

4.13 Public Services and Recreation

This section assesses potential impacts to public services including fire and police protection, public schools, libraries, and parks and recreation, from the 2045 General Plan. Impacts to water, wastewater, and solid waste services are discussed in Section 4.16, *Utilities and Service Systems*.

4.13.1 Setting

a. Fire Protection

Fire protection services in Solvang are provided under contract by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCFD). SBCFD provides a wide range of programs, which include fire suppression, emergency medical services, disaster preparedness training, fire prevention, search and rescue, inspections, development review, and hazardous materials response. The SBCFD has personnel of over 270 staff members. Station 30, located at 1644 Oak Street, serves Solvang and portions of unincorporated Santa Ynez Valley. Station 30 is staffed by one Captain, one Engineer, one Firefighter/Paramedic, and one Firefighter (SBCFD 2023). In Solvang, the average response time from the SBCFD is between three to five minutes (City of Solvang 2021).

Santa Barbara County is a “contract county” with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Under this agreement, contract counties are responsible for providing initial response to fires on State Responsibility Areas within their counties. CAL FIRE provides funding to the six counties for prevention and suppression of wildland fire in the State Responsibility Area. This funding provides fire protection services including salary and wages of suppression crews, maintenance of firefighting facilities, pre-fire management positions, special repairs, and administrative services.

b. Police Protection

The City contracts with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office (Sheriff’s Office) for law enforcement services. The Sheriff’s Office provides services including patrol operations, criminal investigations, judicial services, and special units such as behavioral sciences, hostage negotiation, and K-9 (Sheriff’s Office 2023). The Solvang Sheriff Substation is located at 1745 Mission Drive behind the Veterans Memorial Hall. The Sheriff’s Office’s field deputies, supported by administrative staff, are responsible for providing police protection services for approximately 400 square miles. Within Solvang, patrol operations include traffic enforcement and accident investigations (City of Solvang 2021). The Sheriff’s Office has one full-time deputy serving Solvang.

c. Schools

Solvang Elementary School is the only public school within Solvang and is the only school within the Solvang School District. Solvang Elementary School serves kindergarten through eighth grade students and maintains a staff comprised of 34 teachers, 15 special education specialists, 2 special programs managers, 21 classified employees, 1 principal, and 1 superintendent (Solvang School District 2023a). In the 2021-2022 school year, 595 students were enrolled in Solvang Elementary

School (Education Data Partnership 2023). The Solvang Elementary School has a current capacity of 700¹. Table 4.13-1 shows enrollment trends for Solvang Elementary School.

Table 4.13-1 Solvang Elementary School Enrollment Trends

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Percent Change 2017-2018 to 2021-2022
Solvang Elementary School	600	605	635	607	595	593	-0.8%

Source: Education Data Partnership 2023a

As shown in Table 4.13-1, enrollment at Solvang Elementary School has decreased slightly between the 2017-2018 school year and the 2021-2022 school year.

Solvang does not contain a public high school. The nearest public high school to Solvang is Santa Ynez Valley Union High School. Santa Ynez Valley Union High School, while not within the City limits, is located approximately 1.2-mile east of Solvang. The school is part of the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District and serves ninth through twelfth grade students. In the 2021-2022 school year, 895 students were enrolled, and the school maintained a staff of 44 full-time teachers (U.S. News and World Report 2023). The Santa Ynez Valley Union High School has a current capacity of 1,800 students. Table 4.13-2 shows enrollment trends for Santa Ynez Valley Union High School.

Table 4.13-2 Santa Ynez Valley Union High School Enrollment Trends

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Percent Change 2017-2018 to 2021-2022
Santa Ynez Valley Union High School	953	938	909	887	876	847	-8%

Source: Education Data Partnership 2023b

As shown in Table 4.13-2, enrollment at Santa Ynez Valley Union High School has decreased between the 2017-2018 school year and the 2021-2022 school year.

d. Library Facilities

The Solvang Library is located at 1745 Mission Drive. On July 1, 2019, the City of Goleta began to manage libraries in the Santa Ynez Valley, including the Solvang Library. All libraries managed by Goleta are part of the Black Gold Cooperative Library System. At the end of July 2020, Solvang Library had 18,375 circulating items including books, audiobooks, digital video discs (DVDs), and magazines. During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the library circulated these items 61,724 times (City of Solvang 2021). The Solvang Library currently hosts in-person events, such as weekly Storytimes at the library (Goleta and Santa Ynez Valley Libraries 2023).

¹ Solvang Elementary School capacity provided by Dawn Stewart, Chief Business Official, via email correspondence dated January 24, 2024 (Solvang School District 2024).

e. Open Space, Parks, and Recreation

The City of Solvang operates approximately 205 acres of parkland, recreational areas, and city facilities that function as community gathering places, in addition to two open space parcels.

Open Space

Solvang contains two open space parcels. The first is a 2.7-acre parcel located south of State Route 246 near its intersection with Nykobing, opposite the southern tip of Hans Christian Andersen Park. The second is a nine-acre parcel behind the homes along Aarhus Drive, east of Oster Sted Court. This area is owned by the Nyborg Estates Homeowners Association and contains a steep canyon with some walking trails. Other important open space areas for the city include the two local golf courses: the River Course at Alisal and the Alisal Golf Course. Although only a few parcels are designated as open space, some residential subdivisions within the Solvang incorporate open space areas, particularly between neighborhoods. Figure 4.13-1 shows open space areas within Solvang.

