South Coast Area Plans	Garberville Redway	Alderpoint Benbow Briceland Miranda Myers Flat Phillipsville Redcrest Shelter Cove Weott
Trinity River Station <i>45 Minutes Maximum Response Time</i>	Lower Klamath, Lower Trinity, South Fork Trinity, and eastern portion of Redwood Creek Planning Watersheds. Willow Creek and Orleans Community Plans	Willow Creek	Hoopa Valley Orleans Redwood Valley
Resident Deputy Posts <i>45 Minutes Maximum Response Time</i>	Bridgeville, Orick, Orleans, and Shelter Cove	Bridgeville Orick Orleans Shelter Cove	

Source: Community Infrastructure and Services Technical Report.

Public Education

Humboldt County communities are currently served by 32 public school districts. In addition, there are schools operated by the Humboldt County Office of Education and private schools. The largest district in the County in terms of enrollment is the Eureka City Unified School District, which has almost 4,000 students. There are four other districts with enrollments over 1,000 students. Average district enrollment in Humboldt County is approximately 550 students.

From the 1995 to 2010 academic years, California school enrollments rose by 18.5 percent, or 749,778 students. Overall enrollment in Humboldt County K-12 schools declined by 18 percent, or 4,028 students, between the 1995 and 2010 school years (California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, 2008). Losses were equally distributed between kindergarten through eighth grade and high schools. Between 2010 and 2015 enrollment in Humboldt County grew by 437 students, with growth in enrollment concentrated around Humboldt Bay and Fortuna.

Declining enrollment has contributed to the closing of some school sites over the last ten to fifteen years. For example, within the Eureka Unified School District, Marshall Elementary School closed in 2001 and is currently used as part of the high school campus; Worthington Elementary School closed in 2003 and is used for adult education services; and Jefferson Elementary closed in 2006. The Osprey Learning Center in Garberville was closed and moved to the South Fork High School campus in Miranda. During this same period, nine schools opened in Humboldt County, including two new middle schools, one high school, and six other schools, including three community day schools. These school openings were

not triggered by increases in enrollment, but are the result of local preferences for charter schools or other school program needs. Table 3.4-3, School District Enrollment in Humboldt County, provides a listing of School Districts and total district enrollment:

Table 3.4-3. School District Enrollment in Humboldt County 1990-2015.

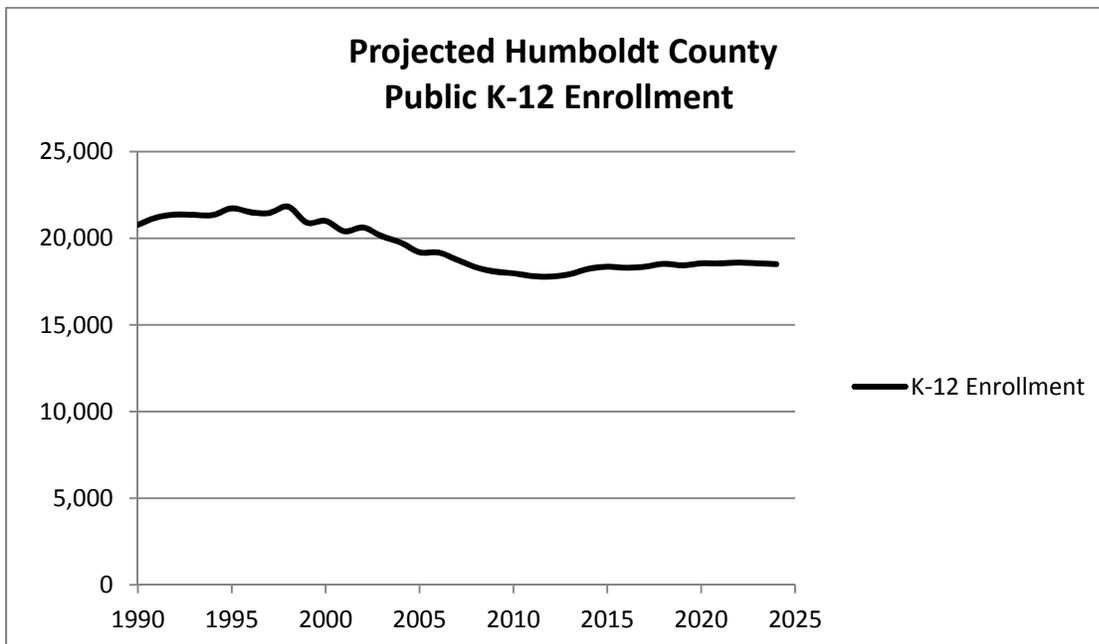
District	Enrollment				Avg. Annual Growth Rate
	1990	2000	2010	2015	
Arcata Elementary	910	899	956	1,067	0.64%
Big Lagoon Union Elementary	57	65	43	23	-3.57%
Blue Lake Union Elementary	355	217	162	175	-2.79%
Bridgeville Elementary	120	68	36	34	-4.92%
Cuddeback Union Elementary	132	137	133	120	-0.38%
Cutten Elementary	576	513	561	605	0.20%
Eureka City Unified	6,121	5,701	3,884	3734	-1.96%
Ferndale Unified	515	524	495	525	0.08%
Fieldbrook Elementary	183	104	127	147	-0.87%
Fortuna Elementary ¹	703	783	685	1374	2.72%
Fortuna Union High	1,417	1,825	1,773	1,134	-0.89%
Freshwater Elementary	333	300	333	318	-0.18%
Garfield Elementary	34	61	61	60	2.30%
Green Point Elementary	21	18	7	10	-2.92%
Humboldt County Schools	313	479	507	441	1.38%
Hydesville Elementary	215	157	155	197	-0.35%
Jacoby Creek Elementary	408	401	439	432	0.23%
Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified	1,257	1,153	1,033	1,073	-0.63%
Kneeland Elementary	51	32	34	25	-2.81%
Loleta Union Elementary	170	326	257	291	2.17%
Maple Creek Elementary	16	18	10	12	-1.14%
Mattole Unified	126	610	956	721	7.23%
McKinleyville Union Elementary	1,511	1,408	1,140	1,156	-1.07%
Northern Humboldt Union High	1,544	2,050	1,607	1,790	0.59%
Orick Elementary	105	57	24	16	-7.25%
Pacific Union Elementary	650	609	508	579	-0.46%
Peninsula Union Elementary	104	88	39	34	-4.37%
Rio Dell Elementary	377	313	311	325	-0.59%
Scotia Union Elementary	267	356	221	222	-0.74%
South Bay Union Elementary	638	526	641	933	1.53%
Southern Humboldt Joint Unified	1,589	1,277	790	800	-2.71%
Trinidad Union Elementary	254	120	185	177	-1.43%
Total	21,072	21,195	18,113	18,550	-0.51%

