

## L. PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Public services and utilities that will be used during construction and operation of the proposed project would include solid waste collection, fire protection, police and emergency services, sewage and wastewater treatment, and water for drinking and irrigation. This section of the EIR evaluates the project service area's ability to accommodate the proposed development based on existing infrastructure. Information was gathered from the *Public Access and Resource Management Plan* (RRM, 2003) and interviews with the CCSD, Cambria Fire Chief Bob Putney, Sheriff's Commander Ben Hall, and others referenced in this section. Please refer to Section V. K., Water Supply, for a discussion of area water resources, and Section V.J. for Hazards, for a discussion of emergency response-related hazards.

This section was prepared by Stephen Umbertis of Morro Group based on information contained within the *Public Access and Resource Management Plan* (RRM, 2003), the *Resource Inventory and Constraints Report* (Rincon, 2002), County of San Luis Obispo planning documents, responses to the Notice of Preparation for the EIR, and consultation with Cambria Fire Department and the County Sheriff's Department.

### 1. REGULATORY SETTING

#### a. SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

The Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Chapter 1095, 1989) requires each city and county to divert and recycle 50% of its solid waste by 2000 (Public Resources Code 41780) and maintain the achieved reduction after 2000 (amended Act).

California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 23, Chapter 15 establishes requirements and specifications for waste handling. CCR Title 14, Division 7 provides the State's standards for the management of facilities that handle or dispose of solid waste. CCR Title 14, Division 7 is administered by the CIWMB and the designated Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). CCR Title 14, Division 7, Chapter 9, Article 9 §18800-18813 were adopted to implement Public Resources Code §41821.5, which requires each solid waste handler, transfer station operator, disposal facility operator, and County to gather information on which jurisdiction the solid waste originated from, their amounts disposed, and amounts of waste exported.

#### b. POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is an independent agency of the federal government, established in 1979 via executive order. FEMA's mission is as follows, "to reduce loss of life and property and protect our nation's critical infrastructure from all types of hazards through a risk-based, emergency management program of preparedness, response and recovery." FEMA provides direction and assistance to state and local governments, but does not regulate approaches to emergency planning or response.

California Government Code §8607(a) authorizes establishment of the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). Title 19, Division 2, Chapter 1 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR, §2400-2540) defines SEMS, including its purpose, scope, structure, and applicability. SEMS is intended to standardize response to emergencies involving multiple

jurisdictions or multiple agencies. Local government must use SEMS in order to be eligible for state funding of response-related personnel costs occurring in response to an emergency incident.

County Sheriff's Office, CHP, and the Office of Emergency Services have the opportunity to review and comment on projects through the CEQA process.

Police and fire protection are provided to the Cambria area by the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department, CHP, the Cambria CSD Fire Department, and CAL FIRE.

#### c. ENERGY SERVICES

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates privately owned electric, telecommunications, natural gas, water, railroad, rail transit and passenger transportation companies in California. The CPUC is responsible for assuring California utility customers have safe, reliable utility service at reasonable rates, protecting utility customers from fraud, and promoting the health of California's economy. In pursuing these goals, the CPUC establishes service standards and safety rules, and authorizes utility rate changes. The CPUC monitors the safety of utility and transportation operations, and oversees markets to inhibit anti-competitive activity. In its efforts to protect consumers, the CPUC prosecutes unlawful utility marketing and billing activities, governs business relationships between utilities and their affiliates, and resolves complaints by customers against utilities. Additional responsibilities include implementation of energy efficiency programs, low-income rates, telecommunications services for disabled customers, and CEQA enforcement for utility construction. The CPUC works with other State and Federal agencies in promoting water quality, environmental protection, and safety.

## 2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The FRP is generally undeveloped and provides open space uses along the Bluff Trail and Marine Terrace Trail, which parallel the coastline through the West FRP, and various informal foot trails throughout the FRP. Public use is moderate, with 200-300 users a day on the Bluff trail during the summer season, with approximately 100 more per day using other areas of the FRP. No services are available on the property. The area of the East FRP identified for the community park, east of Highway 1, is also open space at this time, although a sewer and water line follows Santa Rosa Creek through an existing easement on the parcel. The CCSD has utility easements on both sides of the FRP, as well as access easements from two different points. A waterworks and pump station, including a maintenance shed, are currently located within the flood plain of Santa Rosa Creek adjacent to the East FRP.

