

## 4.13 PUBLIC SERVICES

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This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) presents an analysis of the proposed project's effect on public services. Information presented is based on data from Alameda County and the City of Tracy.

### 4.13.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### 4.13.1.1 Fire Protection

The Alameda County Fire Department (Department) provides fire protection services to the unincorporated areas of Alameda County. The firehouse that serves the Altamont Motorsports Park (AMP) project site is Alameda County Station 8, located at 1617 College Avenue in Livermore, which is approximately 14 miles from the project site. Services currently offered at Alameda County Station 8 include fire, rescue, and medical (paramedic) services. Four full time personnel staff this station. Fire apparatus at the Station 8 firehouse includes both type-I pumper and a type-III wildland apparatus. Currently there are no planned upgrades to the station (Alameda County Fire Department 2007).

The Department estimates the average response time to the project site is approximately 15 minutes. Traffic conditions could greatly affect response times to AMP, since access to the site is limited via Interstate 580, which can become heavily congested during the late afternoon commute period. According to the Department, the project site is in a rural location where fire protection can be compromised by longer response times, lack of fire flows, and native vegetation.

With respect to medical services, AMP maintains emergency medical services (EMTs and emergency transportation) on site during all major events. AMP has a fire suppression system that has been inspected by the County Fire Department. AMP maintains a fire engine on site that pumps 1,250 gallons per minute (gpm), and is set up for fighting grass fires. AMP also maintains over 50 hand-held, pressurized water and dry chemical extinguishers. AMP also has two service trucks that carry 300-gallon water tanks and fire suppression apparatus that can be activated as needed. These service trucks are active on the track during races. AMP also employs two firefighters during all race events and has one water well that services AMP's storage tanks and fire hydrant and pumps between 800 and 1,000 gpm. Additionally, AMP has a Fire and Emergency Management Plan in place with both the Alameda County Fire Department and Sheriff's Office.

**4.13.1.2 Police Protection**

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office provides police services to the unincorporated areas of Alameda County. The Tri-Valley Substation, located in central Dublin, serves the project site. The substation is approximately 16 miles from the project site. There are currently 16 deputies and one sergeant assigned to the Tri-Valley Substation. Equipment at the substation includes four patrol cars, 1 K-9 SUV, a K-9 patrol car, and a fully marked sergeant's patrol car. Currently there are no planned upgrades to the station.

**4.13.1.3 Schools**

The Mountain House Elementary School would serve the project site for students in grades kindergarten through eight (K–8). Mountain House Elementary School, located at 3950 Mountain House Road, in Eastern Alameda County, is approximately 3 miles north of the project site. The enrollment for the current school year (2007–2008) is 37 students. Mountain House Elementary School has the design capacity to serve up to 70 students, grades K–8.

The K–8 students from Mountain House Elementary School attend West High School for grades 9–12 in the Tracy Unified School District (District). West High School is located at 1775 West Lowell Avenue in the City of Tracy, approximately 6.5 miles east of the project site. The current enrollment for the 2007–2008 school year is 3,015 students (as of December 2007). At this time, West High School is above design capacity. Due to the fact that both high schools in the District have been operating above design capacity, a third high school is planned for completion in 2009. Construction of the new high school is scheduled to begin in February of 2008, and the District is currently reorganizing district boundaries to include the new school facilities. Once the new district boundaries have been established, a number of high school students from both existing high schools in the District will attend the new high school. It is unknown at this time whether high school students from the Mountain House Elementary School would continue to enroll at West High School or be directed to enroll at the new high school.

**4.13.1.4 Parks**

Currently, approximately 35 acres of the 83-acre site are developed with a paved racetrack, pit/paddock area, grandstand, and other supporting infrastructure. The existing motorsports park is defined as a recreational facility by Alameda County (General Ordinance Code, Section 17.04.010).

The nearest local parks to the site are in the cities of Livermore and Tracy. The two nearest neighborhood parks in the City of Livermore are Bill Clark Park and Christensen Park. The closest regional park to the project site is Brushy Peak Regional Preserve, located approximately 8 miles west of the project site.

The closest neighborhood park in the City of Tracy is Ceciliani Park, approximately 6 miles to the east of the project site. The closest mini park is Bailor Hennen Park in the City of Tracy, located approximately 6 miles to the east of the project site.

The closest state park is Bethany Reservoir State Recreational Area. This state park is located approximately 4 miles northwest of the project site. Additionally, the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area is located approximately 8 miles south of the project site.

#### **4.13.2 REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT**

##### **4.13.2.1 East County Area Plan**

The Alameda County East County Area Plan (ECAP) contains policies to ensure the development of local and regional parks, the development of adequate school facilities, and the efficient provision of police, fire, and emergency medical facility and service needs. The proposed project contains no plans for parks, school facilities, fire, or police facilities. There are no ECAP policies relevant to the proposed project.

#### **4.13.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

##### **4.13.3.1 Thresholds of Significance**

The proposed project would result in a significant impact if it would

- result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or 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:
  - Fire protection
  - Police services
  - Schools
  - Parks

##### **4.13.3.2 Methodology**

This section evaluates the potential impacts to public services as a result of project implementation. Information presented is based on data from Alameda County and the City of Tracy.