Parks

Solvang contains three active and two passive parks, as shown in Figure 4.13-2. An active park contains specialized infrastructure such as recreational sports fields or playground equipment and requires specialized maintenance while a passive park is an undeveloped space that requires minimal maintenance. Solvang's parks are described below (City of Solvang 2021):

- **Hans Christian Anderson Park (Active):** Hans Christian Anderson Park is a 51.3-acre park located at 633 Chalk Hill Road in the northeast portion of the city. The park stretches from Fredensburg Canyon Road north of Chalk Hill Road to State Route 246 near its intersection with Nykobing and includes hiking trails, equestrian trails, open spaces, a horseshoe pit, a skate park, tennis courts, picnic tables, barbecues, restrooms, four reservable picnic areas (one sheltered), and the Atterdag, a reservable outdoor amphitheater. Hans Christian Anderson Park offers a unique interaction with the natural landscape through distinct topography and riparian habitat of Adobe Creek consisting of oak woodland and coastal scrub communities. Approximately 48 percent of the city is within half a mile walking radius from Hans Christian Andersen Park.
- **Solvang Park (Active):** Solvang Park is a 0.6-acre park located at 1st Street and Park Way. Solvang Park features open lawn areas, picnic tables, restrooms, a gazebo that serves as a covered stage or dance floor, and various statues. Solvang Park hosts the local Farmer's Market and serves as a central gathering place for residents.
- **Sunny Fields Park (Active):** Sunny Fields Park is a 6.7-acre park located at 900 Alamo Pintado Road, between Coyote Creek Road and Lark Hill. Sunny Fields Park features two playgrounds, a softball field, four tennis courts, picnic tables, barbecues, restrooms, horseshoe pit, walking trails, and two reservable sheltered picnic areas.
- **Creekside Place Park (Passive):** Creekside Place Park is a 6.8-acre open space area located along Rebild Drive in an area south of Coyote Creek Road and backing onto State Route 246. Creekside Place Park includes a shaded creek area, informal trails, and a portion of a paved public trail that connects the commercial area near Old Mission Drive and Santa Ynez High School.
- **Alisal Commons Park (Passive):** Alisal Commons Park is a 1.0-acre open space area located at the north end of Glen Way near Alisal Road, just north of the Alisal Golf Course. Alisal Commons Park includes informal trails and is used for light recreation and as a pedestrian connection between neighboring areas.

Figure 4.13-1 Open Space in Solvang

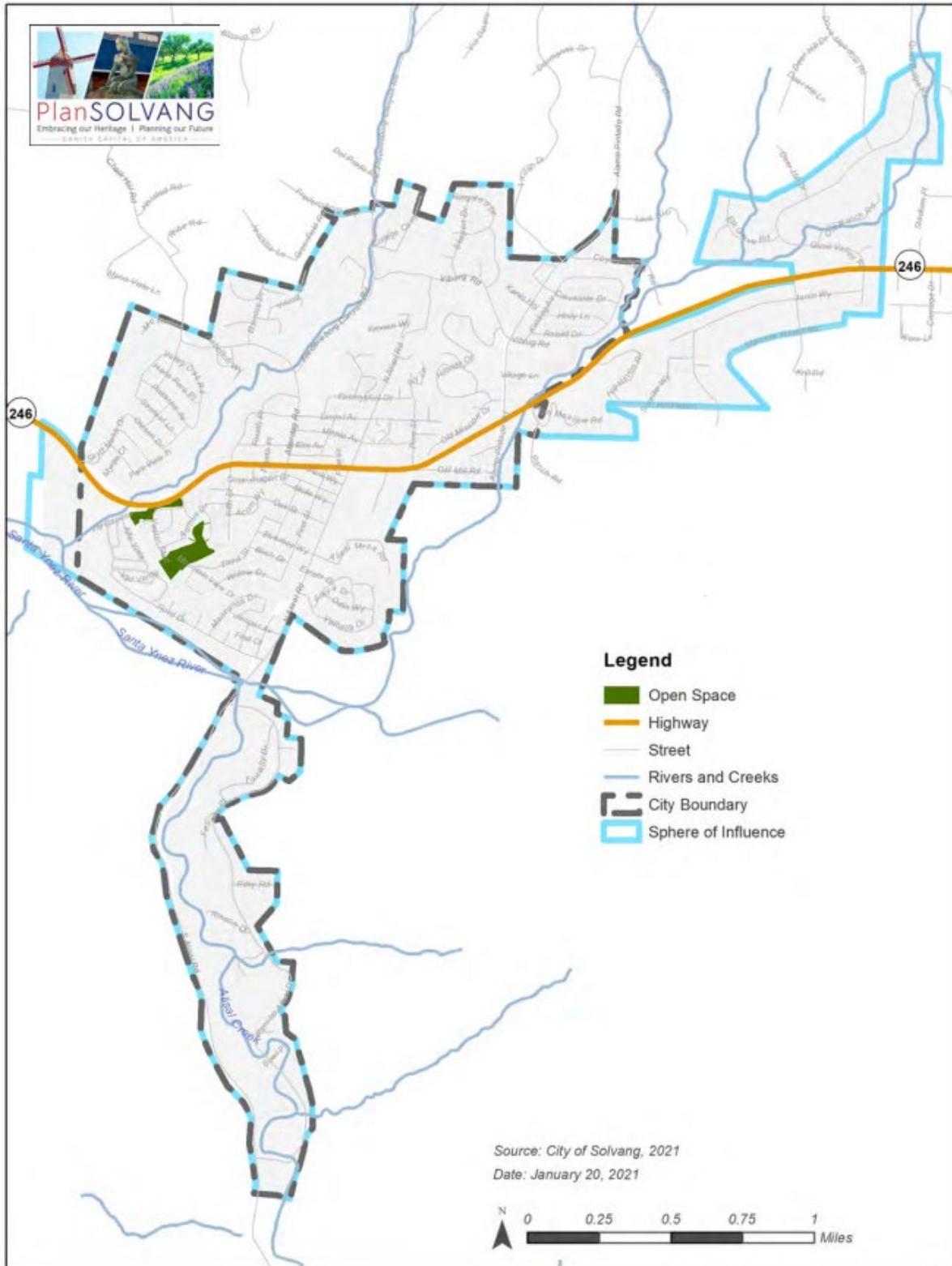
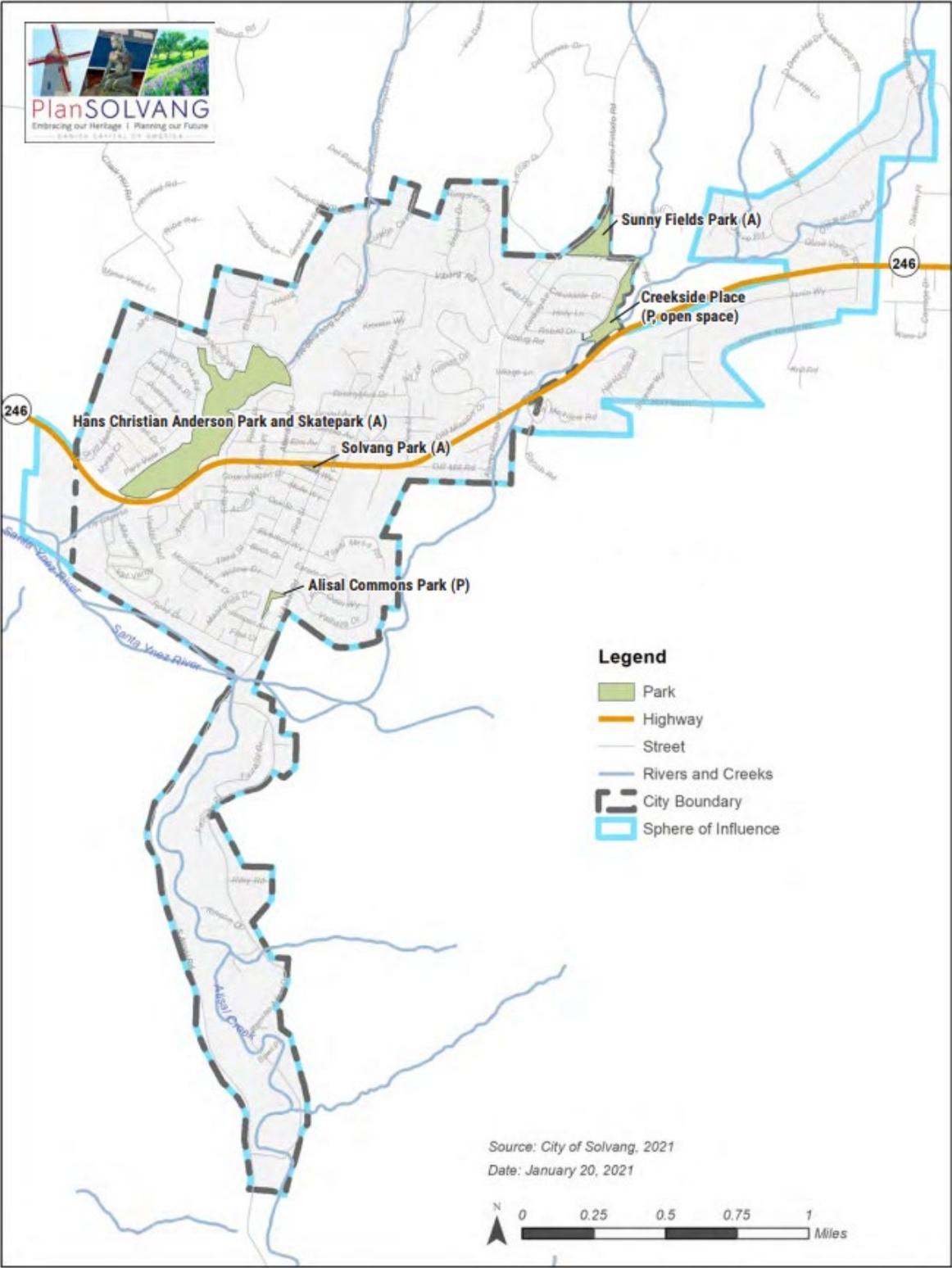


Figure 4.13-2 Parks²



² (A) denotes an active park while (P) denotes a passive park.

Recreational Facilities

Solvang contains two recreational facilities: the Solvang Veterans' Memorial Building and the Solvang Festival Theater. The Solvang Veterans' Memorial Building, a community facility owned by the City of Solvang, is located at 1745 Mission Drive in Solvang's Village Area. A local landmark, built in 1937, the Veterans Memorial Building is available to rent for weddings, ceremonies, meetings, fundraisers, and other community events. The Solvang Festival Theater, an outdoor 700-seat amphitheater, provides a venue for many community events supporting local organizations and businesses. Solvang Theaterfest, a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation, owns, maintains, and operates the Solvang Theater.

Mission Santa Inés, located at 1760 Mission Drive in Solvang, was founded in 1804 as part of the Spanish Missions of California. The Mission serves as a parish church of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and incorporates a historical museum and burial ground. Although the Mission is not listed as a recreational facility within the City's General Plan, both the historical museum and burial ground are major tourist attractions and serve recreational purposes.

4.13.2 Regulatory Setting

a. Fire Protection

Disaster Mitigation Act (2000-Present)

Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) requires a state mitigation plan as a condition of disaster assistance. There are two distinct levels of state disaster plans: "Standard" and "Enhanced." States that develop an approved Enhanced State Plan can increase the amount of funding available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The Disaster Mitigation Act has also established new requirements for local mitigation plans, such as requiring a collaborative planning process, comprehensive risk assessment, strategies to mitigate risks, and implementation timeline.

National Fire Plan (2000)

The National Fire Plan was developed under Executive Order 11246 in August 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season. Its intent is to actively respond to severe wildland fires and their impacts on communities while ensuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future. The National Fire Plan addresses firefighting, rehabilitation, hazardous fuels reduction, community assistance, and accountability.

California Fire Plan

The Strategic Fire Plan for California is the State's roadmap for reducing the risk of wildfire. The plan directs each CAL FIRE unit to prepare a locally specific Fire Management Plan. In compliance with the California Fire Plan, individual CAL FIRE units are required to develop Fire Management Plans for their areas of responsibility. These documents assess the fire situation within each of CAL FIRE's 21 units and 6 contract counties, including Santa Barbara County. The plans include stakeholder contributions and priorities and identify strategic areas for pre-fire planning and fuel treatment as defined by the people who live and work with the local fire problem. The plans are required to be updated annually.

State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2018)

The State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) represents the state’s primary hazard mitigation guidance document and is implemented in order to reduce or eliminate potential risks and impacts of natural and human-caused disasters to help communities with their mitigation and disaster resiliency efforts. The SHMP provides an updated statewide risk assessment, disaster history, and statistics; recent mitigation progress, success stories, and best practices; updated state hazard mitigation goals, objectives, and strategies; and updated climate mitigation progress and adaptation strategies. The California Office of Emergency Services prepares the SHMP. The Federal Emergency Management Agency approved the State’s 2018 SHMP on September 28, 2018.

