
IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

M. PUBLIC SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

This section of the DEIR evaluates potential impacts to the project site's geologic environment that may result from implementation of the Stonegate Vesting Subdivision Map and General Plan Amendment/Rezone ("proposed project"). Descriptions and analysis in this section are based on information provided by the Chico Fire Department, Chico Police Department, the City of Chico Public Works Department, and the Chico Unified School District

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Fire Protection

Chico Fire-Rescue provides community risk reduction, fire protection, all-risk incident mitigation and emergency medical services to the City of Chico and nearby unincorporated areas of Butte County. The service area is approximately 33 square miles and has a full-time service population of 88,634 persons. The service population increases to approximately 105,000 persons when Chico State University is in session. Chico Fire-Rescue is headquartered at 842 Salem Street, Chico. Overall, the Chico Fire-Rescue operates four fire stations. The Fire Department is staffed by 61 full-time employees, 50 of whom are sworn personnel. The Department maintains 27 pieces of apparatus including 4 engines, 3 reserve engines, one aerial ladder truck, one reserve ladder truck, a medium rescue unit, a type 6 engine, a hazardous materials unit, and a breathing support trailer.

Chico Fire-Rescue responded to 12,373 calls for service in 2014. Of this figure, approximately 76 percent of the calls were for rescues and emergency medical services. Service calls were second at approximately 7 percent, and false alarms were third at approximately 6 percent. The Fire Department's average response time to Code 3 emergency calls was 4 minutes, 13 minutes in 2014.

In the event of major fires or emergencies, Butte Emergency Medical Services provides ambulance services with Butte County. As a standard operating practice, the Chico Fire Department responds to all Code 3 (lights and sirens) emergency medical service calls and typically arrives at the scene before the ambulance 90 percent of the time. The first arriving firefighters assess and stabilize the patient. Often, a firefighter/emergency medical technician will ride to the hospital in the back of the ambulance to assist the paramedics with the patient.

Police Protection

The Chico Police Department provides police protection to the City of Chico. The Police Department is headquartered at 1460 Humboldt Road, Chico. The Police Department is staffed by 142 full-time employees, of whom 92 are sworn police officers. The Police Department responded

to 89,445 calls for service in 2014. The Police Department's average response time to the highest priority calls (Priority 1) was 3 minutes, 10 seconds in 2014.

School Services

Public Education Services near the project site are provided by the Chico Unified School District ("CUSD"). CUSD provides education for the City of Chico as well as the adjacent unincorporated areas of Butte County. CUSD provides preschool to high school public education to approximately 13,000 students according to the General Plan. Within the CUSD there are three preschools, twelve elementary schools, 3 junior high schools, 4 high schools, a Community Day School, a K-8 Independent Study School and a Special Services School. The closest school to the project site is Castles Preschool, which is approximately 0.36 miles away.

In addition to its existing facilities, CUSD has two undeveloped school sites within the City. CUSD is limited to levying a state-determined maximum fee on residential and commercial development to cover its impact on local schools. The Chico Municipal Code provides authority for the City to require subdivisions to reserve land for elementary school sites for a reasonable period of time, and CUSD is required to provide funds for the reserved sites.

Furthermore, Chico is home California State University ("CSU") Chico and the Chico Campus of Butte College along with other private K-12 and higher education providers. CSU Chico is located on approximately 130 acres adjacent to Downtown and is the second oldest campus in the state university system. CSU Chico adopted a Campus Master Plan in 2005, which envisions accommodating a 2025 enrollment of 17,900 students (full-time equivalents) and is guiding significant upgrades and renovations to campus facilities.

Parks

The City's Parks Division will retain ownership, management, and maintenance responsibility for Bidwell Park, Creekside gateways, and City-owned preserves, while the Chico Area Recreation District ("CARD") will assume ownership and operation of the various other developed parks and recreation systems in the City, such as neighborhood and community parks. According to the General Plan, the total existing recreational facilities in the City includes 37 sites that are parks, natural areas, open space, recreational centers, or undeveloped park space, totaling 4,167 acres.

Table IV.M-1, below, includes the parks and recreational facilities for which the City of Chico maintains responsibility. This list does not include natural areas or undeveloped park space.

**Table IV.M-1
City of Chico Parks and Recreational Facilities**

Facility	Location	Size (acres)*	Type
Bidwell Park	Northeastern Chico	3,670 acres	Municipal
City Plaza	418 Main Street, Chico	1.90 acres	Plaza
Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater	400 West First Street, Chico	0.3 acres	Amphitheater
Depot Park	431 Cedar Street, Chico	1.5 acres	Neighborhood

Source: City of Chico website. Parks Division. Available at:

http://www.chico.ca.us/general_services_department/park_division/park_reservations.asp

California State University Chico. Caper Acres User Study: A Component of the Master Plan for Future Renovation.

http://www.chico.ca.us/document_library/documents/CaperAcresFinalReport4-18-14TOC.pdf

*Size (acres) estimated from Google Earth.

Table IV.M-2, below, includes the parks and recreational facilities for which CARD maintains responsibility. This list does not include natural areas or undeveloped park space.