#### a. EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Fire protection and other emergency services are provided by the Cambria CSD Fire Department, as well as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The Cambria Fire Department maintains three full time fire fighters and thirteen paid on-call responders that operate three pumper trucks and a "quick-attack" unit, with an average response time in the community of approximately three to five minutes to easily accessible areas of the community (San Luis Obispo County (*Cambria and San Simeon Acres Community Plans of the North Coast Area Plan Final Environmental Impact Report*, 2006)). The CCSD constructed improvements to the Marine Terrace Trail to also serve as an emergency access route, improving response time on

the FRP. The Cambria CSD Fire Department also benefits from an automatic aid agreement with CAL FIRE. This aid agreement improves fire and emergency response by providing additional personnel and equipment in emergency situations. Emergency room and hospital services are provided by Sierra Vista and French Hospitals, located over thirty miles away in San Luis Obispo, and the Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton. The FRP area is currently served by the existing fire response plans.

In 2005, the Cambria CSD Fire Department responded to 781 calls, well over half of which were medical responses (436). The remaining calls included three fire alarms, 35 fires, 58 vehicle accidents, 103 hazardous situations (usually downed trees), 117 public service assists, and 29 false alarms. Over the last six years, only two small wild fires have occurred on the West FRP, and one small fire occurred on the East FRP (personal communication, Chief Bob Putney, August 25, 2006). The West FRP does represent a significant fire danger due to the presence of grassland, pine forest fuel loads, regular onshore breezes, and the safety issues surrounding the urban/wildland interface, where forests and grasslands meet residential neighborhoods. An additional area of concern is the urban/wildland intermix, where homes are surrounded by natural areas and are at greater risk from wildfires due to the potential lack of defensible space and longer response times of local agencies.

### **1) San Luis Obispo County Sheriff**

Law enforcement is provided by the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department maintains a patrol substation in Los Osos that is responsible for the coastal area from Avila Beach to San Simeon, and is manned by thirty sworn officers. Response times to the Cambria area for the Sheriff's Department range from eighteen to twenty minutes due to their large area of responsibility (personal communications, Ben Hall, San Luis Obispo County Sheriff, 2006).

### **2) California Highway Patrol**

Traffic and parking enforcement on Highway 1 in the Cambria area is handled by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) operating from their office in Templeton, 25 miles to the east. The CHP maintains regular patrols along Highway 1, and has an average response time of five minutes from Highway 1 in Cambria to calls within the FRP boundaries.

### **3) California Department of Forestry/County Fire**

As stated above, CAL FIRE works in tandem with the Cambria Fire Department, increasing the numbers of available personnel and improving the availability of equipment for any given emergency. CAL FIRE maintains a station in Cambria, located at 6126 Coventry Lane. Their response time for the FRP area is approximately five minutes to the FRP boundaries. Similar to the Cambria Fire Department, response times are extended by access restrictions. The CCSD constructed improvements to the Marine Terrace Trail to also serve as an emergency access route, improving response time on the FRP.

## **b. PUBLIC UTILITIES**

The CCSD maintains a waterworks facility adjacent to the East FRP in the Santa Rosa Creek floodplain. The facilities include a well, filtration station, pump station, maintenance and supply

building, office and repair shop, and vehicle and hazardous materials (HAZMAT) storage. The CCSD is proposing to relocate these facilities elsewhere and construct a new pump station for relocation out of the flood plain. The CCSD is also responsible for trash pickup and disposal (currently contracted to Mission Country Disposal Services), streetlights, and local public transit. The utilities on the FRP are limited to the new water booster station adjacent to the East FRP, as described above, and the utility easements within the West FRP. All facilities associated with the waterworks station, with the exception of the pump station, would be moved to a different property off-site.

1) Wastewater Collection and Disposal

Wastewater collection and disposal throughout Cambria, including the FRP, is provided by the CCSD. The wastewater treatment facility was originally built in 1970, and was upgraded with the addition of two new aeration basins in 1995. Total capacity for the treatment plant is one million gallons per day (GPD), with a back up capacity of an additional one million GPD. A twelve-inch sewer line is on-site and connects to an eight-inch sewer main on Main Street, part of the 72 miles of pipeline that feed the treatment system.

2) Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste disposal and recycling services for glass, plastics, and green waste for the CCSD are provided by Mission Country Disposal Services. Weekly residential pickup is offered, and all solid waste is delivered to the Cold Canyon Landfill. No waste receptacles are currently located on the East FRP. Trash receptacles are located at the formal and informal trailheads in the Windsor, Huntington, Tipton, Marlborough, and Trenton neighborhoods bordering the West FRP. Pickup is provided weekly by Mission Country Disposal.

3) Energy Services

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Duke Energy, and the Southern California Gas Company provide electricity and gas throughout the County.

c. RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The FRP is the largest open space parcel in the Cambria urban area, and is in close proximity to the other parks and open space. Two County maintained parks, Shamel and Lampton, provide passive recreational areas. Shamel contains children's play equipment and a swimming pool. This is the only active recreation in the Cambria area, although the schools do provide fee-based public access to their outdoor facilities after school hours. The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) manages the San Simeon State Historic Park that follows the coastline for some distance. A number of private parks are also in the area, managed by the YMCA and Coalinga-Huron Recreation and Park District, but are not open for public use. Some trails do exist on the CDPR and County properties, and will connect to the proposed trail network through the FRP.

d. SCHOOLS

There are four schools in Cambria, all of which are part of the Coast Unified School District. There is one elementary school (K-5), the Cambria Grammar School; one middle school serving

grades six to eight, the Santa Lucia Middle School; a traditional high school, the Coast Union High School, and an alternative high school, Leffingwell High School.

### **3. THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

As defined in the CEQA *Guidelines*, Appendix G, the County of San Luis Obispo Initial Study Checklist, and the *County Energy Element*, public services, and utilities impacts 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 fire protection, police protection, schools, or other public facilities;
- Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs;
- Conflict with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste;
- Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans;
- Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner; or,
- Result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to power or natural gas.

### **4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND METHODOLOGY**

The impacts of the project were evaluated based on an assessment of the impacts that public access and the construction of an active park facility would have on the existing public services, utilities, and associated infrastructure.

### **5. EAST AND WEST FRP - IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

#### **a. EAST AND WEST FRP - INCREASED DEMAND FOR SERVICES**

Development of the FRP for passive and active recreation will have a number of impacts related to public utilities and services, wastewater, and recreation. Increased use may require the installation of public restroom facilities at the community park, garbage receptacles and regularly scheduled pick-up, water fountains, and signage. A larger visitor base may also increase the number of responses by the local fire and sheriff's departments, due to the higher traffic and numbers of visitors on site. Increased visitation, especially by tourists, can lead to a number of issues in a rural environment in terms of responding to emergency calls.

##### **1) East and West FRP - Emergency Services**

Based on consultation with the CCSD, the Fire Department is concerned regarding safety and adequate emergency response on the FRP. One primary issue is the current lack of informational signage on trails throughout the West FRP. Due to its rural character and large size, visitors placing emergency calls from the FRP may find it difficult to give an accurate description of their location, significantly increasing response times to calls that may be life threatening. Without some method for visitors to quickly, easily, and accurately relay their whereabouts to a

dispatcher, emergency personnel would be forced to spend valuable time searching for patients rather than treating and transporting them.

Emergency access and transport of injured visitors is also a concern of the Fire Department. Currently, the Marine Terrace Trail is the only trail in the West FRP that provides year round access for heavy vehicles. This limits the ability of emergency responders who may be responding to fires, or needing to transport injured visitors out of the FRP.

Increased fire hazard as a result of the higher numbers of visitors is an issue on the West FRP. In the last six years, only two small fires have occurred on the West FRP, and both were effectively extinguished (personal communication, Fire Chief Bob Putney, August 25, 2006). The urban/wildland interface, located at the boundaries of both the East and West FRP where the open space meets the neighborhoods, is of particular concern due to the potential threat of wildfire to homes and their occupants. The Fire Department currently maintains shaded fuel breaks on these boundaries, and will continue to do so as public access increases on the FRP. The Fire Department also engages in fuel reduction work, such as grass cutting and brush removal, on an annual basis, to lower the risk of fire throughout the FRP and protect the surrounding neighborhoods.

**PSU Impact 1** **The ability of emergency personnel to efficiently respond to requests for assistance could be impacted by the inability of visitors who are unfamiliar with the property to give adequate directions to the more isolated areas of the FRP, resulting in a potentially significant impact.**

PSU/mm-1 Upon application for land use and construction permits, and prior to site disturbance for trail development, the trail system on the West FRP shall be clearly marked with signs denoting the trail name, number, and mileage from the trailhead to allow visitors to quickly and easily inform responders of their whereabouts in the event of an emergency. Mileage markers shall be placed approximately every quarter mile.

**Residual Impact** With implementation of mitigation, this impact would be considered *less than significant with mitigation, Class II.*

**PSU Impact 2** **Emergency access throughout the West FRP and parts of the East FRP is limited due to the lack of roads suitable for heavy vehicles, which may require additional emergency personnel to respond to calls, resulting in a potentially significant impact.**

PSU/mm-2 Trails proposed for emergency access, including the Marine Terrace Trail, Creek to Ridge Trail, and Santa Rosa Creek (West) Trail shall be maintained to ensure function and emergency access throughout the FRP.

PSU/mm-3 The Cambria CSD Fire Department shall acquire a small vehicle capable of carrying rescue personnel and their equipment, as well as individual victims, throughout the FRP, to expedite rescues and evacuations.

## Secondary Impact

The use of small vehicles (such as ATVs or other small four wheeled vehicles) could have a detrimental effect on the landscape or habitat of the FRP by compacting vegetation, creating tire ruts, and causing erosion, resulting in a potentially significant short-term impact.

**PSU/mm-4** Immediately following use of an emergency vehicle on non-emergency access roads on the FRP, the FRP manager shall inspect the trail and implement erosion control measures and site restoration as necessary.

**Residual Impact** With implementation of mitigation, the primary impact and secondary impact would be considered *less than significant with mitigation, Class II*.

**PSU Impact 3** **The risk of wildfire on the FRP due to visitor negligence may increase with the number of users, increasing the need for fire safety responders, resulting in a potentially significant impact.**

**PSU/mm-5** Upon application for land use and construction permits and prior to site disturbance for trail development, the FRP sign program shall include signage stating the following, or similar language: “No fire of any kind shall be allowed on the FRP.” Signage shall be placed within parking areas and at trailheads informing users of the rules and regulations pertaining to fire related hazards.

**PSU/mm-6** The Cambria CSD Fire Department shall continue to engage in annual fuel reduction activities, especially in the urban/wildland interface areas on the north and boundaries of the West FRP, as outlined in the *Public Access and Resource Management Plan*.

Implement HM/mm-1 and HM/mm-2.

**Residual Impact** While it is impossible to completely eliminate the fire danger in this kind of area, the mitigations outlined above can reduce the potential for accidental incidents, and the effect on public safety personnel to acceptable levels. This impact is considered *less than significant with mitigation, Class II*.

**PSU Impact 4** **The creation of new parking areas, whether planned or spontaneous, will increase the number of locations and opportunities for transient camping and trespassing, possibly resulting in wildfire or other criminal activity, resulting in increased demand for services, and a potentially significant impact.**

**PSU/mm-7** Upon application for land use and construction permits from the County for the Community Park on the East FRP, the CCSD or its designee shall submit a lighting plan showing the use of security lighting on appropriate facilities, which may include restrooms and the community center. Parking areas

throughout the FRP shall be designed consistent with the County Sheriff's Department publication "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design" (CPTED) where applicable.

- PSU/mm-8 Turn-outs and other areas not approved for vehicle parking shall be appropriately signed to inform visitors of the no camping and no parking limitations of the FRP.

Implement TC/mm-5.