California Fire Code, Title 24, Part 9

The California Fire Code, written by the California Building Standards Commission, is based on the International Fire Code. The International Fire Code is a model code that regulates minimum fire safety requirements for new and existing buildings, facilities, storage, and processes. The International Fire Code addresses fire prevention, fire protection, life safety, and safe storage and use of hazardous materials in new and existing buildings, facilities, and processes. Provisions of the California Fire Code would apply to new development and redevelopment under the 2045 General Plan, to minimize potential fire risks.

California Building Code

The California Building Code Title 24, Part 2, provides building codes and standards for the design and construction of structures in California. The purpose of the California Building Code is to establish minimum standards to safeguard public health, safety, and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress facilities, and general stability by controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location, and maintenance of building and structures. Provisions of the California Building Code would apply to new development and redevelopment under the 2045 General Plan, to minimize potential public safety risks.

California Government Code Section 65302.5

Government Code Section 65302.5 requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to provide recommendations to a local jurisdiction’s General Plan safety element, as it pertains to fire protection, at the time that the General Plan is amended. While not a direct and binding fire prevention requirement for individuals, General Plans that adopt the Board's recommendations will include goals and policies that provide for contemporary fire prevention standards for the jurisdiction.

County of Santa Barbara Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

The County’s Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies hazards present throughout Santa Barbara County and assesses risk posed by wildfire and develops a mitigation strategy for minimizing adverse impacts from hazards, including wildfire. The Hazard Mitigation Plan was comprehensively updated in 2023, and the City is a participating agency.

City of Solvang Emergency Management Plan

The City’s Emergency Management Plan addresses the planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological and intentional incidents, and

national security emergencies in or affecting the City. The Emergency Management Plan is intended to explain how emergency management is coordinated, identify procedures required to protect the health and safety of the residents and property within Solvang, and establishes emergency management organization required to respond to and mitigate emergencies or disasters within Solvang. The Emergency Management Plan integrates with Santa Barbara County's Operational Area response for area wide emergencies such as fire.

b. Police Protection

California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training

The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training advocates for, exchanges information with, sets selection and training standards for, and works with law enforcement and other public and private entities. This commission was established by the Legislature in 1959 to identify common needs that are shared by representatives of law enforcement.

c. Schools

California Code of Regulations

The California Code of Regulations, Title 5 Education Code, governs all aspects of education within the State.

California State Assembly Bill 2926 (AB 2926), the School Facilities Act of 1986, was enacted by the State of California in 1986 and added to the California Code of Regulations (Section 65995). It authorizes school districts to collect development fees, based on demonstrated need, and generate revenue for school districts for capital acquisitions and improvements. It also established that the maximum fees which may be collected under this, and any other school fee authorization are \$1.50 per square foot (sf) for residential development and \$0.25 per sf for commercial and industrial development.

AB 2926 was expanded and revised in 1987 through the passage of AB 1600, which added Section 66000 of the California Code of Regulations. Under this statute, payment of statutory fees by developers serves as total mitigation under CEQA to satisfy the impact of development on school facilities. Subsequent legislative actions have alternatively expanded and contracted the limits placed on school fees by AB 2926.

California Senate Bill 50

The Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 (Senate Bill 50 [SB 50]), enacted in 1998, is a program for funding school facilities based on matching funds. For new school construction, grants provide funding on a 50/50 State and local match basis. For school modernization, grants provide funding on a 60/40 State and local match basis. Districts that are unable to provide some, or all, of the local match requirement and meet the financial hardship provisions may be eligible for additional State funding.

SB 50 permits the local district to levy a fee, charge, dedication, or other requirement against any development project within its boundaries, to fund the construction or reconstruction of school facilities. SB 50 also sets a maximum level of fees a developer may be required to pay. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65996, the payment of these fees by a developer serves to mitigate all

potential impacts on school facilities that may result from implementation of a project to a less-than-significant level³.

The Solvang School District has set developer fees of \$2.090 per sf of single-family residential, \$2.620 of multi-family residential, \$0.422 per sf of senior residential, \$0.422 per sf of commercial industrial, and \$0.029 per sf of commercial self-storage (Solvang School District 2023b). The Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District has set developer fees of \$1.47 per sf of residential, \$0.240 per sf of retail and services, office, research and development, hospital, and industrial/warehouse/manufacturing, \$0.125 per sf of hotel/motel, and \$0.007 per sf of self-storage (Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District 2023).

d. Parks and Recreation

Quimby Act

The Quimby Act was established by the California legislature in 1965 to provide parks for growing communities in California. The Quimby Act authorizes cities to adopt ordinances addressing park land and/or fees for residential subdivisions to provide and preserve open space and recreational facilities and improvements. The Quimby Act requires the provision of a minimum of three acres of park area per 1,000 persons residing within a subdivision. The Quimby Act also specifies acceptable uses and expenditures of such funds.

State Public Park Preservation Act

This primary instrument for protecting and preserving parkland is the State Public Park Preservation Act. Under the Public Resource code, cities and counties may not acquire any real property that is in use as a public park for any non-park use unless compensation or land, or both, is provided to replace the parkland acquired. This provides no net loss of parkland and facilities.

State Street and Highway Code

The State Street and Highway Code assists in providing equestrian and hiking trails within the right-of-way of county and city roads, streets, and highways.

4.13.3 Impact Analysis

a. Methodology and Significance Thresholds

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G provides the following significance thresholds to determine if a project would have a potentially significant impact on public services. For the purposes of this EIR, implementation of the 2045 General Plan may have a significant adverse impact if it would:

1. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government 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 objectives for any of the public services:
 - a. Fire protection
 - b. Police protection
 - c. Schools

³ California Government Code Section 65996.

- d. Parks
- e. Other public facilities

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G provides the following significance thresholds to determine if a project would have a potentially significant impact on recreation. For the purposes of this EIR, implementation of the 2045 General Plan may have a significant adverse impact if it would:

1. 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; or
2. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Fire, police, and schools are addressed under Threshold 1(a), 1(b), 1(c) below. In terms of Threshold 1(e) regarding impacts on “other public facilities,” such facilities would include libraries. Impacts to parks and recreational facilities are discussed under Threshold 1(d), and Thresholds 2 and 3.

b. Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Threshold 1a: Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, or the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?

