

## 4.9 Public Services

This section addresses potential impacts associated with public services and facilities resulting from the build out of proposed land uses and implementation of programs within the proposed Plan. Table 4.9-1 below identifies the public services and the associated service providers for the Plan Area.

<b>Table 4.9-1: Public Services within Plan Area</b>	
<b>Service</b>	<b>Service Provider</b>
Emergency Services	County Office of Emergency Management
Fire Protection	County Fire Department Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Law Enforcement	County Sheriff California Highway Patrol California State Parks Department Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest
Parks and Recreation*	California State Parks Department County Community Services Department
Schools	Vista Del Mar Union Elementary School District Lompoc Unified School District Santa Barbara High School District Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District
Solid Waste Collection/ Disposal and Recycling Programs	Marborg Industries (Franchise agreement with the County Public Works Department). Waste is disposed of at the Tajiguas Landfill.
Flood Control*	County Public Works Department
Transportation*	County Public Works Department California Department of Transportation
Wastewater	Private on-site systems (septic or dry wells)
Water	Goleta Water District Cachuma Project Various private water companies Private wells

\*Parks and recreation-, storm drain-, and transportation-related impacts are addressed in EIR sections 4.13, 4.7, and 4.2, respectively.

## **4.9.1 Emergency Services**

### **4.9.1.1 Setting**

The County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is responsible for emergency planning and coordination among the Santa Barbara Operational Area entities. The OEM maintains the County Emergency Operations Center in a state of operational readiness, maintains trained team members, provides leadership and coordination for disaster plans and exercises, assists County departments with emergency plans, and participates in public preparedness education.

Emergency response planning is a region-wide issue overseen by the OEM, working with local jurisdictions. The County employs a Reverse 9-1-1 system to notify the public of the need to evacuate a specific area. Sheriff Deputies may be dispatched to assist the impacted area. In the event of a large-scale geologic or seismic event, the County OEM will implement the County Emergency Management Plan (EMP), which outlines protocols for emergency planning, management, and response. Additionally, the OEM may activate the County Emergency Operations Center to coordinate multi-agency emergency response efforts for an event in compliance with the state Standardized Emergency Management System protocols.

The County does not prescribe fixed emergency evacuation routes for fire or hazard-related evacuation events due to the variability and transformative nature of these events. The County Sheriff's Department and County Fire Department along with other cooperating agencies are responsible for implementing emergency evacuations. The public safety agencies comply with a Unified Command protocol to determine appropriate evacuation routes based upon the conditions of the emergency event. County public safety agencies maintain emergency response protocols that include criteria and guidelines for communication, and implementation of evacuation orders or warnings. The County also maintains protocols designed to assure that, during an evacuation event, evacuation routes remain clear, traffic moves smoothly, routes/areas are isolated as appropriate, and the risk of accidents on roadways are minimized.

### **4.9.1.2 Regulatory Framework**

Emergency response plans include elements to maintain continuity of government, emergency functions of governmental agencies, mobilization and application of resources, mutual aid, and public information. Emergency response plans are maintained at the federal, state, and local level for all types of disasters. It is the responsibility of government to undertake an ongoing comprehensive approach to emergency management in order to avoid or minimize the effects of hazardous events.

## **Santa Barbara Emergency Management Plan**

The 2014 Santa Barbara Emergency Management Plan identifies several hazards (both natural and man-made) throughout the County, and prescribes the actions the County takes to prepare, respond, and recover from an emergency or disaster. The EMP was developed to meet federal and state requirements for emergency plans, enabling the County and cities to be eligible for disaster recovery funds.

## **Santa Barbara County Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The impact of expected, yet often unpredictable, natural and human-caused events can be reduced through planning. The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) is a planning tool for all stakeholders and policy makers to increase public awareness of local hazards and risks, while at the same time providing information about options and resources available to reduce those risks. The MJHMP is located in the Seismic Safety and Safety Element of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The MJHMP for the County (County of Santa Barbara, et al. 2011) includes input from each incorporated city, interested public, responsible officials, and the California Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The County's MJHMP includes the following goals and objectives:

- Objective 1.A: Facilitate the development or updating of the County's Comprehensive Plan, City General Plans and zoning ordinances to limit (or ensure safe) development in hazard areas.
- Objective 2.E: Protect existing structures with the highest relative vulnerability to the effects of identified hazards through structural mitigation projects.
- Objective 3.A: Educate the public to increase awareness of hazards, potential impact, and opportunities for mitigation actions.

### **4.9.1.3 Impact Analysis**

#### **Thresholds of Significance and Methodology**

##### ***CEQA Guidelines***

According to CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, implementation of the Plan would have significant environmental impacts associated with hazards if it would:

- Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

## Impacts Determination and Mitigation Measures

### *Impact SERV-1 Emergency Response Plans*

Interference with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan would result in an adverse physical effect to people or the environment by potentially increasing the loss of life and property in the event of a disaster. Development that proposes large concentrations of people in an area with increased hazards or limited evacuation routes could cause adverse effects related to the implementation of the MJHMP or the EMP.

Failure to provide reasonable access and adequate water for firefighting for emergency equipment and evacuation of civilians can also result in the major loss of life, property, and natural resources. Additionally, certain tall structures can physically interfere with the implementation of an emergency response if the height of the structure or tower interferes with the ability of emergency air support services to carry out missions associated with an emergency response.

The MJHMP is a tool for all stakeholders to increase public awareness of local hazards and risks, while at the same time providing information about options and resources available to reduce those risks. The EMP identifies several hazards (both natural and man-made) throughout the County, and provides the actions the County takes to prepare, respond, and recover from an emergency or disaster, including evacuation routes.

Permitting of development in the Plan Area would be subject to standard Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCFD) review pursuant to Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.11 (Section 25404 et seq.), which requires adequate access for emergency vehicles, fire hydrants that meet required fire flow requirements, requires appropriate evacuation routes, and regulates the storage of any flammable and explosive materials and their transport within the Plan Area. Plan buildout would not result in large concentrations of people within the Plan Area. Uses allowed under the Gaviota Agricultural Tiered Permit Structure could result in additional persons within the Plan Area who are attracted by farm stands or rural recreational agricultural opportunities. However, all future development within the Plan Area would need to comply with applicable California Fire Code and Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) regulations.

In addition, the LUDC and Coastal Zoning Ordinance amendments proposed to implement the Gaviota Agricultural Tiered Permit Structure include provisions that ensure adequate parking is available and emergency access routes would not be blocked. For example, development standards for farmstands prohibits parking areas from being located within any adjacent road rights-of-way or trail easements, prohibits turning movements into the premises from an adjacent road rights-of-way from creating congestion or causing unnecessary slowing at access points, and prohibits direct access to farmstand sales areas from an at-grade crossing with Highway 101 (LUDC Section 35.42.050 E.1.a (12) through (14)). These measures would ensure emergency ingress/egress does not become blocked and activities would not create circumstances that interfere with implementation of an emergency response plan. With

implementation of development standards included in the zoning ordinance amendments, a less than significant impact related to emergency response plans would result.

Implementation of the Plan does not propose to change the plans or policies of the MJHMP, EMP, or any other emergency plan, although it is possible that land uses and development implemented under the Plan may require the updating of these emergency plans. Although unlikely due to the limited development potential in the Plan Area, construction activities could temporarily interfere with emergency plans and procedures if authorities are not properly notified, or multiple projects are constructed at the same time and roadways used for emergency routes are concurrently blocked. These issues are typically resolved as each development project is under review.

The County will continue to include the OEM, the Sheriff's Department, and the Fire Department in the review of subsequent development plans for projects. During this process, the applicable public and private road standards are implemented to ensure that road improvements are consistent with emergency response and evacuation plans.

Therefore, the Plan would not substantially interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan due to existing procedures in place, development standards, and that the Plan would maintain low levels of potential growth within the Plan Area. This is consistent with the existing rural agricultural character of the land. Impacts would be less than significant. An analysis of potential emergency response impacts resulting from PRT Maps Amendments are discussed in Section 4.13.

The Plan does not contain policies specific to emergency response; however, all Plan policies were reviewed to ensure that policies do not conflict with existing Plans in place for emergency response and evacuation. None of the proposed Plan policies would have the potential to obstruct implementation of emergency response plans.

## **Mitigation**

~~Public services~~ Impacts to Emergency Response Plan would be less than significant; therefore, mitigation would not be required.

## **Residual Impacts**

The Plan would not substantially interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan due to the existing procedures in place, development standards applicable to activities allowed under the Gaviota Agricultural Tiered Permit Structure, and also due to the fact that the Plan would maintain low levels of potential growth within the Plan Area. This is consistent with the existing rural agricultural character of the land. Impacts would be less than significant (Class III impact).

## 4.9.2 Fire Protection

### 4.9.2.1 Setting

The Plan Area has a Mediterranean type climate in which hot summer droughts are followed by winter season rainfall. The hot, dry summers subject vegetation to prolonged periods of moisture stress at times when wildfire is most likely. In addition to the long, dry summers, the area is subject to “sundowner” type winds with speeds up to 50 miles per hour or more. These strong winds bring very warm, dry air onto the coastal plain, further removing moisture from vegetation and resulting in very high fire hazard conditions. Table 4.9-2 identifies major wildland fires in the Gaviota Coast Plan Area since 1900.

