

H. PUBLIC SERVICES

This section describes and evaluates the potential public services impacts for the proposed project, including police services and fire and emergency services. Park, recreation, school and library services are not evaluated as the proposed project would not introduce a residential population to the area, which would utilize these services (refer to the Initial Study in Appendix B for a discussion of these topics). Potential impacts to public services that could result from the proposed project are identified, and mitigation measures are recommended, as appropriate.

1. Setting

This section discusses the existing conditions, including service locations, capacities, and expansion possibilities related to police and fire/emergency services. The information presented here was gathered from a variety of sources, including direct communication with the agencies and organizations that administer or provide each service.

a. Police Services. The project site is under jurisdiction of the City of Vallejo Police Department (VPD). VPD provides police protection services throughout the City and VPD headquarters are located at 111 Amador Street, approximately 2.7 miles southwest of the project site. Currently, there are 90 sworn officers, 31 civilian staffers, 12 part-time cadets and about 20 citizen volunteers at the VPD. Current staffing levels are in line with budgeted staffing levels; however, in recent years, the VPD reduced the number of sworn personnel by 68 officers.¹

The VPD service area is divided into eight beats, which are then subdivided into districts. The project site is designated as Beat 1, which covers the northeast portion of the City. Overall, there is one beat police officer assigned to Beat 1 and during occasional overlap periods, there are two officers assigned. Pro-active patrolling can vary significantly depending on the number of calls for service occurring within beat 1.² The City has not established a response time goal for police protection services. Incoming calls are prioritized and responded to according to level of urgency. Priority 1 calls are defined as involving immediate danger of injury or loss of life, and Priority 2 calls are those which require an urgent response to prevent the situation from escalating to a Priority 1. The VPD reported a City-wide average response time of 5.8 minutes for Priority 1 calls, 22.8 minutes for Priority 2 calls, and 27.8 minutes for Priority 3 calls during the period between January 2010 and mid-September 2010.³ The VPD's estimated response time to the project site would vary greatly depending on the priority of the call and other pending calls for service within beat 1t. However, the location of the project site provides the VPD easy access from I-80. The project site is adjacent to two other patrol beats and would most likely result in a reasonable response time for higher priority calls from patrolling officers. The three most common incident types reported in Vallejo include theft, burglary, and traffic-related matters.⁴

¹ Jackson, David, 2010. Captain, Vallejo Police Department Bureau of Field Operations. Personal communication with LSA Associates, Inc. September 22.

²Ibid.

³ Jackson, David, 2010. Captain, Vallejo Police Department Bureau of Field Operations. Personal communication with LSA Associates, Inc. September 23.

⁴Ibid.

General Plan goals and policies that address police services and are applicable to the proposed project are listed below:

- Other Services Goal: To provide an efficient and financially sound system of urban services to protect the health, safety and general welfare of Vallejo area residents.
 - Policy.11c: Landscape areas should provide adequate visual access to all entrances.
 - Policy 11e: Defensible design techniques should be encouraged in all new developments.

b. Fire and Emergency Services. The Vallejo Fire Department (VFD) provides fire services to the project area. VFD responds to structural and wildland fires, rescue and medical emergencies, hazardous materials spills, and vehicle accidents in this area. VFD serves the City of Vallejo and the East Vallejo Fire Protection District, a service area totaling 51 square miles. From January 2010 to June 2010, VFD responded to 5,988 incidents.⁵

VFD operates eight fire stations located throughout the City, which house eight engine companies and one truck company. Fire suppression personnel are deployed on three shifts where each shift is supervised by an Assistant Fire Chief. All of the eight engine companies have a paramedic firefighter assigned on duty to provide advance life support (ALS) capabilities. VFD personnel include one Chief, four assistant chiefs, 21 fire captains, 16 fire engineers, 25 firefighters, two fire prevention inspectors, and 2 administrative personnel.⁶ VFD Station 27 is located at 1585 Ascot Court, approximately 2 miles from the project site and would be the first station to respond to calls originating at the project site. Station #23, located approximately 1½ miles from the project site at 900 Redwood Street, would provide the secondary response. Both stations house an engine and brush unit and have a minimum of three staffers per station. The current response time to the project site from Station #27 is 4½ to 5 minutes.⁷

The City of Vallejo also participates in an automatic aid program with the City of Benicia. This automatic aid program assigns the closest responding first-due units, when available, in several designated areas in Vallejo and Benicia, providing improved emergency medical services and fire protection services to each jurisdiction. The project site is not designated as an area that is served by the program since it only serves the Glen Cove area, the southeast area of the City.⁸

The City of Vallejo also participates in countywide and Statewide Mutual Aid Programs with many other fire agencies in Solano County, Napa County and Contra Costa County.⁹ Through this program, should any of the participating jurisdictions need additional assistance in a major emergency, and a significant portion of their own resources are committed to emergency operations, strike teams, composed of designated units from one or more of the program cities, would provide assistance to

⁵ Vallejo, City of, 2010. Fire Department. Website: www.ci.vallejo.ca.us/GovSite/default.asp?serviceID1=692&Frame=L1. Accessed August 31.