1. Includes Rohnerville Elementary District, which was consolidated with Fortuna Elementary District in 2012.
Source: California Department of Education, Humboldt County Office of Education, 2016.

The four largest districts in the County, Eureka City Unified, Northern Humboldt Union High, McKinleyville Union Elementary, and Fortuna Union High, enrolled 7,814 students, or 42 percent of the County’s total enrollment, in 2015. The remainder is divided among 28 other school districts.

Figure 3.4-1, Public K–12 and High School Enrollment Projections, shows the California Department of Finance school enrollment projections for Humboldt County to the year 2025. The Department of Finance projects that public school enrollment will increase slightly from 18,355 in the 2015-2016 school year to 18,501 in school year 2024-2025, or a 0.09 percent average annual growth rate. Beyond the year 2025, the California Department of Finance projects that the number of school-age children (ages 5 to 19) in Humboldt County will decrease from 23,242 in 2025 to 21,201 in 2040, or a 9 percent reduction. Based on the expected decline in the number of students, school capacity will likely not be a constraint to future growth. This projection assumes no change in the public school enrollment rate.

Figure 3.4-1. Public K–12 and High School Enrollment Projections.



Source: State of California, Department of Finance, California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, 2016 Series. Sacramento, California, December 2016.

Property owners and developers are often expected to fund a portion of the cost of new school facilities. The State of California School Facility Program allows K-12 School Districts to apply for funding to buy land, construct new buildings, and modernize or renovate existing buildings. The amount of funding available to a School District is based on a formula that considers the number of students a district expects to enroll that cannot be served in existing facility space. This program requires the State and School Districts to share the cost of facilities. For new construction projects, the cost is shared equally by the state and School Districts. For modernization projects, the state pays 60 percent and School Districts pay 40 percent of the cost. If a School District faces unusual circumstances, it may apply for “hardship” funding from the State to offset its local share of costs.

There are only a few sources of funding for local School Districts to fund their share of the cost of new construction or modernization projects: (1) school general funds or donations; (2) local general obligation bonds; (3) impact fees; or (4) Mello Roos Community Facilities District bond

funds. Aside from school revenue and donations, Humboldt County schools use general obligation bonds and impact fees to fund the local share of school facility projects.

There are six school districts that have implemented fee programs (Ferndale, Fortuna, Hydesville, McKinleyville Union, Pacific Union, and Rohnerville). Impact fees are imposed on new development within the district and are collected at the city and County building permit counters, on behalf of the School District. Other local school districts that require the development of buildings and facilities may need to implement fee programs.

3.4.2 Public Services - Standards of Significance

This analysis uses the significance criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section a. The proposed General Plan Update results in a significant impact on public services if it would:

- a) result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: fire protection, police protection, schools, or other public facilities.

This impact topic is discussed with respect to school facilities in Impact 3.4.3.1, Schools; fire protection facilities in Impact 3.4.3.2, Fire Protection; and law enforcement facilities in Impact 3.4.3.3, Law Enforcement.

3.4.3 Public Services - Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact 3.4.3.1. Schools

The proposed General Plan Update would have a significant effect if it would directly result in the need, or facilitates the need, for additional public school buildings, the construction of which could have a potentially significant effect on the environment.

