

## 3.13 Public Services

This section of the EIR evaluates potential impacts on public services associated with implementation of the proposed Golden State Natural Resources Forest Resiliency Demonstration Project (proposed project). This section describes the existing public services conditions at feedstock source locations (Sustainable Forest Management Projects), proposed pellet processing facility sites in Northern California (Lassen Facility) and the Central Sierra Nevada foothills (Tuolumne Facility), and the export terminal in Stockton, California, and evaluates the potential for project-related public service impacts, considering proposed project design features that could reduce or eliminate associated impacts. Several scoping comments were received regarding fire protection services in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) (see Appendix A).

### 3.13.1 Environmental Setting

#### 3.13.1.1 Sustainable Forest Management Projects

As described in Chapter 2, Project Description, in 2019, the Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) and the U.S. Forest Service signed a master Stewardship Agreement (MSA) for the general purpose of achieving resilient forests within U.S. Forest Service Region 5, which includes all of the 18 national forests located in California. Feedstock for manufacturing of wood pellets will be wood byproducts sourced from Sustainable Forest Management Projects such as hazardous fuel reduction projects, construction of shaded fuel breaks, and salvage harvests (see Chapter 2, Project Description, for a full description). The feedstock would originate from California's private, state, tribal, and federal timberlands located within these areas.

#### Police Protection

Law enforcement services on federal forest lands are provided by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The USFS employs over 500 law enforcement officers and special agents who patrol and investigate crimes on 193 million acres managed by the U.S. Forest Service across the country (USFS 2022). Respective county sheriff's offices also have general law enforcement responsibilities within unincorporated county areas, including enforcing state law on forested lands. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) Peace Officers provide law enforcement personnel that enforce California law, including California's forest practice regulations, throughout state-owned lands. Duties of these officers typically include investigating fire causes, interviewing witnesses, issuing citations and setting up surveillance operations. The officers also provide support to state agencies and local fire and law enforcement with arson, bomb, fireworks, and fire extinguisher investigations, as well as the disposal of explosives. California Department of Fish and Wildlife officers protect California's diverse resources from poaching and overuse. Wildlife officers investigate reports of violations, collect and preserve evidence, write reports, and testify in court. Wildlife officers are typically assigned to and responsible for enforcing the law in a specific geographical area of the State. They enforce all Fish and Game laws related to hunting, recreational and commercial fishing, trapping, pollution, falconry, and exotic animal laws. California Highway Patrol (CHP) provides police protection services along State and interstate highways throughout California, including highways that pass throughout the treatable landscape. CHP provides traffic law enforcement to prevent crime; manages traffic and emergency incidents; assists other public agencies with law enforcement duties; and provides protection to the public, State employees, and State infrastructure.

## Fire Protection

It is anticipated that USFS and CAL FIRE would be the primary fire protection services for feedstock acquisition areas of the project, within Federal and State Responsibility Areas, respectively. Local fire departments and fire protection districts would have primary responsibility for Local Responsibility Areas. Note that mutual aid agreements may affect which agency is the “first” responder, but do not change who has overall financial responsibility.

The USFS responds to all wildfires on National Forests and Grasslands. An average of 7,500 wildfires burn approximately 1.5 million acres of USFS land each year, nationwide. As of 2023, the USFS wildland firefighting force consists of 11,187 wildland firefighters across the nation, over 900 engines, and hundreds of aircraft (USFS 2023a). The USFS reports that they have nearly met their goal of employing 11,300 firefighters prior to the busiest part of the fire season of 2023. The employment goal of 11,300 firefighters represents the highest capacity for the number of firefighters the USFS can support with their existing infrastructure and budget. Of the firefighters currently employed by the USFS, 3,497 are based out of the Pacific Southwest Region, which consists of all eighteen national forests in California (USFS 2023b). However, the USFS is unable to solely respond to the increasing demands of wildfire management and works closely with other federal, tribal, state, and local partners. Mutual aid agreements allow for partnering agencies to send their firefighters, engines, aircraft, and equipment to wildfires on land under federal jurisdiction for increased firefighting forces (USFS 2023c).

CAL FIRE is a state agency that is responsible for protecting natural resources from fire on land designated as State Responsibility Area (SRA) by the California State Board of Forestry. As of 2023, CAL FIRE provides protection to over 31 million acres of California’s wildlands (CAL FIRE 2023a). CAL FIRE also provides fire protection to local government cooperators through agreements with counties, cities, fire districts, special districts, and service areas (CAL FIRE 2024). Furthermore, CAL FIRE’s cooperative programs involves an agreement for the exchange of fire protection services with the five federal wildland fire agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service. This agreement allows CAL FIRE to ensure efficient responses to wildland fires with the assistance of federal personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and information. In collaboration with other wildfire agencies, in 2021, CAL FIRE responded to 7,396 fires that burned a total of 2,569,386 acres in California (CAL FIRE 2023b, 2024).

