

2.13 Public Services

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
13. PUBLIC SERVICES— Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the 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 following public services:				
i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

There are five Del Norte County Fire Protection Districts, including Klamath, Crescent, Fort Dick, Smith River, and Gasquet Fire Protection Districts. There are also a number of non-County agencies that provide fire service to Del Norte County, including Crescent City Volunteer Fire Department, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal-Fire), United States Forest Service (USFS) Six Rivers National Forest, Redwood National and State Parks, and Pelican Bay State Prison. In order to ensure that these fire districts operate in an efficient and cost-effective manner, the districts have mutual aid and auto aid agreements in place.¹ Mutual aid agreements exist among the districts for back-up in large or multiple fire scenarios and for general emergencies. All of the County’s Fire Protection Districts have mutual aid agreements with each other (DNCFSC, 2005).

Smith River Fire Protection District

The Proposed Project site is located within the jurisdiction of the Smith River Fire Protection District (SRFPD). The SRFPD provides first response fire and medical service to approximately 5,000 residents within its 25-square-mile district. Twenty-six local residents currently volunteer with SRFPD, 15 of which are “active” firefighters. There are three paid staff members, including the Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, and Secretary. SRFPD’s main station, including offices, is located at the Smith River Fire Hall at 245 Haight Avenue in Smith River, approximately one-half mile northwest of the Proposed Project site. There are two other fire stations located in this area, one on U.S. Highway 199 in Hiouchi, and the other on Low Divide Road. As noted above, SRFPD

¹ Mutual aid means that a fire department can request the services of another department based upon predetermined agreements to provide such services. Auto aid means that the parties of an auto aid agreement will be dispatched to respond to incidents outside their regular district or jurisdiction to assist with suppression or other emergencies.

has mutual aid agreements with all of the Fire Protection District in Del Norte County, as well as with the Crescent City Fire Department. Equipment includes three fire engines, two water tenders, a rescue truck, a medical rescue truck, an air supply trailer, and a suburban command vehicle (DNCFS, 2005).

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Cal-Fire provides wildland fire protection in Del Norte County for private, industrial, County, State, Bureau of Land Management, and municipal forest lands, unless they are within a Fire Protection District (DNCFS, 2005). The Cal-Fire Humboldt-Del Norte Unit provides services to 1,941,991 acres of State responsibility lands and 1,963,581 acres of direct protection area. Approximately 70 percent of these lands are zoned for timber production and another 10 percent are recreation areas. The Humboldt-Del Norte Unit manages 11 fire stations, three camps, one air attack base, and one helitack base. The Humboldt-Del Norte Unit maintains 14 frontline fire engines with two fire engines in reserve, two dozers, 15 inmate crews, one helicopter, one air attack, and one air tanker for fire suppression efforts. There are approximately 100 permanent fire suppression personnel, 30 resource management personnel, and six clerical personnel to staff these efforts. Additionally the Unit hires 50 limited term personnel to supplement the permanent staff during the fire season (CDF, 2005).

The Unit as a whole responded to a total of 293 fires in 2004. That was down from the 398 in 2003. The 2004 fires consumed a total of 468 acres of the following categories: 206 grass; 54 acres brush; 107 acres woodland; and 101 acres timber (CDF, 2005).

Cal-Fire's Crescent City Battalion provides fire protection services within the vicinity of the Proposed Project study area. The Crescent City Battalion has 21 staff members, including seven Fire Captains, one Fire Prevention Captain, 12 firefighters, and one Battalion Chief. The closest fire station to the Proposed Project site is located approximately 12 miles to the south at 1025 U.S. Highway 101 (U.S. 101) in Crescent City (DNCFS, 2005).

In terms of response times within Del Norte County, Cal-Fire has the ability to respond to approximately 20 percent of its service area within 15 minutes, approximately 10 percent in 10 minutes, approximately seven percent within five minutes, and five percent within three minutes. This means that it takes Cal-Fire at least 15 minutes to respond to fires in the majority of its Del Norte County service area (DNCFS, 2005).

As noted above, Cal-Fire has mutual aid agreements with all County Fire Protection Districts and automatic aid agreements with Crescent City Volunteer Fire Department and Crescent Fire Protection District (DNCFS, 2005).

