

## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

The information presented below is summarized from the Community Impact Assessment (CIA) prepared for this Project (2004), previous environmental documents, and contact with regional and local public service providers. This section addresses public services (police and fire protection/emergency services, schools, and parks and recreation facilities). The CIA is available for public review at the Solano Transportation Authority (STA), One Harbor Center, Suite 130, Suisun City, CA 94585 during normal business hours.

### **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### **Police Services**

##### California Highway Patrol

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) provides police services on highways throughout California. In the vicinity of the Project site, the CHP has jurisdiction over I-80, I-680, and SR12 for matters involving both traffic and emergency services. The portion of the North Connector Project (Project) alignment that would be patrolled by the CHP includes all of I-80 and SR12 West. The CHP office is located at 3050 Travis Boulevard in the City of Fairfield.

##### Solano County Sherriff's Department

The Solano County Sherriff's Department has jurisdiction over the West End, East End, and the area from Suisun Creek to Abernathy Road. West of Suisun Creek, the Project enters the City of Fairfield. The Sheriff Department's office is located on 530 Union Avenue in Fairfield.

In 2005, the Sheriff's Department employed 123 sworn officers, 233 correction officers, and 141 civilian employees. The preferred level of service for the Department was 1.2 shift patrol officers per 1,000 residents. The average response time for emergency calls by the Department was approximately 10 minutes, and 20 to 30 minutes for non-emergency calls.<sup>1</sup> In addition to standard policing services, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) is a division of the Sheriff's Department and provides management and coordination of disasters, terrorism, search and rescue missions, floods, and other major emergencies.<sup>2</sup>

##### Fairfield Police Department

The City of Fairfield Police Department is responsible for police services west of Suisun Creek and also includes areas from Abernathy Road to SR12 East. This area also includes portions of unincorporated County land. The Police Department is located at 1000 Webster Street in Fairfield, in the City Hall Building.

In 2004, the Police Department employed 119 sworn officers, half of which were assigned to the Patrol Division. Response times by the Police Department varied from 5 to 15 minutes for priority calls and up to a couple of hours for non-priority calls. The preferred officer to population ratio for the Police Department was 1.13-1.20 sworn officers per 1,000 population.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Solano County, Rockville Trails Estates Residential Subdivision, Draft EIR, Section IV.J Public Services.

<sup>2</sup> Solano County website, Sheriff's Department, accessed June 16, 2007.

<http://www.co.solano.ca.us/Department/Department.asp?NavID=95>

<sup>3</sup> City of Fairfield, Fairfield Corporate Commons Draft EIR, Section 4.9 Public Services.

## **Fire Protection and Emergency Services**

### Suisun Fire Protection District

The Suisun Fire Protection District's jurisdiction includes the area of the Project located between Abernathy Road and Suisun Creek. Areas west of Suisun Creek are under the jurisdiction of the Cordelia Fire Protection District. As of 2007, the Suisun Fire Protection District operates out of two stations including 445 Jackson Street and 4965 Clayton Road (both in the City of Fairfield). The District serves 1,136 properties within approximately 165 square miles. The Suisun Fire Protection District has one full-time and 40 volunteer firefighters.<sup>4</sup>

### Cordelia Fire Protection District

The Cordelia Fire Protection District's jurisdiction includes the majority of the West End of the Project alignment. The District is a small, rural fire district that provides fire and emergency medical service to the communities of Green Valley, Rockville, Cordelia, and Lower Suisun Valley. The District is based primarily upon the service of its volunteer and resident firefighters. As of 2007, the District serves a population of approximately 5,000 residents and provides "9-1-1" responses for approximately 56 square miles of land and 130 miles of interstate freeway, highway, and County roads. The District is an active participant in local mutual and automatic-aid agreements. The District's personnel currently consists of 54 members with a break down of: 3 career personnel, 1 full-time fire chief, 23 volunteer personnel, and 27 resident firefighters. The District currently has two stations. Station 31 is located close to the I-80/I-680 interchange (2155 Cordelia Road) while Station 20 is located in the Green Valley area (1604 Rockville Road).<sup>5</sup> The District has two staffed engines available for use every day.