**Residual Impact** The increase in overall user numbers will raise the chances that visitors and locals will attempt to park and use the FRP inappropriately. Signage, appropriate lighting and CCSD and volunteer patrols will help to alleviate these risks, and reduce the increased demand for public safety personnel. These impacts are considered *less than significant with mitigation, Class II*.

## 2) East and West FRP - Public Utilities

The impacts to public utilities on the FRP as a result of the actions proposed in the *Public Access and Management Plan* and *Master Plan* will be minimal. The plans do not propose any major increases in infrastructure or other facilities that would require a significant amount of power, water, or wastewater service. No wastewater infrastructure will be established on the West FRP. Restrooms will be limited to the East FRP only. Infrastructure for water, sewer, and gas on the West FRP has already been installed, and no more additions are proposed.

Solid waste disposal, managed by Mission Country Disposal under contract with the CCSD, currently occurs once a week at the trailheads in the Windsor, Huntington, and Trenton neighborhoods. As public access increases, the demand for trash pickup will increase. Additional trash pick-up may need to occur more often, perhaps to as many as three times per week during the summer tourist season. All solid waste from Cambria is sent to the Cold Canyon Landfill, which completed an expansion in 1999, giving them nearly a half million cubic feet of additional capacity. Cold Canyon Landfill currently accepts between 500-1000 tons of solid waste per day, and has over seven years of capacity at these rates (personal communication, Rick King, Site Supervisor, August 31, 2006). Any increases from the FRP will be insignificant to this volume of waste, and will not impact the overall operation or longevity of the facility.

Electric service in the community of Cambria would not be significantly affected as a result of increased public access on the FRP. There are no significant additions of lighting or indoor recreational space on the East FRP, and the West FRP is intended to remain in its current, undeveloped state.

**PSU Impact 5** **The amount of solid waste generated by the FRP will increase proportionally to the number of visitors, potentially requiring additional trash pick-ups.**

- PSU/mm-9 During management of the FRP, the CCSD or ranch manager shall monitor trash quantity and determine if additional trash and recycling receptacles

and trash pick-up days are necessary. Trash receptacles shall be placed at major trailheads at the boundary of the ranch, and adjacent to all parking areas.

**Residual Impact**

Adequate numbers of trash and recycling containers coupled with frequent pick-ups during the high season (if necessary) would ensure that there is no overflow of garbage or litter on site as a result of increased visitor attendance. Impacts are considered *less than significant with mitigation, Class II*.

**3) East and West FRP - Recreation**

Impacts to recreational resources as a result of this project will be beneficial overall. Improvements to existing passive recreational opportunities and the creation of a community active recreation area would increase the recreational opportunities for both visitors and residents. The FRP will provide passive recreation to the neighboring residents, provide open space buffers between distinct neighborhoods, and create connectivity with the existing trail network and between the areas of Cambria on the east and west sides of Highway 1.

The East FRP will provide much needed active recreational areas, such as playing fields and courts, to the community of Cambria. No such facilities currently exist in the community, requiring the residents to utilize school resources, or travel out of town. There are a few parks in the community, but none that provide the type or quality of facilities that are being proposed for this area.

The impact to recreational resources in both the community of Cambria and the County of San Luis Obispo are considered *beneficial, Class IV Effects*.

**6. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

The impacts of project development with the community of Cambria, including improvements to the FRP, would have a cumulative effect on public emergency services and responders. Development within the County is subject to public service fees upon permit issuance, which assists the capacity of such facilities. In addition, implementation of crime prevention measures and coordination with the Cambria CSD Fire Department, County Sheriff's Department, and California Highway Patrol reduce the potential for crime and emergencies, and lessens the demand for services. Based on implementation of the mitigation measures recommended by the County Sheriff's Department and Cambria CSD Fire Department, the proposed project would not have a cumulatively considerable effect on public services.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATED TERMS

Abbreviation	Term
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCSD	Cambria Community Services District
CDPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CPTED	Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GPD	Gallons Per Day
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
LEA	Local Enforcement Agency
PG&E	Pacific Gas & Electric
SEMS	Standardized Emergency Management System