

4.11 PUBLIC SERVICES

This section presents information on community services in Truckee, including police and fire protection, schools and parks and recreation, and describes the effects of the Truckee 2025 General Plan on the provision of these services. The discussion is organized according to the type of community service, with existing setting, standards of significance, and environmental impacts discussed separately for each public service.

A. Police Service

The following describes current conditions and potential impacts of the Truckee 2025 General Plan with regard to police services in the Town of Truckee.

1. Existing Setting

Police service in Truckee is provided by the Truckee Police Department. The Police Department operates out of its headquarters at 10183 Truckee Airport Road, and has 25 sworn officers and four non-sworn personnel who provide service to the town's 15,300 permanent residents. This equates to a 1.63 ratio of police per thousand people. The Department also provides service to non-resident weekend and holiday visitors. Response times to calls range from 30 seconds up to ten minutes, depending on the location within Truckee as well as the type of call received. An officer is typically on scene within three to five minutes for emergency calls, whereas non-emergency calls tend to be responded to within ten minutes if an officer is available. All calls are responded to from the Department's headquarters, which also serves as office space for the Truckee Fire Protection District. The Police Department plans to develop a five year operating plan to accommodate future needs, once State funding is secured.¹

¹ Scott Berry, Police Chief, Truckee Police Department. Personal Communication with Shay Boutillier, March 24, 2006.

2. Standards of Significance

The Truckee 2025 General Plan would have a significant impact related to police services if it would:

- ◆ Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police facilities, or the need for new or physically altered police facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

3. Impact Discussion

Growth allowed under the Truckee 2025 General Plan would require additional police officers to effectively respond to an anticipated increase in calls. The number of police officers needed is not solely a factor of population, but also of development density, types of calls and weather patterns.

At buildout, under implementation of the Truckee 2025 General Plan projected population levels are 28,520 individuals and 20,082 projected dwelling units. Between now and buildout of the 2025 General Plan, it is anticipated that approximately 14,270 new people will reside in Truckee. The current ratio of police officers per thousand population in the city is 1.63. Assuming a similar ratio is maintained in the future, the additional 14,270 persons would require an increase in police staffing by approximately 24 officers.

Although the largest concentration of new population is expected to occur in central parts of Truckee, there would be additional residents throughout the town's area. As noted above, additional police officers and new facilities may be required to adequately serve the enlarged population. New facilities that may be required include dispatch offices or a new headquarters building, depending on the extent to which the Department is required to expand its capacity. It is not known at this point where such facilities would be required in the Town of Truckee or what the exact nature of these facilities would be. As a result, it cannot be determined what project-specific environmental impacts would occur as a result of their construction and operation. These potential impacts would be identified when specific plans for such facilities become available for analysis.

The 2025 General Plan includes policies and actions to ensure an adequate level of police service and facilities over time in order to maintain a low level of criminal activity in the community. For example, Policy P4.2 in the Land Use Element states that the Town should cooperate with special districts to plan for and identify suitable future sites for needed facilities, including police services, so that the local population can be safely and efficiently served, while minimizing potential environmental impacts. Policy P4.4 states that all development proposals should be reviewed to ensure that demand generated for police services can be adequately met, and current funding mechanisms for police services should be periodically evaluated to determine if they are adequate, and consider revisions as necessary. As a result of these policies, the Truckee 2025 General Plan would result in a *less than significant* impact to police services.

4. Cumulative Impact Discussion

Future regional growth would result in a need for expanded police service throughout Nevada County. However, only growth within Truckee and its Sphere of Influence would result in the need for the town to construct additional police facilities to serve its population, which could result in additional environmental impacts. The impact discussion above accounts for the potential growth within the area that would be provided police service by Truckee; as noted above, any potential impacts from development of new or expanded facilities that would be needed would be identified and evaluated at the time such facilities were proposed. Given this, the project would not contribute to a significant cumulative impact associated with police services.

5. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since *no significant impacts* related to police services and facilities were identified as a result of the Truckee 2025 General Plan, no mitigation measures are required. Policies and mitigation measures that are identified in other sections of this EIR and future CEQA review would also apply to any unforeseen impacts associated with the construction and operation of police service facilities.

B. Fire Protection

This section describes how fire and emergency medical services are provided in Truckee. It also analyzes the potential physical impacts associated with construction of new or expanded fire protection facilities to meet potential increases in demand.

1. Existing Setting

Established in 1894, the Truckee Fire Protection District (TFPD), which is an independent special district and public agency, provides fire prevention, fire suppression, emergency medical care and/or transportation, assorted rescue services, and public education services to the Town of Truckee.

The TFPD has 42 employees and currently operates out of six fire stations. Three of the stations operate 24 hours a day under full-time staff and three operate on a part-time basis.² For equipment, the District has a total of six type I engines³, one type III engine⁴, one truck, two water tenders, five ambulances, one regional hazardous materials vehicle, one medium rescue with low and high angle capabilities, one air boat and one swiftwater/dive rescue boat.⁵

Each of the six fire stations in Truckee are located and staffed as follows: Station 91-Downtown is located in downtown Truckee and houses the Fire

² The Truckee Fire Protection District (TFPD) webpage: <http://www.truckeefire.org/index.asp>, accessed March 24th, 2006

³ Type 1 Engine refers to a structural engine with minimal pump capacities of 1000 gallons per minute (GPM), a 400 gallon tank, 200 feet of 1 inch hose, 1200 feet of 2 ½" hose, 400 feet of 1 ½" hose, at least 20 feet of ladder, and requiring a minimal crew of 4.

⁴ Type III engine refers to a wildland engine with minimal pump capacities of 120 GPM, a 500 gallon tank, 1000 feet of 1 ½ inch hose, 800 feet of 1 inch hose, Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) generally greater than 20,000 pounds and requiring a minimum crew of three..

⁵ Truckee Fire Protection District (TFPD) webpage: <http://www.truckeefire.org/index.asp>, accessed March, 24th 2006.

Chief's office, the District's administrative staff and the Prevention Bureau. Station 92-Gateway is located next to the Truckee High School and in front of the Sierra Mountain Middle School. It is the District's largest station with the most equipment. It is staffed with one battalion chief, one station captain and two firefighter/paramedics. Station 93-Donner Lake is a residential station located across from Donner Lake. It is staffed with a firefighter/paramedic on a part-time basis. Station 94-Tahoe Donner is a residential station that is staffed part-time and is located in the Tahoe Donner subdivision. Station 95-Glenshire is a residential station located in the Glenshire subdivision and is staffed full-time with one captain/paramedic and one firefighter. It has one engine and one ALS ambulance. Station 96-Airport is the District's newest station, built in the year 2000, and is located near the Truckee Airport. This station is staffed full-time with one captain/paramedic and two firefighter/paramedics. It has one engine, two ALS ambulances, one hazardous materials response vehicle, and a "Careflight"- a Star helicopter staffed with a pilot and two flight nurses. Station 96 is a multi-agency station that is also utilized by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Tahoe Truckee Airport.

In 2003, the TFPD created the Capital Facilities and Mitigation Fee Expenditure Plan for the Town of Truckee to determine response requirements and infrastructure needs for the five geographical "Planned Service Areas" within the town. Each area consists of major subdivisions currently in place or planned, commercial development and predominant recreational areas. The needs assessment was based on current incident load and future projections. Recent growth and development in the Town of Truckee created the need for capital improvements that exceeded property tax increments; the plan outlines the spending arrangements for mitigation fees collected as a result of this growth and development in order to allow TFPD to maintain an existing level of service and meet the future public safety needs of the district.⁶

⁶ 2003 TFPD Capital Facilities and Mitigation Fee Expenditure Plan for the Town of Truckee