**Table IV.M-2
CARD Parks and Recreational Facilities**

Facility	Location	Size (acres)*	Type
Community Park	1900 Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy, Chico	33.5 acres	Community
DeGarmo Park	199 Leora Court, Chico	18.0 acres	Community
Hooker Oak Park	1928 Manzanita Avenue, Chico	15.0 acres	Community
Wildwood Park	100 Wildwood Park Avenue, Chico	13.5 acres	Community
Oak Way Park	1510 W 8 th Avenue, Chico	11.5 acres	Neighborhood
Peterson Park	Denali Dr & Rollins Lake Dr, Chico	4.5 acres	Neighborhood
Rotary Park	199 W 16 th Street, Chico	0.4 acres	Neighborhood
Baroni Park	12 Baroni Drive, Chico	3.0 acres	Neighborhood
Hancock Park	Marigold Ave & Middletown Ave, Chico	4.0 acres	Neighborhood
Humboldt Ave. Skate Park	Humboldt Avenue, Chico	0.75 acres	Neighborhood
Pleasant Valley Recreation Center and Pool	2320 North Avenue, Chico	1.0 acre	Recreation Center & Pool
CARD Community Center	545 Vallombrosa Avenue, Chico	1.5 acres	Community Center
Dorthy F. Johnson Center	775 E. 16 th Street, Chico	3.0 acres	Community Center & Park
Lakeside Pavilion	2565 California Park Drive, Chico	1.0 acre	Community Center
Sycamore Field	South Park Drive, Chico	3.75 acres	Field(Bidwell Park)
Source: Chico Area Recreation District website. Available at: http://www.chicorec.com/CARD-Parks--Facilities/index.html			
*Size (acres) estimated from Google Earth.			

The only City Park located within ¼ mile of the project site is Baroni Park. The Mendocino National Forest Genetic Resource and Conservation Center is located on 209 acres in Chico for the purpose of plant breeding research. This Conservation Center is maintained by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and is located within ¼ mile of the project site, directly south of Skyway.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Thresholds of Significance

According to Appendix G, Environmental Checklist, of the CEQA Guidelines, public services and utilities impacts resulting from the implementation of the proposed project would be considered significant if the project 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:

- a) Fire Protection?
- b) Police Protection?
- c) Schools?
- d) Parks? (Refer to Section IV.N Recreation.)
- e) Other public facilities? (Refer to Section IV.A Impacts Found To Be Less Than Significant)

Project Impacts

Impact PS-1 Fire Protection:

The project site is currently served with fire protection services provided by the Chico Fire-Rescue. Chico Fire-Rescue indicated that the increase in calls may negatively impact overall response times and decrease response reliability. However, an increase in calls for service or slightly longer response times would not by themselves be physical impacts on the environment. Moreover, because the entire project site is within one mile from the nearest fire station (Station 4), it would not directly result in a need for new or expanded fire protection facilities. Funding for additional fire personal that may be required would be provided through impact fees and property taxes. Additionally, Chico Fire-Rescue requires all fixed fire protection infrastructure and systems recommended by industry practice be provided at the time of construction and shall be in addition to the minimum requirements of the California Building Standards and applicable Fire Codes. All structures shall comply with the provisions of the California Building Standards including California Fire Code—a standard requirement of all new construction. For these reasons, the proposed project would not create a need to construct new or expand existing fire protection facilities. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

Impact PS-2 Police Protection:

The project site is currently served with police protection services provided by the Chico Police Department. Police services go through an annual budgeting process during which citywide priorities are established and service level monitored. The increased demand for police service that would result from the introduction of housing and commercial uses proposed for the site would require the addition of approximately two additional officers to maintain the current staffing rate of approximately 1 officer/1,000 residents. The project would not require the construction of a new station or result in a significant increased demand for police services. Funding for additional law enforcement services would be provided through impact fees and property taxes, therefore, impacts would be less-than-significant.

Impact PS-3 School Services:

Implementation of the proposed project would result in the development of 733 residential units. Student yield factors are set by the California State Allocation Board Office of Public School Construction. To calculate project impacts on the CUSD, the statewide average student yield factor per dwelling unit may be expressed as 0.43 elementary school student and 0.14 middle school student, and 0.13 high school student. By conservatively applying the statewide average student yield factor, the 733 residential units associated with the project could generate approximately 513 new students divided as approximately 315 elementary school students, 102 middle school students, and 95 high school students. As the General Plan mentions two schools already planned, it does not appear that the number of students in the proposed project would create a need for new school facilities to be constructed. The project applicant would be required to pay developer fees to offset any impacts the project would have on the school districts serving the site. Under California Government Code Section 65996, these fees are “the exclusive methods of considering and mitigating impacts on school facilities that occur or might occur as a result of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, by any state or local agency involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property or any change of governmental organization or reorganization”. Therefore, payment of the required developer fees would ensure that the proposed project’s impacts on school services would be less than significant. Because no significant impacts on school services have been identified, no mitigation measures are required.

LEVEL OF IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION

All project impacts related to public services are ***less-than-significant***. No mitigation is required.