Impact PS-1 DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2045 GENERAL PLAN WOULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN THE CITY’S POPULATION AND POTENTIALLY INCREASE DEMAND FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES. ADHERENCE TO PROPOSED 2045 GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES WOULD REDUCE IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES TO LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT.

With implementation of the 2045 General Plan, an estimated 1,187 new residents and 211 new employees (a total of 1,398 people) would be added to the Planning Area (See Section 4.12, *Population and Housing*). This increase in development and population generated by the proposed land uses would increase demand for fire protection services. Station 30, located at 1644 Oak Street, serves Solvang.

Several goals and policies from the 2045 General Plan Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element and Safety Element aim to reduce impacts related to the provision of fire service in the Planning Area, including the following:

- **Goal PFS-5:** The City shall work to reduce fire risk to structures, property, and residents.
- **Policy PFS-5.1:** Fire Safety Information. The City shall coordinate with County Fire Department to inform homeowners of the risk of fire and ways to prevent loss, including information about methods for fire protection at the urban/wildland interface.
- **Policy PFS-5.2:** Defensible Space. The City shall coordinate with the County Fire Department to work with residents and businesses to provide “defensible space” around structures to provide fire fighters with sufficient room to defend structures and maneuver.
- **Policy PFS-5.3:** Fire Flows. The City shall ensure that adequate peak load water fire-flows are maintained throughout the city and shall regularly monitor fire-flows to ensure adequacy.

- **Policy SAF-1.4:** Law Enforcement and Fire Protection Services. The City shall continue to work with Santa Barbara County to maintain local law enforcement and fire protection services in a state of readiness to ensure adequate protection for the citizens of Solvang.
- **Goal SAF-5:** To prevent and/or reduce loss of life, injury, and property damage due to wildland and structural fires.
- **Policy SAF-5.1:** Protect New Development. The City shall require new development to be designed to protect life and property from the effects of wildfires and structural fires relative to the identified level of risk.
- **Policy SAF-5.2:** Fire Equipment Access and Resources. The City shall require that new development provides for adequate fire equipment access and fire suppression resources.
- **Policy SAF-5.3:** Road and Building Identification. The City shall require that all roads and buildings are properly identified by name or number with clearly visible signs in order to promote faster response times.
- **Policy SAF-5.4:** Work with Homeowners on Fire Safety. The City shall work with and educate homeowners to improve fire safety and defensibility.
- **Policy SAF-5.5:** Fire Safety Improvements. The City shall encourage fire safety improvements for existing homes and commercial buildings.
- **Goal SAF-6:** To coordinate with fire protection and emergency service providers to ensure adequate fire facilities, equipment, and services are available to protect city residents and property from fire.
- **Policy SAF-6.1:** County Fire Department Staffing. The City shall work with Santa Barbara County Fire Department to maintain fire department staffing levels and response times consistent with National Fire Protection Association standards.
- **Policy SAF-6.2:** Mutual Aid Agreements. The City shall continue to maintain mutual aid agreements among fire protection and emergency service providers to ensure residents and property are adequately served and to facilitate the efficient use of available resources.
- **Policy SAF-6.3:** Peak Fire-Flow. The City shall continue to ensure that adequate peak load water fire-flows are maintained throughout the city and shall regularly monitor fire-flows to ensure adequacy.
- **Policy SAF-6.4:** Homeowner Resources. The City shall continue to work with local agencies to inform homeowners of the dangers and appropriate responses to fire and ways to prevent loss.

Goal PFS-5 calls for the City to reduce fire risk to structures, property, and residents; this goal would be implemented through Policies PFS-5.1 through 5.3, which require informing residents with fire safety information, creating defensible space around structures, and ensuring maintenance and monitoring of fire-flows. Policy SAF-1.4 requires the City to work with Santa Barbara County to maintain fire protection services in a “state of readiness” to ensure preparedness in the event of an emergency. Goal SAF-5 aims to prevent and reduce loss of life, injury, and property damage due to fires; this goal would be implemented through Policies SAF-5.1 through 5.5, which require protection of new development, provision of fire equipment access and fire suppression resources, road and building identification, homeowner education on fire safety, and fire safety improvements to existing structures. Goal SAF-6 aims to ensure adequate fire facilities, equipment, and services; this goal would be implemented through Policies SAF-6.1 through 6.4, which would maintain fire department staffing levels, maintain mutual aid agreements among fire protection and emergency

service providers, maintain peak fire-flow, and provide educational fire prevention resources to homeowners.

Implementation of the above goals and policies would ensure that all new development facilitated by the 2045 General Plan is adequately served by fire protection and emergency services, reducing the need for additional facilities through proper maintenance and improvement of existing facilities. Additionally, development impact fees, as required under AB 1600, would fund the provision of fire protection services in Solvang so that the city may accommodate increased development without a subsequent decrease in fire protection services. AB 1600 development fees would apply to new development proposed under the 2045 General Plan.

The 2045 General Plan does not include plans for the construction of new fire protection facilities or physical alteration of an existing fire protection facility. Therefore, the project would not result in the construction of new or expanded fire protection facilities that would have a substantial adverse impact on the environment. Through implementation of 2045 General Plan goals and policies, as described above, the project would maintain acceptable service ratios and response times for fire protection services. This impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required because this impact would be less than significant.

Threshold 1b: Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police protection facilities, or the need for new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?

Impact PS-2 DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2045 GENERAL PLAN WOULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN THE CITY’S POPULATION AND POTENTIALLY INCREASE DEMAND FOR POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES. ADHERENCE TO PROPOSED 2045 GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES WOULD REDUCE IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROVISION OF POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES TO LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT.

The City contracts with the Sheriff’s Office for law enforcement services. Implementation of the 2045 General Plan would lead to an increase in development and population in the Planning Area, which may result in the need for additional police protection services. To serve the additional 1,187 residents and 211 new employees (a total of 1,398 people) added to the Planning Area and maintain existing service ratios, the Sheriff’s Office may need to assign additional officers to the Solvang Sheriff Substation. However, it is not anticipated that the number of new officers would require construction of new police facilities.