### Fairfield Fire Department

The Fairfield Fire Department's jurisdiction includes a small portion of the West End near Business Center Drive and all of the Project area within Fairfield City limits. The Department provides fire and emergency response services within the Fairfield City limits. The City of Fairfield Fire Department maintains five fire stations.

The closest station to the Project area would be Station 35 located at 473 Suite A Edison Court in Cordelia.<sup>6</sup>

As of 2007, the Department employs 67 employees total, broken down as follows: 1 Fire Chief, 2 Deputy Chiefs, 2 Battalion Chiefs, 52 Operations (Captains, Engineers, Firefighter/Paramedics) personnel, 6 Fire Prevention personnel, and 4 Admin Support personnel. The Department also has an active Reserve Firefighter program with 16 members. The preferred response time is to respond to 80 percent of calls within five minutes or less. Department currently maintains a staffing ratio of 19 firefighters per 1,000 population.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Glance, Ronald, Fire Chief, Suisun Fire Protection District, personal communication, June 18, 2007.

<sup>5</sup> Broschard, Lewis, Assistant Chief, Cordelia Fire Protection District, personal communication, June 18, 2007.

<sup>6</sup> Clark, Jerry, Assistant Fire Marshal, Fairfield Fire Department, personal communication, June 18, 2007.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

## **Schools**

The City of Fairfield and unincorporated portions of Solano County are served by the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (FSUSD). The FSUSD serves Suisun City, portions of Solano and Napa Counties, and most of the City. In 2000, the FSUSD included 17 public elementary schools, five middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, one continuation high school, one alternative high school and one adult school located in the FSUSD's planning area.<sup>8</sup> The closest junior college to the Project site is Solano County Community College.

Nelda Mundy Elementary School located at 570 Vintage Valley Drive is located to the east and north of the West End Project area and is the nearest FSUSD facility to the Project area. Solano Community College is located outside the East End Project area to the north and west of Suisun Creek at 4000 Suisun Valley Road.

## **Parks and Recreation Facilities**

### Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

The closest regional park to the Project is the 630-acre Rockville Hills Regional Park (operated by the City of Fairfield Parks Department). The Rockville Hills Regional Park is located northwest of Solano Community College north of and in between the West and East ends of the Project alignment. The park includes amenities including ranger led interpretive hikes and biking trails.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail (Ridge Trail) is a planned trail system that will ultimately encircle the San Francisco Bay along the ridge tops, and will be open to pedestrians, mountain bicycles, and outdoor enthusiasts. So far, approximately 300 miles of the Ridge Trail have been completed. In the vicinity of the Project, there is a proposed trail corridor. This Ridge Trail corridor is proposed to extend from Rockville Hills Park (described above) south across I-80 to eventually connect with a completed section of trail in the Sulphur Springs Mountain area near Vallejo, California. Additional segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail in the Project area and vicinity include Rockville Hills Regional Park continuing along Green Valley Road to near Reservoir Road at Green Valley Road; Hiddenbrooke Open Space Preserve to McGary Road at Highway 80/American Canyon Overcrossing; and Lynch Canyon Open Space Preserve to Lynch Road at McGary Road. Through the Project area, no specific Ridge Trail alignment has been identified. However, the proposed Ridge Trail alignment is located in the vicinity of the West End. To complete the section of the Ridge Trail through the Project area, the Ridge Trail will need to cross several existing major transportation corridors including I-80 and possibly SR12 West.

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<sup>8</sup> City of Fairfield General Plan, 2002. Public Facilities and Services Element, p. PF-22.