Refugio Fire	1955, burned 79,429 acres between Gaviota and San Marcos Pass
Eagle Canyon Fire	1979, burned 3,765 acres above the Naples township
Gaviota Fire	2004, burned 7,443 acres around Gaviota State Park
Gap Fire	2008, burned 9,445 acres around West Camino Cielo
<u>Sherpa Fire</u>	<u>2016, burned 7,474 acres between Refugio Road to just east of El Capitan Canyon</u>

### Santa Barbara County Fire Department

The SBCFD provides fire protection services within the Plan Area. The SBCFD comprises 16 fire stations and serves an area of approximately 2,700 square miles. The stations nearest to the eastern portion of the Gaviota Coast are located within the City of Goleta and are Stations 11, 14, and 12, respectively. County Fire Station 18 is located at Mariposa Reina, near the Gaviota Tunnel and serves the western portion of the Gaviota Coast with its western boundary at Jalama Beach, northern boundary at Nojoqui Summit and eastern boundary at El Capitan State Beach. Figure 4.9-1 identifies the location of County Fire Station 18, the only station located within the Plan Area. All County firefighters are trained as emergency medical technicians and Fire Station 11 is staffed with full-time paramedics.

The Fire Prevention Division of the SBCFD provides development standards for driveways, fire hydrants, private roads, and access roads. The standards address visibility of address markers, prescribe minimum widths, road surface treatment and materials of roads and driveways, turnaround design, and access requirements for gates and other barriers. As these standards outline, the Fire Chief must approve certain alternate access routes.

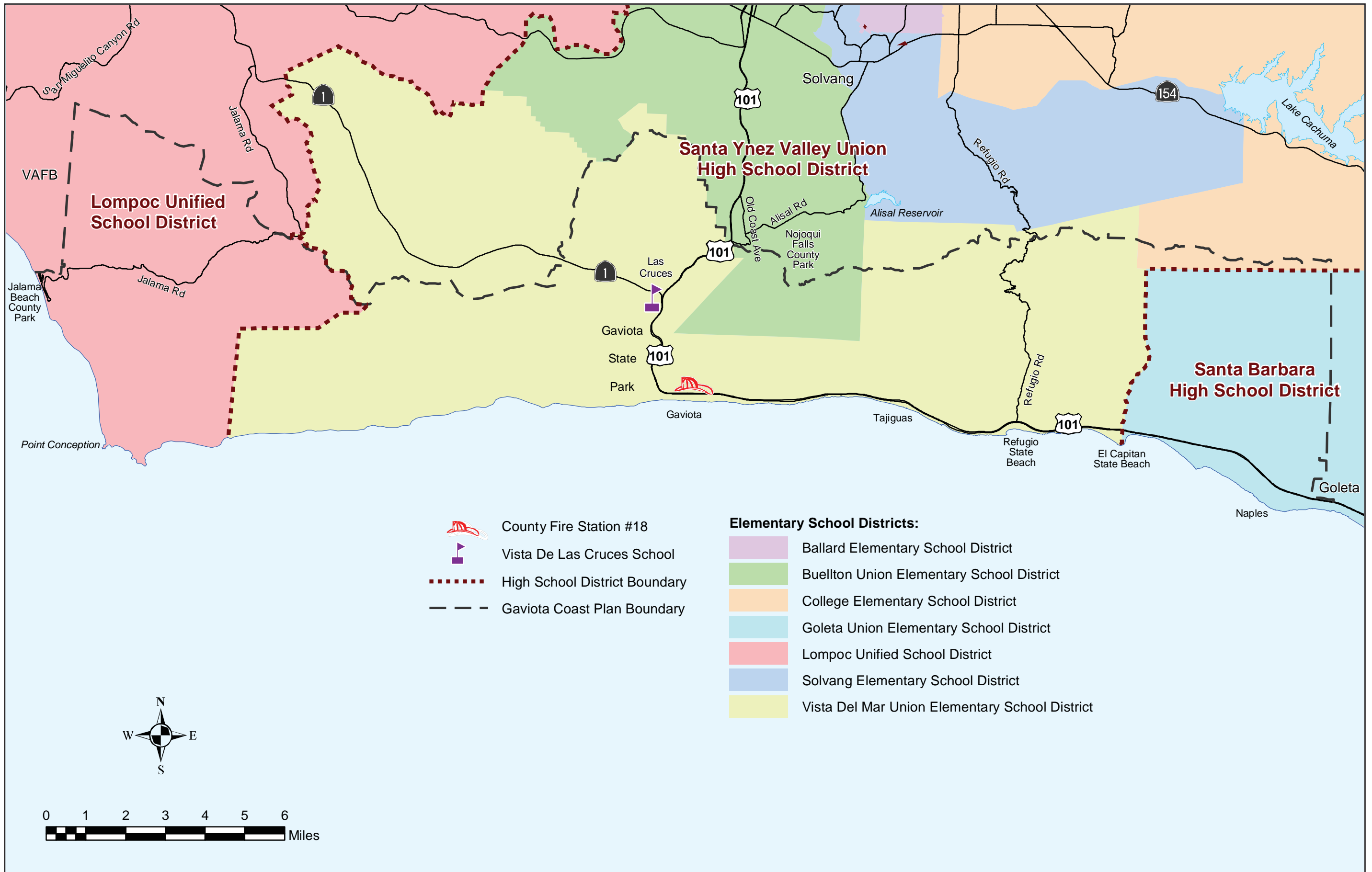


FIGURE 4.9-1 Gaviota Coast Plan – Public Services and School Districts

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## **Hollister Ranch Fire Company**

In 2010, Hollister Ranch owners established a private fire company on their property called the Hollister Ranch Fire Company, which was created in response to the recent fires in order to ensure safety and protection for the Hollister Ranch agricultural community.

## **U.S. Forest Service (USFS)**

Large portions of the northern portion of the Plan Area, east of Gaviota State Park, are within the Los Padres National Forest. The USFS provides fire and law enforcement service within the Los Padres National Forest. A Fire Program has been developed for the Los Padres National Forest, and it focuses on management and administration, fire prevention, wildland fire suppression and preparedness, and hazardous fuels reduction. Fire suppression resources for the Los Padres National Forest include fire engine modules, 20-person hand crews, helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, fire prevention personnel, bulldozers, and water tenders (USDA 2005). Additional resources from other National Forests are also available on an as-needed basis. The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region Fire and Aviation Management (FAM) division is primarily responsible for fire suppression and management within the Los Padres National Forest lands and lands managed by Forest Service partners. The Pacific Southwest Region FAM is responsible for wildland fire protection in the northern portion of the Gaviota Coast.

## **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)**

CAL FIRE is a state agency responsible for protecting natural resources from fire on land designated by the State Board of Forestry as a State Responsibility Area. CAL FIRE has mapped areas of significant fire hazards in the County through their Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP). These maps place areas of the County into different Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) based upon fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors (see below). These also include Federal Responsibility Areas (FRA), State Responsibility Areas (SRA), and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA).

CAL FIRE also manages the state forest system and has responsibility to enforce the forest practice regulations, which govern forestry practices on private and other non-federal lands. The County Fire Department (CFD) provides fire protection to the SRA within the Plan Area under a contract with CAL FIRE. Under the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement, CAL FIRE assists other fire departments within the state when department resources are available, regardless of the type of disaster. CAL FIRE can access the local government fire departments through the same agreement for assistance in wildland fire suppression.

When resources are thinly stretched, agreements with the California Military Department provide California National Guard resources. These include activation of the C-130 aircraft (Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System), helicopters, support personnel, communications equipment, and other specialized resources.

The largest of CAL FIRE's cooperative programs involves an agreement for the exchange of fire protection services with federal wildland fire agencies, including the USFS, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service. The goal is to have the closest agency respond to a wildfire, regardless of jurisdiction. Through this cooperative relationship, California is able to access federal and state resources throughout the U.S. to help in times of disaster, when department resources are depleted. CAL FIRE provides assistance, through interstate compact agreements, to the federal and other state wildfire agencies throughout the nation.

### ***Fire Hazard Severity Zones***

To assist each fire agency in addressing its responsibility area, CAL FIRE uses a severity classification system to identify areas or zones of severity for fire hazards within the state. CAL FIRE is required to map these zones. FHSZ maps identify moderate, high, and very high hazard severity zones using a science-based and field-tested computer model that assigns a hazard score based on the factors that influence fire likelihood and fire behavior. Factors considered include fire history, existing and potential fuel (natural vegetation), flame length, blowing embers, terrain, and typical weather for the area. The maps are used to:

- Implement wildland–urban interface building standards;
- Create property development standards such as road widths, water supply, and signage for use in city or County general plans.
- Establish defensible space clearance requirements around buildings; and
- Provide natural hazard real estate disclosure at time of sale.

The County FHSZ map is adopted through County Code Chapter 10 (Building Regulations) and used by several County departments for hazard planning, mitigation and response, land use planning, and in the development review process. The entire Plan Area is located within a State or Federal responsibility area. A majority of the Plan Area is mapped as “Very High” FHSZ. Small portions of the Plan Area at the coastline are mapped as having a moderate FHSZ, such as the Naples township area.

## **4.9.2.2 Regulatory Framework**

### **2013 California Building Code**

Building standards for high fire hazard areas, including those pertaining to roof coverings, construction materials, and structural components are identified in the California Building Code, which is administered by the County Building and Safety Division.

## **2013 California Fire Code**

The 2013 California Fire Code establishes the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practices to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare from the hazards of fire, explosion, or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures, and premises, and to provide safety and assistance to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations. The provisions of the Code apply to the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal, and demolition of every building or structure or any appurtenances connected or attached to such building structures throughout the State of California.

## **National Fire Protection Association**

The mission of the international nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), established in 1896, is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. The NFPA develops, publishes, and disseminates more than 300 consensus codes and standards intended to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other risks.