Several goals and policies from the 2045 General Plan Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element and Safety Element aim to reduce impacts related to the provision of police protection in the Planning Area, including the following:

- **Goal PFS-4:** To coordinate with law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency service providers to ensure a safe community and protect city residents and property.
- **Policy PFS-4.1:** Police Staffing. The City shall coordinate with the county to ensure adequate staffing and facilities to achieve desired levels of public safety.

- **Policy PFS-4.2:** Community Policing Strategies. The City shall promote community policing strategies that support community partnerships and problem-solving techniques that build public trust and proactively address public safety issues.
- **Policy SAF-1.4:** Law Enforcement and Fire Protection Services. The City shall continue to work with Santa Barbara County to maintain local law enforcement and fire protection services in a state of readiness to ensure adequate protection for the citizens of Solvang.

Goal PFS-4 calls for law enforcement to appropriately coordinate to ensure a safe community and protect city residents and property; this goal would be implemented through Policies PFS-4.1 and 4.2, which require adequate police staffing and facilities to achieve desired public safety, as well as the promotion of community policing strategies that support partnership and build public trust. Policy SAF-1.4 requires the City to work with Santa Barbara County to maintain police protection services in a “state of readiness” to ensure preparedness in the event of an emergency.

Implementation of the above goals and policies would ensure that all new development is adequately served by police protection services, reducing the need for additional facilities through proper maintenance and improvement of existing facilities. Additionally, development impact fees, as required under AB 1600, would fund the provision of police protection services in Solvang so that the city may accommodate increased development without a subsequent decrease in police protection services. AB 1600 development fees would apply to new development proposed under the 2045 General Plan.

Therefore, the project would not result in the construction of new or expanded police protection facilities that would have a substantial adverse impact on the environment. Through implementation of 2045 General Plan goals and policies, as described above, the project would maintain acceptable service ratios and response times for police protection services. This impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required because this impact would be less than significant.

Threshold 1c: Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered schools, or the need for new or physically altered schools, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives?

Impact PS-3 DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2045 GENERAL PLAN WOULD ADD SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN TO SOLVANG. HOWEVER, FACILITIES HAVE ADEQUATE CAPACITY AND NEW DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY IMPACT FEES, WHICH WOULD RESULT IN LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS WITH REGARDS TO THE PROVISION OF SCHOOL FACILITIES.

As discussed in Section 4.12, *Population and Housing*, the 2045 General Plan would add an estimated 1,187 new residents and 211 new employees (a total of 1,398 people) to the Planning Area. This city-wide change in population and demographics would result in an increased demand for public services, such as schools. The Solvang School District maintains one school—Solvang Elementary School—which is the only public school within Solvang and serves kindergarten through eighth grade students. The nearest public high school to Solvang is Santa Ynez Valley High School, approximately 1.1-mile east of the City limits, and is part of the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School

District. The City maintains communication and cooperation with education provider agencies, including the Solvang School District and Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District.

Several goals and policies from the 2045 General Plan Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element aim to reduce impacts related to school capacity in the Planning Area, including the following:

- **Goal PFS-10:** To provide Solvang with distinguished schools, programs, and learning opportunities.
- **Policy PFS-10.1:** Solvang School District Partnership. The City shall continue to confer with and work jointly with the Solvang School District on issues of mutual interest, including new school sites or facilities.
- **Policy PFS-10.2: School District Facility Planning.** The City shall continue to forward all residential development proposals to the Solvang School District and the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District for review with regard to school capacity and potential school sites.

Goal PFS-10 from 2045 General Plan aims to provide Solvang with distinguished schools, programs, and learning opportunities; this goal would be implemented through Policy PFS-10.1, which requires the City to confer with the Solvang School District on issues of mutual interest (such as school site planning), and Policy PFS-10.2, which requires the City to forward residential development proposals to both the Solvang School District and Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District with regard to school capacity.

According to population estimates released by the United States Census Bureau, in July 2022, approximately 22.3 percent of the population of Solvang was under 18 and of school-age (United States Census Bureau 2022). Assuming that 22.3 percent of the 1,398 new people would be school-age children, the project would result in the addition of approximately 216 students in the K-8 range, and 96 students in the 9th to 12th grade range (for a total of approximately 312 students), to the city. Considering student rates in Solvang have declined in recent years (See Section 4.13.1[c]), as well as the Solvang Elementary School's current capacity of 700, this increase in student population would be accommodated by the City's existing school system. Similarly, the anticipated increase of approximately 96 students would be accommodated by Santa Ynez Valley Union High School, given the current capacity of 1,800 students and that student rates at Santa Ynez Valley Union High School have declined in recent years (See Section 4.13.1[c]).

Furthermore, future residential development projects would be required to pay school impact fees (as quantified under Section 4.13.2[c], *California Senate Bill 50*) to both districts which, pursuant to Section 65995 (3) (h) of the California Government Code (SB 50, chaptered August 27, 1998), are "deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property, or any change in governmental organization or reorganization." With payment of mandatory school impact fees by developers in the city, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required because this impact would be less than significant.

Threshold 1e: Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered public facilities, or the need for new or physically altered public facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?

Impact PS-4 DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2045 GENERAL PLAN WOULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN THE CITY'S POPULATION AND POTENTIALLY INCREASE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, INCLUDING LIBRARIES. ADHERENCE TO PROPOSED 2045 GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES WOULD REDUCE IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES TO LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT.

As discussed in Section 4.12, *Population and Housing*, the 2045 General Plan would add an estimated 1,187 new residents and 211 new employees (for a total of 1,398 people) to the Planning Area. This increase in population would result in increased demand for public services, such as libraries. The Solvang Library is managed by the City of Goleta, which is part of the Black Gold Cooperative Library System.

There are no specific projects, policies, or implementation actions in the 2045 General Plan to develop a new library within the Planning Area. However, several goals and policies from the 2045 General Plan aim to maintain the provision of library services in the Planning Area, including the following:

- **Policy LU-7.4: Library.** The City shall support a conveniently located public library facility with appropriate services, public access, and participation.
- **Policy PFS-10.3: Solvang Library.** The City shall continue to support the Solvang Library to improve the library facilities and expand their service to the community.

