

Public Services

Chapter 3.14

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The proposed Project will result in *Less Than Significant Impacts* related to Public Services. A detailed review of potential impacts is provided in the analysis below.

INTRODUCTION

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) addresses potential impacts to Land Use and Recreation. As required in Section 15126, all phases of the proposed Project will be considered was part of the potential environmental impact.

As noted in Section 15126.2 (a), “[a]n EIR shall identify and focus on the significant environmental effects of the proposed project. In assessing the impact of a proposed project on the environment, the lead agency should normally limit its examination to changes in the existing physical conditions in the affected area as they exist at the time the notice of preparation is published, or where no notice of preparation is published, at the time environmental analysis is commenced. Direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the environment shall be clearly identified and described, giving due consideration to both the short-term and long-term effects. The discussion should include relevant specifics of the area, the resources involved, physical changes, alterations to ecological systems, and changes induced in population distribution, population concentration, the human use of the land (including commercial and residential development), health and safety problems caused by the physical changes, and other aspects of the resource base such as water, historical resources, scenic quality, and public services. The EIR shall also analyze any significant environmental effects the project might cause by bringing development and people into the area affected. For example, an EIR on a subdivision astride an active fault line should identify as a significant effect the seismic hazard to future occupants of the subdivision. The subdivision would have the effect of attracting people to the location and exposing them to the hazards found there. Similarly, the EIR should evaluate any potentially significant impacts of locating development in other areas susceptible to hazardous conditions (e.g., floodplains, coastlines, wildfire risk areas) as identified in authoritative hazard maps, risk assessments or in land use plans addressing such hazards areas.”¹ The environmental setting provides a description of the Public Services Setting in Tulare County. The regulatory setting provides a description of applicable Federal, State, and Local regulatory policies that were developed in part from information contained in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR incorporated by reference and summarized below. Additional documents utilized are noted as appropriate. A description of the potential impacts of the proposed Project is provided and includes the identification of feasible mitigation measures (if necessary and feasible) to avoid or lessen the impacts.

¹ CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.2

Thresholds of Significance

The thresholds of significance for this section are established by the CEQA Checklist Item questions. The following are potential thresholds for significance.

- Impact Fire Services
- Impact Police Services
- Impact Schools
- Impact Parks
- Impact Other Public Facilities

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Tulare County Fire Protection

The [formerly titled] California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/Tulare County Fire Department (now CalFire/TCFD) serve 145,128 of Tulare County's population and in 2002, averaged 38.4 calls per day.² Fire occurrence data generated by the department indicate a direct relationship between high use areas of the county and fire occurrence. The population increase in the mountain areas have caused increased wildland urban interface problems as well. Structures are being built throughout wildland areas wherein vegetation fires can spread rapidly. Providing adequate fire protection to those structures has become a major undertaking.³

"..[T]he Tulare County Fire Department responded to 14,022 calls for service in 2002... [A] majority of the calls were for medical emergencies (52 percent) followed by fire calls (20 percent). The remaining calls ranged from dispatch incidents (8.1 percent) to assisting other agencies (7.3 percent) to public assistance (3.4 percent)."⁴ The Goshen #7 Fire Station is approximately 1.3 miles north of the proposed Project site and serves western Tulare County. The station is backed up by stations located in Visalia, Tulare and Kings County.

CalFire/TCFD uses an "attack" time protocol of less than 10 minutes to respond to 90 percent of the calls on the valley floor and less than 15 minutes on 75 percent of calls in the foothill and mountain areas. The Project site is in the 15 minute response area. Such response times are feasible from each of the stations mentioned.⁵

Police Protection

"In 2007, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department currently had 448 sworn officers serving its unincorporated population (145,128), and generates a level of service ratio of 3.2 officers per 1,000 residents. The ratio is above the accepted standard of 2.0 officers per 1,000 residents set by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Sheriff's Department also has 186 non-sworn clerical and support staff amounting to total Sheriffs Department staff personnel of 633 employees."⁶

"Law enforcement protection for the unincorporated county is divided into 22 areas with four stations... [T]he Porterville substation serves the largest number of areas with 10 patrols, followed by the headquarters in Visalia with six, and Cutler-Orosi and Pixley, each with three

² Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update, *Background Report*, Table 7-6

³ Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update, *Background Report*, Page 7-73

⁴ Ibid. Page 7-74

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid. Pages 7-71 to 7-72

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areas.”⁷

The Tulare County Sheriff’s Department is just over five miles to the east of the proposed Project site.