## **County Fire Department Service Standards**

The CFD employs the following two standards with respect to the provision of fire protection services:

1. A firefighter-to-population ratio of one firefighter on duty 24 hours a day for every 2,000 in population is considered “ideal,” although a ratio (including rural areas) of one firefighter per 4,000 population is the maximum population that can be adequately served.
2. The second fire protection standard is a 5-minute response time in urban areas. This incorporates the following NFPA response-time objectives:
  - a. One minute (60 seconds) for turnout time, and
  - b. Four minutes (240 seconds) or less for the arrival of the first-arriving engine company.

Only the first standard would apply as there are no urban lands within the Plan Area.

## **County Fire Department Development Standards**

The CFD has development standards for the following: private roads and driveways, fire hydrant spacing and flow rates, stored water fire protection systems, automatic fire sprinkler systems, automatic alarm systems, defensible space, and access gates. Compliance with CFD development standards would be verified prior to issuance of applicable permits or recordation of any future final tract map.

### ***Private Roads and Driveways***

Fire engines and trucks must be able to adequately access parcels in order to respond to calls for service. The private road and driveway CFD development standards identify proper widths, turnarounds, gate access systems, vegetation clearance, street and building signage, and fire lane signage to allow adequate emergency access. Proper widths depend on the number of parcels the access road is serving and range from 12 feet for private driveways serving one residence to 24 feet (unobstructed) for roads serving 5 or more parcels.

### ***Fire Hydrants***

Adequate fire hydrant spacing and flow rates are required to provide firefighters the ability to quickly put out fires and are based on the use type. Commercial uses are required to have 300-foot hydrant spacing and a minimum flow rate of 1,250 gallons per minute (gpm). Rural developed neighborhoods require 500-foot hydrant spacing and 750 gpm minimum flow rate. Rural uses require a minimum flow rate of 500 gpm, and rural uses of 5 to 10 acres require 600-foot hydrant spacing, while rural uses over 10 acres require hydrants every 800 feet for developments within a water purveyor's district. Fire water service line sizes and hydrant specifications are also provided in this development standard. It is important to note that stored water systems (water storage tanks) are not allowed when development occurs inside the boundaries of a water purveyor's district boundary. The minimum fire water main size of six inches is required for all new development inside of a water purveyor's district boundary. Exception: If the water purveyor notifies the fire department in writing that they cannot provide service, then the fire department may consider a stored water fire protection system.

### ***Water Storage Tanks***

Development within some areas in the County, including large portions of the Plan Area that are not connected to the municipal water system, would require water storage tanks to provide adequate water supply for fire protection. Storage tank development standards identify the proper tank and waterline capacity needed as well as tank design and protection measures.

### ***Fire Sprinkler Systems and Alarm Systems***

Proposed automatic fire sprinkler systems or alarm systems are verified through plan review check and inspections. Design specifications for sprinklers are not identified in the standards, but design must be consistent with NFPA Standards. Alarm systems must identify the reason for alarms and a prompt alarm notification to the CFD.

### ***Defensible Space***

Future applicants for residential development within designated high fire hazard areas must, at the direction of the CFD, prepare fire/vegetation management plans that meet the CFD development standards. The vegetation management plan must describe all actions that will be taken to prevent fire from being carried toward structure(s). The plan must include: (1) a copy of

the site plan that indicates topographic reference lines; (2) a copy of the landscape plan; (3) methods and timetables for controlling, changing, or modifying areas on the property (elements of the plan shall include removal of dead vegetation, litter, vegetation that may grow into overhead electrical lines, certain ground fuels, and ladder fuels as well as the thinning of live trees); and (4) a maintenance schedule for the landscape/vegetation management plan.

A fire/vegetation management plan that, at a minimum, contains the above-listed components must be submitted to the CFD and Planning and Development for review and approval prior to the approval of grading permits for the development. Permit compliance and/or the CFD must inspect to verify that landscaping is in compliance with the plan once prior to issuance of occupancy permits, and periodically to monitor landscape maintenance.

In accordance with Public Resources Code 4291, the County's Defensible Space General Guidelines require:

- ~~A total 100-foot~~ Clearance of flammable vegetation within 100 feet from all structures, including a 30-foot zone 1 of no flammable vegetation within 30 feet (Zone 1), and a 70-foot zone 2 with spaced vegetation within the next 70 feet (Zone 2).
- Single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery or ground covers with adequate spacing and proper maintenance may be permissible provided that they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire to any structure.
- Roof surfaces shall be maintained free of accumulations of leaves, needles, twigs, or other combustible materials.
- Chimneys shall be provided a 10-foot clearance from trees.
- Access roads shall be maintained with a minimum 10-foot clearance on each side of the traveled section. Trees and shrubs protruding over the access roadway shall be trimmed to a minimum height of 13 feet 6 inches to allow proper access for emergency equipment. Refer below for additional information.

The CFD may require greater protection levels in high-danger areas and in special cases may adjust requirements based on the fire risk, environmentally sensitive habitats, and terrain conditions.

### **Access Gates**

Access gate plans must be submitted to the CFD, ~~as it is required that gate access information be provided~~ so firefighters can gain access to the property in the event of an emergency. For emergency access, a Knox system is required, a "fail safe" mode so gates can be unlocked during a power outage, and the gate must be identified on easements. Also, design requirements include setbacks from intersections, widths, gate types, and turnarounds.

### 4.9.2.3 Impact Analysis

#### Thresholds of Significance and Methodology

##### *CEQA Guidelines*

According to CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, implementation of the Plan would have significant impacts on hazards (wildland fires) or public services (fire protection) if it would:

- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands; and/or
- 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.

#### Impact Determination and Mitigation Measures

##### *Impact SERV-2 Wildland Fires*

The potential for wildland fires represents a hazard where development is adjacent to open space or within close proximity to wildland fuels. The steep hillsides and varied topography of the Plan Area also contribute to the risk of wildland fires. Areas of the Plan with abundant vegetative fuel are most at risk for wildfire. Major fires have occurred in the Plan Area within the last 25 years and include the Gaviota Fire in 2004 and the Gap Fire in 2008.

In addition to the potential loss of life and property, wildfires can result in degraded wildlands. Although wildfires are considered a natural process necessary to the functioning of many ecosystems, a wildfire's aftermath can leave land scorched and exposed. Until the land recovers, the exposed soils may contribute to further adverse environmental impacts, such as erosion, air and water pollution, or unstable soils that can lead to mudslides. The end result of uncontrolled wildfire also includes debris from burned homes.

Although natural conditions make wildfires common in portions of the Plan Area, ~~locating future~~ residential land uses could be located adjacent to or within a high fire hazard area, which can result in increased fire related risk to people and structures. A majority of the Plan Area is ranked through FRAP as a "very high" FHSZ. In addition to ~~being located~~ locating development within areas that are at high risk of wildland fires, economic and environmental barriers exist that may prevent adequate response to wildland fire events. For example, in the event of a major wildland fire, adequate fire response staff may not be available within the County, requiring the need to recruit firefighters from across or outside the state. Access is also limited

in certain portions of the Plan Area with large undeveloped areas only accessible by private farm roads that may not support some types of fire apparatus. Infrastructure constraints, such as an insufficient supply of water to fight large wildland fires, may also contribute to an increased risk of wildland fire hazards.

Analysis of potential wildfire hazard impacts resulting from PRT Maps Amendments are discussed in Section 4.13.

The Plan contains the following policy framework intended to reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards to people and structures. Policy AG-3.A encourages range improvement and fire hazard reduction programs in the Inland Area, including prescribed burning of brush and alternative non-burning techniques. Development Standards TEI-1, ~~TEI-2, and TEI-3~~ also exist ~~to require~~ county roads, hydrants, and stored water systems to meet SBCFD standards.

These Plan goals, policies and development standards would reduce the risk associated with wildland fire, along with the programs and standards described under the regulatory framework. Together, the Plan policies and regulatory framework would ensure impacts would be reduced to less than significant.

The Plan identifies 10 rare native chaparral and coastal scrub habitats as environmentally sensitive habitats and would protect them through implementation of the existing ESH Overlay in the Coastal Zone and the proposed ESH-GAV Overlay in the Inland Area. The policies and development standards identifying and protecting these 10 rare habitats would not impede vegetation management/modification activities. First, the 10 identified types are rare and therefore do not occur everywhere throughout the Plan Area. Second, CFD may allow adjustments to the Defensible Space General Guidelines in special cases where environmentally sensitive habitats may make compliance difficult. Third, although the ESH Overlay requires permits for most uses within an ESH, the proposed ESH-GAV Overlay would allow a permit exemption for vegetation modification within an inland area ESH to create and maintain defensible space, as long as it occurs in compliance with CFD's Defensible Space General Guidelines. No changes are proposed for the ESH Overlay within the Coastal Zone, where new development will be required to address this issue during permit application review. Impacts to the risk of wildland fire would be less than significant.

## **Mitigation**

Impacts associated with the risk of wildland fires would be less than significant; ~~therefore, and~~ no mitigation would be required.

The following mitigation is recommended to further reduce impacts to the risk of wildland fires.

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**MM SERV-1 Addresses Impacts Associated with Wildland Fires (Recommended)**

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The following new development standard should be added to the Plan (addition in underline):

- **DevStd LU-3: Fire Protection.** Development shall be sited to minimize exposure to fire hazards and reduce the need for grading, fuel modification (including thinning of vegetation and limbing of trees), and clearance of native vegetation to the maximum extent feasible. Building sites should be located in areas of a parcel's lowest fire hazard, and should minimize the need for long and/or steep access roads and/or driveways.

## Residual Impacts

Development within the Plan Area would be limited to low density rural agriculture and residential uses. Although future residential buildout of the Plan could subject people and structures to a potential risk involving wildland fires, existing and proposed Plan policies and development standards reduce these risks to less than significant. Incorporation of the proposed Plan policies and compliance with existing programs and standards, impacts would be less than significant (Class III impact).

