

## **4.14 PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

This chapter describes the regulatory framework and existing conditions of public services within the Parkway Plan Area and evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed Project on public services. Fire protection and emergency services, police protection, and parks and recreation are each addressed in a separate section of this chapter. Because the proposed Project would not include the development of new schools nor would it result in the increase to the residential population, it was determined that no impact would occur with respect to schools and, therefore, it is not further analyzed. In each section, a summary of the relevant regulatory setting and existing conditions is followed by a discussion of Plan-specific and cumulative impacts.

### **4.14.1 FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

#### **4.14.1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

This section describes existing conditions related to fire protection services and the potential impacts that could result from construction and operation of the proposed Project.

### **Regulatory Framework**

#### *Federal Regulation*

##### Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires cities to adopt a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The purpose of mitigation planning is to identify policies and actions that can be implemented over the long term to reduce risk and future losses, and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. The planning process is as important as the plan itself. It creates a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damages to lives, property, and the economy from future disasters.<sup>1</sup>

#### *State Regulation*

##### California Building Code

The State of California provides a minimum standard for building design through the 2010 California Building Code (CBC), which is located in Part 2 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. The 2010 CBC is based on the 1997 Uniform Building Code, but has been modified for the California conditions. The Office of the State Architect oversees compliance with the CBC for State projects. Commercial and residential buildings are plan-checked by City and County building officials for compliance with the CBC. Typical fire safety requirements of the CBC include: the installation of sprinklers in all high-rise buildings; the establishment of fire resistance standards

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Emergency Management Agency, <http://www.fema.gov/multi-hazard-mitigation-planning>, accessed April 20, 2017.

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for fire doors, building materials, and particular types of construction; and the clearance of debris and vegetation within a prescribed distance from occupied structures in wildfire hazard areas. Since the issuance of the Notice of Preparation (NOP), the CBC has been updated, effective as of January 1, 2014. While the exact changes are not reflected in this Draft EIR, development under the proposed Plan would be subject to the most current standards of the CBC.

### California Fire Code

The California Fire Code incorporates, by adoption, the International Fire Code of the International Code Council, with California amendments. This is the official Fire Code for the State and all political subdivisions. It is located in Part 9 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, which is described in Section B.2a.ii. The California Fire Code is revised and published every three years by the California Building Standards Commission.

### *Parkway Master Plan Policies*

The Conservancy will implement its mission and the Parkway Master Plan in a manner consistent with its adopted Parkway Master Plan goals, objectives, policies, design guidelines, and best management practices (BMPs) to the extent practicable.

### *Local Regulations and Policies*

The Conservancy is the lead agency responsible for preparing, approving, and implementing the proposed Parkway Master Plan. The Conservancy may assist other government agencies and nonprofit organizations in implementing elements of the proposed Plan. The Conservancy's authorities and jurisdiction are described in Chapter 3, Project Description. Local land use policies relevant to Parkway development and implementation are discussed in this section.

### Madera County General Plan

Part II, Section 3, Public Facilities and Services, establishes policies and goals relevant to fire protection services. Table 4.14-1 shows policies that aim to ensure fire protection facilities and response times are adequate for the public safety, health, and welfare.

### Madera County Municipal Code

Chapter 2.32, Madera County Fire Department, outlines and establishes administrative duties and powers of the Madera County Fire Department. Such duties include design review as it relates to fire suppression system review, development review, and building inspection with respect to fire safety.

Chapter 15.02, Public Facilities Fees, allows Madera County to collect impact fees prior to issuing building permits in order to mitigate for the increased demand in public services, such as fire safety.

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**TABLE 4.14-1 MADERA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

<b>Policy/Goal Number</b>	<b>Policy/Goal</b>
<i>Goal 3.H</i>	<i>To protect residents of and visitors to Madera County from injury and loss of life and to protect property and watershed resources from fires.</i>
Policy 3.H.1	The County shall encourage local fire protection agencies in Madera County to maintain the following as minimum fire protection standards (expressed as Insurance Service Organization (ISO) ratings): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ISO 4 in urban areas</li> <li>b. ISO 6 in suburban areas</li> <li>c. ISO 8 in rural areas</li> </ol>
Policy 3.H.2	The County shall encourage local fire protection agencies in the county to maintain the following as minimum standards (expressed as average first alarm response times to emergency calls): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 10 minutes in urban areas</li> <li>b. 15 minutes in suburban areas</li> <li>c. 20 minutes in rural areas</li> </ol>
Policy 3.H.3	The County shall require that new fire stations be located to achieve a service level capability consistent with existing and planned land uses.
Policy 3.H.4	The County shall require that new development develop or fund fire protection facilities that, at a minimum, maintain the above service level standards.
Policy 3.H.5	The County shall ensure that all proposed developments are reviewed for compliance with fire safety standards by responsible local fire agencies per the Uniform Fire Code and other state local ordinances.
Policy 3.H.6	The County shall work with local fire protection agencies to eliminate structurally unsafe and fire hazardous housing structures that are beyond repair or rehabilitation.
Policy 3.H.7	The County shall encourage local fire protection agencies to provide and maintain advanced levels of emergency medical services (EMS) to the public.
<i>Goal 6.C</i>	<i>To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, and damage to property and watershed resources resulting from unwanted fires.</i>
Policy 6.C.1	The County shall ensure that development in high-fire hazard areas is designed and constructed in a manner that minimizes the risk from fire hazards and meets all applicable state and county fire standards. In areas with high or extreme wildfire hazards, the County shall limit parcel sizes to 2 ½ acres or larger to encourage clustered or planned residential development with on-site fire suppression measures.
Policy 6.C.2	The County shall require that discretionary permits for new development in fire hazard areas be conditioned to include requirements for fire-resistant vegetation, cleared fire breaks, or a long-term comprehensive fuel management plan. Fire hazard reduction measures shall be incorporated into the design of development projects in fire hazard areas.
Policy 6.C.3	New development shall be required to have water systems that meet County fire flow requirements. Where minimum fire flow is not available to meet County standards, alternate fire protection measures, including sprinkler systems, shall be identified and may be incorporated into development if approved by the appropriate fire protection agency.
Policy 6.C.4	The County shall review project proposals to identify potential fire hazards and prevent or mitigate such hazards to acceptable levels of risk.
Policy 6.C.5	The County shall require development to have adequate access for fire and emergency vehicles and equipment. All major subdivisions shall have two points of ingress and egress.

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

**TABLE 4.14-1 MADERA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Policy/Goal Number	Policy/Goal
Policy 6.C.6	The County shall ensure that existing and new buildings of public assembly incorporate adequate fire protection measures to reduce the potential loss of life and property in accordance with state and local codes and ordinances.
Policy 6.C.7	The County shall encourage fire protection agencies to continue education programs in schools; service clubs, organized groups, industry, utility companies, government agencies, press, radio, and television in order to increase public awareness of fire hazards within the county.
Policy 6.C.8	The County shall work with local fire protection agencies, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the U.S. Forest Service to promote the maintenance of existing fuel breaks and emergency access routes for effective fire suppression.
Policy 6.C.9	The County shall encourage and promote installation and maintenance of smoke detectors in existing residences and commercial facilities that were constructed prior to the requirement for their installation.
Policy 6.C.10	The County shall continue to work cooperatively with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and local fire protection agencies in managing wildland fire hazards.

Source: Madera County General Plan Policy Document, October 24, 1995.

**Fresno County General Plan.**

The Health and Safety Element of the Fresno County General Plan contains goals and policies pertaining to fire, and emergency management and response. Table 4.14-2 highlights policies and goals with respect to fire and emergency services within Fresno County.

**Fresno County Fire Protection District Fire District Master Plan**

The Fresno County Fire Protection District (FCFPD) Fire District Master Plan (Fire Master Plan) of 2007 is intended to provide the foundation to pull together and coordinate the District’s efforts to maintain and improve the level of service provided to the people of the Fire District, and Fresno County. The Fire Master Plan is to be used for rational decision making with respect to development and operation within the FCFPD.

**Fresno County Municipal Code**

Chapter 15.60, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations of the County, require that minimum fire requirements of the California Fire Code be adhered to, which includes plan review of development plans to ensure minimum standards for fire safety are met prior to building permit issuance.

Chapter 15.64, Fire District Development Impact Mitigation Fees, requires developers to pay impact mitigation fees for the purpose of funding fire facilities within Fresno County in order to maintain fire protection services at acceptable levels.