This impact analysis addresses item “a” above, with respect to school facilities, of the significance criteria described in 3.4.2. Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines,

- a) result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives for schools.

Based on projected enrollment and population estimates by the State of California, new school facilities are not expected to be required during the planning period. Total K-12 public school enrollment is expected to increase by 204 students between 2016 and 2025, slightly more than one percent (California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County— 2016 Series, Department of Finance, December 2016). However, public school enrollment in the County declined by 2,701 students between 2000 and 2016, a 13 percent reduction.

The School Districts listed in Table 3.4-3 experienced either no appreciable enrollment growth, or enrollment decline, over the last 15 to 20 years and this trend is expected to continue during the planning period. Although state school enrollment projections are only made to 2025, the California Department of Finance is projecting that the number of school-age children in Humboldt County (ages 5 to 19) will steadily decline between the current year and 2040—a total reduction of 2,812 persons. These data would indicate that school enrollment levels are not likely to increase Countywide, even by 2040. However, some schools may experience increases in enrollment due to local increases in development activity, development within cities, or due to out of district transfers. Also, declines in enrollment or other school facility planning objectives may lead to school closures and result in increased enrollment within certain school facilities. Nonetheless, the slight increase in K-12 enrollment that is projected to occur during a portion of the planning period would likely be accommodated by existing school facilities.

Table 3.4-4, Projected Population Growth within Humboldt County Public School Districts displays the projected peak population within the General Plan Update planning period, projected to occur in 2028, within school district boundaries. Student population projections were calculated by multiplying projected peak population within each school district by the statewide average Student Yield Factors from the Enrollment Certification/ Projection School Facility Program form (SAB 50-01) from the California office of Public School Construction, which are as follows: elementary school district = 0.5 students per dwelling unit; high school district = 0.2 students per dwelling unit; and unified school district = 0.7 students per dwelling unit.

As stated above, the California Department of Finance is projecting that the number of school-age children in Humboldt County will steadily decline between 2000 and 2040. These data would indicate that school enrollment levels are not likely to increase Countywide. As a result, Student Yield Factors from the Enrollment Certification/ Projection School Facility Program form will likely overestimate future enrollment levels.

Table 3.4-4. Projected Peak Enrollment within Humboldt County Public School Districts, 2028.

School District	Projected HH Growth 2028	New K-8 Students	New 9-12 Students	Total New Students
South Bay Union School District	418	209	83	292
Southern Humboldt Joint Unified School District	311	155	62	217
McKinleyville Union School District	230	114	45	159
Cutten School District	225	112	44	156
Eureka Unified School District	158	79	31	110
Arcata School District	120	59	23	82
Blue Lake Union School District	59	29	11	40
Hydesville School District	38	19	7	26
Fortuna Union School District	34	17	6	23
Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified	23	11	4	15
Bridgeville School District	20	10	4	14
Peninsula Union School District	11	5	2	7
Loleta Union School District	11	5	2	7
Mattole Unified School District	7	3	1	4
Jacoby Creek School District	7	3	1	4
Maple Creek School District	7	3	1	4

School District	Projected HH Growth 2028	New K-8 Students	New 9-12 Students	Total New Students
Kneeland School District	5	2	1	3
Trinidad Union School District	5	2	1	3
Ferndale Unified School District	5	2	0	2
Garfield School District	4	2	0	2
Green Point School District	4	1	0	1
Big Lagoon School District	3	1	0	1
Orick School District	3	1	0	1
South Trinity Joint Unified School District	3	1	0	1
Cuddeback Union School District	3	1	0	1
Fieldbrook School District	3	1	0	1
Freshwater School District	2	1	0	1
Scotia Union School District	2	0	0	0
Rio Dell School District	1	0	0	0
Rohnerville School District	1	0	0	0
Pacific Union School District	1	0	0	0
Grand Total	1,721	848	329	1,177

Source: Humboldt County Planning and Building, January, 2017.

Projected levels of population growth during the General Plan planning would likely not trigger the need for additional public school facilities. However, some schools may experience increases in enrollment due to local increases in development activity consistent with Department of Finance projected population growth, development within cities, or due to out of district transfers. The precise locations and extent of additional school facilities that may be required at build out of the General Plan land use are not known at this time. Where the growth in enrollment related to population growth during the General Plan Update planning period exceeds current school capacity and there are no planned improvements, this EIR provides a general discussion of the circumstances and the potential environmental effects that could result.

School improvement projects are typically located at or adjacent to existing school facilities. The acreage required for the school expansion projects vary depending on the type of school facility required and the enrollment levels that the facility is projected to accommodate. The area affected by such projects may be as small as 5,000 to 10,000 square feet (e.g., a new classroom) while larger projects could be several acres in area (e.g., new school site). Additional site requirements may include new or expanding parking areas, utility extensions, roadway modifications, or improvements for athletic facilities.