Schools

A total of 48 school districts provide education throughout Tulare County... Of the 48 school districts, seven are unified districts providing educational services for kindergarten through 12th grade. The remaining 41 districts consist of 36 elementary school districts and four high school districts. Many districts only have one school.”⁸

“Total enrolment in Tulare County public schools has increased from about 80,000 to 88,300 students during a nine-year span from 1993 to 2002. On average, the growth rate has remained steady with annual increases approximating two percent.”⁹

Goshen Elementary School is approximately 1.2 miles to the north of the proposed Project site while Sycamore Valley Academy is just over two miles to the south.

Parks

There are a number of Federal, State, and local parks within Tulare County. There are 13 park and recreational facilities operated by Tulare County. A list of these local park facilities is provided in Table 3.14-1.

**Table 3.14-1
Recreational Areas in Tulare County¹⁰**

ID	Recreation Area	Location	Acres	Type of Use/Features
1	Alpaugh Park	Located in Alpaugh on Road 40.	3	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. No entrance fee.
2	Balch Park Campgrounds	20 miles NE of Springville in the Sierras.	160	71 Campsites. No reservations taken; first come first serve basis. Entrance fee for vehicles.
3	Bartlett Park	8 miles east of Porterville on North Drive.	127.5	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. Entrance fee for vehicles.
4	Camp COTYAC	Near Ponderosa in Eastern Tulare County.	8	County of Tulare Youth Adventure Camp (Camp COTYAC). Cabins, lodge with kitchen, restrooms and showers.
5	Cutler Park	5 miles east of Visalia on Highway 216 to Ivanhoe.	50	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. Entrance fee for vehicles.
6	Elk Bayou Park	6 miles SE of Tulare on Avenue 200.	60	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. No fee for day use.

⁷ Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update, *Background Report*, Page 7-72

⁸ Ibid. Pages 7-75 to 7-76

⁹ Ibid. Page 7-76

¹⁰ Ibid. Page 4-4

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7	Kings River Nature Preserve	2 miles east of Highway 99 on Road 28	85	This park is only for school environmental programs.
8	Ledbetter Park	1 mile northwest of Cutler on Road 124/Hwy 63	11	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. No fee.
9	Mooney Grove Park	2 Miles south of Caldwell Avenue on Mooney Blvd. In South Visalia.	143	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. Paddle boats, playground, baseball diamonds. Home of the End Trail statue. One of the largest oak woodlands in Tulare County. Location of the Agriculture and Farm Labor Museum.
10	Pixley Park	1 mile NE of Pixley on Road 124.	22	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. No fee.
11	Tulare County Museum	In Mooney Grove Park, South Visalia.	8.5	Free admission with park fee. Museum is opened Thursday thru Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday).
12	Woodville Park	Located in Avenue 166 in Woodville.	10	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. Day use no entrance fee.
13	West Main Street Park	2 blocks west of County Courthouse on Main Street in Downtown Visalia.	5	Day use no entrance fee.

A more detailed discussion of Recreational facilities is provided in Chapter 3.15.

Library

“The Tulare County Public Library System comprises of interdependent branches, grouped by services, geography and usage patterns to provide efficient and economical services to the residents of the county. At present, there are 14 regional libraries and one main branch.”¹¹ The nearest libraries to the Project are identified in Table 3.14-2

**Table 3.14-2
Tulare County Libraries**

Branch	Address	<i>Service Hours (2014)¹²</i>
Dinuba	150 South I Street Dinuba, CA 93618-2399	Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Ivanhoe	15964 Heather Ivanhoe, CA 93235-1253	Tuesdays: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Tipton	301 East Woods Tipton, CA 93272	Thursday and Friday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

¹¹ Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update, *Background Report*, Page 7-96

¹² Library hours as of 2014. Locations: <http://www.tularecountylibrary.org/index.html>. Accessed July, 2014.