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**TABLE 4.14-2 FRESNO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

<b>Policy/Goal Number</b>	<b>Policy/Goal</b>
<i>Goal HS-A</i>	<i>To protect health and safety by preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the effects of natural or technological disasters.</i>
Policy HS-A.1	The County shall, through the Fresno County Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan, maintain the capability to effectively respond to emergency incidents, including maintenance of an emergency operations center.
Policy HS-A.2	The County shall, within its authority and to the best of its ability, ensure that emergency dispatch centers, emergency operations centers, communications systems, vital utilities, and other essential public facilities necessary for the continuity of government are designed in a manner that will allow them to remain operational during and following an earthquake or other disaster.
Policy HS-A.3	The County shall ensure that the siting of critical emergency response facilities such as hospitals, fire stations, sheriffs' offices and substations, dispatch centers, emergency operations centers, and other emergency service facilities and utilities are sited and designed to minimize their exposure and susceptibility to flooding, seismic and geological effects, fire, avalanche, and explosions as required by State regulations. Exception to this policy shall be allowed on the condition that the only alternative location would be so distant as to jeopardize the safety of the community, given that precautions are taken to protect the facility.
Policy HS-A.4	The County shall continue to conduct programs to inform the general public of emergency preparedness and disaster response procedures.
<i>Goal HS-B</i>	<i>To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, and damage to property and natural resources resulting from fire hazards.</i>
Policy HS-B.1	The County shall review project proposals to identify potential fire hazards and to evaluate the effectiveness of preventative measures to reduce the risk to life and property.
Policy HS-B.2	The County shall ensure that development in high fire hazard areas is designed and constructed in a manner that minimizes the risk from fire hazards and meets all applicable State and County fire standards. Special consideration shall be given to the use of fire-resistant construction in the underside of eaves, balconies, unenclosed roofs and floors, and other similar horizontal surfaces in areas of steep slopes.
Policy HS-B.3	The County shall require that development in high fire hazard areas have fire-resistant vegetation, cleared fire breaks separating communities or clusters of structures from native vegetation, or a long-term comprehensive vegetation and fuel management program. Fire hazard reduction measures shall be incorporated into the design of development projects in fire hazard areas.
Policy HS-B.4	The County shall require that foothill and mountain subdivisions of more than four (4) parcels provide for safe and ready access for fire and other emergency equipment, for routes of escape that will safely handle evacuations, and for roads and streets designed to be compatible with topography while meeting fire safety needs.
Policy HS-B.5	The County shall require development to have adequate access for fire and emergency vehicles and equipment. All major subdivisions shall have a minimum of two (2) points of ingress and egress.
Policy HS-B.6	The County shall work with local fire protection agencies, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the U.S. Forest Service to promote the maintenance of existing fuel breaks and emergency access routes for effective fire suppression and in managing wildland fire hazards.

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**TABLE 4.14-2 FRESNO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Policy/Goal Number	Policy/Goal
Policy HS-B.7	The County shall require that community fire breaks be coordinated with overall fire break plans developed by the foothill and mountain fire agencies. Firebreak easements in subdivisions of more than four parcels or in built-up areas shall include access for firefighting personnel and motorized equipment. Easements shall be dedicated for this purpose.
Policy HS-B.8	The County shall refer development proposals in the unincorporated county to the appropriate local fire agencies for review of compliance with fire safety standards. If dual responsibility exists, both agencies shall review and comment relative to their area of responsibility. If standards are different or conflicting, the more stringent standards shall apply.
Policy HS-B.9	The County shall require that provisions for establishing year-round fire protection in foothill and mountain areas are developed where concentrations of population are such that structural fire protection is needed.
Policy HS-B.10	The County shall ensure that existing and new buildings of public assembly incorporate adequate fire protection measures to reduce potential loss of life and property in accordance with State and local codes and ordinances.
Policy HS-B.11	The County shall require new development to have water systems that meet County flow requirements. Where minimum fire flow is not available to meet County standards, alternate fire protection measures, including sprinkler systems, shall be identified and may be incorporated into development if approved by the appropriate fire protection agency.
Policy HS-B.12	The County shall promote installation and maintenance of smoke detectors in existing residences and commercial facilities that were constructed prior to the requirement for their installation.
Policy HS-B.13	The County shall work with local fire agencies to develop high-visibility fire prevention programs, including education programs and voluntary home inspections.

Source: Fresno County General Plan, October 2000.

**City of Fresno General Plan**

The Public Services, and Health and Safety Element, of the City of Fresno General Plan contain policies relevant to fire and protection services. Table 4.14-3 lists policies with respect to fire safety and protection services.

**City of Fresno Municipal Code**

Section 12-4.508, UGM Fire Stations, allows for fees to be collected to maintain fire facilities within the Urban Growth Management Area.

Chapter 10, Article 5, Fire Prevention, of the Municipal Code pertains to ordinances and requirements with respect to fire safety in the City of Fresno. Fees for fire inspections, fire system requirements, and plan review are some of the major components of the chapter.

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**TABLE 4.14-3 CITY OF FRESNO GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

<b>Policy/Objective Number</b>	<b>Policy/Objective</b>
Objective E-25	Ensure that fire protection, emergency medical and all emergency services are provided in an adequate, efficient and cost effective manner.
Policy E-25-a	Utilize the procedures and criteria contained within the Urban Growth Management (UGM) Policy and Ordinance to provide an equitable means through which the provision of fire service can be addressed throughout the UGM area including the planned North and Southeast Growth Areas.
Policy E-25-b	Pursue long-range transfer of fire protection service agreements with adjacent fire districts that, in concert with existing instant aid agreements, will lead to the eventual unification of fire protection services in the metropolitan area of Fresno.
Policy E-25-d	Develop appropriate standards, as necessary, for rescue operations including, but not limited to, confined space and swift water rescues.
Objective E-26	Ensure that the Fire Department's staffing and equipment resources are sufficient to implement all requests for fire and emergency service from the citizens of Fresno.
Policy E-26-a	Use adopted general plan and specific plans, the city's GIS database, and the fire station location program to achieve optimum siting of future fire stations. For those station sites identified by the 2025 General Plan Land Use and Circulation Map [Exhibit 4 of the City of Fresno General Plan] but not yet acquired by the city, the underlying alternative land uses shown on Table 5 [of the City of Fresno General Plan] shall be applied. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The siting of any additional new station locations to serve future development such as the North and Southeast Growth Areas shall occur through the applicable community or specific plan adoption/amendment process.</li> </ul>
Policy E-26-b	Provide for an average response time of not more than five minutes for all emergency requests for service within the metropolitan area.
Objective E-27	Enhance the level of fire protection to meet the increasing demand for services from an increasing population. Achieve a better fire insurance rating by augmenting human and equipment resources.
Policy E-27-a	Continue fire prevention inspections of industrial, commercial and various institutional residential establishments.
Policy E-27-c	Continue Fire Department review of all development proposals in order to ensure the inclusion of adequate on-site and off-site fire protection provisions.
Policy E-27-e	Continue to ensure that adequate water supplies and hydrants are available for fire suppression within all existing urban areas as well as newly developing areas.
Policy E-27-f	Investigate and implement methods to generate fees to off-set the ongoing personnel and maintenance costs of providing fire protection.
Objective I-1	Maintain a high level of fire protection for large and tall structures constructed in the City of Fresno.
Objective I-2	Ensure the public's health, safety, and welfare by implementing appropriate controls and emergency response capability to deal with those materials that, because of their quantity, concentration, physical or chemical characteristics, pose a significant present or potential hazard to human health, safety, or the environment.
Policy I-2-a	Maintain and enforce the latest adopted California Building Code and Uniform Fire Code standards to ensure safe processing and storage of hazardous materials.
Policy I-2-b	Maintain a close liaison with the Fresno County Environmental Health Department, Cal-EPA Division of Toxics, and the State Office of Emergency Services to assist in developing and maintaining hazardous material business plans, inventory statements, risk management prevention plans, and contingency/emergency response action plans.

Source: City of Fresno 2025 General Plan, February 1, 2002.

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### Existing Setting

Fire protection services within the Parkway Plan Area are shared between multiple fire departments and fire protection districts depending on which area requests fire protection services. The Parkway Plan Area is not within the immediate area of a State Responsibility Area. There are numerous fire stations along the Parkway that operate under the Madera County Fire Department, Fresno County Fire Protection District, and the City of Fresno Fire Department. Although distinct districts have specified service boundaries,

all districts provide mutual aid to offset resource shortages in the event of emergencies.<sup>2</sup> This section describes existing conditions of the abovementioned fire districts as they relate to providing fire protection services in the Parkway Plan Area. For purposes of this discussion, only the fire departments in close proximity to the Parkway Plan Area will be analyzed.

#### *Madera County Fire Department<sup>3</sup>*

The Madera County Fire Department (MCFD) provides fire and emergency services to all unincorporated areas of Madera County. The MCFD consists of 17 fire stations, a fleet of 56 fire suppression apparatus and vehicles, and a staff of 32 career fire suppression personnel, 175 paid call firefighters, and 7 support personnel.

The 32 career fire suppression personnel are provided through a contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and other personnel, such as clerical and automotive support, are County employees. Through a mutual aid agreement, the MCFD also provides fire protection services to the City of Madera and has a cooperative agreement with the Central California Women's Facility for support services in the north end of Madera County. Although the MCFD is comprised of 17 fire stations, Station #9 Rolling Hills is the closest station to the San Joaquin River Parkway. Station #9 is located just west of Highway 41 in the Rolling Hills residential neighborhood, and approximately 2.2 miles from the San Joaquin River at its closest point.

The Rolling Hills Fire Station (Station #9) is staffed 24 hours a day by a full time career Fire Captain or Fire Apparatus Engineer and augmented by paid call firefighters.

#### *Fresno County Fire Protection District<sup>4,5</sup>*

Established in 1949, the Fresno County Fire Protection District (FCFPD) is one of five Special Districts providing fire protection to the unincorporated areas of Fresno County. Of the Special Districts, the FCFPD is the largest covering approximately 2,655 square miles, or 50 percent of Fresno County. The FCFPD covers the Cities of Parlier, Mendota, Huron, San Joaquin and the rural communities of Tranquility, Del Rey, Caruthers, Easton, Malaga, Friant, Cantua Creek, Calwa, Prather, Sand Creek, and Wonder Valley.

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<sup>2</sup> Fresno County Fire Protection District, FCFPD Master Plan, page 19.

<sup>3</sup> Madera County Fire Department, <http://www.madera-county.com/index.php/departments/links-to-departments/141-fire-department>, accessed April 20, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Fresno County Fire Protection District, 2008-2012 Strategic Plan.