## Schools, Parks and Other Facilities

Federal and state forests throughout California allow for multiple uses, including recreation. Recreation opportunities on forest lands include camping, hiking, biking, fishing, or horseback riding. CAL FIRE states that the California state forests demonstrate how a forest can be managed for multiple objectives and goals at the same time. Vegetation management practices, including sustainable timber production, allows for increased public safety while recreating in forest lands (CAL FIRE 2023c). The Forest Service similarly provides for recreational opportunities in its strategic plan: including the objective to connect people to the outdoors. The Service seeks to maintain recreational settings, hiking trails, and other sustainable recreational opportunities on the national forests and grasslands for public use (USDA 2015).

### 3.13.1.2 Northern California (Lassen Facility) Site

#### Police Protection

Law enforcement services at the project site are provided by the Lassen County Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff’s office offers a range of services including crime prevention, detection, and investigation, management of a 911 dispatch

center, search and rescue services, court security services, and boat safety services. The County’s Sheriff’s Office also operates an adult detention facility (jail), functions as the County Corner, as well as serves all state mandated writs, warrants, and other notices issued by the court (Lassen County 2023). The singular location for the Sheriff’s Office is located in the city of Susanville, approximately 54 miles southeast of the project site. However, the law enforcement personnel are distributed into “Resident” post patrol areas that are based on population, geographic location, and calls for service volumes. There are currently 18 deputies assigned to patrol, one of which is assigned to the Big Valley area, which serves the project site.

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) provides additional law enforcement services in the Lassen County. The CHP provides traffic enforcement including the issuance of traffic violation citations and aids with a range of other services along state highways and unincorporated County roadways. The County is located in the CHP’s northern division, that covers the 14 northern-most counties in California. There is one CHP office in the County, located at 472-400 Diamond Crest Road, Susanville (CHP 2023a).

#### **Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services**

Fire protection for the Lassen County (County) is divided into 16 separate fire protection districts. The project site is served by the Big Valley Fire Protection District (BVFD). BVFD covers a service area of 105.3 miles with one station in the town of Bieber. The station is located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the project site. The department is staffed by ten active volunteer fire fighters. Services offered by the BVFD include response to both structural and wildland fires, as well as response to medical emergencies related to traffic or crowd control (BVFD 2022). BVFD is part of the Susanville Interagency Fire Center and the Lassen County Fire Chiefs Association. Mutual aid agreements additionally allow BVFD to provide assistance to the Adin Fire Departments and CAL FIRE. The BVFD fire protection equipment includes one engine, three water tender pumpers, one squad brush vehicle, and one extrication jaw. Additionally, the CAL FIRE station located in Bieber has two engines, one helicopter, and one bulldozer. If needed, the Intermountain Conservation Camp also has four 17-person fire crews that are available to provide assistance. Southern Cascades Emergency Medical Services provides ambulance services to the Big Valley district that respond from Adin. Additional first responder support is provided by the Adin Fire Protection District.

In the year of 2018 (most recent available data), the BVFD received a total of 24 calls for service. 12 of these calls for service were to assist another agency within their mutual aid agreement. The BVFD district itself received five calls regarding wildland fires, four calls for false alarms or ‘other fires’ (not structure fires), and three calls for traffic collisions (LAFCo 2020).

#### **Fire Hazard Severity Zone**

The project site is within a moderate severity zone for wildfire hazard. Most of the site is within a Local Responsibility Area, while the southern portion of the site is within a State Responsibility Area. Please see Section 3.13.2.2, below, and Section 3.17 Wildfire for further discussion of fire hazard severity zones.

#### **Schools**

The project site is served by the Big Valley Unified Schools District. The closest schools to the project site are Big Valley Elementary School and Big Valley High School and approximately 2.5 and 2.6 miles northeast respectively.

## Parks and Recreation Facilities

The County's General plan (Lassen County 1999) identifies two general categories of recreation: developed recreation and dispersed recreation. Parks, public swimming areas, campgrounds, and downhill ski parks are considered Developed recreation. Whereas dispersed recreation refers to areas suitable for recreational activities that do not require the use of man-made facilities. Hiking, fishing, horseback riding are recreational activities typically included in dispersed recreation. Federal and state-owned lands significantly contribute to the County's open space and dispersed recreational resources. The County General plan states that the Bureau of Land Management manages over 1,025,000 acres of land within the County, most of which are primarily recognized as open space lands. The most notable federally owned lands in the County include Lassen National Forest and Lassen Volcanic National Park. The State of California further manages approximately 69,000 acres of land in the County. 40,000 acres of which is managed by the Department of Fish and Game and is devoted to the provision of wildlife habitat.

As of 1996, the County owned and operated eleven recreation facilities as well as several boat ramps. The closest of these to the project site is Clara Bieber Memorial park, located 2.71 miles northeast. Additionally, Ash Creek Wildlife Area is located approximately 6.25 miles northeast of the project site. No information about park to resident ratio is provided in the General Plan or General Plan EIR. For additional information on parks and recreation facilities in Lassen County, please see Section 3.15, Parks and Recreation of this EIR.

## Library Services

The Lassen Library District provides the only public library in the County. The library is located in Susanville, approximately 55 miles from the project site. The library provides testing services, computers, