

3.11 - Public Services

3.11.1 - Introductions

This section describes the existing public services and potential effects from project implementation on the site and its surrounding area. Descriptions and analysis in this section are based on information provided by the City of Suisun City General Plan, City of Suisun City Municipal Service Review, and the service providers' websites.

3.11.2 - Environmental Setting

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

The Suisun City Fire Department provides fire protection and emergency response services to Suisun City. The Fire Department is headquartered at 621 Pintail Drive. The Fire Department's service area is 4.5 square miles.

Fire Station

The Fire Department operates one fire station (Station 47), which is summarized in Table 3.11-1.

Table 3.11-1: Fire Station Summary

Address	Distance from Project Site	Apparatus	Staffing
621 Pintail Drive	1.6 miles	Type 1 Engine (2) Ladder Truck (1)	Two engine companies staffed 24 hours a day/7 days a week; Four suppression personnel and one Chief Officer

Source: City of Suisun City. 2023.

Staffing

The Fire Department is a combination department consisting of career and volunteer personnel. Career staff consists of one Fire Chief, two Chief Officers, 12 fire suppression personnel, and 11 volunteer fire fighters. The Fire Department is supported by Medic Ambulance for medical transport services through a contractual agreement with Solano County

Apparatus

The Fire Department's apparatus consists of two Type 1 Fire Engines, one Type 3 Fire Engine, one 100-foot Ladder Truck, three Command Vehicles, one Type 5 Fire Engine, and two Zodiac Water Rescue Boats.

Calls for Service

The Fire Department responded to 3,373 calls for service annually in 2022. More than two-thirds of the calls involved rescues and emergencies. Fires accounted for approximately 7 percent of calls for service.

Police Protection

The City of Suisun City Police Department provides law enforcement services within the Suisun City limits. The Police Department is headquartered at 701 Civic Center Boulevard and has a substation at the Burdick Center, which houses records.

Staffing and Organization

The Police Department is staffed by 35 staff members, including a chief, two commanders, four sergeants, two detectives, 13 police officers, and 12 support personnel (dispatchers, community services officers, etc.).

The Police Department is organized into two divisions: Operations and Support Services. The Operations Division oversees patrol, traffic enforcement, investigations, problem-oriented policing and neighborhood watch. The Support Services Division oversees records management, safety communications, crime prevention, crime analysis, property/evidence management and code enforcement.

Calls for Service

The Police Department responded to 26,555 calls for service in 2020, which resulted in 3,531 cases taken and 910 arrests.

Response Times

The Police Department's average response to time to Priority 1, 2, 3, and 4 in 2014 calls are summarized as follows:

- Priority 1 (Immediate threat to persons or property): 3 minutes, 10 seconds
- Priority 2 (No immediate threat; expedited response required): 4 minutes, 29 seconds
- Priority 3 (In-progress incidents which do not pose a threat to people or property); 4 minutes, 40 seconds
- Priority 4 (Late reports of crimes or assistance with general questions): 4 minutes, 7 seconds

3.11.3 - Regulatory Framework

State

California Building Standards Code

Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, also known as the California Building Standards Code, is a compilation of three types of building standards from three different origins:

- Building standards that have been adopted by state agencies without change from building standards contained in national and international model codes.
- Building standards that have been adopted and adapted from national and international model code standards to meet California conditions.

- Building standards, authorized by the California legislature, constitute extensive additions not covered by the model codes that have been adopted to address particular California concerns.

The California Fire Code is a component of the California Building Standards Code and contains fire-safety-related building standards.

Local

City of Suisun City

General Plan

The City of Suisun City General Plan sets forth the following goals, objectives, and policies relevant to public services:

- Goal CFS-1** Provide facilities and services to new and existing residents and businesses at levels that maintain or improve the local quality of life and fiscal sustainability of the community.
- Objective CFS-1** Plan, prioritize, program, and fund community facilities and services to accommodate development anticipated at buildout of the 2035 General Plan.
- Policy CFS-1.1** New developments will be required to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the City Engineer, that existing services and utilities can accommodate the increased demand generated by the subject project or that project conditions would adequately mitigate for impacts associated with addition demand.
- Goal CFS-2** Maintain public safety facilities and services for new and existing residents and businesses that protect the public health, safety, and welfare.
- Objective CFS-2** Provide staffing levels, facilities, and community design required to maintain acceptable emergency response times and effective public safety services.
- Policy CFS-2.2** New developments will be required to design, and the City will maintain streets that facilitate acceptable emergency access and response times.
- Policy CFS-2.3** New developments shall be designed, constructed, and equipped consistent with requirements of the California Fire Code to reduce fire risk.
- Policy CFS-2.5** The Police Department should review development proposals and provide recommendations that would ensure adequate access and community surveillance.
- Policy CFS-2.6** The Fire Department should review development proposals and provide recommendations that would ensure adequate emergency access, fire suppression equipment, and other features that reduce fire risk.