<sup>5</sup> Fresno County Fire Protection District, FCFPD Master Plan.

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In cooperation with CAL FIRE, the FCFPD provides all-risk emergency service from 13 District-staffed fire stations and five District-paid call firefighter stations. Stations are operate with a minimum of 2 to 3 career firefighters on duty daily, totaling 48 firefighters on duty at any given time. Firefighters provide services consisting of fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue, and fire prevention to the approximately 240,000 people living within the 2,655-square-mile service area. Each year the FCFPD responds to over 14,700 incidents, of which approximately 8,000, or 68 percent, are medical emergencies. All FCFPD personnel are emergency medical technicians (EMTs), so that they are able to provide basic life support when responding to emergencies.

As stated in the Fresno County Fire Protection District's *2008-2012 Strategic Plan*, there's a ratio of one station per 148 square miles, which results in an average response time of 13.9 minutes.<sup>6</sup> Fire apparatus include 18 engines, 1 ladder truck, 1 rescue vehicle, 6 water tenders, and 2 support vehicles. The FCFPD operated with a budget of \$17,462,301 for the 2012/2013 fiscal year.<sup>7</sup>

The closest station to the Parkway is Millerton Station 72, located directly adjacent to the San Joaquin River and at the base of the Friant Dam. Response time targets include responding to urban areas within 5 minutes, suburban areas within 15 minutes, and rural areas within 20 minutes. Response time for Station 72 is estimated between 8 and 10 minutes.

The FCFPD has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating, or a classification number (which determines level of protection services related to a structures proximity to a fire station used to determine fire insurance rates) of 5 for the West zone, and 8b for the East zone. The higher the ISO rating, on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the highest), the further an area or structure is from a fire station. The ISO rating can be used for determining where and when a new fire station could be warranted as a result of growth.

According to the FCFPD Master Plan, the District has four areas (none of them in the vicinity of the Parkway Plan Area) that do not meet service levels established by the District. Those areas are:

- The Interstate 5 Corridor located near western Fresno County and near Highway 33.
- North-West Fresno County west of Firebaugh and north of Panoche to the Madera and Merced County lines.
- Five Points located in south-western Fresno County.
- Riverdale-Laton which is in the south-western region of Fresno County.

### *Fresno Fire Department<sup>8</sup>*

The Fresno Fire Department (FFD) is one of the oldest fire departments in the U.S., having been established in 1877. The FFD serves a population of more than 500,000 residents in the City of Fresno with 24 fire stations, including the Airport Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Station. Services provided by the FFD include emergency response to fire, medical emergencies, search and rescue, and hazardous materials incidents.

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<sup>6</sup> Fresno County Fire Protection District, 2008-2012 Strategic Plan, page 6.

<sup>7</sup> Fresno County Fire Protection District, 2012-2013 budget.

<sup>8</sup> City of Fresno website, <https://www.fresno.gov/fire/fire-suppression/>, accessed April 20, 2017.

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The FFD employs 292 firefighters distributed throughout the 24 stations. Fire suppression apparatus includes 19 engines, 5 ladder trucks, 2 water tenders, 2 brush-type apparatus, 2 type-1 hazmat apparatus, 2 patrol-type apparatus, 1 rescue truck, 2 personal watercrafts, and 2 aircraft rescue apparatus. The FFD is divided into three districts, each supervised by 1 battalion chief. On an average day, there are approximately 66 firefighters on duty. The FFD had an operating budget of just under \$67 million dollars for the 2012/2013 fiscal year.<sup>9</sup>

In 2012, FFD responded to 35,649 emergency incidents, of which 2,423 were fire-related calls. The stations closest to the Parkway are Station #2 at 5544 N. Fresno, Station #13 at 815 E. Nees, and Station #17 at 10512 N. Maple. According to the FFD Strategic Plan, the department had an ISO rating of 3 in 2007, and was expected to improve to an ISO 2 with improvements outlined in the Strategic Plan, which would include additional staffing, and more resources. Additionally, the FFD has the following benchmarks for response times of the first-arriving unit:

- Fire Suppression: Arrive within 4 minutes / 90 percent of the time
- EMS: Arrive within 4 minutes / 90 percent of the time
- Hazardous Materials: Arrive within 4 minutes / 90 percent of the time
- Urban Search and Rescue: Arrive within 4 minutes / 90 percent of the time
- Aircraft Rescue Firefighting: Arrive within 3 minutes / 100 percent of the time

### 4.14.1.2 STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed Project would have a significant impact related to fire protection and emergency services if:

1. In order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire services, the project would result in a need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction or operation of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

### 4.14.1.3 IMPACT DISCUSSION

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<b>PS-1</b>	<b>The proposed Project would not result in the provision of or need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction or operation of which could cause significant environmental impacts.</b>
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As mentioned above, the Parkway Plan Area's approximately 23-mile reach is provided fire protection and emergency services from the Madera County Fire Department (MCFD), Fresno County Fire Protection District (FCFPD), and the City of Fresno Fire Department (FFD). Although the districts have defined boundaries of coverage, each district participates in some form of mutual aid agreement in order to protect the public in the event of an emergency or fire hazard. The Parkway Plan Area has five fire stations (four on the Fresno County side, and one on the Madera County side) within close proximity.

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<sup>9</sup> Fresno Fire Department, 2008/2009 – 2012/2013 Strategic Plan, page 26.

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Although the proposed Project would not generate residential or commercial development, and therefore would not increase the population in the Parkway Plan Area, impacts associated with the proposed Plan could result from an increase in visitors and recreational activities along the Parkway Plan Area. An increase in service calls related to a potential increase in medical emergencies and/or fire hazards could impact existing fire protection and emergency services.

As described in Chapter 3, Project Description, the proposed Project is intended to be a long-range Plan to guide future development incrementally and in phases throughout many years. This would result in a gradual increase in visitors concurrent with growth in the communities' populations, and distributing any potential impacts to fire protection and emergency services over the course of many years. Although buildout of the proposed Project is difficult to predict given that the proposed Plan is conceptual and programmatic, it is estimated that at buildout there could be nearly 23 public entrance points, and roughly 23 miles of multi-use trails at 15 feet wide, and 150 miles of other trails at 6-12 feet wide. Impacts related to using trails for biking, hiking, and walking could include an increase in visitor injuries, thereby increasing the amount of calls needing emergency medical and fire protection services. Additional public entrances and parking areas could increase the potential of auto-related accidents, which could also impact existing emergency medical and fire protection services. Although impacts could result in an increase to calls, under CEQA, an impact would be considered significant only if those impacts resulted in the need for new or expanded fire stations, of which the construction could result in environmental impacts.

There are numerous policies and goals in each jurisdiction's general plan and municipal code, as shown in the Regulatory Setting above, that seek to ensure an adequate response time, with respect to fire protection and emergency services, based on existing facilities. Such goals, policies, and ordinances include some type of development review on a project-specific basis. Through these mechanisms, the local agencies plan and provide for public services to accommodate growth and meet community needs. Additionally, the following policies contained in the proposed Project would ensure adequate safety and improve emergency access for future Parkway facilities:

### Operations, Management, and Implementation

#### Policies:

- ACCESS.8 Design and build the continuous multi-use trail sufficiently wide and structurally sound to permit the passage of patrol, rescue, fire, and maintenance vehicles.
- AIR.4 Work with other agencies to perform fire prevention thinning, weed abatement on property boundaries and access roads.
- OPER.5 Coordinate in the development and implementation of a public safety operational plan for the Parkway with all affected state and local law enforcement agencies that addresses, but is not limited to, emergency response planning, coordination with public safety and response agencies, park closures due to high flows and other hazards. Overall, the proposed Project would result in an increase to visitors to the Parkway; however, existing ordinances, policies, and goals, along with the policies of the proposed Project, would ensure fire prevention and response services and facilities would remain adequate to serve the planned Parkway. Also, any project resulting from implementation of the proposed Project would be subject to independent CEQA review in which

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project specific impacts would then be considered. Therefore, the impacts of the proposed Project would be *less than significant*.

### **Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:**

- California Building Code
- California Fire Code
- Madera County General Plan
- Madera County Municipal Code, Chapters 2.32 and 15.02
- Fresno County General Plan
- Fresno County Municipal Code, Chapters 15.60 and 15.64
- City of Fresno 2025 General Plan
- City of Fresno Municipal Code, Section 12-4.508 and Chapter 10

**Significance Without Mitigation:** Less than significant.

### 4.14.1.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

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PS-2	The proposed Project, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, would result in less than significant cumulative impacts with respect to fire protection service.
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There are a number of residential and commercial developments that are within the vicinity of the Parkway Plan Area and, therefore, must be considered with respect to cumulative impacts. Buildout of local general plans could result in thousands of acres developed, and the addition of thousands of dwelling units and residents. Impacts to fire protection and emergency services could result in increased calls for service, and therefore could result in the need for additional fire stations for which construction could result in environmental impacts. However, the future Parkway projects to be developed through implementation of the proposed Plan will undergo further independent CEQA review which will analyze project-specific impacts to ensure the project would not result in environmental impacts to fire protection and emergency services. It is assumed each project will comply with applicable goals, policies, and ordinances of the respective jurisdictions which are designed to protect public services and to accommodate growth.

Therefore, adherence to existing policies and ordinances aimed at protecting public safety and maintaining adequate response times, along with the provision of subsequent independent CEQA review for specific projects, cumulative impacts of the proposed Project would be *less than significant*.

### **Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:**

- California Building Code
- California Fire Code
- Madera County General Plan
- Madera County Municipal Code, Chapters 2.32 and 15.02

- Fresno County General Plan
- Fresno County Municipal Code, Chapters 15.60 and 15.64
- City of Fresno 2025 General Plan
- City of Fresno Municipal Code, Section 12-4.508 and Chapter 10

**Significance Without Mitigation:** Less than significant.

## 4.14.2 POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES

This section describes the existing conditions related to police services and the potential impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed Plan.

### 4.14.2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### Regulatory Framework

##### *Parkway Master Plan Policies*

The Conservancy will implement its mission and the Parkway Master Plan in a manner consistent with its adopted Parkway Master Plan goals, objectives, policies, design guidelines, and best management practices (BMPs) to the extent practicable.

##### *Local Regulations and Policies*

The Conservancy is the lead agency responsible for preparing, approving, and implementing the proposed Parkway Master Plan. The Conservancy may assist other government agencies and nonprofit organizations in implementing elements of the proposed Plan. The Conservancy's authorities and jurisdiction are described in Chapter 3, Project Description. Local land use policies relevant to Parkway development and implementation are discussed in this section.

##### Madera County General Plan

The Madera County General Plan contains policies relating to police protection services in the Noise, and Health Safety sections. Relevant policies can be found in Table 4.14-4 below.

##### Madera County Municipal Code

Chapter 15.02, Public Facilities Fees, requires that mitigation fees be paid for impacts caused by new development in order to maintain and implement the goals and objectives of the County General Plan. These fees ensure that new development pays its fair share for improvement that may be needed to maintain or construct new public facilities as a result of any increased demand for those services.

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**TABLE 4.14-4 MADERA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES**

Policy/Goal Number	Policy/Goal
Goal 6.F	To protect public health and safety through safe location of structures necessary for the protection of public safety and/or the provision of emergency services.
Policy 6.F.1	The County shall seek to locate new public facilities necessary for emergency response, health care, and other critical functions outside areas subject to natural hazards.
Policy 6.F.2	The County shall, within its authority, ensure that emergency dispatch centers, emergency operations centers, communications systems, vital utilities, and other essential public facilities necessary for the continuity of government be designed in a manner that will allow them to remain operational during and following an earthquake or other disaster.

Source: Madera County General Plan, October 24, 1995.

**Fresno County General Plan**

The Health and Safety Element of the Fresno County General Plan has policies that ensure that police protection services remain at acceptable levels. Table 4.14-5 show the policies and goals as they pertain to police protection and safety.

**TABLE 4.14-5 FRESNO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES**

Policy / Goal Number	Policy/Goal
Policy HS-A.2	The County shall, within its authority and to the best of its ability, ensure that emergency dispatch centers, emergency operations centers, communications systems, vital utilities, and other essential public facilities necessary for the continuity of government are designed in a manner that will allow them to remain operational during and following an earthquake or other disaster.
Policy HS-A.3	The County shall ensure that the siting of critical emergency response facilities such as hospitals, fire stations, sheriffs' offices and substations, dispatch centers, emergency operations centers, and other emergency service facilities and utilities are sited and designed to minimize their exposure and susceptibility to flooding, seismic and geological effects, fire, avalanche, and explosions as required by State regulations. Exception to this policy shall be allowed on the condition that the only alternative location would be so distant as to jeopardize the safety of the community, given that precautions are taken to protect the facility.
Policy HS-A.4	The County shall continue to conduct programs to inform the general public of emergency preparedness and disaster response procedures.

Source: Fresno County General Plan, October 2000.

**Fresno County Municipal Code**

Chapter 17.90, Public Facilities Impact Fees and Schedule of Fees, sets forth the requirement that, prior to the issuance of a building permit, fees must be paid to mitigate the potential impacts to public facilities.

## City of Fresno General Plan

The Public Facilities Element of the City of Fresno General Plan establishes objectives and sets policies to ensure police protection services are adequate to protect the citizens of the City of Fresno. Policies and objectives with respect to police protection are found below in Table 4.14-6.

## City of Fresno Municipal Code

As set forth in Article 4.8, Police Facilities Fees, in the City of Fresno Municipal Code, impact fees must be paid to mitigate impacts caused by future development. Collected fees help to maintain existing police facilities, as well as fund the potential of future new facilities.

## Existing Setting

The Parkway Plan Area is served by the Madera County Sheriff's Department (MCSD), the Fresno County Sheriff's Department (FCSD), and the City of Fresno Police Department (FPD).

### *Madera County Sheriff's Department*

The Madera County Sheriff's Department (MCSD) provides protection throughout Madera County through three divisions, including the Valley Division, Mountain Division, and Administrative Division. The MCSD operates under various units, listed below:

- Ag Crime Unit: 2 full time Sheriff's Detectives
- Community Outreach: 2 Community Service Officers
- Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT): 20 full time member (10 Deputies, 8 Madera City Police Department Officers, 2 Chowchilla Police Department Officers)
- Dive Team: 7 Officers, and 2 Search and Rescue volunteers

Additional units include the Off-Highway Vehicle Unit, Search and Rescue Unit, and Office of Emergency Services.

### *Fresno County Sheriff's Department*<sup>10</sup>

The Fresno County Sheriff's Department (FCSD) provides law enforcement services to a population of almost 1 million residents throughout the unincorporated areas of Fresno County, patrols more than 6,000 square miles consisting of open farmland to mountain peaks over 11,000 feet in elevation, and employs nearly 1,000, including staff, support personnel, sheriffs, and specialty units.

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<sup>10</sup> Fresno County Sheriff Department, website, <http://www.fresnosheriff.org/>, accessed April 20, 2017.

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

**TABLE 4.14-6 CITY OF FRESNO GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES**

Policy/Objective Number	Policy/Objective
Objective E-24	Provide the level of law enforcement and crime prevention services necessary to maintain a safe, secure, and stable urban living environment through a police department that is dedicated to providing professional, ethical, efficient and innovative service with integrity, consistency and pride.
Policy E-24-a	<p>Maintain an organization that is sensitive and responsive to the needs of a diverse community, recognizing and accepting its responsibility to provide a safe environment for the citizens of Fresno.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strive to increase ethnic diversity and gender representation of the law enforcement workforce to reflect the composition of the Fresno community.</li> <li>▪ Maintain active involvement in youth development and delinquency prevention activities.</li> <li>▪ Collaborate with community-based public, non-profit or private agencies to develop comprehensive narcotics and violence prevention programs designed to discourage delinquent behavior and narcotics abuse, and to encourage viable alternative behaviors.</li> </ul>
Policy E-24.b	<p>Facilitate Police Department participation in the implementation of general plan policies, including citizen participation efforts, the application of crime prevention design measures to reduce the exposure of neighborhoods to nonresidents and to promote community surveillance of common areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facilitate police department communication with citizen advisory committees.</li> <li>▪ Refer all land use and development proposals to the Police Department for review and comment.</li> <li>▪ Include recommendations for crime prevention design and operational measure as conditions of project approval.</li> </ul>
Policy E.24.c	Continue to identify and apply appropriate safety design and operational measures as conditions of development entitlement approval including but not limited to access control measures, lighting and visibility of access points and common areas, functional and secure on-site recreational and open space improvements within residential developments, and utilization of private "certified" security services.
Policy E-24.d	Maximize communication and cooperative efforts with residents and businesses in order to identify crime problems and to optimize the effectiveness of crime prevention measures and law enforcement programs.
Policy E-24.e	Maximize coordination between the Police Department and the Sheriff's Department to address crime problems in neighborhoods divided by the city's incorporated boundary and continue to explore opportunities for combining and consolidating services when it provides means to improve the level of law enforcement provided to the community.
Policy E-24.f	<p>Identify and pursue measures and methods to improve law enforcement services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implement a process which provides for Police Department Review and approval of major events including concerts, sports contests, community celebrations, exhibitions and other events generating large attendances which will ensure that adequate event staffing is provided to maintain crowd control, traffic safety and to meet law enforcement needs on and off-site.</li> <li>▪ Establish at least one Problem Oriented Policing (POP)/TAC office in each policing area.</li> <li>▪ Consider utilization of alternative means of patrol and apprehension such as air support (helicopter or other aircraft), foot patrol or bicycle and horse mounted patrol.</li> <li>▪ Maintain a long-range law enforcement budget planning program to identify revenue and expenditure trends and establish funding mechanisms (including but not limited to the consideration of assessment districts) to address revenue deficiencies.</li> </ul>

Source: City of Fresno 2025 General Plan, February 1, 2002.

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The FCSD operates under four Detail Areas of Fresno County, of which the Parkway Plan Area would be served by Area 2. Area 2 is served by 5 detectives, and 4 Patrol Training Officers as well as a fluctuating number of entry-level field deputies during training, and totals more than 50 patrol deputies department-wide. The FCSD also has mutual aid agreements with neighboring enforcement agencies to respond to major emergencies and specialized rescues in the event another agency has the resources; however, FCSD deputies provide all levels of law enforcement from day-to-day duties to assisting in major emergencies.

The FCSD fleet consists of over 500 pieces of equipment including: numerous patrol and support vehicles, off road motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), trailers, and equipment used in rescue operations, such as dive equipment and Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) equipment. The FCSD consists of the following units:

- **Agriculture Task Force:** 1 Sheriff Lieutenant, 1 Sheriff Sergeant, 7 Sheriff Detectives, 1 CHP Officer, and 1 Deputy District Attorney.
- **Air Support Unit:** 2 Pilot, and 2 Flight Officers.
- **Dive Team:** 12 Deputy Sheriffs.
- **Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD):** 1 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant, 1 Deputy IV, and 1 K-9.
- **Auto Theft Task Force:** 1 California Highway Patrol (CHP) Lieutenant Commander, 1 CHP Sergeant/Supervisor, and 10 investigators/detectives from the FCSD, National Insurance Crime Bureau and City of Fresno Police Department.
- **Mounted Patrol Unit:** 1 Sergeant, and 4 Reserve Deputies.