Policy LU-7.4 requires the City to support a public library facility with appropriate services, public access, and participation. Policy PFS-10.3 requires the City to support the Solvang Library, improve library facilities, and expand the library's service to the community. Implementation of the above goals and policies would ensure that all new development is adequately served by libraries, reducing the need for additional facilities through proper maintenance and improvement of existing facilities. Additionally, development impact fees, as required under AB 1600, would fund the provision of library services in Solvang so that the city may accommodate increased development without a subsequent decrease in library services. AB 1600 development fees would apply to new development proposed under the 2045 General Plan.

Therefore, the 2045 General Plan would not result in the construction of new or expanded public service facilities, including libraries, that would have a substantial adverse impact on the environment. Through implementation of 2045 General Plan goals and policies, as described above, the 2045 General Plan would maintain acceptable service ratios for public services, including libraries. This impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required because this impact would be less than significant.

- Threshold 1d:** Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered parks, or the need for new or physically altered parks, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives?
- Threshold 2:** 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?
- Threshold 3:** Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Impact REC-1 DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2045 GENERAL PLAN WOULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN THE CITY’S POPULATION AND POTENTIALLY INCREASE DEMAND FOR PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. HOWEVER, COMPLIANCE WITH PROPOSED 2045 GENERAL PLAN POLICIES AND PAYMENT OF MANDATORY PARKLAND DEDICATION FEES WOULD REDUCE IMPACTS RELATED TO PARKS AND RECREATION TO LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT.

One of the objectives of the 2045 General Plan is to ensure the provision of adequate public facilities, including parks and recreational facilities. According to 2045 General Plan Policy PFS-9.3, park dedication in Solvang is implemented at the ratio of one acre of parkland per 1,000 residents. The City currently operates approximately 205 acres of parkland, recreational areas, and city facilities that function as community gathering places.

With a current population of 5,644, the city has a ratio of approximately 36 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which is consistent with the proposed park dedication ordinance. Implementation of the 2045 General Plan would add an estimated 1,187 new residents and 211 new employees (a total of 1,398 people) to the Planning Area, which would increase demand for parks and recreational facilities. Following implementation of the 2045 General Plan and the population increase, the City’s post-project population would be 7,042 and the ratio would be approximately 29 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Thus, despite the anticipated population increase that would result from implementation of the 2045 General Plan, the park dedication ordinance of one acre of parkland per 1,000 residents would be maintained.

The purpose of several goals and policies included in the 2045 General Plan Public Services, and Recreation Element is to ensure the adequate provision of parks and recreational facilities, including the following:

- **Goal PFS-7:** To provide and maintain park facilities with a range of recreational opportunities for City residents of all ages and abilities.
- **Policy PFS-7.1: Recreation Services.** The City shall continue to provide and facilitate quality recreational services, including programs, classes, special events, and facilities to all members of the community in a courteous and efficient manner.
- **Policy PFS-7.2: Parks and Recreation System.** The City shall continue to operate and maintain a parks and recreation system which provides important environmental, social, personal, and economic benefits to meet the needs of the City’s residents.
- **Policy PFS-7.10 Public Awareness.** The City shall increase resident awareness of available park and recreational facilities and opportunities by periodically providing public information and

activity guides and maintaining cooperative relationships with local media outlets and local organizations.

- **Goal PFS-8:** To provide high-quality, cost-effective park operation and maintenance.
- **Policy PFS-8.1: ADA Compliant Parks and Facilities.** The City shall design park and recreation facilities that are ADA accessible and energy and resource efficient.
- **Policy PFS-8.2: Energy Efficient Parks and Facilities.** When creating new, or updating existing park and facility plans, the city should incorporate energy and resource efficient concepts to the extent feasible.
- **Policy PFS-8.3: Water Efficient Parks.** The City shall use drip irrigation and other water efficient methods in parks to the extent feasible.
- **Policy PFS-8.4: Drought Tolerant Landscaping.** The City shall use drought tolerant landscaping, solar oriented structures, and structures with natural lighting during daylight hours, where feasible.
- **Policy PFS-8.5: Park Facility Maintenance.** The City shall reduce City Park facility maintenance costs wherever feasible including use of durable materials.
- **Policy PFS-8.6: Long-term Park Maintenance and Operating Cost Estimate.** The City shall estimate the long-term maintenance and operating costs associated with a proposed project in conjunction with accepting or developing a new park.
- **Policy PFS-8.7: Park Net Benefit.** The City shall ensure that it receives a net benefit to the City park and recreation system when an existing or proposed park is impacted by private or quasi-public infrastructure and other easements.
- **Policy PFS-9.3: Quimby Act.** The City shall adopt a Quimby Act Park dedication ordinance at the ratio of one acre of parkland for each 1,000 in population added by proposed subdivisions, or payment of park in lieu fees.
- **Policy PFS-9.4: Park Grant and Bond Funding.** The City shall continue to pursue grants and park bond funding for construction of new parks, major park maintenance projects, or to upgrade or add new facilities to existing parks.

Goal PFS-7 aims to provide and maintain park facilities with a range of recreational opportunities for City residents of all ages and abilities. This goal would be implemented through Policies PFS-7.1, PFS-7.2, and PFS-7.10. Specifically, Policy PFS-7.1 pertains to providing quality recreation services; Policy PFS-7.2 pertains to ensuring the parks and recreation system provides important environmental, social, personal, and economic benefits; and Policy PFS-7.10 aims to increase resident awareness of available park and recreational facilities and opportunities. Goal PFS-8 aims to provide high-quality park operation and maintenance and would be implemented through Policies PFS-8.1 through 8.7. Finally, Policy PFS-9.4 encourages the City to pursue grants and park bond funding for construction of new parks, major park maintenance projects, or to upgrade or add new facilities to existing parks.

Furthermore, per the Quimby Act park dedication ordinance included as Policy PFS-9.3, future residential development projects would be required to pay parkland dedication fees which, pursuant to Section 65995 (3) (h) of the California Government Code (SB 50, chaptered August 27, 1998), are “deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property, or any change in governmental organization or reorganization.”

