

III. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Unlike utility services, public facilities and services are provided to the community as a whole, usually from a central location or from a defined set of nodes. The resources base for delivery of the services, including the physical service delivery mechanisms, is financed on a community-wide basis, usually from a unified or integrated financial system. The service delivery can be provided by a city, county, service, or other special district. Usually, new development would create an incremental increase in the demand for these services; the amount of the demand would vary widely, depending on both the nature of the development (residential vs. industrial, for instance) and the type of services, as well as on the specific characteristics of the development (such as senior housing vs. family housing.)

The impact of a particular project on public services and facilities is generally a fiscal impact. By increasing the demand for a type of service, a project could cause an eventual increase in the cost of providing the service (more personnel hours to patrol an area, additional fire equipment needed to service a tall building, etc.). These impacts are economic; they are not environmental.

CEQA does not require an analysis of fiscal impacts unless the increased demand triggers the need for a new facility (such as a school or fire station), since the new facility could have a physical impact on the environment.

1. Fire and Emergency Service

Fire protection and emergency service to the project site is provided by the Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD). The fire department participates in a mutual aid program with the Cities of Gilroy, Milpitas, Mountain View, Palo Alto and San José. Moffett Field also participates in the mutual aid program. Through this program, should the City of Los Altos need assistance in addition to its own units, one or more of the mutual aid cities would provide assistance to locations within the City of Los Altos in whatever capacity needed. The closest fire station to the site is County Station No. 15, located at 10 Almond Avenue, approximately one mile from the site. First due response time to the project site is four minutes, which meets the SCCFD's first response time goal of 5.5 minutes or less. The proposed project would probably result in an incrementally increased demand for fire protection and emergency service. The proposed project is not expected to result in the need for a new fire facility, the construction of which could result in an impact on the physical environment.

2. Police Service

Police protection services are provided to the project site by the City of Los Altos Police Department. Officers patrolling the project area are dispatched from police headquarters, located at One North San Antonio Road. The Los Altos Police Department is authorized for 30 sworn officers, six communications officers, and a non-sworn staff of six persons. While the proposed project may incrementally increase the need for police services to the project site, the project would not require the construction of a new police facility.

3. Schools

The City of Los Altos is served by a total of six public school districts, serving elementary, middle, and high school students. The project site is located within the Los Altos School District and the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District. The proposed project is not residential and,

therefore, would not result in an increased demand on schools that might result in a demand for expanded school facilities.

4. Libraries

The Santa Clara County Library System consists of eight libraries and one branch library. The Los Altos Library and the Woodland Branch Library serve the City of Los Altos. The proposed project will not cause or facilitate increased demand for library services, resulting in a need for new library facilities, the construction of which could result in an impact on the physical environment.

5. Parks

The City of Los Altos has ten city parks. The project site is located within the boundaries of Rosita Park and land leased to the City from the Los Altos Elementary School District. Currently, the City has 1.22 acres per 1,000 residents. The City's parkland goal is to have five park land acres for every 1,000 residents; therefore, the City is deficient in park space. The proposed project would replace the existing tennis courts on the site with a community swim center. The proposed project may incrementally increase the use of Rosita Park, if swimmers also use the additional park facilities. However, this increase usage is not anticipated to significantly impact or cause deterioration or overcrowding at the park.

Conclusion: The proposed project would not result in a significant impact on the physical environment as a result of the increased demand upon public services. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**