Other units include an Off-Road Vehicle Safety Team, Boating Enforcement Unit, and a Search and Rescue Unit which is comprised of volunteers that range in expertise including mountaineering, horse-back riding, off-roading, and air support.

According to Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics (UCR), FCSD had a reported 825 violent crimes and 5,248 property related crimes, such as burglary and theft, in 2012.

### *City of Fresno Police Department*

The Fresno Police Department (FPD) provides police protection throughout the city of Fresno and functions with the following units:

- Traffic Enforcement Unit: 76 officers.
- Skywatch: 1 Police Helicopter Pilot Chief, 1 Police Helicopter Command Pilot, 1 civilian Helicopter Command Pilot, 3 Police Helicopter Tactical Flight Officers, 1 Police Sergeant Fixed-Wing Command Pilot, 1 part-time Police Sergeant Fixed-Wing Command Pilot, 1 Police Captain, and 2 civilian mechanics.
- Mounted Patrol: 8 Reserve Police Officers, and 5 collateral duty Police Officers, and 7 horses.
- K-9 Units: 14 patrol dogs, 4 cross-trained narcotics detection, and 3 cross-trained explosive ordinance.
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit (EOD): 6 technicians.

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- Auto Theft Task Force: 5 CHP officers, 1 CHP Sergeant, 5 FPD officers, 1 FPD Sergeant, 1 Fresno County Sheriff's Deputy, 1 DMV Investigator, and 1 National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) Special Agent.
- Internal Affairs Bureau: 1 secretary, 4 investigator sergeants, and 1 lieutenant.
- Records Bureau: 1 Bureau Manager, multiple supervisors, senior administrative clerks, administrative clerks, and transcriptionists.
- Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT): 26 members who also serve as regular FPD officers.

### *California State Parks*

In addition to being provided public safety services over the routine course of duties from the MCSD, FCSD, and FPD, Friant Cove is patrolled by California State Park Rangers through a contract with the Conservancy. The California Department of Parks and Recreation employs over 600 peace officers throughout the state at various locations, including the nearby station at Millerton Lake State Recreation Area.<sup>11</sup>

#### 4.14.2.2 STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed Project would have a significant impact related to police protection services if:

1. In order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police services, the Plan would result in a need for new or physically altered police facilities, the construction or operation of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

#### 4.14.2.3 IMPACT DISCUSSION

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PS-3	<b>The proposed Project would not result in the provision of or need for new or physically altered police facilities, the construction or operation of which could cause significant environmental impacts.</b>
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Implementation of the proposed Project would result in a significant impact if it would result in the provision of or a need for new or physically altered police facilities, the construction or operation of which could cause a significant environmental impact. The proposed Project would introduce new facilities and structures within the Parkway Plan Area associated with low impact recreational activities, such as canoeing, kayaking, hiking, biking, and walking and would result in additional visitors.

Because no specific projects are proposed in the proposed Plan and the specific locations of any future facilities are unknown, an analysis of site-specific, project-specific policing impacts was not performed for this Draft EIR. Any future development that would result from implementation of the proposed Project would be required to comply with CEQA to identify project-level impacts and mitigation measures. Implementation of the proposed

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<sup>11</sup> California Department of Parks and Recreation, [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24134](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24134), accessed April 20, 2017.

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Project is expected to result in an increase to visitors to the Parkway engaging in low impact recreational activities, such as hiking, biking, kayaking and canoeing, fishing, camping, and picnicking, all of which could result in an increased demand for police protection services. However, potential increases in the visitor population would occur throughout the life of the Project and gradually, which would allow local jurisdictions to accommodate any increases in calls for service over a period of time. Mutual aid agreements also allow for emergency calls to be responded to from the closest patrol unit or facility in the area, based on availability. Further, given that the Madera County Sheriff, Fresno County Sheriff, City of Fresno Police Department, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife game wardens cover the approximately 23-mile stretch of the Parkway, and are all trained at some level in water rescues, they would be capable of providing necessary services related to low impact recreational emergencies.

Several policies under the proposed Project would require coordination with local law enforcement agencies to ensure that public safety services are adequate to serve the visitors of the Parkway, as development is proposed. Those policies are:

**Operations, Management, and Implementation**

**Policies:**

- ACCESS.8 Design and build the continuous multi-use trail sufficiently wide and structurally sound to permit the passage of patrol, rescue, fire, and maintenance vehicles.
- OPER.13 Coordinate with game wardens and enforcement authorities to prevent and control undesirable activities and unlawful conduct in the Parkway. (NP9)
- OPER.14 Develop appropriate authorities, rules, regulations, and resources to supplement enforcement capacity. (NP9)
- OPER.15 Coordinate in the development and implementation of a public safety operational plan for the Parkway with all affected State and local law enforcement agencies that addresses, but is not limited to, emergency response planning, coordination with public safety and response agencies, park closures due to high flows and other hazards. (RFMP3)
- OPER.16 Develop and implement best management practices to encourage water safety.

In addition to policies listed above, each jurisdiction has policies within their General Plans to ensure an adequate and acceptable level of safety and emergency services are provided. For example, Madera County’s Goal 6.F, Policy 6.F.1, and Policy 6.F.2 require that facilities are adequate to continue to provide emergency services. Fresno County’s Policy HS-A.2, Policy HS-A.3, and Policy HS-A.4 also ensure protection services are adequate for residents and visitors within Fresno County. Future development under the jurisdiction of the City of Fresno would be required to comply with Objective E-24, Policy E-24-a, Policy E-24-b, Policy E-24-c, Policy E-24-d, and Policy E-24-f. Further, each jurisdiction also contains municipal code ordinances that establish the payment of facilities fees prior to issuing building permits which helps to provide adequate funding for the maintenance of

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existing facilities, and/or the expansion or construction of new facilities if such are needed to maintain adequate levels of protection services.

Because several policies under the proposed Project, local General Plans, State, and local laws, require that adequate protection services be provided, and because future projects under the proposed Project would require separate project-level CEQA analysis to further identify project-level impacts and mitigation measures, and because buildout would occur over many years and increased visitors would be distributed over a wide geographic area, the impacts of the proposed Project would be *less than significant*.

### **Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:**

- County of Madera General Plan (Goal 6.F, Policy 6.F.1, and Policy 6.F.2)
- County of Madera Municipal Code, Chapter 15.02, Public Facilities Fees
- County of Fresno General Plan (Policy HS-A.2, Policy HS-A.3, and Policy HS-A.4)
- County of Fresno Municipal Code, Chapter 17.90, Public Facilities Fees
- City of Fresno General Plan (Objective E-24, Policy E-24-a, Policy E-24-b, Policy E-24-c, Policy E-24-d, and Policy E-24-f)
- City of Fresno Municipal Code, Article 4.8, Public Facilities Fees

**Significance Without Mitigation:** Less than significant.

### 4.14.2.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

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PS-4	The proposed Project, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, would result in less than significant cumulative impacts with respect to police protection service.
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The proposed Project would have a significant impact if it resulted in the provision of or need for physically altered police facilities, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects. The geographic scope considered for this cumulative impact discussion is Madera County, Fresno County, and the City of Fresno. Although each jurisdiction's police protection agencies typically have a specific route or area of coverage depending on the location of the station, the potential exists that any officer would respond to emergencies considered to be out of a typical route or area of patrol. For that reason, projects throughout the Counties of Madera and Fresno, along with the City of Fresno, must be considered.

As discussed in impact discussion PS-3 above, the proposed Project is conceptual and, although the proposed Project identifies planned facilities and locations suitable for future facilities, no specific projects are being proposed within the Plan itself. The exact location of facilities and the extent to which future development would occur under the proposed Project would not be known until specific projects are proposed. Cumulative impacts that could result from buildout of the proposed Project would be related to an increase in visitors to the Parkway, which could result in more frequent calls requesting police services related, but not limited to, water-related emergencies, injuries sustained from hiking or biking, vandalism, and increased vehicle collisions and break-ins in parking areas.

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Additionally, Madera County has recent commercial and residential development adjacent to the Parkway Plan Area which would also result in the need for additional police services. The City of Fresno is largely built out in areas adjacent to the Parkway. The County of Fresno has approved Friant Ranch, which would include residential and commercial development and would increase the need for policing services. Although planned recreational development is expected to occur throughout the life of the proposed Project, an increase in the need for police protection services does not by itself result in a significant impact. Further, several policies under the proposed Plan would ensure that adequate police protection would be provided to serve the visitors of the Parkway. For example, compliance with the following policies would be required as future development occurs:

**Operations, Management, and Implementation**

**Policies:**

- OPER.13      Coordinate with game wardens and enforcement authorities to prevent and control undesirable activities and unlawful conduct in the Parkway. (NP9)
  
- OPER.14      Develop appropriate authorities, rules, regulations, and resources to supplement enforcement capacity. (NP9)
  
- OPER.15      Coordinate in the development and implementation of a public safety operational plan for the Parkway with all affected State and local law enforcement agencies that addresses, but is not limited to, emergency response planning, coordination with public safety and response agencies, park closures due to high flows and other hazards. (RFMP3)
  
- OPER.16      Develop and implement best management practices to encourage water safety.