Implementation of the above goals and policies, as well as payment of mandatory parkland dedication fees by developers in the City, would ensure that all new development is adequately served by parks and recreational facilities, reducing the need for additional facilities through proper maintenance and improvement of existing facilities. Therefore, the 2045 General Plan would not result in the construction of new or expanded parks or recreational facilities that would have a substantial adverse impact on the environment. Considering the anticipated population increase would not result in violation of the proposed park dedication ordinance and service ratio, the 2045 General Plan would not increase the use of existing parks and recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration would occur or be accelerated. Impacts involving parks and recreational facilities would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required because this impact would be less than significant.

4.13.4 Cumulative Impacts

The analysis in this section examines impacts of the 2045 General Plan to the provision of public services throughout the respective service areas for fire services, police services, schools, libraries, and recreational facilities. Cumulative development throughout the cumulative impact analysis area, in combination with the proposed 2045 General Plan, would gradually increase development and population growth and would therefore gradually increase the need for additional public services. The general approach to cumulative impact analysis used in this EIR, as well as the cumulative impact analysis area, is discussed in Section 3, *Environmental Setting*, Subsection 3.3, *Baseline and Cumulative Project Setting*.

Fire Protection Services. A cumulative impact to fire services would occur if growth in the service area requires physical expansion of facilities, such as construction of new fire facilities that would result in adverse physical impacts. Station 30, located at 1644 Oak Street, serves Solvang and portions of unincorporated Santa Ynez Valley. Cumulative development within the Station 30 service area, including development within Solvang, would lead to additional demand for fire protection services, resulting in a potentially significant cumulative impact. However, the 2045 General Plan would include goals and policies to reduce the demand for new or expanded fire protection facilities. While development facilitated by the 2045 General Plan would generate additional demand, the payment of development fees, as required by AB 1600, for all development under the 2045 General Plan would provide fire department funding to serve new developments. Development facilitated by the 2045 General Plan would have an incremental contribution to cumulative impacts associated with fire protection services, but the contribution would not be cumulatively considerable.

Police Protection Services. Cumulative impacts to police protection services would occur if growth in the service area requires physical expansion of facilities, such as construction of new police facilities that would result in adverse physical impacts. The Solvang Sheriff Substation is located at 1745 Mission Drive in Solvang, and the city has one full-time deputy that serves Solvang. Cumulative development within the City of Buellton and unincorporated Santa Barbara County would not be served by the substation. Because the substation only serves Solvang, cumulative development within Solvang would lead to additional demand for Sheriff services. The 2045 General Plan envisions the future development and growth within Solvang; therefore, the project analysis in Impact PS-2 is, by its nature, a cumulative analysis. Development facilitated by the 2045 General Plan would be required to pay development fees, as required by AB 1600, to fund the provision of

public services, including police protection services. Therefore, development facilitated by the 2045 General Plan would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution to a cumulative impact related to police protection services.

Schools. Cumulative impacts to school facilities would occur if growth within a school district would result in significant adverse physical impacts with the provisions for, or the need for, new or physically altered school facilities. Schools that serve Solvang include the Solvang Elementary School and Santa Ynez Valley Union High School. It is likely that nearby, non-Solvang residents would attend these schools. Therefore, the service area for these schools includes Solvang and the Santa Ynez Valley, as well as Buellton and the surrounding, unincorporated Santa Barbara County. Cumulative development within this service area, including development within Solvang, would lead to additional demand for schools and result in a potentially significant cumulative impact. Cumulative development, including development facilitated by the 2045 General Plan, would be required to pay school impact fees at the time building permits are issued. These fees are used by the local school district to maintain existing facilities and expand capacity to accommodate increased enrollment resulting from cumulative development within the school districts' service boundaries. However, as described under Impact PS-3, these schools would be able to accommodate new and incoming students from new development in Solvang resulting from implementation of the 2045 General Plan, given the current capacity of 700 for the Solvang Elementary School and 1,800 students for the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School. Because the Solvang School District and Santa Ynez Valley Union High School have adequate capacity to serve development resulting from the 2045 General Plan, the 2045 General Plan would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact regarding school services.

Library Services. Cumulative impacts to libraries would occur if growth in the service area requires physical expansion of facilities, such as construction of new libraries that would result in adverse physical impacts. The Solvang Library is located at 1745 Mission Drive, and is managed by the City of Goleta. It is likely that library services are used by nearby non-Solvang residents. Therefore, the service area for the Solvang Library includes Solvang, as well as Buellton and the surrounding, unincorporated Santa Barbara County. Cumulative development within the Solvang Library's service area, including development within Solvang, would lead to additional demand for library services and result in a potentially significant cumulative impact. However, library services are maintained and expanded through collection of property taxes from developments within the service area. Collection of property taxes from all new developments would ensure that libraries are adequately funded to serve new development. In addition, implementation of the 2045 General Plan goals and policies would ensure that all new development is adequately served by libraries, reducing the need for additional facilities through proper maintenance and improvement of existing facilities. Therefore, the 2045 General Plan would not result in the construction of new or expanded public service facilities, including libraries, that would have a substantial adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, the 2045 General Plan would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact regarding library services.

Parks, Open Space, and Recreation. Cumulative impacts to parks and recreational facilities would occur if development and related population growth increase the use of existing facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of those facilities would occur, or if new facilities would need to be constructed or existing facilities expanded that would have an adverse effect on the environment. The service area for the City's parks and recreational facilities includes Solvang, as well as Buellton and the surrounding, unincorporated Santa Barbara County, as it is likely that parks and recreational facilities are used by nearby non-Solvang residents. However, even with

implementation of the 2045 General Plan, there would be 29 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which is well above the required 1 acre per 1,000 residents. Therefore, cumulative development would not result in significant cumulative impacts to parks. Development facilitated by the 2045 General Plan, which would result in additional population growth, would be required to comply with the Quimby Act, which may require parkland dedication or an in-lieu fee and to provide on-site space and recreational amenities. Development facilitated by the 2045 General Plan would increase the use of existing recreational facilities, but the payment of parkland fees would ensure cumulative projects are served by adequate park and recreational facilities. Therefore, the 2045 General Plan would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact to park and recreation facilities.

In summary, although the 2045 General Plan would have an incremental contribution to cumulative impacts associated with public services and recreation, the contribution would not be cumulatively considerable. Cumulative impacts would be less than significant.