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### ***Impact SERV-3 Fire Protection***

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As detailed in Chapter 2, the Plan Area currently is estimated to support 234 existing single-family homes and 17 agricultural employee housing units. Considering the 2030 estimated household size of 2.9 persons, the current population in the Plan Area is estimated at 728 persons (Santa Barbara County Association of Governments 2002). CFD staffing goals and facility plans are based upon population. Generally, the CFD seeks to maintain a service ratio of one firefighter per 2,000 people, with a maximum service ratio of one firefighter per 4,000 people. Currently in the Plan Area, there are three personnel staffing Station 18 at all times, including one Captain, one Engineer, and one Firefighter. Based on the existing population of 728 persons and 1 full-time firefighter at Station 18, the current (year 2015) firefighter-to-resident ratio is 1:728.

Plan buildout would result in limited growth within the Plan Area and would place minimal additional demands on fire protection services. Horizon year buildout of the Plan would yield an additional 167 single-family residential units and 9 agricultural employee housing units. Based on an estimated household size of 2.9 persons, the additional population of the Plan Area at horizon year buildout is estimated at 510 persons. With Plan buildout estimated to add 510 persons, in addition to the existing population of 728 persons, the buildout population would be 1,238 persons. At current staffing, the firefighter-to-resident ratio would increase from 1:728 to 1:1,238. Therefore, service ratios would remain within the maximum service ratio of one firefighter per 4,000 people with buildout of the Plan.

In addition, as growth within the Plan Area occurs over the next 20 years, developers would be required to pay their fair share of service fees to mitigate potential impacts to fire protection



services. These fees would be allocated by the County towards additional fire protection services to help ensure that adequate service is provided as growth occurs. If development were to exceed expected growth projections and impact fire protection services, the collection of developer fees would allow for the augmentation of fire service levels. Additionally, if a major fire event was to occur and available staffing from the Plan Area stations was inadequate, the CFD has a number of mutual aid agreements with other cities and stations, which can provide additional personnel and equipment if needed. Analysis of potential fire protection impacts resulting from PRT Maps Amendments are discussed in Section 4.13. The Plan does not include policies regarding fire protection personnel and none are warranted based on the adequacy of current and projected future staffing ratios in the Plan Area. Overall, impacts would be less than significant.

## **Mitigation**

Impacts related to fire protection would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation would be required.

## **Residual Impacts**

No new facilities or services are proposed as part of this Plan, and therefore, no environmental impacts would occur as a result of the construction of new facilities. In addition, service ratios would remain acceptable. Impacts associated with fire protection service would be less than significant (Class III impact).

## **4.9.3 Law Enforcement**

### **4.9.3.1 Setting**

The County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) provides law enforcement services to the Plan Area. The Goleta Valley Substation located within the western urban limits of the City of Goleta and maintaining a staff of approximately 30 sworn peace officers services the Gaviota Coast. The Sheriff's Office has established a service goal of one officer per 1,200 people. However, response time standards have not been adopted because deputies respond to calls for service while they are already out on patrol and response times vary depending on the deputies' current locations.

In addition to the Sheriff, law enforcement within the Plan Area is provided by the California Highway Patrol (CHP), and the California State Parks Department. The CHP provides traffic-related law enforcement service in the Plan Area including responses to traffic accidents, disabled vehicles, and traffic hazards, as well as proactive patrol of the area. The Goleta Valley Sheriff Station, at 4434 Calle Real, serves the eastern portion of the Plan Area to Gaviota State Beach. The nearest station serving the western portion of the Plan Area is the Buellton Station.

State Park Rangers provide law enforcement within Gaviota State Park, Refugio, and El Capitan State Beaches. California State Park Rangers are fully sworn Peace Officers who perform a wide variety of law enforcement activities. Duties include medical aid, emergency medical response, operating and maintaining emergency equipment, resource protection, park management, and patrol.

### **4.9.3.2 Impact Analysis**

#### **Thresholds of Significance and Methodology**

##### ***CEQA Guidelines***

According to CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, implementation of the Plan would have significant environmental impacts on law enforcement services if it would:

- 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.

#### **Impact Determination and Mitigation Measures**

##### ***Impact SERV-4 Law Enforcement***

The current population in the Plan Area is estimated at 728 persons. Law enforcement is provided by the Goleta Valley Substation for the eastern Plan Area and the Buellton Station for the western Plan Area. The County Sheriff's Department considers a service ratio of 1:1,200 to be optimal. Based on the existing staffing of 30 sworn police officers at the Goleta Valley Substation and the deputies staffing the Buellton Station, who also patrol unincorporated areas in the vicinity of Buellton and will respond to calls within the western portion of the Plan Area, law enforcement within the Plan Area is adequate.

The 20-year buildout and rezoning actions under the Plan would result in an additional 167 single-family residential units and 9 agricultural employee housing units. Based on the County's average household size of 2.9 persons per dwelling unit, the 20-year buildout under the Plan could result in 510 new residents. When existing population and estimated population growth as a result of the Plan are added together, the approximate population in the Plan Area at the horizon year would be 1,212. While the population in the Plan Area would increase by approximately 484 residents, service ratios would remain adequate based on the 1:1,200 optimal service ratio. With Plan buildout, the Plan Area could be optimally served by one deputy (a 1:1,212 ratio). While the Plan Area is rural and there are no stations within the Plan Area boundaries, deputies from neighboring stations patrol and respond to calls within the Plan Area. In addition, State Park Rangers provide additional law enforcement coverage at the California

State Parks. Analysis of potential law enforcement impacts resulting from PRT Maps Amendments are discussed in Section 4.13.

Payment of development impact fees would help augment staffing levels as the population of the Plan Area grows. As development occurs within the Plan Area, developers would be required to pay their fair share of service fees to the County. The fees would be allocated accordingly by the County to the Sheriff's Department. The Plan includes policies that seek to maintain adequate police staffing levels as development and population growth occur. The collection of development impact fees would ensure increased funding for police services to maintain adequate law enforcement levels.

The Plan does not include policies regarding police protection personnel and none are warranted based on the adequacy of current and projected future staffing levels in the Plan Area.

## **Mitigation**

Impacts related to law enforcement services would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation would be required.

## **Residual Impacts**

Buildout of the Plan Area would place minimal additional demands on law enforcement services. No new or expanded facilities have been identified as part of the Plan and no new services are included as part of this Plan. Therefore, no environmental impacts would occur as a result of the construction of new facilities, and physical impacts related to the provision of law enforcement services would be less than significant (Class III impact).

## **4.9.4 Schools**

### **4.9.4.1 Setting**

The eastern portion of the Plan Area lies within the Goleta Union School District and the Santa Barbara Unified School District, Secondary School District. Their service areas extend west to approximately El Capitan State Beach. The western portion of the Plan Area mostly lies within the Vista del Mar Union Elementary School and Buellton Union Elementary School Districts and the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District. However, the area around Jalama Road is included in the Lompoc Unified School District (see Figure 4.9-1). Elementary, Middle and Junior High Schools, and High Schools that service the Gaviota Coast are listed in Table 4.9-3.

<b>Table 4.9-3 Schools within the Plan Area</b>			
	<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle/Junior High Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
Eastern Gaviota	Brandon Elementary Ellwood Elementary	Goleta Valley Junior High	Dos Pueblos High
Western Gaviota	Vista De Las Cruces School Oak Valley Elementary Miguelito Elementary	Jonata School Lompoc Valley Middle School	Lompoc High Santa Ynez Valley Union High

NOTE: Vista De Las Cruces School is the only school located within the Plan Area

#### **4.9.4.2 Regulatory Framework**

##### **California State Assembly Bill 2926 School Facilities Act of 1986**

AB 2926 was passed and signed in 1986. This bill grants school districts in California the power to levy Statutory Fees on residential, commercial, and industrial development for the purpose of financing school facilities construction.

##### **California State Assembly Bill 1600**

AB 1600 modified AB 2926 regulations, and included the creation of Section 66000 et seq. of the Government Code. Under this statute, payment of such Statutory Fees by developers would serve as total mitigation in accordance with CEQA to satisfy the impact of development on school facilities. Section 66000 of the Government Code also requires that all public agencies satisfy the following requirements when establishing, increasing, or imposing a fee as a condition of approval for a development project:

- Identify the purpose of the Fee;
- Identify the use to which the Fee will be put;
- Determine that there is a reasonable relationship between the Fee's use and the type of development project on which the Fee is to be imposed;
- Determine how there is a reasonable relationship between the need for the public facility and the type of development project on which the Fee is to be imposed.

##### **California Government Code Section 65995—School Facilities Legislation**

The School Facilities Legislation was enacted in 1990 to generate revenue for school districts for capital acquisitions and improvements. Government Code 65995 provided authority for developer fees to be levied by school districts. This fee is divided between the primary and secondary schools and is termed a "Level 1" fee. The Level 1 fees are adjusted every two years by the state Allocation Board, with the latest adjustment for inflation occurring in January 2014. The Level 1 fees are currently \$3.36 per square foot for residential and \$0.54 per square foot for commercial and industrial development.

## California Senate Bill 50

Senate Bill (SB) 50 and Proposition 1A (1998) provide a comprehensive school funding program for facilities. This program requires developers to pay fees to mitigate the impact of projects on school facilities. According to Government Code Section 65996, the development fees authorized by SB 50 are deemed “full and complete school facilities mitigation.” These provisions are still in effect and would remain in place as long as subsequent state bonds are approved and available.

