

## 4.13 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

### 4.13.1 Impact Criteria and Methodology

Impacts to public services and utilities were assessed by determining the potential effects of the proposed action on existing public service levels and the potential for interference with utilities in the project area. Marin County has identified significance criteria specific to impacts associated with public services, utilities, and energy. The following criteria have been developed using the Marin County significance criteria and the CEQA checklist, and were used to assess the level of significance of potential impacts associated with the proposed project. The project is considered to have a potentially significant impact to public services and utilities under the following circumstances:

- It were to require additional police/sheriff staffing, facilities, or equipment to maintain acceptable service ratios;
- It were to require additional fire staff, facilities, or equipment to maintain an acceptable level of service (e.g., response time, rating, or other);
- It were to require designation of additional parkland to remain in conformance with locally acceptable or adopted park standard;
- It were to require substantial expanding water supply, treatment, or distribution facilities;
- It were to require expanding wastewater treatment or distribution facilities;
- It were to result in demand for landfill disposal that would exceed the capacity of the landfill to accommodate the proposed project;
- It were to require the development of new energy resources;
- It were to use energy, oil, or natural gas in an inefficient manner;
- It were to encourage activities that would result in the use of large amounts of energy, oil, or natural gas; or
- It were to result in energy demand in excess of energy supplier's existing or planned supplies.

### 4.13.2 Riparian Alternative

#### *Less Than Significant Impacts*

The proposed action is not expected to increase demand for public services, such as law enforcement or fire protection, that would exceed current service capacities. Redwood Landfill is expected to remain open for the next forty years and would have adequate capacity to accept the volumes of excavation materials associated with the proposed action. This assumes that the Corps would coordinate regularly with the landfill operators to determine the tonnage the landfill could accept during any given period (King 2002).

Interference with Utilities

During construction, the upland removal of fill from some areas between Highway 1 and the lagoon could interfere with operations and maintenance of the Stinson Beach County Water District. As discussed in Section 3-13, a six-inch water main crosses under Highway 1 close to one of the Highway 1 fills slated for excavation. The pipe brings freshwater to the community of Seadrift and is exposed at the surface in some locations. The exact location of the water line is unclear, based on drawings currently available from the district, but its approximate location is near the most southern site proposed for excavation between Highway 1 and the lagoon (Black 2002). Maps obtained from the water district show the water line running just south of this excavation site.

The district is upgrading the water lines in this area, and more accurate detailed drawings of pipeline locations will become available as these lines are upgraded. Excavation equipment could hit the water line, depending on how close excavation is to the buried water line. Due to the uncertainty associated with the exact location of the water line in relation to the proposed excavation site, this is considered to be a potential impact from the proposed action.

The Corps intends to consult closely with the Stinson Beach County Water District to obtain the most current information, including updated maps of water line locations, as they become available from and before excavation begins in the project area. Through coordination with the water district, this potential impact is considered to be less than significant.

**4.13.3 Estuarine Alternative*****Less Than Significant Impacts***

Potential impacts associated the Estuarine Alternative are identical to those discussed above for the Riparian Alternative.

**4.13.4 No Action Alternative*****Less than Significant Impacts***Interference with Utilities

As discussed in Section 4.2, Water Resources, under the No Action Alternative, it is possible that the lake level would rise and quickly become too high relative to Highway 1. If this were to occur, the sand spit would need to be artificially breached to protect the road and other development. Increased lake levels and increased risk of flooding of Highway 1 could interfere with the Stinson Beach County Water District maintaining water pipes within or adjacent to the lagoon. Flooding of Highway 1 may also result in increased demand for police and emergency vehicles to protect people and properties in the area. As discussed in Section 4.3, Geology, the flooding that would result from closure of the inlet channel would not be acceptable, and a method

would have to be identified to release the excess water from the area. Potential mitigation measures to control the water level in the lagoon below flood levels are described in Section 4.3. Any resulting increase in demand for police or utility services from the No Action Alternative is not expected to exceed current service capacities. The potential impact to public services and utilities from the No Action Alternative is assumed to be temporary and less than significant.