The Town of Truckee lies within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, as defined by the California Department of Forestry, indicating that wildland fires are considered to pose a significant hazard. The level of fire danger risk within the town ranges from moderate to very high based on the density of development within a particular area and its proximity to forested areas. Most areas fall under a high to very high level of threat to wildland fire.⁷

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) provides wildland fire protection to undeveloped forested area of the Sierra Nevada, including parts of the Town of Truckee. The CDF is largely concerned with the prevention and control of wildland fires and deterring their spread into developed areas. Although the CDF does not normally respond to structure fires, the Department provides protection to structures threatened by forest fires.⁸

In September 2003, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors appointed a five member Fire Plan Committee (FPC) to develop the Nevada County Fire Plan (NCFP) that would reduce the risk from wildland fires to life, property and natural resources in the County and comply with the Disaster Management Act of 2000 and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003.⁹ This plan was accepted by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors in 2005. The Fire Plan includes an extensive series of recommendations aimed at reducing wildland fire risk in the County, including fuel management and defensible space enforcement strategies, public education, infrastructure improvements to in-

⁷ California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 2003 as seen on the Town of Truckee website: <http://www.truckee2025.org/docs/prelimsaf4.pdf>, accessed March 24th, 2006.

⁸ Pacific Municipal Consultants, *Martis Valley Community Plan Update Draft Environmental Impact Report*. Prepared for Placer County, May 2002.

⁹ The Nevada County Fire Plan: A framework for reducing threats to public safety and reducing costs and losses as a result of wildfire in Nevada County by the Fire Plan Committee (FPC) for the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, August 2004.

crease fire-fighting capacity, and coordination with local fire agencies to ensure consistent and effective wildland fire mitigation efforts.

2. Standards of Significance

The Truckee 2025 General Plan would have a significant impact related to fire protection services if it would:

- ◆ Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, need for new or physically-altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

3. Impact Discussion

The Truckee 2025 General Plan would result in new population and residential and commercial development in Truckee, which would increase demand for fire and emergency medical protection services. As a result, additional staff, equipment and facilities would be required to maintain or exceed current response times. New facilities that may be required include new fire houses or outdoor training areas, depending on the extent to which the Department is required to expand its capacity. It is not known at this point where such facilities would be required in the Town of Truckee or what the exact nature of these facilities would be. As a result, it cannot be determined what project-specific environmental impacts would occur as a result of their construction and operation. These potential impacts would be identified when specific plans for such facilities become available for analysis.

Recognizing that there could be an increased demand for fire and emergency medical response, the Truckee 2025 General Plan includes policies and actions to support the activities of the TFPD. For example, Policy P4.2 in the Land Use Element states that the Town should cooperate with special districts to plan for and identify suitable future sites for needed facilities, including fire stations, so that the local population can be safely and efficiently served, while minimizing potential environmental impacts. Policy P4.3 in the Land Use Element would allow the Town to only approve development permits and rezoning when adequate services, including fire service, are shown to be

available. Table LU-6 in the Land Use Element defines the standards for these services. For fire service this includes that availability of adequate fire flow, emergency access, equipment and personnel be used as the standards for evaluating service, that adequate water capacity be available at the time of rezoning, and that distribution and other facilities are to be installed at the time of development. Policies in the Safety Element would require that adequate emergency flow, emergency vehicle access, and evacuation routes be included in new development (P1.13), and would have the Town continue to support the mitigation fee program for the Fire Protection District. In order to reduce the overall need for fire protection, the Town will continue to enforce all relevant fire codes and ordinances.

As a result of these policies, the Truckee 2025 General Plan would result in a *less than significant* impact to fire service.

4. Cumulative Impact Discussion

Future regional growth would result in a need for expanded fire service throughout Nevada County. However, only growth within the TFPD service area would result in the need for the TFPD to construct additional facilities, which could result in additional environmental impacts. Since Truckee represents the largest concentration of population for the TFPD service area, facilities needed to service the 2025 General Plan would also be adequate to meet the demand generated by any other growth occurring within the District's service area. In addition, the impact discussion above accounts for the potential growth within the area that would be provided fire service by TFPD and no significant impact was identified in regards to the construction of new and expanded facilities. Therefore, the project would contribute to *no significant* cumulative impact associated with fire services.

5. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since *no significant* impacts related to fire services and facilities were identified as a result of the Truckee 2025 General Plan, no mitigation measures are required. Policies and mitigation measures that are identified in other sections of this EIR and future CEQA review would also apply to any unforeseen

impacts associated with the construction and operation of Fire service facilities.

C. Schools

The following describes current conditions and potential impacts of the Truckee 2025 General Plan with regard to school services in the Town of Truckee. The Town of Truckee is served by the Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD), which provides public school services for Kindergarten through Grade 12.

1. Regulatory Setting

New development in Truckee is required to pay impact fees to Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD) to address the impacts of new population on school facilities. In addition to these developer impact fees, the District receives parcel taxes from residential parcels within the service area based on various ballot measures passed in recent years. These fees would offset the impacts of the additional student population from new development. California Government Code Section 65996(a) requires developer fees intended to mitigate an environmental effect from the construction of new school facilities under the California Environmental Quality Act. The payment of fees "...is deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property, or any change in governmental organization or reorganization." TTUSD has initiated a series of improvements, funded both by developer fees and local voter-approved bond measures. Significant among these is the construction of the new Alder Creek Middle School, which replaces the former middle school facility on Donner Pass Road.

2. Existing Setting

The Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District covers an area of 720 square miles, encompassing portions of Nevada, Placer and El Dorado Counties. The Truckee area has a total of six schools: Tahoe Truckee High School, Si-

erra Mountain Middle School, Glenshire Elementary, Truckee Elementary, Sierra High School, and Prosser Creek Charter School.

Total enrollment in Truckee area schools was 2,848 students in 2002, while capacity was for 2,685 students. TTUSD projects that there will be 3,013 students in the Truckee area by school year 2009-2010.¹⁰ These enrollment projections show increases well beyond existing capacity and it is therefore reasonable to assume that new or expanded facilities would be required. TTUSD is currently in the process of updating their Facilities Master Plan to address the need for expanded facilities. As part of the process, the District will re-assess enrollment projection and capacity data, so as to better evaluate district-wide need for schools.¹¹ This assessment would take into account future population growth that would occur under the 2025 General Plan.

In addition to the new facilities previously described, other improvements have been made or are planned for Truckee's schools. These include modernization of classroom and lab facilities at the High School, the addition of a new cafeteria, and improvements to the High School Theater. Truckee Elementary School has also undergone recent improvement, including relocation of its administration area to accommodate an enlarged library and media center, and addition of a multi-purpose room that includes a gymnasium and office space.

3. Standards of Significance

The Truckee 2025 General Plan would have a significant impact related to school services if it would:

- ◆ Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered school facilities, need for new or physi-

¹⁰ Capital Program Management, Inc. *TTUSD Facilities Master Plan Draft Report*. April 4th, 2003.

¹¹ Todd Rivera, Tahoe Truckee Unified School District. Personal Communication with Shay Boutillier, March 9th, 2006.

cally altered school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

4. Impact Discussion

As indicated above, enrollment at Truckee schools currently exceeds capacity. Thus, any additional enrollment associated with the implementation of the Truckee 2025 General Plan would increase demand for school facilities beyond that which is currently available. The 2025 General Plan would add up to 9,260 new residential units, which could contribute additional demand for school facilities for students within the town's year round households. Additional staff, facilities and equipment would be required to meet or exceed current school standards. The existing shortfalls make any addition to projected student numbers a potentially significant impact.

However, the Truckee 2025 General Plan includes policies and actions intended to provide for adequate and well designed public school facilities to meet future demand. General Plan Policy P4.2 in the Land Use Element states that the Town should cooperate with special districts to plan for and identify suitable future sites for needed facilities, including schools, so that the local population can be safely and efficiently served, while minimizing potential environmental impacts. Furthermore, as noted in the introduction to this section, California Government Code Section 65996(a) requires that developer fees be assessed and used to mitigate environmental impacts associated with the construction of new school facilities. Further, as specific school facility expansion or improvement projects are identified, additional project-specific, second-tier environmental analysis would be completed.