### Local Parks and Recreation Facilities

The City of Fairfield includes operation of 26 parks, recreational facilities, and golf courses. As of 1999, there were 19 parks totaling 167 acres serving local recreational needs within the City. Local parks (including neighborhood and community parks) are described in the City of Fairfield General Plan EIR as follows:

- *Community parks* – Community parks are generally larger (40 acres or more), and are intended to serve people within walking and driving distances. Community parks often include specialized uses including community centers and swimming pools.<sup>9</sup>
- *Neighborhood parks* – Neighborhood parks are generally small (5-7 acres), and typically serve a neighborhood within a 0.5-mile radius.

In addition to community and neighborhood parks, the City also includes open spaces, pocket parks, regional parks, and trails. The Fairfield Linear Park (Linear Park) is a 94-acre rails-to-trails public use, publicly owned resource located entirely within the City of Fairfield. An 8.5-acre portion of the Linear Park is located within East End section of the Project. The length of the Linear Park east-to-west is approximately 5 miles, with an eastern terminus at the intersection of North Texas Street and East Tabor Avenue in downtown Fairfield and a western terminus at Solano Community College. The Linear Park extends without interruption between these two points but crosses over several city streets. The majority of the Linear Park parallels the northern side (westbound lanes) of I-80. Future City plans include extension of the Linear Park's eastern boundary to the Fairfield city limits, which will extend the Linear Park's length to approximately 8 miles.

The Linear Park is a multi-use facility that provides opportunities for both active and passive outdoor recreation. Some of the more common activities that occur at the Linear Park include jogging, biking, and walking, which mostly take place on a concrete/asphalt path that spans the entire distance between the park's two end points. The path is 8 to 10 feet wide, on average, and is located entirely within the park right-of-way, which varies between 40-100 feet in width, depending on location. A conservation easement for open space and recreational use is recorded on the entire length of the Linear Park.

### **REGULATORY SETTING**

#### **Quimby Act**

The Quimby Act (California Government Code section 66477, Subdivision Map Act), permits local jurisdictions to require the dedication of land and/or the payment of in-lieu fees solely for park and recreation purposes. The required dedication and/or fee are based upon the density, cost of parklands, and various other factors. Land dedicated and fees collected pursuant to the Quimby Act may only be used for developing new, or rehabilitating existing, park or recreational facilities. The maximum dedication and/or fee allowed under current State law is equivalent to providing three acres of park land per 1,000 persons, unless the park acreage of a municipality exceeds that standard, in which case the maximum dedication is five acres per 1,000 residents.

#### **Solano County General Plan – Land Use Policies**

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<sup>9</sup> Draft Program EIR for the Comprehensive Amendment to the City of Fairfield General Plan, Chapter 5 (Public Facilities and Services), August 2001, p. 5-8.

Solano County's General Plan Land Use and Circulation Element includes the following policy that pertains to the Project:

- Policy 7 – The County will plan and, if feasible, jointly undertake with other jurisdictions programs to secure inter-regional parks, other recreational opportunities, and Federal assistance for their development.

### **Solano County General Plan – Park and Recreation Policies**

Solano County's General Plan Park and Recreation Element includes the following objective and policy that pertains to the Project:

Objective 7 – Provide for the regional recreation needs of the County.

- Policy 7B – The County shall encourage development of linkages (such as riding, hiking, and biking trails) between population centers and regional recreation facilities. Any trail system which links parklands cannot conflict with agriculture and other land uses.

### **City of Fairfield General Plan – Open Space Policies**

Fairfield's General Plan Open Space Element includes the following objectives, policies, and programs that pertain to the Project:

- Policy OS 11.4 – Actively participate with other governmental entities (cities, county, state, and federal) or agencies in the acquisition, management, and use of recreational/open space lands and facilities of mutual interest.
- Policy OS 11.5 – Where a project involves potential open space, natural resource reserves, or recreational lands of interest to more than one entity, the City shall work cooperatively with other involved agencies.
- Policy OS 12.7 – Preserve and develop the entire Linear Park system, from Solano Community College into the Peabody Walters Master Plan area, as illustrated on the Land Use Diagram, exclusively as a recreation facility in order to provide an alternative non-motorized vehicular linkage among recreation and parks, schools, shopping, industry, residential, and other community activity centers.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES IMPACT ANALYSIS**

### Significance Criteria

#### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines identifies environmental issues to be considered when determining whether a Project could have a significant effect on the environment. STA has applied some of these standards of significance to evaluate impacts of the Project.