Additional policies included in each jurisdiction’s General Plans also ensures that development be sufficiently covered with respect to police protection services prior to construction. Each jurisdiction also has its own ordinances to ensure adequate funding through the implementation of public services development impact fees out towards the maintenance of existing facilities. Therefore, cumulative impacts would be *less than significant*.

**Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:**

- County of Madera General Plan (Goal 6.F, Policy 6.F.1, and Policy 6.F.2)
- County of Madera Municipal Code, Chapter 15.02, Public Facilities Fees
- County of Fresno General Plan (Policy HS-A.2, Policy HS-A.3, and Policy HS-A.4)
- County of Fresno Municipal Code, Chapter 17.90, Public Facilities Fees
- City of Fresno General Plan (Objective E-24, Policy E-24-a, Policy E-24-b, Policy E-24-c, Policy E-24-d, and Policy E-24-f)
- City of Fresno Municipal Code, Article 4.8, Public Facilities Fees

**Significance Without Mitigation:** Less than significant.

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### 4.14.3 PARKS AND RECREATION

This section describes the regulatory framework and existing conditions, and the potential for environmental impacts related to parks and recreation.

#### 4.14.3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

##### Regulatory Framework

###### *State Laws and Regulations*

###### The Quimby Act

Since the passage of the 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code, Section 66477), cities and counties have been authorized to pass an ordinance requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities.<sup>12</sup>

A 1982 amendment (AB 1600) requires agencies to clearly show a reasonable relationship between public need for the recreation facility or park land and the type of development project upon which the fee is imposed. Cities with a lower ratio can only require the provision of up to three acres of park space per thousand people. The calculation of a city's park space to population ratio is based on a comparison of the population count of the last federal census to the amount of city-owned parkland.

###### *Parkway Master Plan Policies*

The Conservancy will implement its mission and the Parkway Master Plan in a manner consistent with its adopted Parkway Master Plan goals, objectives, policies, design guidelines, and best management practices (BMPs) to the extent practicable.

###### *Local Regulations and Policies*

The Conservancy is the lead agency responsible for preparing, approving, and implementing the proposed Parkway Master Plan. The Conservancy may assist other government agencies and nonprofit organizations in implementing elements of the proposed Plan. The Conservancy's authorities and jurisdiction are described in Chapter 3, Project Description. Local land use policies relevant to Parkway development and implementation are discussed in this section.

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<sup>12</sup> Westrup, Laura, 2002. *Quimby Act 101: An Abbreviated Overview*, Sacramento: California Department of Parks and Recreation, <https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/quimby101.pdf>, accessed April 20, 2017.

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Madera County General Plan

Part II, Section 4, Recreational and Cultural Resources, establishes goals and policies to ensure adequate parkland and recreational services for the residents of Madera County. The policies listed below in Table 4.14-7 are relevant to parks and recreation.

**TABLE 4.14-7 MADERA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO PARKS AND RECREATION**

<b>Policy/Goal Number</b>	<b>Policy/Goal</b>
<i>Goal 4.A</i>	<i>To designate land for and promote the development and expansion of public and private recreational facilities to serve the needs of residents and visitors.</i>
Policy 4.A.2	The County shall promote the continued and expanded use of national forest, national park, and wilderness areas to meet the recreational needs of Madera County residents.
Policy 4.A.3	The County shall support and participate in the development of the San Joaquin River Parkway.
Policy 4.A.4	The County shall strive to achieve and maintain a standard of three acres of improved parkland per 1,000 population.
Policy 4.A.5	The County shall require the dedication of land and/or payment of fees, in accordance with local authority and state law (e.g., Quimby Act) to ensure funding for the acquisition and development of public recreation facilities. The fees are to be set and adjusted as necessary to provide for a level of funding that meets the actual cost to provide for all of the public parkland and park development needs generated by new development.
Policy 4.A.6	The County shall consider the creation of assessment districts, county service areas, community facilities districts, or other types of districts to generate funds for the acquisition and development of parkland to maintain and/or historical properties as development occurs in the country.
Policy 4.A.7	The County shall encourage federal, state, and local agencies currently providing recreation facilities to maintain, at a minimum, and improve, if possible, their current levels of service.
Policy 4.A.8	The County shall encourage the development of parks near public facilities such as schools, community halls, libraries, museums, prehistoric or historic sites, and open space areas and shall encourage joint-use agreements whenever possible.
Policy 4.A.9	The County shall encourage the development of public and private campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks where environmentally appropriate. The intensity of such development should not exceed the environmental carrying capacity of the site and its surroundings.
<i>Goal 4.B</i>	<i>To encourage development of private recreational facilities.</i>
Policy 4.B.1	The County shall encourage development of private recreation facilities to reduce demands on public agencies.
<i>Goal 4.C</i>	<i>To develop a system of interconnected hiking, riding, and bicycling trails and paths suitable for active recreation and transportation and circulation.</i>
Policy 4.C.1	The County shall support development of a countywide trail system.
Policy 4.C.2	The County shall encourage the preservation of linear open space along rail corridors and other public easements for future use as trails.
Policy 4.C.3	The County shall promote the development of a public trail system in connection with development of the San Joaquin River Parkway.

Source: Madera County General Plan, October 24, 1995.

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### **Madera County Municipal Code**

Chapter 15.03, Park and Recreational Facility Acquisition and Dedication, of the Madera County Municipal Code sets forth regulations to require the dedication or payment of in-lieu fees as mitigation for impacts associated with new development.

### **Fresno County General Plan**

The Open Space and Conservation Element of the Fresno County General Plan contain the policies and goals that pertain to parks and recreation in Fresno County, as listed in Table 4.14-8.

### **Fresno County Municipal Code**

Chapter 17.90, Public Facilities Impact Fees, of the Fresno County Municipal Code requires impact fees to be paid for new development for the purpose of maintaining and funding public facilities that may be impacted as a result of new development.

### **City of Fresno General Plan**

The Open Space and Recreation Element of the City of Fresno General Plan sets forth policies and objectives that the City seeks to achieve in order to maintain a sufficient network of parkland for its residents. Table 4.14-9 contains policies and objectives with respect to parks and recreation.

### **City of Fresno Municipal Code**

As set forth in Article 4.7, Park Facilities Fees, of the City of Fresno Municipal Code, development fees are assessed to help maintain and implement the goals of the City of Fresno General Plan.

## **Existing Setting**

The existing Parkway provides a wide range of opportunities to partake in low-impact recreational activities, including walking, hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, picnicking, camping, fishing, and swimming, to name a few. Accordingly, recreational activities can be accessed within the 23-mile reach of the Parkway; however, areas that typically experience heavier use surround the parking areas located at Friant Cove, Lost Lake Park, the Coke Hallowell River Center, Woodward Park, Wildwood Native Park, Sycamore Island, the Riverside Trailhead, and Camp Pashayan. Facilities include picnic tables, campsites, and canoe launches to a small golf course, habitat conservation areas, and nature observation points.

In total, over 1,000 acres of Conservancy lands are open for public use at least seasonally. The remaining approximately 1,500 acres of Conservancy lands are used by supervised stewardship and education groups through license agreements. Additional public lands that serve Parkway purposes include the County of Fresno's Lost Lake Park and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's San Joaquin Fish Hatchery and San Joaquin River Ecological Reserve, along with others. The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust provides public

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**TABLE 4.14-8 FRESNO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO PARKS AND RECREATION**

<b>Policy/ Goal Number</b>	<b>Policy/Goal</b>
Policy OS-D.8	The County should consider the acquisition of wetland, meadows, and riparian habitat areas for parks limited to passive recreational activities as a method of wildlife conservation.
<i>Goal OS-H</i>	<i>To designate land for and promote the development and expansion of public and private recreational facilities to serve the needs of residents and visitors.</i>
Policy OS-H.1	The County shall promote the continued and expanded use of national forest, national park, and other recreational areas to meet the recreational needs of County residents.
Policy OS-H.2	The County shall strive to maintain a standard of five (5) to eight (8) acres of County-owned improved parkland per one thousand (1,000) residents in the unincorporated areas.
Policy OS-H.3	The County shall require the dedication of land and/or payment of fees, in accordance with local authority and State law (e.g. Quimby Act), to ensure funding for the acquisition and development of public recreation facilities. The fees are to be set and adjusted, as necessary, to provide for a level of funding that meets the actual cost to provide for all the public parkland and park development needs generated by new development.
Policy OS-H.4	The County shall consider the use of existing entities or the creation of assessment districts, County service areas, community facilities districts, or other types of districts to generate funds for the acquisition and development of parkland and/or historical properties as development occurs in the county.
Policy OS-H.5	The County shall encourage federal, State, and local agencies currently providing recreation facilities to maintain, at a minimum, and improve, if possible, their current levels of service.
Policy OS-H.6	The County shall encourage the development of parks near public facilities such as schools, community halls, libraries, museums, prehistoric sites, and open space areas and shall encourage joint-use agreements whenever possible.
Policy OS-H.7	The County shall encourage the development of public and private campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks where environmentally appropriate. The intensity of such development should not exceed the environmental carrying capacity of the site and its surroundings.
Policy OS-H.8	The County shall encourage development of private recreation facilities to reduce demands on public agencies.
Policy OS-H.9	The County shall plan for further development of the Friant-Millerton area as a recreation corridor. (See Policy LU-H.8, Administration) [of the General Plan].
Policy OS-H.11	The County shall support the policies of the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan to protect the San Joaquin River as an aquatic habitat, recreational amenity, aesthetic resource, and water source.
Policy OS-H.12	The County shall in conjunction with the San Joaquin River Conservancy rehabilitate and improve existing recreation areas and facilities along the San Joaquin River at the earliest possible time, particularly Lost Lake and Skaggs Bridge Regional Parks.
Policy OS-H.14	The County shall encourage the development of recreation facilities in western Fresno County.
Policy OS-H.15	The County shall utilize retention-recharge basins as open space areas for parks and recreation purposes.