Under the provisions of SB 50, school districts may collect what they termed “Level 2” and “Level 3” fees to offset the cost associated with increasing school capacity in response to student enrollment increases associated with residential developments. Level 2 fees require the developer to provide one-half of the costs of accommodating students in new schools, with the state providing the other half. Level 3 fees require the developer to pay the full cost of accommodating the students in new schools and would be implemented at the time funds were available and expended from Proposition 1A. In order to qualify for this source of funding, school districts must demonstrate to the state their long-term facilities’ needs and costs based on long-term population growth. The ability of a school district to impose fees is limited to the statutory and potential additional charges authorized under Proposition 1A and SB 50. However, school districts may impose fees in excess of the Level 1 limits described above, as long as the district satisfies the requirement for a school fee justification needs analysis that would permit fees greater than the statutory fee for residential, commercial, and industrial construction.

### 4.9.4.3 Impact Analysis

#### Thresholds of Significance and Methodology

##### *CEQA Guidelines*

According to CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, implementation of the Plan would have significant environmental impacts on schools if it would:

- 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: schools.

##### *County Environmental Thresholds*

The County impact guidelines (County of Santa Barbara 2008) provides following thresholds of significance guidance for schools:

- A significant level of school impacts is generally considered to occur when a project would generate sufficient students to require an additional classroom. This assumes 29

students per classroom for elementary/junior high students, and 28 students per classroom for high school students, based on the lowest student per classroom loading standards of the state school building program. This threshold is to be applied in those school districts which are currently approaching, at, or exceeding their current capacity.

- A project's contribution to cumulative schools impacts will be considered significant if the project specific impact as described above is considered significant.

## Impact Determination and Mitigation Measures

### *Impact SERV-5 Schools*

As school enrollment is primarily affected by the number of residences in the Plan Area, the relevant effect of Plan buildout consists of an increase in the number of residences and the corresponding increase in anticipated school attendance. The Plan would result in 167 additional single-family residential units at horizon year buildout. As the Plan Area is served by multiple school districts, increased school attendance resulting from Plan buildout would be distributed among different schools and school districts depending on the location of growth in relation to school district boundaries. In Chapter 2 (see Table 2-3), growth within the Plan Area was estimated based on the varying growth rates in different portions of the Plan Area. For example, Plan buildout to the horizon year in Hollister Ranch is estimated to add 19 single-family residential units, 71 residences would be added within the Naples Township, 6 residences would be added within the Cojo-Jalama area, and 71 residences would be added in the remainder of the Plan Area. Growth within each of these areas is assigned to a school district in Table 4.9-3 based on the location of anticipated growth in relation to school boundaries. The 71 units anticipated in the remainder of the Plan Area are assumed to occur in the eastern portion of the Plan Area since growth in Cojo-Jalama and Hollister Ranch accounts for the western Plan Area growth.

For purposes of determining whether Plan buildout would generate sufficient students to require an additional classroom, resulting in a significant impact to area schools, the anticipated student generation for each area of the Plan and applicable school district was calculated, as detailed in Table 4.9-3. Student generation rates are assigned to elementary, middle/junior, and high schools and are based on published data from the State Allocation Board.

Based on the student generation rates per new residential unit, the Plan could generate up to 118 new students in the Plan Area, distributed among five school districts including Vista Del Mar Union Elementary School District, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District, Lompoc Unified School District, Goleta Union Elementary School District, and the Santa Barbara High School District, as detailed in Table 4.9-4 below.

<b>Table 4.9-4: Projected Student Population at Plan Buildout</b>					
	Number of New Dwelling Units <sup>1</sup>	School District	Student Generation Rate (students/dwelling unit)		
			Elementary (K-6) = 0.4	Middle/Junior (7-8) = 0.1	High School (9-12) = 0.2
			Number of Students		
Hollister Ranch	19	Vista Del Mar Union Elementary School District (K-8)	7.6	1.9	-
		Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District	-	-	3.8
Cojo-Jalama	6	Lompoc Unified School District	2.4	0.6	1.8
Naples Township	71	Goleta Union Elementary School District	28.4	7.1	-
		Santa Barbara High School District	-	-	14.2
Remainder of Plan Area	36 <sup>2</sup>	Vista Del Mar Union Elementary School District (K-8)	14.2	3.6	-
		Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District	-	-	7.1
	36 <sup>2</sup>	Goleta Union Elementary School District	14.2	3.6	-
		Santa Barbara High School District	-	-	7.1
<b>Total</b>			<b>66.8</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>118</b>		

SOURCE: State of California, 2009

<sup>1</sup> See Table 2-3 for source of new dwelling unit assumptions.

<sup>2</sup> The 71 residential units estimated for the remainder of the Plan Area is split between the area served by the Vista Del Mar Union Elementary District/Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District and the Goleta Union Elementary/Santa Barbara High School District. No residences are assumed within the Buellton Union Elementary School District because the portion of the District boundaries within the Plan Area is located within Federal lands (Los Padres National Forest) (Refer to Figure 4.9-1).

Based on the anticipated student generation for each school district identified in Table 4.9-4, total student generation is totaled for each school district and is shown in Table 4.9-5. As detailed in this table, student generation for each affected school district ranges from 5 students to 53 students, with Lompoc Unified School District receiving the fewest students and Goleta Union Elementary School District receiving the most students.

Based on the student generation anticipated with Plan buildout, detailed in Table 4.9-5, less than significant impacts to area schools would result. Plan buildout would not generate sufficient students to require an additional classroom at any school district. An additional classroom is needed for 29 students at the elementary/junior high school level and for each 28 students at the high school level. The greatest number of students would be generated in the Goleta Union Elementary School District; however, the 53 students generated would be distributed among several elementary school grade levels and would not warrant a new classroom at any single grade level.

<b>Table 4.9-5 New Students per School District</b>		
School District	# of Students <sup>1</sup>	Significant Impact?*
Vista Del Mar Union Elementary School District (K-8)	27.3	No
Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District	10.9	No
Lompoc Unified School District	4.8	No
Goleta Union Elementary School District	53.3	No
Santa Barbara High School District	21.3	No

**NOTE:**

<sup>1</sup> Number of students in each District is totaled from information provided in Table 4.9-4

<sup>2</sup> Determination of less than significant impact based on a lack of student generation of 29 students per classroom for elementary/junior high students or 28 students per classroom for high school students. Note, the 53.3 students generated in the Goleta Union Elementary School District would be distributed among various grade levels and would not exceed the 29 student per class threshold.

The Plan does not include any policies related to schools. Projects are required by state law to provide payment of school fees and the school fees will provide for any needed school facilities improvements. Analysis of potential school impacts resulting from PRT Maps Amendments are discussed in Section 4.13. Overall, impacts would be less than significant.

## Mitigation

Impacts associated with school capacity would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation would be required.

## Residual Impacts

The Plan does not include the construction of any new schools and none are anticipated as a result of student generation resulting from Plan buildout. Furthermore, if in the future, schools are over capacity due to residential development consistent with the Plan, the collection of state-mandated fees (pursuant to Section 65995 (3)(h) of the California Government Code) is considered full and complete mitigation for impacts to public schools. As a result, Plan buildout would result in less than significant impacts related to school facilities (Class III impact).

## 4.9.5 Solid Waste Management

### 4.9.5.1 Setting

#### County Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division

The County Public Works Department Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division (RRWMD) is responsible for planning and implementing waste collection and recycling programs throughout the unincorporated County. The RRWMD provides an integrated waste



management system consisting of: recycling programs for commingled recyclables and green-waste collection; programs for residential and small business hazardous waste; sharps and pharmaceutical collection; electronic waste collection and recycling; education; operation of four recycling and transfer stations, one household hazardous waste collection center, and the Tajiguas Landfill; and management of ten closed landfills. In addition, the RRWMD is responsible for administering the franchise agreements for the collection of solid waste materials from residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas of the County by private solid waste collection firms, as well as the enforcement of local solid waste management ordinances.

## Tajiguas Landfill

The Tajiguas Landfill is a non-hazardous solid waste disposal facility located in the eastern portion of the Plan Area, north of Highway 101, between the Arroyo Hondo Preserve and Baron Ranch. The landfill is owned by the County of Santa Barbara and managed by the County's Public Works Department. The facility accepts municipal solid waste generated by the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Buellton, and Solvang, the unincorporated areas of southern Santa Barbara County, and the Santa Ynez and Cuyama Valleys. Municipal solid waste is direct hauled in packer trucks and/or consolidated into trailers and transported to the landfill from the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station, the New Cuyama Transfer Station, and the Ventucopa Transfer Station. Private waste collection companies and limited numbers of private individuals also haul solid waste directly to the Tajiguas Landfill. The location, maximum daily tonnage, remaining capacity and estimated closure date of the landfill is listed in Table 4.9-6 below.

<b>Landfill Name</b>	<b>Maximum Tons per Day</b>	<b>Remaining Air Space/Capacity</b>	<b>Estimated Closure Date per SWFP 42-AA-015)</b>
Tajiguas Landfill 14470 Calle Real Goleta, CA 93117 Hwy 101; 26 miles W Santa Barbara	1,500	4,867,490 cubic yards (as of September 2013)	2026

SOURCE: Santa Barbara County Public Works, 2015.

### 4.9.5.2 Regulatory Framework

#### State

In September 1989, the California Integrated Solid Waste Management Act (also known as AB 939) was enacted into law. It required each municipality in the state to divert at least 50 percent of its solid waste from landfill disposal through source reduction, recycling, and composting by 2000. This 50 percent requirement also includes the waste stream that comes exclusively through construction and demolition of buildings and homes in the County. The Act

directs counties and regional agencies to prepare a Countywide or Regional Agency Integrated Waste Summary Plan (CIWSP) to aggregate all of the elements of the countywide or regional solid waste management planning process. The County of Santa Barbara Final CIWSP (June 1998) identifies countywide goals and objectives for integrated waste management planning. The CIWSP further directs the cities and the County to collectively provide 15 years of countywide disposal capacity for those materials that cannot be recycled or composted. Future disposal capacity is addressed in PRC Sections 414700 through 41721.5, which require preparation of a Countywide Siting Element that identifies areas that may be used for developing new disposal facilities, including provision of an estimate of the total permitted disposal capacity needed for a 15-year period.

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is responsible for overseeing the State's recycling and waste management programs and responsible for permitting landfills, recycling facilities and composting operations pursuant to Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations. Under its Strategic Directive 6.1, CalRecycle seeks to reduce by 50 percent the amount of organic waste disposed in the state's landfills by 2020. In addition to helping conserve limited landfill capacity, this CalRecycle policy recognizes that organic wastes are a resource, not just solid wastes that must be disposed. The development of Anaerobic Digestion facilities is one of CalRecycle's charges under the AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan. The AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan estimates that Anaerobic Digestion facilities in California could reduce methane emissions from landfills at a level of 2 million MTCO<sub>2</sub>e per year by 2020 (CARB 2008).

In 2012, AB 341 was enacted establishing a goal from 50 percent to 75 percent waste diversion by the year 2020. Instead of focusing primarily on local diversion, the law calls for the State and the CalRecycle to take a statewide approach to decreasing reliance on landfills. CalRecycle has been tasked by the Legislature to examine how extensions of existing efforts, as well as new strategies, can be combined to reach that policy goal. The Bill specifically targets the millions of tons of recyclables that the commercial sector and multi-family residential complexes send to landfills every year by setting mandatory recycling requirements for these land uses. Therefore, the State's regulatory framework has an influence on current local jurisdiction efforts while supporting State solid waste reduction goals.

### **County of Santa Barbara**

The County Comprehensive Plan includes several policies and programs that promote landfill diversion. This includes recycling or reuse of construction waste, and the provision of adequate areas for recycling bins and recycling collection activities.

### 4.9.5.3 Impact Analysis

#### Thresholds of Significance and Methodology

##### *CEQA Guidelines*

According to CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, implementation of the Plan would have significant environmental impacts associated with solid waste if it would not:

- Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs; and/or
- Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

##### *County Environmental Thresholds*

The County guidelines (County of Santa Barbara 2008) provide project-specific guidance in determining the significance related to solid waste:

1. Construction and demolition. Construction and demolition waste accounts for 31 percent of all waste generated by residents of the County. In order to comply with AB 939 requiring a minimum of 50 percent of all waste to be diverted from landfills, the particular source of waste has been targeted.

Any construction, demolition or remodeling project of a commercial, industrial or residential development that is projected to create more than 350 tons of construction and demolition debris is considered to have a significant impact on public services. Although amounts of waste generated vary project to project, the following are estimates of projects that will reach the threshold of significance. These estimates are based on the US Environmental Protection Agency's 1998 construction and demolition study (Document: EPA530-R-98-010; June 1998) and data gathered by the San Luis Obispo Integrated Waste Management Authority in 2005 and 2006.

- a. Remodeling projects over 7,000 square feet for residential projects and 17,500 square feet for commercial/industrial projects.
  - b. Demolition projects over 11,600 square feet for residential buildings and 7,000 square feet for commercial/industrial buildings.
  - c. New construction projects over 47,000 square feet for residential buildings and 28,000 square feet for commercial/industrial buildings.
2. Operations/occupancy
    - a. Project-specific thresholds: The following thresholds are based on the projected average solid waste generation for the County from 1990–2005. The goals outlined in the Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) assume a 1.2 percent

- annual increase, which equates to approximately 4,000 tons per year increase in solid waste generation over the 15 year period. A project is considered to result in a significant impact to landfill capacity if it would generate five percent or more of the expected annual increase in waste generation thereby using a significant portion of the remaining landfill capacity. Based on the analysis conducted, the numerical value associated with the five percent increase is 196 tons per year. As indicated above, source reduction, recycling and composting can reduce a project's waste stream (generated during operations) by as much as 50 percent. If a proposed project generates 196 or more tons per year after reduction and recycling efforts, impacts would be considered significant and unavoidable (Class I impact). Project approval would then require the adoption of overriding considerations. A typical single family residential project of 68 units or less would not trigger the threshold of significance.
- b. Cumulative thresholds: Projects with a specific impact as identified above (196 tons/year or more) would also be considered cumulatively significant, as the project specific threshold of significance is based on a cumulative growth scenario. However, as landfill space is already extremely limited, any increase of one percent or more of the estimated increase accounted for in the SRRE, mitigation would be considered an adverse contribution (Class III impact) to regional cumulative solid waste impacts. One percent of the SRRE projected increase in solid waste equates to 40 tons per year (in operational impacts). To reduce adverse cumulative impacts, and to be consistent with the SRRE, mitigation should be recommended for projects which generate between 40 and 196 tons of solid waste per year. Projects which generate less than 40 tons per year of solid waste would not be considered to have an adverse effect due to the small amount of solid waste generated by these projects and the existing waste reduction provisions in the SRRE. A typical single-family residential project of 14 units or less would not trigger this adverse impact level.

The County's guidelines relative to solid waste would be applied to future development projects consistent with the Plan, but are not applicable at the program-level of analysis.

## Impact Determination and Mitigation Measures

### *Impact SERV-6 Solid Waste*

Plan buildout would result in an additional 167 single-family residences and 9 agricultural employee housing units within the Plan Area at the 20-year Plan horizon. Potential highway commercial development is limited to an approximately 2-acre site located east of Highway 101 at Las Cruces. Zoning ordinance amendments are also proposed that could encourage expansion of agricultural land uses and uses accessory and supportive of agriculture. The Gaviota Agricultural Tiered Permit Structure would allow small-scale uses such as aquaponics, composting, firewood processing and sales, agricultural processing, farmstands, and small scale agricultural tourist activities such as fishing, camping and guest ranch/farmstay.

As shown in Table 4.9-7, future development would generate an additional 471 tons of solid waste per year. However, the County is required to demonstrate that 75 percent of solid waste would be diverted from landfills (during construction and long-term operation). Therefore, it can be assumed that Plan buildout would result in 118 tons of additional solid waste per year.

<b>Land Use</b>	<b>Generation Rate</b>	<b>Solid Waste Generated Per Land Use</b>	<b>Solid Waste Generation with 75% reduction</b>
New Residential Units (167)	2.9 persons per unit <sup>1</sup> X .95 tons per person per year <sup>2</sup>	460 tons per year	115 tons per year
New Commercial Square Feet (1,000)	1 employee/ 585 square feet <sup>3</sup> and 5.4 lbs/employee/ day <sup>4</sup>	10.8 tons per year	2.7 tons per year
<b>Total</b>		<b>470.8 tons per year</b>	<b>117.7 tons per year</b>

SOURCE:

<sup>1</sup> Santa Barbara County Association of Governments 2002.

<sup>2</sup> County of Santa Barbara Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual, 2008, Section 15-1.

<sup>3</sup> Southern California Association of Governments 2002.

<sup>4</sup> California Integrated Waste Management Board 2008.

Physical landfill capacity is generally defined as the remaining volumetric capacity of existing landfills. Physical capacity represents the volume available to be filled and is different from the rate at which materials would enter the landfill. Due to capacity provided by the approved Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project and current waste diversion rate associated with the County's integrated waste management program, the Tajiguas Landfill is projected to have adequate capacity to serve the south coast of Santa Barbara County and Santa Ynez and Cuyama valleys until approximately 2026 based on current waste disposal rates. The proposed Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project, which includes the construction of a materials recovery facility and anaerobic digestion facility to further recover recyclable materials and organics from the waste stream and generate green energy would extend the life of the Tajiguas Landfill (without increasing the capacity) to approximately 2036 due to the diversion of waste currently buried at the landfill. Beyond 2036, waste management technology is rapidly changing and new technologies may be available to provide additional waste management/disposal capacity.

Adequate landfill capacity, therefore, would be available through approximately 2026 and, with approval of the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project, through the Plan buildout horizon year (2036). The Plan also includes the Policy TEI-16 related to operations at the Tajiguas Landfill. This policy would further support existing regulations in place that requires diversion of waste from landfills. Future projects consistent with Plan would be required to comply with the County's integrated solid waste management program and project-specific thresholds. Impacts would be less than significant.

## Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation would be required.

## Residual Impacts

Future projects implemented under the Plan would be required to comply with the County's integrated solid waste management program and project-specific thresholds. The Tajiguas Landfill has adequate capacity to serve the buildout proposed under the Plan through approximately 2026 and, with approval of the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project, through the Plan buildout horizon year (2036). Therefore, impacts associated with solid waste would be less than significant (Class III impact).

### 4.9.6 Water and Wastewater

#### 4.9.6.1 Setting

The Plan Area comprises several watersheds and sub-watersheds with watercourses ranging from ephemeral to semi-perennial based upon the duration of surface water flow within them. Some of the watersheds in the Plan Area provide potable water and irrigation supplies for ranches through surface water diversions, in addition to groundwater extraction via wells. However, the Gaviota Coast lacks true aquifers which is a limiting factor for development.

#### Goleta Water District

Water service to a portion of the eastern Plan Area is provided by Goleta Water District. The District's western border is El Capitan State Park, its northern border is along the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains and the Los Padres National Forest, and it is bordered to the south by the Pacific Ocean. The majority of the District's water supply comes from the Cachuma Project, which is divided among five water purveyors.