#### Public Services and Recreation

Would the Project result in:

- Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause

significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

- Fire protection
  - Police protection
  - Schools
  - Parks
  - Other public facilities
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- Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated
  
  - Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

### **Less than Significant Impacts**

#### **Provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire, police, schools, parks, or other facilities.**

The Project would construct new local roadways which would improve local access and reduce response times for emergency service providers (police and fire). The Project does not involve the construction of housing or commercial uses and therefore would not result in additional demand for public services, schools, or parks. The Project would construct a roadway that would require police patrol services and potentially fire services if a fire were to occur. However, demand for public services by the Project would be minimal, and would not require the construction of new or physically altered government facilities.

Construction of the Project is not anticipated to impact the ability to complete the Ridge Trail through the Project area, and may help facilitate its implementation between Rockville Hills Regional Park and SR12 West by creating a signalized intersection at Red Top Road/SR12 West/North Connector that could be used by trail users to safely cross SR12. To ensure this, the STA shall continue to coordinate with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council during the final design of the West End of the North Connector to incorporate the Ridge Trail to the extent feasible. Therefore, impacts related to the provision of new or physically altered facilities in order to maintain service ratios, response times, and other performance objectives, would be less than significant.

#### **Include and/or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.**

The North Connector Project within the East End includes construction of a new multi-use path and greenway along the north side of the new roadway between Abernathy Road and Suisun Creek. The multi-use path and greenway would be 1.56 miles long and encompass approximately 9.0-acres consisting of a 10-foot wide paved multi-use path in between a vegetated swale (15-22 foot wide) and a landscape area (7-foot wide) as shown in Figure 3-3 of 3.0 Project Description.<sup>10</sup> This multi-use path and greenway would be owned and maintained by Solano County. The new multi-use path would connect with the Linear Park at Suisun Creek where it would continue to Solano Community College. The multi-use path and greenway would also connect with the Linear Park at Abernathy Road. Construction and landscaping of the multi-use path would occur in conjunction with construction of the East End of the North Connector Project.

The existing portion of the Fairfield Linear Park between Abernathy Road and Suisun Creek is approximately 1.62 miles in length encompassing approximately 8.5 acres consisting of a paved pathway (approximately 8-10 feet wide) within a landscaped right of way immediately adjacent to I-80.

Because the new multi-use path and greenway would replace and be an enhancement compared to the existing Fairfield Linear Park between Abernathy Road and Suisun Creek in this area, and represent a net gain of 0.5 acres of multi-use trail, the City of Fairfield has initiated a General Plan Amendment (GPA) to revise Policy OS 12.7 to remove the existing Linear Park between Abernathy Road and Suisun Creek as well as remove this portion of the Linear park from the General Plan Land Use Diagram and show the North Connector

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<sup>10</sup> Roadway dimensions are subject to change per final roadway design.

Project as a Public Facility located within the County's jurisdiction. The Project would include the removal of the paved path within the Linear Park between Abernathy Road and Suisun Creek but the existing bridge across Suisun Creek would remain and public access would still be allowed. The open space conservation easement located over this portion of the existing Linear Park would remain.

Therefore, because the Project would result in an in-kind replacement of an existing park/trail facility and the City is concurrently initiating a GPA to facilitate this in-kind replacement, the replacement of the Linear Park is considered a less-than-significant impact.

### **Significant and Potentially Significant Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

No significant or potentially significant impacts related to public services and recreation were identified for this Project.