Source: Fresno County General Plan, October 2000.

recreation and conservation education at the Coke Hollowell River Center. Six miles of the primary Parkway multi-use trail on County of Fresno and City of Fresno land, designated as the Lewis S. Eaton Trail in and near Fresno, have also been completed.

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**TABLE 4.14-9 CITY OF FRESNO GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO PARKS AND RECREATION**

<b>Policy/Objective Number</b>	<b>Policy/Objective</b>
Goal 1	<i>Enhance the quality of life for citizens of Fresno and plan for the projected population within the moderately expanded Fresno urban boundary in a manner which will respect physical, environmental, fiscal, economic, and social issues.</i>
Goal 10	<i>Provide quality open space, park and recreation facilities and programs to support the projected population growth.</i>
Objective F-1	This general plan [City of Fresno 2025 General Plan] constitutes an update of the Master Parks Plan and will be used as a programmatic framework by the City of Fresno in order to ensure sufficient park facilities and to maintain a variety of meaningful and balanced recreational programs for residents for the upcoming 20-plus year planning horizon. This Master Parks Plan incorporates objectives, policies, open space land use designations, and trail alignments adopted in the land use and transportation topics of this general plan and in community and specific plans, ordinances, and resolutions of the City of Fresno.
Policy F-1-a	The Master Parks Plan (and any subsequent implementation plan for parks and recreation) should have the following characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It should meet the needs of the people of Fresno and make recreation more accessible to the public.</li> <li>▪ It will be consistent with, and integrated into, regional, community, and specific plans.</li> <li>▪ It should be simple to apply and attainable in the planning period with existing or projected funds.</li> <li>▪ It should ensure that the city's parks and recreation is coordinated with other recreational opportunities, other recreation providers, and other public services (such as education and transportation).</li> <li>▪ It should be amenable to revision as circumstances change.</li> </ul>
Policy F-1-b	Ensure that park and recreation planning is a continuous process, with a full review and evaluation of this master plan at least every ten years in order to consider changing priorities and conditions applicable to park acquisition, development, and operation.
Policy F-1.c	There will continue to be meaningful opportunities for citizen participation in the planning and development of park facilities and in creation of social, cultural, and recreational activities in the community.
Policy F-1.d	Provide for the continuing development of a public system to meet the community's need for both active and passive recreation with an adequate supply of recreational space, an appropriate mix of park types, and an equitable distribution of these facilities.
Policy F-1-e <sup>a</sup>	Public park types are classified as follows and are to be developed according to the standards specified: <b>The San Joaquin River Parkway.</b> This area is being developed into a "super-regional" park, serving not only the City, but residents of Fresno and Madera counties. Its unique recreational opportunities and ecological features also draw visitors from throughout the state. The parkway plan, discussed in detail in the Open Space/Recreational Element [of the City of Fresno 2025 General Plan], encompasses developed recreational sites, interpretive and educational sites, and natural habitat areas. Intercalated with the public portions of the parkway is private land used for recreation, agriculture, surface mining (and processing of extracted minerals), and other approved existing uses.
Policy F-1-f	The City of Fresno will continue to pursue implementation of an open space standard of 3.0 acres of public park land for every 1,000 persons residing in the city's planning area and will ensure the development of sufficient park land in areas designated for higher density. This park acreage standard includes the following components: Neighborhood Parks: 0.75 acres/1,000; Community Parks: 0.25 acres/1,000; Regional Parks: 2.00 acres/1,000. <b>TOTAL: 3.00 acres/1,000</b>
Objective F-2	Ensure that adequate land, in appropriate locations, is designated and acquired for park and recreation uses prior to urban development.

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

**TABLE 4.14-9 CITY OF FRESNO GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO PARKS AND RECREATION**

<b>Policy/Objective Number</b>	<b>Policy/Objective</b>
Objective F-3	The City will make every effort to ensure that park and recreational facilities make the most efficient use of land; that they are designed and managed to provide for convenience, health, safety, and pleasure of the intended users; and that they represent positive examples of design and energy conservation.
Policy F-3-a	The location of park and recreation sites should be central and accessible to the population served, while preserving the integrity of the surrounding neighborhood.
Policy F-7-a	The city will continue to support the concept of a regional river parkway system in the riverbottom, in coordination with Fresno County, Madera County, public interest groups, property owners, and the State of California.
Policy F-7.b	The San Joaquin riverbottom area designated for multi-use open space area in the general plan land use section, together with adjacent designated open space areas, will compromise the important area of interest for parkway planning and development within the existing City of Fresno Sphere of Influence as well as within the proposed expanded Sphere of Influence of the 2025 General Plan including the North Growth Area.
Policy F-7.c	<p>The city will continue to use a consultative public planning process for the river corridor and parkway, involving the San Joaquin River Conservancy, the counties of Fresno and Madera, the State of California, land owners, and interested members of the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Large general meetings and smaller working sessions will be used to maximize involvement of the river corridor's stakeholders.</li> <li>▪ The process will be used to achieve the greatest degree of consensus possible in the community in an attempt to meet parkway, local jurisdiction, and landowner needs on mutually acceptable terms.</li> <li>▪ The process will facilitate the city's commitment to address concerns of the general public regarding the natural resources of the river corridor.</li> </ul>

a. Represents only the portion which pertains to the San Joaquin River Parkway.  
 Source: City of Fresno 2025 General Plan, February 1, 2002.

Within the Parkway Plan Area, approximately 520 acres are owned and managed by local government agencies. The River Parkway Trust currently owns 53 acres, and another 95 acres in a conservation easement. Table 4.14-10 below shows existing Parkway lands and which agency or non-profit has acquired them.

**4.14.3.2 STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The proposed Project would have a significant impact with regard to parks and recreation if it would:

1. Result in substantial adverse impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered parks and recreational facilities, or the need for new or physically altered parks and recreational facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, or other performance objectives.
2. 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.
3. Includes or requires the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

**TABLE 4.14-10 EXISTING PARKWAY LANDS**

<b>Land Acquisitions</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Fresno (Acres)</b>	<b>Madera (Acres)</b>	<b>Conservation Easements (Acres)</b>
<b>San Joaquin River Conservancy</b>				
Wildwood Native Park	1996	0.00	22.00	0.00
Jensen River Ranch	1997	156.10	0.00	0.00
Beck	1998	105.92	0.00	0.00
Friant Cove	1998	2.64	0.00	0.00
Ball Ranch	2000	358.40	0.00	0.00
Schneider	2000	0.00	47.10	0.00
Wagner (now called Cottonwood Creek)	2001	0.00	64.32	0.00
Ledger Island	2001	0.00	161.17	0.00
River Vista	2001	0.00	176.66	0.00
Van Buren, Proctor, Broadwell, Cobb (now part of River West Madera)	2001	0.00	261.54	0.00
Willow Lodge (Finch, Glaspey) <sup>a</sup>	2002	40.00	0.00	0.00
River West Fresno (Spano)	2003	290.84	50.00	0.00
Sycamore Island	2005	0.00	347.00	0.00
Liddell/Islewood Golfing Center	2005	134.00	0.00	0.00
Gibson	2008	320.96	0.00	0.00
Friant Station <sup>a</sup>	2008	2.00	0.00	0.00
SJ Fish Hatchery (Hovannisian) <sup>a</sup>	2011	0.17	0.00	0.00
Camp Pashayan	2012 <sup>b</sup>	11.43	0.00	0.00
Circle V	2017	0.00	20.76	0.00
<i>Subtotal</i>		1,422.46	1,150.55	0.00
<b>California Department Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)</b>				
Hansen Unit Ecological Reserve (ER)		34.00	0.00	0.00
Lost Lake Park (see also County of Fresno)		76.00	0.00	0.00

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

**TABLE 4.14-10 EXISTING PARKWAY LANDS**

<b>Land Acquisitions</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Fresno (Acres)</b>	<b>Madera (Acres)</b>	<b>Conservation Easements (Acres)</b>
Rank Island Unit ER		270.00	0.00	0.00
SJ Fish Hatchery		35.35	0.00	0.00
Milburn Unit ER	1989	286.00	0.00	0.00
Willow Unit ER (1)	1990	149.67	0.00	0.00
Willow Unit ER (2)	1992	88.23	0.00	0.00
Camp Pashayan Unit ER	1995/ 2012	20.00	0.00	0.00
<b>San Joaquin River Parkway &amp; Conservation Trust</b>				
Coke Hallowell River Center		20.00	0.00	0.00
Owl Hollow	2005	5.00	0.00	0.00
Caglia Farms	2006	28.20	0.00	0.00
Hansen Conservation Easement		0.00	0.00	95.00
<b>County of Fresno</b>				
Lost Lake Park (see also CDFW)		191.66	0.00	0.00
Friant Road Scenic Lands (Eaton Trail)		141.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Fresno County Office of Education</b>				
Scout Island	2000	84.66	0.00	0.00
Diamond R Ranch	2000	0.00	68.00	0.00
<b>City of Fresno</b>				
Riverbottom Park	1999	35.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Bureau of Reclamation</b>				
Millerton Below Friant Dam		137.50	137.50	0.00

a. These lands were acquired by the Conservancy to be managed under the jurisdiction of CDFW.

b. Camp Pashayan was originally acquired by the River Parkway Trust in 1995 and later sold to the Conservancy.

Source: San Joaquin River Conservancy, 2016.

## PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

### 4.14.3.3 IMPACT DISCUSSION

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<b>PS-5</b>	<b>The proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered parks and recreational facilities in order to maintain acceptable ratios of parkland per thousand residents.</b>
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The proposed Project would have a significant impact if it would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered parks and recreational facilities in order to maintain acceptable ratios of parkland per thousand residents. The proposed Project would result in the enhancement of and construction of new facilities at buildout; however, as previously discussed, the proposed Project is conceptual and, therefore, is not proposing specific projects within the proposed Plan. Accordingly, the proposed Project identifies existing facilities, planned facilities, and sites suitable for future development, all based on the need and demand for such facilities. Future projects would require separate project-level CEQA analysis to identify project-specific impacts and mitigation measures.

Although no specific projects are being proposed under the proposed Project itself, implementation throughout the life of the Plan would result in the construction of new Parkway facilities and recreational areas. Additionally, the proposed Project does not propose residential development and, therefore, there would be no increase in the population of residents. Parkland and recreational facilities would increase under the proposed Plan to serve the needs of existing and future residents and visitors, which would not result in a decline in the parkland to resident ratio.

Several policies under the proposed Plan also support the development of recreational facilities specifically aimed at enhancing and meeting the needs of residents and visitors alike. For example, the goals below seek to meet those needs:

#### Vision and Goals

##### Goals:

- **FG.4:** Conserve, restore and enhance natural resources and protect cultural resources while also meeting recreational and educational needs.
- **FG.7:** Create a Parkway and encourage land use and management policies for the San Joaquin River; its floodplain and bluffs, that will contribute to the economic vitality of the region, and enhance the health and quality of life of the region's residents.

#### Public Access and Recreation

##### Goal:

- **RA1:** Provide river access and high quality recreation areas and facilities to meet recreational and environmental educational needs while conserving natural and cultural resources.

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## PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

These goals are to be accomplished through the many objectives identified in the plan, including in particular those listed under Public Access and Recreation (ACCESS.1 – 42); Environmental Education, Interpretation, and Outreach (INTERP.1 – 13); Buffer Zones and Adjacent Land Uses (BUFFER.1 – 17); Operations, Management, and Implementation (OPER.1 – 16), and various design guidelines 6 (see Appendix C, Proposed Master Plan Goals, Objectives, Policies, Design Guidelines, and Best Management Practices).

In addition, each jurisdiction has their own set of policies and goals that ensure adequate recreational facilities are provided as development occurs. Madera County, Fresno County, and the City of Fresno have numerous policies promoting and protecting adequate recreational facilities and parklands within their respective jurisdictions, including the collection of development impact fees.

Because of the numerous State and local laws, along with the policies of the proposed Plan, the ratio of parkland and recreational acres per thousand residents would not diminish (and may in fact improve) as a result of implementing the proposed Plan. Therefore, the impact would be *less than significant*.

### **Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:**

- County of Madera General Plan (Goal 4.A, Policies 4.A.2 to 4.A.9, Goal 4.B, Policy 4.B.1, Goal 4.C, and Policy 4.C.1 to 4.C.3)
- County of Fresno General Plan (Goal OS-H, and Policies OS-H.1 to OS-H.15)
- City of Fresno General Plan (Goal 10, Objective F-1, Policies F-1-a to F-1-f, Objective F-2, Objective F-3, and Policies F-7-a to F-7-c)

**Significance Without Mitigation:** Less than significant.

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<b>PS-6</b>	<b>The proposed Project would not 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.</b>
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The proposed Project would result in a significant impact if it increased 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. The proposed Project would consist of enhancing existing and developing new parks, and is expected to result in increased public use within the Parkway Plan Area.

Implementation of the proposed Project would acquire lands and create additional opportunities for the public to recreate, and would help to satisfy an existing need for parkland and recreational facilities in the region. Further, the proposed Project seeks to accommodate increased use through providing facilities that could include additional restrooms, kayak and canoe launches, parking areas for easier and increased access, hiking and biking trails, campsites, and picnic benches, among other improvements. Additionally, the proposed Project itself intends to draw visitors to the Parkway land and facilities. Therefore, the impact to neighborhood and other regional parks would be minimal. The Project does not propose any residential development, therefore, no increase in the residential population would occur as a result of the proposed Project. *No impact* is expected to occur.

## PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

### Applicable Regulations and Conditions of Approval:

- N/A

**Significance Without Mitigation:** None.

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<b>PS-7</b>	<b>The proposed Project would not include or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.</b>
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The proposed Project would result in a significant impact if it included or required the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. As discussed in Chapter 3, Project Description, of this Draft EIR, the proposed Project would introduce new structures and expand existing facilities in the Parkway Plan Area. At buildout, the proposed Project could result in additional restrooms, kayak and canoe launches, picnic benches, campsites, parking areas, habitat conservation areas, hiking and biking trails, and observation areas (among others), all of which would result in some level of construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

Although the construction and/or expansion of recreational facilities would occur under the proposed Plan, many policies under the Plan and mitigation measures identified throughout this Draft EIR would ensure that such expansion does not have an adverse physical effect on the environment. See each impact section of this Draft EIR for an analysis of the potential impacts of Parkway recreational development and use on the environmental. Policies in the proposed Plan that are protective of the environment while developing recreational facilities and uses include, but are not limited to, the following:

### Vision and Goals

#### Goals:

- **FG4:** Conserve, restore and enhance natural resources and protect cultural resources while also meeting recreational and educational needs.
- **FG5:** Conserve undeveloped areas of the floodplain, to provide that they remain non-urbanized and be retained in resources management, open space, and agriculture.
- **FG6:** Develop the Parkway in a transparent and cooperative manner among local and state agencies; nonprofit land trusts, conservation, and stewardship organizations; neighboring landowners, and other stakeholders.

### Habitat Conservation and Management

#### Goal:

- **NRG1:** Conserve, enhance, restore, and provide for public enjoyment of the aquatic, plant, and wildlife resources of the San Joaquin River Parkway.

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**Policies:**

HABITAT.9 Incorporate natural features (e.g. wetlands, grasslands, woodlands, and other native vegetation) and integrate supporting artificial features (e.g. existing access roads, ponds on reclaimed mined lands) into Parkway development.

HABITAT.10 Minimize grading except as necessary, for example to improve hydrology, enhance and restore habitat, or protect public safety.

HABITAT.13 Within public Parkway lands, designate natural reserves of contiguous significant or high quality habitat (or future enhance/restored habitat) that should receive higher levels of protection from public disturbance and use.

HABITAT.19 Site new facilities in disturbed, reclaimed, or previously developed areas avoiding intrusion into sensitive habitat areas and to avoid habitat fragmentation, to the extent feasible.

HABITAT.35 Incorporate a habitat enhancement component into all Parkway projects.

Future development under the proposed Plan would be required to comply with CEQA to identify project-level impacts and mitigation measures. As previously mentioned, this Draft EIR does not consider project-level analysis, but rather is a conceptual proposed Master Plan. Because project-level CEQA review would be required and adherence to the above listed policies and mitigation measures throughout this Draft EIR, impacts would be *less than significant*.

**Applicable Regulations and Conditions of Approval:**

- San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan

**Significance Without Mitigation:** Less than significant.

#### 4.14.3.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

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**PS-8** The proposed Project, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable growth, would result in less than significant cumulative impacts with respect to parks and recreational facilities.

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The proposed Project would have a significant impact if, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable growth, it would result in adverse impacts to the environmental with respect to parks and recreational facilities. The geographic scope for purposes of the cumulative impact analysis includes the Parkway Plan Area and development that could occur in the foreseeable future.

As discussed in further detail in Chapter 4.10, Land Use and Planning, of this Draft EIR, most areas of Fresno County near the Parkway Plan Area are developed with the exception of the Friant Ranch area, which has approved residential, commercial, and park development. Other areas adjacent to the Parkway Plan Area, including

## PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

Bullard Community and Woodward Park in the city of Fresno, are largely built out as residential neighborhoods and some commercial development. However, Madera County, which is primarily agricultural and farmland in the vicinity of the Plan Area, has experienced recent growth near the Rio Mesa and Gunner Ranch areas, both of which would include single-family residential and commercial development. The newer developments would increase the population, which could impact existing parks and recreational facilities; however, since the proposed Project itself does not include residential development, it would not contribute to the overall permanent population growth which could contribute to a cumulative impact on parks and recreational facilities.

As stated throughout this chapter, the proposed Project would increase and enhance recreational facilities to serve the visitors of the existing and planned Parkway. These visitors would include primarily residents of Madera and Fresno counties, as well as the City of Fresno; therefore, cumulative impacts would be *less than significant*.

### **Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:**

- County of Madera General Plan (Goal 4.A, Policies 4.A.2 to 4.A.9, Goal 4.B, Policy 4.B.1, Goal 4.C, and Policy 4.C.1 to 4.C.3)
- County of Madera Municipal Code, Chapter 15.02, Park and Recreational Acquisition and Dedication
- County of Fresno General Plan (Goal OS-H, and Policies OS-H.1 to OS-H.15)
- County of Fresno Municipal Code, Chapter 17.90, Public Facilities Impact Fees
- City of Fresno General Plan (Goal 10, Objective F-1, Policies F-1-a to F-1-f, Objective F-2, Objective F-3, and Policies F-7-a to F-7-c)
- City of Fresno, Article 4.7, Park Facilities Fees

**Significance Without Mitigation:** Less than significant.