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Visalia	Main Branch 200 West Oak Avenue Visalia, CA 93291-4993	Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Fridays: 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

REGULATORY SETTING

Federal Agencies & Regulations

None that apply to the proposed Project.

State Agencies & Regulations

None that apply to the proposed Project.

Local Policy & Regulations

Tulare County General Plan Policies

The Tulare County General Plan has several policies that apply to projects within County of Tulare. General Plan policies that relate to the proposed Project are listed as follows:

PFS-7.1 Fire Protection - The County shall strive to expand fire protection service in areas that experience growth in order to maintain adequate levels of service.

PFS-7.2 Fire Protection Standards - The County shall require all new development to be adequately served by water supplies, storage, and conveyance facilities supplying adequate volume, pressure, and capacity for fire protection.

PFS-7.3 Visible Signage for Roads and Buildings - The County shall strive to ensure all roads are properly identified by name or number with clearly visible signs.

The County shall strive to ensure all roads are properly identified by name or number with clearly visible signs.

PFS-7.5 Fire Staffing and Response Time Standards - The County shall strive to maintain fire department staffing and response time goals consistent with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

Table 3.14-5
Fire Staffing and Responses Time Standards¹³

	Demographics	Staffing/Response Time	% of Calls
Urban	> 1,000 people/sq. mi.	15 FF/9 min.	90
Suburban	500-100 people/sq. mi.	10 FF/10 min.	80
Rural	< 500 people/sq. mi.	6 FF/14 min.	80
Remote*	Travel Dist. > 8 min.	4 FF/no specific response time	90
<i>*Upon assembling the necessary resources at the emergency scene, the fire department should have the capacity to safely commence an initial attack within 2 minutes, 90% of the time. (FF = Fire Fighters)</i>			

PFS-7.6 Provision of Station Facilities and Equipment - The County shall strive to provide sheriff and fire station facilities, equipment (engines and other apparatus), and staffing necessary to maintain the County's service goals. The County shall continue to cooperate with mutual aid providers to provide coverage throughout the County.

PFS-7.8 Law Enforcement Staffing Ratios - The County shall strive to achieve and maintain a staffing ratio of 3 sworn officers per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas.

PFS-7.9 Sheriff Response Time - The County shall work with the Sheriff's Department to achieve and maintain a response time of:

1. Less than 10 minutes for 90 percent of the calls in the valley region; and
2. 15 minutes for 75 percent of the calls in the foothill and mountain regions.

PFS-7.12 Design Features for Crime Prevention and Reduction - The County shall promote the use of building and site design features as means for crime prevention and reduction.

PFS-8.1 Work with Local School Districts - The County shall work with local school districts to develop solutions for overcrowded schools and financial constraints of constructing new facilities.

PFS-8.4 Library Facilities and Services - The County shall encourage expansion of library facilities and services as necessary to meet the needs (e.g., internet access, meeting rooms, etc.) of future population growth.

IMPACT EVALUATION

- a) **Would the project 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?

¹³ Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update, Policy PFS – 7.5.

Project Impact Analysis: ***Less Than Significant Impact***

The proposed Project is within the service area of the Tulare County Fire Department. The County of Tulare Fire Department has 28 stations that are located throughout the County within its most densely populated areas and currently maintains minimal staffing to meet the requirements set forth under NFPA 1720-1721 for a rural area. These requirements consist of one full-time person per station per shift with other paid on-call firefighters. Per the Tulare County Fire Department, while this is sufficient to meet the basic needs of the County, this level of staffing often results in an elevated fire loss value during some emergency conditions when compared with other departments with additional staff support¹⁴.

In addition to the need for additional staff, some facilities need repairs, replacements, or facility relocations. Currently, relocations are planned for the South Visalia and Alpaugh fire stations. Additional fire stations in need of relocation included West Olive, Tulare, and Dinuba fire stations¹⁵.

The Goshen Fire Station, which is the nearest and would serve the proposed Project, is not listed among the stations needing relocation, repair or upgrade. Project-specific impacts related to this checklist item will not likely occur as the proposed Project is not increasing the service area for the Goshen Fire Station. The site has had industrial occupants since 2010.