In 2011, the Goleta Water District (GWD) prepared a Water Supply Management Plan prioritizing the various supply sources, evaluating the reliability of water supplies, and developing drought scenarios for current and future demand (GWD 2011). The plan determined that GWD's supplies exceed current demand under average conditions and are equal to demand when averaged over a complete multi-year drought period. However, in the driest single year of a drought there would be about a 7 percent shortfall in supply at today's demand level.

At projected 2030 demand levels, with the state-mandated conservation reduction in place and the 850 acre-feet per year (AFY) of authorized future demand considered, there would be sufficient water to meet demand during average conditions. In multi-year drought conditions at the projected 2030 demand levels, supply would be about 2,600 AFY short of demand, with the driest year having a somewhat larger shortfall. When a more-extensive drought was synthesized by extending the length of the last drought (1986-1991) by two years (with current

infrastructure capacities), there would be a maximum shortfall of 26 percent (3,600 acre-feet [AF]) at current levels of demand and a maximum shortfall of 40 percent (6,500 AF) at projected 2030 demand levels (GWD 2011).

In September 2014, the GWD Board of Directors declared a Stage II Water Shortage Emergency and stopped issuing new or additional water connections until conditions improve. The District set a 25 percent district-wide water use reduction target in an effort to extend available water supplies. The declaration is consistent with the requirements of the District's adopted 2014 Drought Preparedness and Water Shortage Contingency Plan and statewide emergency conservation regulations recently adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board. The GWD Board also amended the GWD Code to further specify unlawful uses of water, such as through a fire hydrant or fire line, through a waterline with no meter, or from another account holder or property.

On May 12, 2015, the GWD declared a Stage III Water Shortage Emergency, with mandatory water use restrictions and changes to outdoor landscape irrigation times limited to restricted hours no more than two times per week. The district is targeting a 35 percent district wide reduction in water usage as GWD enters over four years of severe drought. As of June 2015, the GWD Board scheduled a special public hearing to consider new proposed water rate increases and temporary drought surcharges.

### **Other Water Companies and Private Wells**

Several small private water companies (serving less than 20 customers) provide water service in limited areas; including: Naples Municipal Water Company (MWC), El Capitan MWC and three water companies that serve Hollister Ranch (Figure 4.9-2). Other private water systems exist on the Gaviota Coast, including El Rancho Tajiguas, Gaviota Gas Plant, ExxonMobil's Las Flores Canyon Oil and Gas Processing Facility, Gaviota State Beach, Refugio State Beach, and El Capitan State Beach. Many private on-site water wells exist along the coast for residential and agricultural needs. These private wells and small mutual water systems rely on groundwater wells or surface water.

### **Sewer**

There is no sewer service in the Plan Area. Sewage disposal is provided by individual onsite systems such as septic systems or dry wells that are permitted through Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services (EHS). EHS has specific standards for the review of septic system construction that assures the installation and use of systems will have: either individually or cumulatively, no adverse impact on the quality and biological productivity of coastal waters; no potential contamination of domestic water supplies from sewage effluent; and adequate support facilities to accommodate new development.

## **4.9.6.2 Regulatory Framework**

### **California Drinking Water Standards**

State drinking water standards are based on federal standards and are listed in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. The California Department of Health Services administers the state drinking water standards.

### **California Water Code**

The California Water Code controls almost every consideration of water and its use. Division 2 of the California Water Code provides that the State Water Resources Control Board shall consider and act upon all applications for permits to appropriate waters. Division 6 of the Water Code controls conservation, development, and utilization of the state water resources. Division 7 addresses water quality protection and management.

### **Senate Bill 221**

Enacted in 2001, SB 221, which has been codified in the Water Code beginning with Section 10910, requires that the legislative body of a city or county which is empowered to approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve a subdivision map must condition such approval upon proof of sufficient water supply. The term “sufficient water supply” is defined in SB 221 as the total water supplies available during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years within a 20-year projection that would meet the projected demand associated with the proposed subdivision. The definition of sufficient water supply also includes the requirement that sufficient water encompass not only the proposed subdivision, but also existing and planned future uses, including, but not limited to, agricultural and industrial uses. SB 221 requirements do not apply to the general plans of cities or counties, but rather to specific development projects.

### **Groundwater Management Act (AB 3030)**

Passed in 1992, AB 3030 (California Water Code Sections 10750-10756) provides a systematic procedure for an existing local agency to develop a groundwater management plan. This section of the code provides such an agency with the powers of a water replenishment district to raise revenue to pay facilities to manage the groundwater basin.



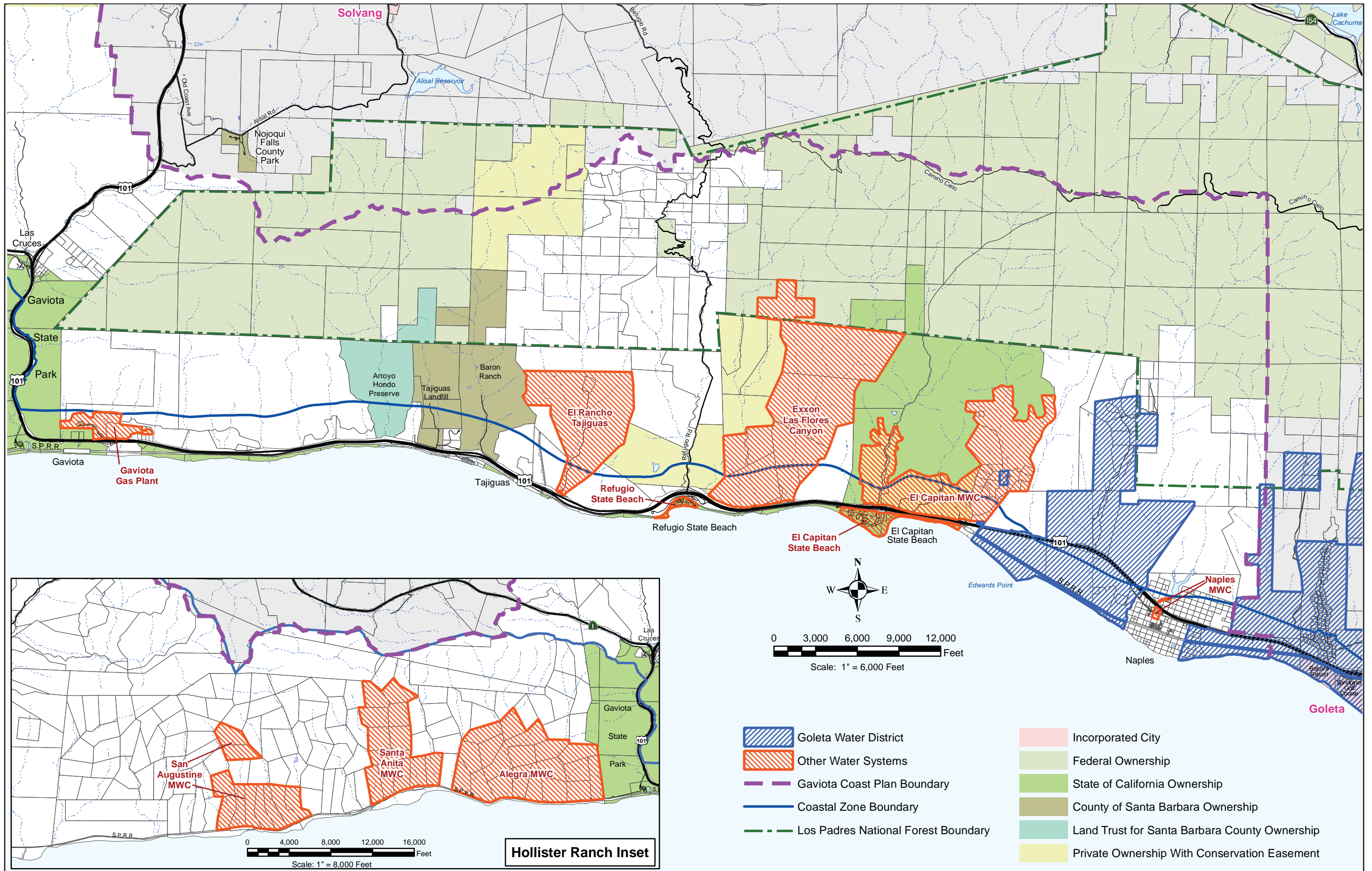


FIGURE 4.9-2 Gaviota Coast Plan – Water Systems

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## **Urban Water Management Planning Act**

In 1983, the California State Legislature enacted the Urban Water Management Planning Act (California Water Code Sections 10610 through 10656), which requires every urban water supplier that provides water to 3,000 or more customers, or provides over 3,000 AF of water annually, to make every effort to ensure the appropriate level of reliability in its water service to meet the needs of its customers. The act describes the contents of Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) as well as how urban water suppliers should adopt and implement the plans. It was the Legislature's intent to permit levels of water management planning commensurate with the number of customers served and the volume of water supplied.

## **Water Conservation Projects Act**

California's requirements for water conservation are codified in the Water Conservation Projects Act of 1985 (California Water Code Sections 11950 through 11954), which encourages local agencies and private enterprises to implement potential water conservation and reclamation projects.

### **4.9.6.3 Impact Analysis**

#### **Thresholds of Significance and Methodology**

##### ***California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines***

According to CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, implementation of the Plan would have significant environmental impacts associated with water and wastewater services if it would:

- Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental effects;
- Not have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or need new or expanded entitlements; and/or
- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provided, which serves or may serve the project, that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.

The first threshold regarding new water or wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities is addressed under SERV-8 below. The second threshold regarding adequate water supply is addressed under SERV-9 below. The third threshold is addressing wastewater capacity of service providers. As the Plan Area is not served by a municipal sewer provider, this threshold does not apply and is not addressed further.