As a result, implementation of the Truckee 2025 General Plan would result in a *less than significant impact* on the adequate provision of school services.

5. Cumulative Impact Discussion

Future regional growth would result in increased demand for schools throughout Nevada County. However, only growth within the TTUSD service area would result in the need for the District to construct additional

facilities that could result in additional environmental impacts. As noted in the previous discussion, it is unknown exactly where new school facilities would be required to support the cumulative increase in population resulting from growth outside of Truckee. However, the California Government Code Section 65996(a) requirement concerning fee-based mitigations for schools would apply to development outside of the Town itself, and, as within Truckee specific school facility expansion or improvement projects are identified, additional project-specific, second-tier environmental analysis would be completed. Therefore, the 2025 General Plan would contribute to no significant cumulative impact associated with schools.

6. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since no significant impacts related to School services and facilities were identified as a result of the Truckee 2025 General Plan, no mitigation measures are required. Policies and mitigation measures that are identified in other sections of this EIR and future CEQA review would apply to any unforeseen impacts associated with the construction and operation of school service facilities in the future.

D. Parks & Recreation Facilities

The following describes current conditions and potential impacts of the Truckee 2025 General Plan with regard to parks and recreation services in the Town of Truckee.

1. Regulatory Setting

a. Quimby Act

The 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code §66477) authorizes municipalities to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements in combination with their projects. The goal of the Quimby Act was to require developers to help mitigate the impacts of development. Revenues generated through

the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of existing park facilities.¹²

Under the Quimby Act, municipalities with a high ratio of park space to inhabitants can set a standard of five acres per thousand persons for new development. However, cities with a lower current ratio can only require the provision of up to three acres of park space per thousand population. 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- or town-owned parkland.

b. Town of Truckee Impact Fee Program

In accordance with California Government Code sections 66000-66025, the Town of Truckee administers development impact fees through its AB1600 Impact Fee Program. These fees are levied on all new development to provide funding for the provision of parks and recreation facilities and other needed services in the Town.

2. Existing Setting

One of the most important defining features of the Truckee area is the abundance of open space and outdoor recreational opportunities, including those offered by Truckee's public parks and community facilities.

Most parks and recreation facilities in Truckee are operated by the Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District (TDRPD). TDRPD was founded in 1963 as a Special District to provide parks and recreation facilities in eastern Nevada County. Within Truckee, TDRPD maintains a number of parks and recreational facilities. TDRPD's largest site is the Truckee River Regional Park, a 62 acre park located along the south side of the Truckee River, near Brockway Road. This park offers a wide range of recreational facilities including a skate park, ice-skating rink, ballfields, tennis and volleyball courts, a

¹² California Government Code §66477, The Quimby Act: as seen on California Parks and Recreation Society webpage.
http://www.cprs.org/membersonly/Sum02_Quimby.htm, accessed April 4th, 2006.

rodeo arena, and an amphitheater. The Riverview Community Sports Park, located on Joerger Drive, offers sports fields, a baseball diamond and a BMX bicycle track.

In addition to the larger community parks described above, three smaller neighborhood parks are located within Truckee: Billy Rose Park in the Gateway area, Meadow Park in the Donner Trail subdivision, and Glenshire Park in the Glenshire area. West End Beach is a public beach area at the west end of Donner Lake where TDRPD also operates a boat launch facility, and provides a series of public piers on the north side of the lake. TDRPD also operates a number of smaller facilities, including a swimming pool, Community Center, an Activity Center for Middle and High School students, and Truckee Veterans Hall. These facilities offer a broad range of activities such as adult education, sports and fitness programs, and space for community meetings and functions.¹³