⁶ Tweedy, William, 2010. Fire Department Information Officer, Vallejo Fire Department. Personal communication with LSA Associates, Inc. September 16.

⁷ Robertson, Douglas, 2010. Fire Chief, Vallejo Fire Department. Written communication with LSA Associates, Inc. August 30.

⁸ Tweedy, William. op. cit

⁹ Ibid.

address the emergency. The City of Vallejo maintains mutual aid agreements with the cities of American Canyon, Benicia and Crocket.¹⁰

VFD has a standard level of service for fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services. For any structure fire, the initial response includes three engines and one truck, with a minimum staffing of 12 firefighting personnel.¹¹ Accounting for the VFD's emergency medical services cooperative with Solano County and medical ambulance, the VFD response time goal is 7 minutes, 90 percent of the time. Currently, the VFD maintains a travel time standard of 5½ minutes for Fire Department first-due emergency response.¹² With the purchase of new equipment and training in firefighter survival, low angle rescue and confined space rescue, the VFD has increased its rescue services.

2. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This section discusses potential impacts to public services that could result from implementation of the proposed project. The section begins with the criteria of significance, which establish the thresholds used to determine whether an impact is significant. The latter part of this section presents the impacts associated with the proposed project and identifies mitigation measures, if appropriate. Less-than-significant impacts to public services are discussed first, followed by significant impacts.

a. Criteria of Significance. The project would have a significant impact on the environment related to public services if it would 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 police service, fire and emergency services, or schools.

b. Less-Than-Significant Public Services Impacts. Less-than-significant impacts for each of the public services examined would result from implementation of the proposed project.

(1) Police Services. The proposed project would create an increase in demand for police services within Beat 1 as a result of retail use, which includes the sale of alcohol on the site, seven days a week and up to 24 hours per day, with the exception of Christmas Day. However, the project site is located in an area where existing commercial and retail uses are located and the increase in the number of retail establishments in the project area would not significantly differ from other areas in the City. As a result, the VPD does not believe additional personnel, equipment or physical improvements to their facilities would be required to serve the project even with current reductions in staffing.¹³

To address public safety concerns as part of the project the applicant will provide video camera monitoring and an on-site security guard (loss prevention personnel) and will post "no loitering" signs and the VPD's contact information at the front of the store. Loss prevention personnel will monitor

¹⁰ Robertson, Douglas. op.cit.

¹¹ Tweedy, William, op. cit.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Jackson, David, 2010. Captain, Vallejo Police Department Bureau of Field Operations. Personal communication with LSA Associates, Inc. September 22.

approximately 91 interior DVR¹⁴ cameras and five exterior DVR cameras of which three would be pan/tilt and two would be fixed to cover 360 degrees of the building. If necessary, the loss prevention personnel will physically patrol the exterior area when exterior DVR monitoring indicates a necessity. Lighting at the front and back of the store and in the parking lot would also be provided to enhance public safety. Liquor items would be located adjacent to the service center and beer and wine would be located towards the front of the store so that personnel can easily see them.¹⁵

As discussed in Chapter III, Project Description, the eastern section of the parking lot is currently available to lodge members for RV use for stays of up to two weeks at a time. The proposed project would discontinue use of the site for overnight RV camping, and it is not WinCo's policy to permit RV use of its parking lots. This restriction would decrease nuisance-related calls to the VPD from neighboring residents associated with RV use of the site.

Given the above, the VPD has the ability to provide adequate police services to the site and the proposed project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts to police service facilities.

(2) Fire and Emergency Services. The proposed project would result in an increased demand for fire protection and emergency medical services on the project site similar to the existing shopping center adjacent to the site. As part of the development review process, the proposed project would be required to conform to enhanced fire suppression and fire detection measures as required by the Fire Department and the California Fire Code. These measures may include: installation of automatic fire sprinklers and automatic fire alarm systems, verification of adequate fire flow from additional fire hydrants, appropriately sized turn-outs and turnarounds, ladder access, minimum widths for emergency vehicles access requirements, and emergency response/evacuation plans. Additionally, WinCo employees would undergo a hazardous materials training program. The Fire Code requires that site-specific design plans be submitted, reviewed and approved by the Fire Chief prior to the issuance of any building permits.

The VFD has reviewed the proposed project and determined that increased demands on fire protection services resulting from development of the proposed project would not exceed the ability of existing staff and equipment to provide service at adequate levels.¹⁶ The proposed project also would not require new facilities to be constructed to serve the proposed project. As such, development of the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact to fire and emergency medical services within the City.

c. Significant Public Services Impacts. The proposed project would not result in any significant impacts to public services; therefore, no mitigation would be required.

¹⁴ DVR stands for Digital Video Recorder

¹⁵ Redwood Parkway Partners, LLC, 2010. *City of Vallejo Off-site Sale of Alcohol Supplemental Questionnaire for WinCo Foods*. March.

¹⁶ Tweedy, William. op. cit