Police Protection

The Del Norte County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services for the unincorporated portions of the County, including the Proposed Project site. The Department includes a patrol division, jail division, civil office, court security, and County wide emergency communications. The Department also has special operations with boating safety and waterways

programs and Search and Rescue (Del Norte County, 2007). The Sheriff's Department provides service to an area encompassing approximately 1,000 square miles and a population of 22,933. The Sheriff's Department main office is located at 650 5th Street in Crescent City and has 56 personnel including 16 uniform deputies, four sergeants, administrative staff, and volunteers (DNCFSP, 2005).

California Highway Patrol (CHP) has a mutual aid agreement with the Sheriff Department and would provide additional equipment and personnel in cases of larger-scale emergencies in Del Norte County. CHP also provides police protection on all State and County roads in Del Norte County (CHP, 2007). CHP has 23 uniformed officers that patrol throughout the County (DNCFSP, 2005).

Schools

Public school services in the study area are provided by the Del Norte County Unified School District. The District office is located at 301 West Washington Boulevard in Crescent City. The District is comprised of 11 schools, including six elementary schools, two Kindergarten through 8th grade schools, one middle school, one high school, and one continuation high school, with a total enrollment of approximately 4,000 students (DNCUSD, 2007). Specifically, the study area is served by Smith River Elementary School and Del Norte High School. Smith River Elementary School, located at 564 First Street in Smith River, is a Kindergarten through 8th grade school that had approximately 280 students during the 2006-2007 school year. Del Norte High School, located at 1301 El Dorado Street in Crescent City, had approximately 1,135 students enrolled during the 2006-2007 school year (CDE, 2007).

The Del Norte County Unified School District enrollment has gradually decreased in recent years from 5,118 students during the 1997-1998 school year, to 4,064 students during the 2006-2007 school year. This represents a decrease of approximately 21 percent in ten years (CDE, 2007).

Parks and Recreation

See Section 2.14, *Recreation*, for information regarding existing recreation resources in the Proposed Project study area.

Regulatory Context

Del Norte County General Plan

The Del Norte County General Plan provides goals and policies to support adequate public services for the community. These goals and policies are summarized as follows (Del Norte County, 2003):

Schools

Goal 7.E: To provide for the educational needs of Del Norte County residents.

Law Enforcement

Goal 7.G: To ensure the prompt and efficient provision of law enforcement facility and service needs.

Policy 7.G.2: The County shall, through adequate staffing and patrol arrangements, endeavor to maintain the minimum feasible response times for deputy calls.

Fire Protection

Goal 7.H: To protect residents of and visitors to Del Norte County from injury or loss of life and to protect property from fires.

Policy 7.H.3: The County shall continue to provide local fire district the opportunity to review proposed projects for compliance with fire safety standards per the Uniform Fire Code and other State and local ordinances.

CDF Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Fire Management Plan (2005)

The California Department of Forestry's Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Fire Management Plan assesses the fire situation within the Unit's jurisdiction. The Plan includes stakeholders' contributions and priorities, and identifies strategy areas for pre-fire planning and fuel treatment as defined by the people who live and work within the area. The Plan identifies most of the Proposed Project study area as having a high to moderate fire potential.

Del Norte Fire Safe Plan (2005)

The Del Norte Fire Safe Plan identifies risks and mitigations to reduce risks from wildfire in Del Norte County. It also provides residents with a step-by-step guide on how to fire-safe their homes, structures, and community, and how to best deal with an impending wildfire. The Plan contains the following goals (DNCFSC, 2005):

1. To identify priority projects to reduce risks and hazards from wildfire in Del Norte County, California. This is anticipated to be achieved principally through prioritization and implementation of fuel hazard reduction, community education, and fire suppression projects and activities.
2. To use the document to provide fire safety educational information to residents of Del Norte County.
3. To provide a guidance document for future actions of the Del Norte Fire safe Council.
4. To create biomass projects within Del Norte County.