#### 4.13.3.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

**Potential Impact 4.13-1: Would the project 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 for fire protection?**

The proposed project would generate an intermittent increase in demand for fire services during events held on site. Based on the historic maximum baseline usage of 6,150 people (comprising spectators, drivers, crew, employees, and vendors) the proposed project would allow a net increase of 1,850 spectators to the site. This represents an approximately 33.6 percent net increase in people on the site, with a corresponding increase in spectator vehicles. This net increase in population at the site, even if intermittent, will incrementally raise the risk of fire from vehicle exhausts and the careless disposal of smoking materials. While the unimproved parking areas are maintained by the project applicant to minimize risk of fire from vehicle exhaust and carelessly disposed smoking materials, there remains a potentially significant impact.

The proposed project also includes the installation of two caretaker residences, which represents a permanent resident population of up to 5.5 people for the site. The introduction of permanent residents to the site will raise the risk of fire from vehicle exhausts, careless disposal of smoking materials, as well as the potential introduction of outdoor cooking. This relatively minimal new permanent population to the site and the general project area could, together with the net increase in spectators and spectator vehicles, represent a potentially significant impact.

Both the net increase in the site's usage as well as the introduction of a small permanent population to the site will also increase the demand for emergency medical services.

Collectively, the increases in demand for services are not expected to increase the demand or need for the construction of new facilities to house fire and emergency medical services, nor require the expansion of existing facilities. However, the Alameda County Fire Department does consider the increases to represent a potentially significant increase in risk that can be mitigated to less than significant levels with the implementation of **Mitigation Measure HAZ-2**.

**Conclusion:** Potentially significant

**Significance After Mitigation:** Less than significant

**Potential Impact 4.13-2: Would the project 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 for police services?**

The proposed project would generate an intermittent increase in demand for police services during events held on the site. Based on the historic maximum baseline usage of 6,150 people (comprised of spectators, drivers, crew, employees, and vendors) the proposed project would represent a net increase of 1,850 people to the permitted level usage of 8,000 people on site. This represents an approximately 33.6 percent potential increase in people at the site, with a corresponding increase in vehicles. This net increase in population at the site, even if intermittent, will raise the potential demand for police services provided by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

In addition to the increase in usage of the site as expressed in terms of spectators, drivers, crew, employees, and vendors, the proposed project includes the installation of two caretaker residences, which would represent a permanent resident population of up to 5.5 people for the site. The introduction of permanent residents to the site will negligibly raise the potential demand for police services.

The increase in demand for services is not expected to increase the demand or need for the construction of new facilities to sheriff's office personnel or equipment, nor require the expansion of existing facilities (Alameda County Sheriff 2008).

**Conclusion:** Less than significant

**Mitigation Measure:** None required

**Potential Impact 4.13-3: Would the project 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 for schools?**

The proposed installation of two caretaker residences includes the potential to include in the project 5.5 people, one or more of which could be school age children. The children would be expected to enroll in either the Mountain House Elementary School or one of the high schools in the Tracy Unified School

District. Mountain House Elementary currently operates with 37 students, which is below the design capacity of 70 possible students. This school has no new facilities planned.

West High School in the Tracy Unified School District would likely serve high school students residing at the project site, at least initially. West High School is currently operating above capacity. Construction of a new high school is scheduled for February 2008, and is planned to open in 2009. The new high school is intended to relieve the current overcrowding condition. Prior to construction of the new high school the Tracy Unified School District will be required to comply with the provisions of CEQA related to the identification and mitigation of all potentially significant impacts. As such, there should be no unmitigated impacts associated with construction of the new high school.

Installation of two caretaker residences may result in generation of one or more school age children at the project site, which may result in a temporary contribution to the West High School's current overcrowding condition. However, due to construction of a new high school, that condition is expected to be short term in nature.

Further, the installation of the two caretaker residences would require the payment of School Impact Fees prior to issuance of building permits for the units. The purpose of the fees is to offset the impact associated with the generation of school age children and educational demands through the funding of construction activities for school districts. Therefore, the project would not result in a substantial adverse physical impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered school facilities and this is not considered a significant impact.

**Conclusion:** Less than significant

**Mitigation Measure:** None required

**Potential Impact 4.13-4: Would the project 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 for parks?**

The Altamont Motorsports Park itself is considered to be a recreational facility. The raceway has been operating since 1963 and provides a form of recreation for spectators and participants. The proposed project includes rezoning the site to provide for the continued operation of the facility with further

definition of currently permitted uses and operations, as well as the addition of physical improvements, including the installation of two caretaker residences.

Beyond the raceway, the proposed project does not include nor require the construction of new or expanded park facilities. The temporary population at the raceway associated with motorsports activities would not be expected to concurrently generate the demand for park use, and in turn new or altered park facilities. The proposed introduction of up to 5.5 people associated with the two caretaker residences would be expected to generate limited to no demand for such facilities, and not to the level that would have require new or altered facilities.

Therefore, the project would not result in a substantial adverse physical impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered park facilities and this is not considered an impact.

**Conclusion:** Less than significant

**Mitigation:** None required