3.11.4 - Methodology

FirstCarbon Solutions (FCS) reviewed information about the Suisun City Fire Department and Police Department including agency websites, annual reports, and call volume data. Fire Department and Police Department staff peer reviewed descriptions of their services for accuracy and completeness.

3.11.5 - Thresholds of Significance

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G is a sample Initial Study checklist that includes a number of factual inquiries related to the subject of public services, as it does on a whole series of additional environmental topics. Notably, lead agencies are under no obligation to use these inquiries in fashioning thresholds of significance on these subjects, or indeed on any subject addressed in the checklist. (*Save Cuyama Valley v. County of Santa Barbara* (2013) 213 Cal.App.4th 1059, 1068.) Rather, with few exceptions, “CEQA grants agencies discretion to develop their own thresholds of significance.” (*Ibid.*) Even so, it is a common practice for lead agencies to take the language from the inquiries set forth in Appendix G and to use that language in fashioning thresholds. The City has done so here. Thus, for purposes of this EIR, a significant impact would occur if implementation of the proposed project would:

. . . result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

- a) Fire protection;
- b) Police protection;
- c) Schools (refer to Section 7, Effects Found not to be Significant);
- d) Parks (refer to Section 7, Effects Found not to be Significant); or
- e) Other public facilities? (refer to Section 7, Effects Found not to be Significant).

Importantly, CEQA does not treat impacts on service ratios or responses times to be adverse effects on “the environment.” (*City of Hayward v. Board of Trustees of the California State University* (2015) 242 Cal.App.4th 833, 843.) Rather, what matters under CEQA is whether, in order to maintain adequate service ratios or response times, a city, county, or other service provider would have to build new or expanded physical facilities, which themselves could result in environmental effects. (*Id.* at pp. 843-844; see also *Goleta Union School Dist. v. Regents of University of California* (1995) 37 Cal.App.4th 1025, 1032-1033 [CEQA is not concerned with school overcrowding, which is a socioeconomic effect, but is concerned with the impacts of school construction needed to alleviate overcrowding]). Under CEQA, then, the environmental analysis relating to the provision of the above-mentioned services should be limited to possible construction-related impacts, if any, associated with the services.

3.11.6 - Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This section discusses potential impacts associated with the development of the project and provides mitigation measures where appropriate.

Fire Protection

Impact PS-1: **The project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire facilities.**

Impact Analysis

The Suisun City Fire Department would provide fire protection and emergency medical services to the proposed project. The project site is located 1.6 miles from the fire station located at 621 Pintail Drive.

The Fire Department indicated that its primary concern with the proposed project would be responding to a large fire. The Fire Department advised that having a detection and fire sprinkler system would afford the ability to contain the fire until crews and resources arrive on scene. The proposed project would be subject to the latest adopted edition of the California Fire Code at the time building permits are sought, including provision of detection and fire sprinkler systems. Under the current Fire Code, the proposed project would be required to provide 2,000 gallons per minute of fire flow for 2 hours.

The Fire Department indicated that it would be able to easily respond to medical calls, which represented approximately two-thirds of the 2021 call volume.

The Fire Department noted that it would need to request county resources for hazard materials, technical rescue, and confined space rescue, as it does not have the personnel, equipment, or training for these operations. The Fire Department is a member of the Solano County Mutual Aid Agreement and the California Mutual Aid Agreement and, thus, has the existing ability to request assistance from other fire agencies with these events.

The Fire Department indicated that areas east of Walters Road are outside of the adopted 5-minute response time, 90 percent of calls objective. To address this deficiency, the City of Suisun City General Plan contemplates the development of two new fire stations at either end of the City to replace the existing one at 621 Pintail Drive.

The development of a new fire station on the east side of Suisun City would serve to improve response times to the proposed project. The proposed project would pay fire development fees to the City of Suisun City at the time building permits are sought and thus would further the development of this facility. However, this facility is not required to serve the proposed project and its physical impacts on the environment would be evaluated as part of a separate environmental review process. Impacts would be less than significant.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant impact.

Police Protection

Impact PS-2: The project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police facilities.

Impact Analysis

The Suisun City Police Department would provide police protection to the proposed project.

The proposed project would not be expected to place significant demands on police protection because (1) the end uses would be primarily warehouse and light industrial; (2) the site would be secured with fencing and gates and employ video surveillance; and (3) the site is geographically located at the outer edge of the city limits near Travis Air Force Base, making unauthorized entry more difficult and detectable. Moreover, the Police Department would have the opportunity to review project plans at the time the applicant seeks permits and would be able to make safety and security recommendations. For these reasons, the proposed project would not increase demands on the Suisun City Police Department such that new or expanded police facilities would be required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant impact.