Less Than Significant Project-specific Impacts related to this Checklist Item will occur.

Cumulative Impact Analysis: ***Less Than Significant Impact***

The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR.

The proposed Project will not significantly impact the fire department's response times. Therefore, ***Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts*** related to this Checklist Item will occur.

Mitigation Measure(s): ***None Required.***

Conclusion: ***Less Than Significant Impact***

As the Project will be required to comply with applicable Building, Fire, Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Codes, and Fire Department approval, the Project-specific impacts related to this Checklist item will be ***Less Than Significant*** level. ***No Cumulative Impacts*** related to this Checklist Item will occur.

Police protection?

Project Impact Analysis: ***No Impact***

¹⁴ Tulare County Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (SCH # 2006041162). Page 3.9-25.

¹⁵ Ibid.

The County of Tulare's Sheriff's Office will provide police protection services to the proposed Project upon development. Emergency response is adequate to the proposed Project. No residential construction is proposed for this site. There will be ***No Impact*** to police services.

Cumulative Impact Analysis: ***No Impact***

The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR.

As noted earlier, the proposed Project will not impact Police Services. As such, ***No Cumulative Impacts*** related to this Checklist Item will occur.

Mitigation Measure(s): ***None required.***

Conclusion: ***No Impact***

As noted earlier, ***No Project-specific or Cumulative Impacts*** related to this Checklist Item will occur.

Schools?

Project Impact Analysis: ***No Impact***

The nearest school, Goshen Elementary School, is located just over a mile north of the proposed Project site. The proposed Project will not include any residential housing and will not generate any new school students at any grade level.

Cumulative Impact Analysis: ***No Impact***

The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR.

As noted earlier, the proposed Project will not impact Schools. As such, ***No Cumulative Impacts*** related to this Checklist Item will occur.

Mitigation Measure(s): ***None Required.***

Conclusion: ***No Impact***

As noted earlier, ***No Project-specific or Cumulative Impacts*** related to this Checklist Item will occur.

Parks?

Project Impact Analysis: ***No Impact***

The Project site is not near any of the County's local parks. The nearest private park to the Project is the Visalia/Sequoia National Park KOA located in Goshen, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the proposed site. The nearest public park, Plaza Park, in the City of

Visalia, is approximately 1.75 miles southeast of the proposed site. The nearest local park within the County of Tulare is Mooney Grove, located approximately seven miles southeast of the site. Absent any residential housing development, the proposed Project will not require that employees be added, or interfere with the use of these parks during operations or construction. Therefore, there will be ***No Impact*** on parks.

Cumulative Impact Analysis: ***No Impact***

The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR.

As noted earlier, the proposed Project will not impact Recreational Services. As such, ***No Cumulative Impacts*** related to this Checklist Item will occur.

Mitigation Measure(s): ***None Required.***

Conclusion: ***No Impact***

As noted earlier, ***No Project-specific or Cumulative Impacts*** related to this Checklist Item will occur.

Other public facilities?

Project Impact Analysis: ***No Impact***

Other public facilities that may be impacted include water treatment plants, libraries, and solid waste disposal facilities.

The Project will rely on an existing and a new septic system. The proposed Project is not connected to a sewer line nor does it rely on a wastewater treatment facility to provide wastewater treatment. Thus, the proposed Project will not impact service levels of a waste water treatment facility.

The proposed Project does not involve the creation of any new residences and will not impact library service levels. As such, ***No Project-specific Impacts*** related to this Checklist Item will occur.

Cumulative Impact Analysis: ***No Impact***

The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR.

As noted earlier, the proposed Project will not impact other public facilities. As such, ***No Cumulative Impacts*** related to this Checklist Item will occur.

Mitigation Measure(s): ***None Required.***

Conclusion: ***No Impact***

As noted earlier, ***No Project-specific or Cumulative Impacts*** related to this Checklist Item will occur.

REFERENCES

CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.2

Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update, Background Report, Table 7-6

Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update, Background Report, Pages 4-4, 7-71, 7-72, 7-73, 7-74, 75, 7-76, 7-96

Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update, Policy PFS – 7.5.

Tulare County Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (SCH # 2006041162). Page 3.9-25.