In addition to the facilities described above, the Donner Memorial State Park is located partially within the Town limits, on the southeast side of Donner Lake. The State Park recently acquired 750 additional acres of land, and now covers 1,750 acres. In addition to the Donner Party memorial and educational exhibits, the park offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including hiking, boating, camping, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. A \$3.1 million grant was awarded to the State Park by the California Transportation Commission in 2002 for development of a new “High Sierra Crossings” museum and nature preserve, to be located on land just east of the State Park.¹⁴

In 1990, TDRPD created a ten year Master Plan to facilitate the establishment of a balanced park, recreation and open space system that satisfied current needs and planned for future growth.¹⁵ The Master Plan specifies a series of

¹³ TDRPD website: <http://www.tdrpd.com/facilities.htm>, accessed April 5, 2006.

¹⁴ California State Parks website: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=503, accessed April 5, 2006.

¹⁵ TK Design Associates, *TDRPD Ten Year Master Plan*. 1990.

standards and goals for various types of parkland. The Town of Truckee's standard for providing parkland is five acres for each 1,000 population.

3. Standards of Significance

The Truckee 2025 General Plan would have a significant impact related to parks and recreational services if it would:

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered park and recreational facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered park and recreational facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

4. Impact Discussion

Truckee is relatively well served by parks and recreation facilities, however, the community has grown rapidly since incorporation, and few new recreational facilities have been added in the last several years. New development under the 2025 General Plan has the potential to add approximately 13, 200 new people, which would increase the demand for parks and recreational facilities in the town. Continued application of the Town's development fee programs, , and the policies of the 2025 General Plan would ensure that the Town's parkland goals are met and existing facilities are not negatively impacted by future growth.

All development in Truckee is subject to impact fees in order to fund community and recreational facilities demanded by new development. As previously stated, the Quimby Act requires developers to help mitigate the impacts of new development through fees, conservation easements or land donation.¹⁶

¹⁶ California Government Code §66477, The Quimby Act: as seen on California Parks and Recreation Society webpage:
http://www.cprs.org/membersonly/Sum02_Quimby.htm, accessed April 4^h, 2006.

The Town would also continue to charge AB1600 impact fees, which would apply to all new residential development in Truckee. Potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of parks and recreation facilities policies in the future would be addressed through project-specific CEQA review.

General Plan Policy P4.2 in the Land Use Element states that the Town should cooperate with special districts to plan for and identify suitable future sites for needed facilities, including Parks and Recreation, so that the local population can be safely and efficiently served while minimizing potential environmental impacts. Policy P1.1 in the Conservation and Open Space Element requires the acquisition and preservation of open space lands in Truckee, and purchase of development rights for the purpose of open space preservation, with priority given but not limited to land for regional and neighborhood parks. Given these existing and proposed provisions, a *less-than-significant* impact in regard to parks and recreation facilities is anticipated from implementation of the Truckee 2025 General Plan.

5. Cumulative Impact Discussion

Future regional growth would result in increased demand for parks throughout the TDPRD service area. However, only growth within the District's service area would result in the need for TDRPD to construct additional facilities that could result in additional environmental impacts. As discussed above, Truckee's current park dedication requirement is 5 acres per 1,000 people for all new development projects. This provision complies with the Quimby Act, which allows municipalities with a high ratio of park space to residents to this level of requirement. Through its regulations, Truckee is providing more than the State-defined need for parkland. Furthermore, Conservation and Open Space Element Policy P1.1 is to acquire and preserve open space lands in Truckee, and purchase development rights for the purpose of open space preservation, with priority given to resources including, but not limited to regional and neighborhood parks. Given the parkland requirements made by the Town and the District, which will ensure that new development provides adequate parkland for new residents to the extent al-

lowed by State law, and through the implementation of Policy P1.1, the project would not contribute to a significant cumulative impact associated with the demand for new parkland in Truckee or in neighboring areas.

6. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since *no significant impacts* related to Parks and Recreation facilities were identified as a result of the Truckee 2025 General Plan, no mitigation measures are required.

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