Public Services Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the 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 following public services:

a.i) Fire Protection: *Less than significant with mitigation.*

As discussed in the Setting section, fire protection services within the Proposed Project study area are provided by the SRFPD, as well as other fire protection districts in the area that participate in mutual aid agreements, including Cal-Fire. In general, increases in demand for fire protection services are associated with substantial increases in population. The Proposed Project would include a short-term construction crew of up to 10 crew members, but would not result in a substantial population increase that would increase the demand for fire protection services (See Section 2.12, *Population and Housing*, for further discussion). Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increased demand for fire protection services. Construction of the Proposed Project could affect the demand for fire protection and emergency response services, as discussed below.

Proposed Project construction activities would include the installation of a new substation as well as the demolition of an existing substation. Proposed Project construction could involve emergency situations related to worker injury that would require emergency response services. Additionally, because the Proposed Project is located in an area that contains overgrown vegetation, emergency situations could result that would require fire suppression services and emergency response. However, implementation of Mitigation Measures 2.7-1c and 2.7-3, (see Section 2.7, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*) would reduce the potentially significant fire protection services impact associated with the construction of the Proposed Project to less than significant.

Impact 2.13-1: Proposed Project construction activities could temporarily increase the demand for fire protection services. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 2.13-1a and 1b would reduce these impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure 2.13-1a: Implement Mitigation Measure 2.7-1c.

Mitigation Measure 2.13-1b: Implement Mitigation Measure 2.7-3.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

a.ii) Police Protection: *Less than significant.*

Police protection services at the Proposed Project site would be provided by the Del Norte County Sheriff's Department. Generally, increases in the demand for police protection services are associated with substantial increases in population. The Proposed Project would include a construction crew of up to 10 members, but would not result in a substantial population increase that would increase the demand for police protection services. (See Section 2.12, *Population and Housing*, for further discussion.) Additionally, construction activities are not anticipated to increase the demand for police protection services in the area. The area that includes the proposed substation demolition

and the proposed new substation locations is private property and access to the site from U.S. 101 is restricted by an existing barbed wire fence for security, which would help reduce the demand for police protection. Further, once the proposed substation site has been graded and the ground surface prepared, a fence would be installed to provide additional security to the construction site. As with fire services, the construction and operation of the proposed substation would not result in a need for additional police facilities nor would it affect response times or other service performance. The result would be a less than significant impact with regard to police protection.

a.iii) Schools: *Less than significant.*

The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts to school facilities in the study area. The proposed construction crew would be up to 10 members, including PacifiCorp and contracted construction personnel. The Proposed Project would not result in a significant increase of local population or housing (see Section 2.12 *Population and Housing* for additional discussion), which is typically associated with increased demand for public school services. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in demand for school facilities and impacts to public school services would be less than significant.

a.iv) Parks: *Less than significant.*

The Proposed Project would not result in a significant increase in the local population or housing (see Section 2.12 *Population and Housing* for additional discussion); therefore, there would be no substantial increased demand for park facilities. Thus, impacts to parks would be less than significant. See also Section 2.14, *Recreation*, for additional discussion.

a.v) Other Public Facilities: *Less than significant.*

The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts to other public facilities, such as public libraries, hospitals, or other civic uses. For a discussion of potential impacts related to public roadways, see Section 2.15, *Transportation and Traffic*. No other public facilities would be adversely impacted by the construction or operation of the Proposed Project.

References – Public Services

California Department of Education (CDE), 2007. CDE DataQuest. Webpage available at: <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>, accessed August 16, 2007.

California Department of Forestry (CDF), 2005. *California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Fire Management Plan, 2005.*

California Highway Patrol (CHP), 2007. Webpage available at: www.chp.ca.gov, accessed August 16, 2007.

Del Norte County, 2003. *Del Norte County General Plan*, adopted January 28, 2003.

Del Norte County, 2007. Webpage available at: <http://www.dnco.org>, accessed August 15, 2007.

Del Norte County Fire Safe Council (DNCFSC), 2005. *Del Norte County Fire Safe Plan*, adopted September 2005.

Del Norte County Unified School District (DNCUSD), 2007. Webpage available at: <http://www.delnorte.k12.ca.us/>, accessed August 16, 2007.