Analysis of Relevant General Plan Update Policies

The General Plan Update contains a series of policies that direct the County to proactively coordinate with service providers, monitor service capacity in relation to planned development, and encourage the establishment of funding mechanisms to provide the infrastructure needed to serve growth during the plan period. If the term "service provider" is interpreted broadly to include schools, the following policies would lessen and potential impact that growth during the plan period may have on school facilities. Policy C-P18, County Feedback to School Districts Regarding Transportation Planning, directs the County to provide feedback to school districts

regarding new school sites, opening closed school sites, and significant changes in attendance levels or hours of operation to give advice on mitigating traffic impacts and promoting multimodal school site access. Policy IS-P1, Coordination with Service Providers, requires the County to work cooperatively with service providers to plan and implement public service projects consistent with this plan. Policy IS-P8, Infrastructure and Services Capacity, requires the County to coordinate with service providers to monitor service and infrastructure capacities in relation to existing and planned demand. In particular Policy IS-P1, Coordination with Service Providers, directs the County to work with service providers to identify and secure funding to accommodate the development potential consistent with this plan.

Although the population of school-age children is declining in the County, there may be areas within the County where the implementation of the proposed General Plan may result in the need, or facilitate the need, for additional public school buildings. The following is a summary of General Plan Update policies that would reduce construction related environmental impacts from new or expanded school facilities:

- The Circulation Element contains policies to reduce traffic impacts of new and expanded wastewater facilities by utilizing traffic impact thresholds (C-P5, Level of Service Criteria) and by requiring that new development be conditioned to proportionally mitigate significant traffic impacts through construction of on- and off-site improvements and dedication of rights-of-way (C-P4, Mitigation Measures).
- The Biological Resources Chapter within the General Plan Update contains policies to reduce impacts to plants, animals, and habitat by planning land containing sensitive and critical habitats for uses for long term habitat sustainability (BR-P1, Compatible Land Use); conditioning projects to avoid impacts to critical and essential habitat where such resources are present (BR-P2, Critical Habitat); regulating development within streamside management areas to minimize adverse environmental effects (BR-P6, Development within Streamside Management Areas); and through the delineation and protection of wetlands (BR-P-7, Wetland Identification, and BR-S10 Development Standards).
- The Water Resources Element contains policies regarding critical watersheds to protect municipal water supplies from the environmental effects of development (WR-P4, Critical Municipal Water Supply Areas) and to limit the effects of development upon threatened and endangered species including Coho salmon habitat (WR-P5, Critical Watershed Areas); minimizing erosion and sediment discharge through the implementation of performance standards (WR-Px2, Mitigate Controllable Sediment Discharge Sites, WR-P8 Erosion and Sediment Discharge and WR-P36 Erosion and Sediment Control Measures); and by limiting the transmission of contaminants from parking lots to the storm water system by requiring oil water separators (WR-P35, Oil/Water Separation).
- Noise Element policies are intended to minimize short-term noise and noise from stationary sources through the application of appropriate standards (N-P1, Minimize Noise from Stationary and Mobile Sources) and through application of noise performance standards (N-S8 Short-Term Noise Performance Standards-Maximum Noise Level).
- The Safety Element contains policies to plan land use and new development to reduce hazards (S-P1, Reduce the Potential for Loss); applying state geologic and seismic standards to new development (S-P6, Structural Hazards); regulating uses around airports consistent with Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans (S-P21, Development Compatibility and S-P22, Airport Land Use Compatibility Criteria), and by regulating land uses in flood hazard areas (S-P10, Federal Flood Insurance Program).
- Air Quality Element policies require that construction and grading dust control measures achieve local air quality standards (AQ-P4, Construction and Grading Dust Control) and air quality impacts of new development are reduced through the implementation of

mitigation measure during discretionary review (AQ-P5, Air Quality Impacts from New Development).

Conclusion

The State Department of Finance projects that school enrollment will increase by 204 students between 2016 and 2025, and separately projects that population growth within Humboldt County will peak in 2028, and then decline thereafter resulting in a decrease in the absolute number of school age population at the end of the General Plan Update planning period. Notwithstanding projected enrollment declines, Table 3.4-4, Buildout Projected Peak Enrollment Projections within Humboldt County Public School Districts- 2028, shows school enrollment projections during the General Plan Update planning period by school district that is based on a standard student yield factor per household. As a result, there may be areas within the County where the implementation of the proposed General Plan may result in the need, or facilitate the need, for additional public school buildings.

School development projects would be carried out by the school district, which would also conduct its own project-specific environmental assessment. The project would likely not require County land use approval, but would require General Plan conformance review by pursuant to Government Code Section 65402. If the school development project could have potentially significant environmental effects that could not feasibly be mitigated to a less than significant level, an EIR would be prepared. The above-listed General Plan Update policies would direct the County to work cooperatively with the service provider to plan and implement the project in conformance with this plan. The General Plan encourages public agencies to plan for facilities in areas with adequate road, pedestrian, and bicycle circulation and access to appropriate utility services and the County would provide advice on mitigating traffic impacts and promoting multimodal school site access.