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## Impact Determination and Mitigation Measures

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### *Impact SERV-7 Water and Wastewater Facilities*

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In the Plan Area, most new and existing development would be serviced by on-site septic systems or dry wells that are sized for the specific development. Regarding water systems, new and existing development would be serviced by one of the following: Goleta Water District, private water companies, private shared water systems, or on-site water wells utilizing a combination of water storage, pumps, and water diversion. As a result, limited infrastructure extensions would be required for Plan buildout other than to connect to existing water distribution systems where development would obtain water from the Goleta Water District, a private water company, or private shared water systems. Potential impacts to water quality associated with individual onsite septic system failure is addressed in Section 4.7, under Impact WR-3. An analysis of potential water and wastewater facility impacts resulting from PRT maps amendments are discussed in Section 4.13.

Extensions of water or wastewater infrastructure to accommodate Plan buildout are not planned or anticipated. However, should any future extension of infrastructure occur, it would be required to undergo environmental review pursuant to CEQA by the respective district prior to approval, which would require detailed information on the potentially significant environmental effects of the extension and information on how the significant environmental effects would be minimized. Because no new water or wastewater facilities are required to implement the Plan, no environmental impacts as a result of the construction of such facilities would occur. Impacts associated with water and wastewater facilities would be less than significant.

The Plan includes a policy related to extension of water or wastewater infrastructure. Various other policies addressing individual on-site sewage treatment systems are included in the Plan and are addressed in Section 4.7 as they primarily relate to protection of water quality. Policy TEI-17 would limit extensions of water or sewer lines in the Plan Area unless needed to prevent adverse impacts on environmentally sensitive habitat, or to protect public health. No new water or wastewater facilities are required to be built for Plan implementation. Extensions of existing water or wastewater lines to accommodate Plan buildout are not proposed or anticipated. In addition, the proposed Plan includes a policy that would restrict annexation to a water or sanitary districts or extension of a sewer line within the Plan Area unless required to prevent adverse impacts on an environmentally sensitive habitat, or to protect public health.

### **Mitigation**

Impacts would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation would be required.

## Residual Impacts

Because no new water or wastewater facilities are required to implement the Plan, no environmental impacts as a result of the construction of such facilities would occur. Impacts associated with water and wastewater facilities would be less than significant (Class III impact).

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### ***Impact SERV-8 Water Supplies***

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Plan buildout would result in additional housing units that would result in demand for potable water service in areas served by GWD. In areas outside of the GWD, future growth would increase demand for surface water and groundwater. Potential impacts associated with groundwater supplies are addressed in Section 4.7, Flooding. As the Plan does not increase development potential compared to the existing land use designations, the existing analysis of water supply in the GWD's UWMP remains applicable to the Plan Area and additional potential for growth resulting from the Plan would not need to be considered in the next update to the UWMP. The GWD's UWMP provides a framework for long-term water supply planning in the GWD service area. The UWMP evaluates projected future water demand using several methods including anticipated land use development through analysis of a variety of plans overseen by the land use authorities in its service area including the County, City of Goleta, University of California, and Santa Barbara Airport. The GWD updates its demand forecasts and supply needs approximately every five years to coincide with preparation of its UWMP.

The 2010 UWMP estimated future water use demand on several factors. Population is one component of future water demand. Other factors include economic conditions, land use policies, changes in technology, and water costs.

For the 2010 UWMP, three different projection methods were evaluated:

1. Estimating water demand growth consistent with population projections of the County Association of Governments
2. Estimating water demand using past water growth demand trends
3. Estimating growth in water demand using anticipated land use development

As the Plan does not increase development potential within the Plan Area, the existing planning documents for the GWD would remain valid. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

An analysis of potential water supply impacts resulting from PRT maps amendments are discussed in Section 4.13. The Plan contains two actions intended to address water conservation within the Plan Area. The first, Action TEI-8, recommends adopting the State updates to Title 24, Part 5, Chapter 16A, Part I – Nonpotable Water Reuse Systems, and the second, Action TEI-9 recommends alternative waste disposal and water conservation systems.

## **Mitigation**

Impacts related to water supply would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation would be required.

## **Residual Impacts**

As the Plan does not increase development potential within the Plan Area, the existing planning documents for the GWD would remain valid, and no increase in water supply would be required. Impacts would be less than significant (Class III impact).

### **4.9.7 Cumulative Impacts Analysis**

The geographic scope of the cumulative impact analysis is the Plan Area, as the potential for cumulative public services impacts would occur due to buildout of the Plan.

#### **4.9.7.1 Emergency Response Plans**

Cumulative projects, such as development consistent with surrounding jurisdictions' general plans, energy projects, or private projects consistent with the Plan would have the potential to impair existing emergency and evacuation plans. This could occur from any of the following: an increase in population that is induced from cumulative projects that are unaccounted for in emergency response plans; an increase in population that emergency response teams are unable to service adequately in the event of a disaster; or evacuation route impairment if future projects concurrently block multiple evacuation or access roads. Future development projects within the Plan Area would be reviewed to ensure that sites are designed with appropriate access. Compliance with existing regulations would ensure that impacts related to emergency response relative to Plan buildout are less than significant. Similarly, cumulative projects would be required to comply with applicable emergency response and evacuation policies outlined in regulations such as the California Emergency Services Act and local fire codes. Therefore, due to existing regulations, the Plan in conjunction with cumulative growth would not result in a significant cumulative impact.

#### **4.9.7.2 Wildland Fires**

The County has a history of experiencing wildland fires, which have exposed people and structures to a potentially significant loss of life and property. Some development of single-family residences would occur in areas that are considered high or very high fire hazard severity zones. Growth occurring in the County, implemented through various cumulative projects, would likely place people and/or property within danger of wildland fires due to the widespread risk across the region.

Implementation of the Plan would result in land uses that allow low-density residential development in areas that are prone to wildland fires. Numerous policies contained within the Plan are intended to reduce the hazard of wildland fire. As a result of the Plan policies and

development standards and the programs and standards described under the regulatory framework, the Plan would have a less than significant impact related to wildland fire. Recommended mitigation measure MM SERV-1, which directs future development to an area of a parcel's lowest fire hazard and minimize the need for long and/or steep access roads, would further reduce this impact. Therefore, the Plan's contribution to this significant cumulative impact would not be cumulatively considerable.

#### **4.9.7.3 Fire Protection, Law Enforcement, Libraries and Schools**

Cumulative projects would result in a need for additional fire protection, law enforcement, and schools to serve new development. Cumulative projects proposed under general plans of surrounding cities and counties, such as commercial, residential, or industrial projects, would require additional services within the region. While the majority of cumulative public service facility projects would undergo environmental review and would be required to demonstrate compliance with CEQA and/or the National Environmental Policy Act prior to project approval, cumulative environmental impacts from the development of such projects could result.

As discussed above, development under the Plan would incrementally increase the demand for public services. However, no new facilities are needed to serve the Plan Area at buildout and no new facilities are proposed in conjunction with this Plan. Therefore, the Plan's contribution to impacts from the construction of new public facilities would not be cumulatively considerable.

#### **4.9.7.4 Solid Waste Management**

Cumulative projects, such as buildout of adjacent cities' general plans and the County Comprehensive Plan, along with private projects not consistent with the Plan, would increase solid waste disposal and management needs within the region. Either new landfill facilities and/or recycling facilities could be needed to meet the anticipated disposal needs. However, in many areas included in the cumulative analysis, such as incorporated cities, it is often difficult to find suitable sites to provide additional landfill facilities that would increase capacity. Therefore, cumulative projects would have a potentially significant cumulative impact associated with demand for new or expanded landfill facilities. The Plan would be served by a landfill with sufficient capacity to accommodate projected solid waste disposal needs. Therefore, the Plan's contribution to impacts from the construction of new solid waste facilities would not be cumulatively considerable.

#### **4.9.7.5 Water and Wastewater Facilities**

Buildout of the Plan, in conjunction with buildout of the service areas of the GWD would result in a cumulative increase in the demand for water services; however, no new water supplies or water facilities are required to support Plan buildout. As a result, no environmental impacts would occur and the project would not contribute to cumulatively significant impacts.

### **4.9.7.6 Water Supply**

The GWD and other water districts that serve the cumulative project areas (surrounding cities and the unincorporated area) are required to prepare and adopt UWMPs or other planning documents that include supply and demand projections and procurement strategies to ensure a reliable water supply exists to meet the projected demand within the region. However, some UWMPs may be outdated and do not account for factors such as unprecedented multiple dry years, or cutbacks in water imports from other areas of the state, such as those caused by the U.S. District Court decision regarding the endangered Delta smelt (fish). Therefore, cumulative growth in the region would have the potential to increase the demand for potable water in the County in a manner that exceeds existing entitlements and resources. Regulations such as the California Water Code, SB 610, SB 221, and the Urban Water Management Planning Act are intended to reduce impacts to water supply; however, cumulative impacts to water supply may still occur. However, only a portion of the Plan Area is served by a water district (GWD) and there would be limited development potential in this area due to the low density agricultural land use designations that would be retained. Furthermore, the GWD UWMP has considered existing development potential within the Plan Area, which will not increase with the proposed Plan. Although cumulative development in the region would result in a cumulative impact to water supply, the impact of Plan buildout on water would not be cumulatively considerable and impacts would be less than significant.

### **Mitigation**

Cumulative impacts related to public services would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation would be required.

### **Residual Impacts**

As the Plan does not increase development potential within the Plan Area, and because there is not a measurable cumulative demand for increased public services in the Plan Area over the life of the plan, cumulative impacts to public services would be less than significant (Class III impact).