The nature and location of any potential new or expanded school facilities that could be constructed by a school district and that do not trigger a County land use approval is not known. As a result, the potential impacts of these facilities are too speculative for evaluation in this first tier programmatic EIR. If potential new or expanded school facilities are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of other public agencies, and not the County, appropriate mitigations can and should be adopted by such other agency, or other findings made after certification of an EIR in accordance with CEQA.

If the new or expanded school facilities were to be constructed as part of a subdivision map approval or other process requiring County discretionary land use approval, such as an amendment to the General Plan Land Use Map, rezone, use permit, or a special permit, the County would ensure that environmental impacts are addressed through appropriate site-specific mitigation measures and the application of the policies listed above, appropriate Zoning Regulations, and its land use authority. Therefore, with implementation of the General Plan Update policies, General Plan Update impacts relating to need for new or expanded school facilities triggered by the General Plan would be **less than significant**

Mitigation

None required.

Impact 3.4.3.2. Fire Protection

The proposed General Plan Update would have a significant impact if it would result in the need for new or physically altered fire 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.

This impact analysis addresses item "a" above, with respect to fire facilities, of the significance criteria described in 3.4.2. Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines,

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

Implementation of the General Plan Update would accommodate additional residents, businesses, and other development, which would increase the need for fire protection and emergency services. Fire departments may require additional facilities, equipment, and staff in order to provide adequate levels of service.

Substantial portions of the unincorporated areas are outside of the boundaries of local agencies responsible for fire protection services and 20 to 25 percent of the County's population lives in such areas. Approximately 34 percent of fire related emergency dispatches by the Fortuna CAL FIRE Command Center to local fire departments, not including wildland fires, are for calls for service outside fire district boundaries. Fire related districts do not receive tax related revenue that would be used to support services from areas outside of district boundaries.

Projected growth during the General Plan Update planning period may occur outside of district boundaries, which would exacerbate service delivery and funding problems currently experienced by fire departments. To address this problem, the proposed General Plan Update contains a series of goals, policies, and programs to provide for orderly growth in order to ensure the provision of adequate infrastructure and services, such as fire protection.

As indicated, Humboldt County has established a program to work with fire departments to expand existing boundaries to incorporate all areas that are served by the department into their district boundaries and, where appropriate, to establish districts to facilitate improvements to the capacity of volunteer fire companies. This program is intended to address current district boundary deficiencies and to create a mechanism for departments to establish funding sources to support service levels.

It is estimated that 1,721 housing units will be needed to accommodate the peak population in the unincorporated area in 2028 and 3.1 million square feet of commercial and industrial building to accommodate projected new employment by 2040. Although new construction would be distributed across the unincorporated area, 89 percent of housing units and 92 percent of commercial and industrial square footage are projected to be developed within the more urbanized community plan and coastal zone areas. Almost 60 percent of new housing units are projected to be located within the communities around the Humboldt Bay, including the residential areas of Cutten, Ridgewood, and McKinleyville. Approximately 50 percent of commercial and industrial square footage is projected to be located within the communities around the Humboldt Bay, two-thirds of which would occur in the industrial areas along the Samoa Peninsula and Fields Landing.

Several fire departments are in the process of constructing or planning the construction of new fire facilities to better provide service. The following facilities intend to address current and future service needs.

- **Kneeland FPD.** In the process of constructing a community fire station in the northern part of the District at 6201 Greenwood Heights Drive that will replace a barn that has been used to house fire apparatus. The construction of this fire station would be completed only after the district has secured sufficient funding for new facilities and equipment.
- **Westhaven VFD.** Raising funds to expand its existing fire station to accommodate additional apparatus. The scope and timing of fire station improvements are dependent upon the success of fund raising efforts by the fire department.
- **Briceland VFD.** Acquired land in the center of Briceland to replace its station located east of Briceland. This fire station would be constructed only after the department has secured sufficient funding for new facilities and equipment.
- **Redway FPD.** Identified land within the Meadows Business Park for the development of a new fire station. This fire station would be constructed only after the district has secured sufficient funding for new facilities and equipment.
- **Garberville FPD.** Identified the need for fire stations in the Benbow area and near the Garberville Airport. Both areas are outside the boundaries of the Garberville FPD, but served by the department on a goodwill basis. These new fire stations would be constructed only after they are annexed to the district and the Garberville FPD has secured sufficient funding for new facilities and equipment.

The Ridgewood Village Draft EIR (SCH No. 2007012007) evaluated the potential environmental effects of the proposed fire station along with the other project elements. The Draft EIR identified potentially significant environmental effects associated with the following areas:

- Geology, Stability, and Failure Hazards
- Hydrology and Drainage
- Water Quality, Erosion and Drainage
- Air Quality
- Sensitive Flora and Fauna
- Streams, Wetlands and Riparian Areas
- Traffic, Circulation and Parking
- Utilities and Public Services
- Aesthetics
- Cultural Resources
- Population, Housing, and Employment
- Hazardous Materials
- Noise

The potential environmental effects of the proposed fire station were evaluated with the other Ridgewood Village project elements, such as housing, commercial structures, roads, drainage, and utility systems. Mitigation measures included in the Ridgewood Village Draft EIR reduces project related impacts to a less-than-significant-level for all impact topics except the following:

- **Air Quality.** The project conflicts with the adopted air quality plan, violates air quality standards, and would result in a cumulatively considerable increase of criteria air pollutants and expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

- **Traffic, Circulation and Parking.** The project individually, or cumulatively, exceeds the level of service standards.
- **Aesthetics.** The project substantially degrades visual character of project site and surroundings.
- **Population, Housing and Employment.** The project has potential growth- inducing impacts.
- **Noise.** The project results in a temporary and permanent noise sources in excess of General Plan standards.

Based on a comment letter on the Ridgewood Village Draft EIR by Ken Woods, Chief, Humboldt No. 1 FPD, the proposed location for the fire station contained in the Ridgewood Village project description may not be adequate. The Humboldt No. 1 FPD Chief states that a location near the intersection of Ridgewood Boulevard and Home Drive would provide improved fire protection to the project and to the existing areas of the fire district.

Analysis of Relevant General Plan Update Policies

The General Plan Update contains a series of policies that direct the County to proactively coordinate with service providers, monitor service capacity in relation to planned development, and encourage the establishment of funding mechanisms to support services and provide the infrastructure needed to serve the development allowable under the Plan. The discussion in impact topic, Impact 3.4.3.1, above describes how Policy IS-P1, Coordination with Service Providers, and Policy IS P8, Infrastructure and Service Capacity, direct the County to coordinate with service providers, monitor service capacity in relation to planned development, and encourages the establishment of appropriate funding mechanisms to ensure that adequate infrastructure and services are available for new development. In addition, Policy IS-P13, District Boundaries, requires that district boundaries and planning boundaries be compatible with the General Plan and community plans and support the orderly development and timing of infrastructure and services.

Specific to fire protection, General Plan Update Policy IS-P18, Expanded Fire Protection Services, would encourage the expansion of existing special district boundaries, or the formation of a County Service Area with agreements to fund contract fire services, as a means to provide fire protection services to areas outside of fire district boundaries. This policy is intended to address the existing problem of development outside of fire related districts as well as support the implementation of the General Plan Update Land Use Diagram. Standards IS-S4, Subdivisions Outside of Fire District Boundaries, and IS-S5, Other Development Outside of Fire District Boundaries, would require that subdivisions outside of fire district boundaries shall be conditioned to ensure the findings required by Government Code Section 66474.02 can be made and that other development or that record an acknowledgment that no emergency response and fire suppression services are available and must implement required mitigation.

Implementation Measures IS-IM20, Fire Protection Levels of Service, would support the development of levels of service standards that could be used in land use planning and project review. IS-IM21, Standards of Fire Protection Response, would encourage fire departments to conduct standards of response coverage studies to identify and address service needs. IS-IM23, Fire Protection Municipal Service Review, would support the preparation of municipal service reviews by LAFCo to support the preparation of a comprehensive countywide fire protection municipal service review by the Humboldt LAFCo to determine the best approaches to improving levels of service countywide and expand service to areas outside existing fire-related district boundaries.

Safety Element Policies and Implementation Measures are also geared to build capacity and increase cooperation with fire departments. Policy S-P12, Joint Planning and Implementation, would require the County to plan collaboratively with local fire agencies and companies, CAL FIRE, and federal fire organizations on countywide fire prevention and response strategies. Policy S-P20, Fire Service Provider Support, would require the County to make information available to fire service organizations about creating districts, increasing organizational capacity, developing funding streams, and improving Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings for reduced insurance costs.

Because FPDs may not be able to extend adequate levels of service to all areas planned for development, through IS-IM22, County Service Area-Fire Protection, the County would establish county service areas and adequate ongoing fire protection funding sources in areas with developed and developable land that cannot be served by existing fire-related districts and where new districts cannot feasibly be established.

The discussion above identifies several fire facilities, the need for which would be facilitated by the implementation of the proposed General Plan Update. The following is a summary of General Plan Update policies that would reduce construction related environmental impacts from new or expanded fire facilities:

- The Circulation Element contains policies to reduce traffic impacts of new and expanded wastewater facilities by utilizing traffic impact thresholds (C-P5, Level of Service Criteria) and by requiring that new development be conditioned to proportionally mitigate significant traffic impacts through construction of on- and off-site improvements and dedication of rights-of-way (C-P4, Mitigation Measures).
- The Biological Resources Chapter within the General Plan Update contains policies to reduce impacts to plants, animals, and habitat by planning land containing sensitive and critical habitats for uses for long term habitat sustainability (BR-P1, Compatible Land Use); conditioning projects to avoid impacts to critical and essential habitat where such resources are present (BR-P2, Critical Habitat); regulating development within streamside management areas to minimize adverse environmental effects (BR-P6, Development within Streamside Management Areas); and through the delineation and protection of wetlands (BR-P-7, Wetland Identification, and BR-S10 Development Standards).
- The Water Resources Element contains policies regarding critical watersheds to protect municipal water supplies from the environmental effects of development (WR-P4, Critical Municipal Water Supply Areas) and to limit the effects of development upon threatened and endangered species including Coho salmon habitat (WR-P5, Critical Watershed Areas); minimizing erosion and sediment discharge through the implementation of performance standards (WR-Px2, Mitigate Controllable Sediment Discharge Sites, WR-P8 Erosion and Sediment Discharge and WR-P36 Erosion and Sediment Control Measures); and by limiting the transmission of contaminants from parking lots to the storm water system by requiring oil water separators (WR-P35, Oil/Water Separation).
- Noise Element policies are intended to minimize short-term noise and noise from stationary sources through the application of appropriate standards (N-P1, Minimize Noise from Stationary and Mobile Sources) and through application of noise performance standards (N-S8 Short-Term Noise Performance Standards-Maximum Noise Level).
- The Safety Element contains policies to plan land use and new development to reduce hazards (S-P1, Reduce the Potential for Loss); applying state geologic and seismic standards to new development (S-P6, Structural Hazards); regulating uses around airports consistent with Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans (S-P21, Development Compatibility

and S-P22, Airport Land Use Compatibility Criteria), and by regulating land uses in flood hazard areas (S-P10, Federal Flood Insurance Program).

- Air Quality Element policies require that construction and grading dust control measures achieve local air quality standards (AQ-P4, Construction and Grading Dust Control) and air quality impacts of new development are reduced through the implementation of mitigation measure during discretionary review (AQ-P5, Air Quality Impacts from New Development).

Conclusion

Implementation of the General Plan Update may result in the need for physical alterations and construction relating to the provision of fire protection services, the construction of which could result in significant environmental effects. Such new fire facilities would likely be constructed as part of a subdivision or require another County land use approval. In this case a project-specific environmental assessment under CEQA would be conducted. The construction of new fire facilities could also be carried out by fire-related districts on land Planned and Zoned in a manner that does not require a County land use approval. In such instances, the fire-related district would be required to seek General Plan conformance review by the County pursuant to Government Code Section 65402, and conduct its own project-specific environmental assessment. In either case, if the fire development project could have potentially significant environmental effects that could not feasibly be mitigated to a less than significant level, an EIR would be prepared. The above-listed General Plan Update policies would direct the County to work cooperatively with the service provider to plan and implement the project in conformance with this plan. In particular, the General Plan encourages public agencies to plan facilities in areas with adequate road, pedestrian, and access to appropriate utility services.

The nature and location of any potential new or expanded fire facilities that could be constructed by the County or another agency and that do not trigger a County land use approval is not known. As a result, the potential impacts of these facilities are too speculative for evaluation in this first tier programmatic EIR. If potential new or expanded fire facilities are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of other public agencies, and not the County, and appropriate mitigations can and should be adopted by such other agency, or other findings made after certification of an EIR in accordance with CEQA.

If the new or expanded facilities were to be constructed as part of a subdivision map approval or other process requiring County discretionary land use approval, such as an amendment to the General Plan Land Use Map, rezone, use permit, or a special permit, the County would ensure that environmental impacts are addressed through appropriate site-specific mitigation measures and the application of the policies listed above, appropriate Zoning Regulations, and its land use authority. Therefore, with implementation of the General Plan Update policies, General Plan Update impacts relating to need for new or expanded fire facilities triggered by the General Plan would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation

None required.

Impact 3.4.3.3. Law Enforcement

The proposed General Plan Update would have a significant impact if it would result in the need for new or physically altered law enforcement 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.

This impact analysis addresses item "a" above, with respect to law enforcement facilities, of the significance criteria described in 3.4.2. Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines,

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

Projected population growth in Humboldt County during the planning period will require increasing the number of Sheriff's deputies and expanding Sheriff's office facilities, if existing levels of service are to be maintained. Major obstacles in maintaining existing levels of services are increasing operational and facility costs, which diminish local government's ability to meet these costs due to revenue constraints and competing budget priorities.

As part of the analysis for the Community Infrastructure and Services Technical Report, the Sheriff's office provided feedback regarding their existing personnel and facility levels and future needs, based on population projections available at that time. The Sheriff's office estimates that an additional 50 deputies will be required by 2027. This planning occurred in 2007, and 2027 represented a 20-year planning horizon at that time. This information is the best available information regarding future Sheriff's office staffing, and the year 2027 appropriately represents the 2028 projected population peak.

The following tables shows the number of existing sworn officers operating out of each patrol substation and the projected increase necessary to maintain an adequate level of service.

Table 3.4-5. Sheriff's Office Operations Staff - 2016 and Projected (2027).

Sub-Station Location	Sworn Staff		Percentage Increase (2007 to 2027)
	2016	Projected 2027	
Eureka	58	88	52%
McKinleyville	12	24	100%
Hoopa	8	16	100%
Garberville	8	16	100%
Resident Posts	4	6	50%
Total	90	150	67%

Source: Community Infrastructure and Services Technical Report, 2008.

In addition to personnel needs, the Sheriff's Office evaluated its current and future facility needs. The following is a listing of proposed improvements to the Sheriff's Office facilities and equipment:

Short-term Projects (5-10 years):

- Develop an enhanced communication system.
- Relocate Emergency Services and Emergency Communications Divisions
- Pursue other service and facility upgrades and expansions as needed.

Long-term Projects (10-20 years):

- Move or expand Main Office and other facilities (North Area Command and Garberville stations).
- Develop a dedicated training facility (could regionalize with partner agencies).
- Pursue technology updates and other services

The implementation of the General Plan Update would contribute to the need for the expansion of the main office and the North Area Command station and Garberville stations, other facility upgrades and expansions as needed, the development of a dedicated training facility, and the development of an enhanced communication system would be construction projects. These projects could result in potentially significant effects on the environment related to air quality and noise during construction, traffic, aesthetics and other impacts.

Analysis of Relevant General Plan Update Policies

The General Plan Update contains a series of policies that direct the County to monitor service capacity in relation to planned development, and encourage the establishment of funding mechanisms to support services and provide the community service and infrastructure needed to serve the development allowable under the Plan. The General Plan Update Community Infrastructure and Services Element includes a number of policies to ensure that adequate utilities and services are available for the proposed development and that the development contributes adequate funding to support the increased public service needs, including law enforcement services.

Policy IS-P1, Coordination with Service Providers, directs the County to work cooperatively with service providers, including the County Sheriff, to identify needs, secure funding, and implement infrastructure and public service projects consistent with this Plan. Policy IS-P4, Requirements for Discretionary Development, specifies that the adequacy of service, such as law enforcement, to support new development shall be evaluated against standards and the development may not be approved unless such services are in place or there is a program to ensure that they will be in place. Policy IS-P17, Law Enforcement, would require the County to monitor law enforcement needs and coverage.

The Sheriff's Office has identified the need for future expansions to the North Area Command station and Garberville and stations, as well as other undefined improvements to maintain its level of service as development consistent with the General Plan Update occurs. The following is a summary of General Plan Update policies that would reduce construction related environmental impacts from new or expanded law enforcement facilities:

- The Circulation Element contains policies to reduce traffic impacts of new and expanded wastewater facilities by utilizing traffic impact thresholds (C-P5, Level of Service Criteria) and by requiring that new development be conditioned to proportionally mitigate significant traffic impacts through construction of on- and off-site improvements and dedication of rights-of-way (C-P4, Mitigation Measures).

- The Biological Resources Chapter within the General Plan Update contains policies to reduce impacts to plants, animals, and habitat by planning land containing sensitive and critical habitats for uses for long term habitat sustainability (BR-P1, Compatible Land Use); conditioning projects to avoid impacts to critical and essential habitat where such resources are present (BR-P2, Critical Habitat); regulating development within streamside management areas to minimize adverse environmental effects (BR-P6, Development within Streamside Management Areas); and through the delineation and protection of wetlands (BR-P-7, Wetland Identification, and BR-S10 Development Standards).
- The Water Resources Element contains policies regarding critical watersheds to protect municipal water supplies from the environmental effects of development (WR-P4, Critical Municipal Water Supply Areas) and to limit the effects of development upon threatened and endangered species including Coho salmon habitat (WR-P5, Critical Watershed Areas); minimizing erosion and sediment discharge through the implementation of performance standards (WR-Px2, Mitigate Controllable Sediment Discharge Sites, WR-P8 Erosion and Sediment Discharge and WR-P36 Erosion and Sediment Control Measures); and by limiting the transmission of contaminants from parking lots to the storm water system by requiring oil water separators (WR-P35, Oil/Water Separation).
- Noise Element policies are intended to minimize short-term noise and noise from stationary sources through the application of appropriate standards (N-P1, Minimize Noise from Stationary and Mobile Sources) and through application of noise performance standards (N-S8 Short-Term Noise Performance Standards-Maximum Noise Level).
- The Safety Element contains policies to plan land use and new development to reduce hazards (S-P1, Reduce the Potential for Loss); applying state geologic and seismic standards to new development (S-P6, Structural Hazards); regulating uses around airports consistent with Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans (S-P21, Development Compatibility and S-P22, Airport Land Use Compatibility Criteria), and by regulating land uses in flood hazard areas (S-P10, Federal Flood Insurance Program).
- Air Quality Element policies require that construction and grading dust control measures achieve local air quality standards (AQ-P4, Construction and Grading Dust Control) and air quality impacts of new development are reduced through the implementation of mitigation measure during discretionary review (AQ-P5, Air Quality Impacts from New Development).

Conclusion

The General Plan Update Community Infrastructure and Services Element includes policies to monitor law enforcement needs and coverage and to work with the Sheriff to secure funding sources to ensure that facilities are available as service demand increases as a result of future growth allowed under the General Plan Update,. Potential impacts resulting from the physical alterations and construction relating to the provision of law enforcement services required to accommodate future growth allowed under the General Plan Update, would be lessened by the implementation General Plan Update policies identified above. Therefore, impacts to law enforcement services resulting from the implementation of the General Plan Update would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation

None required.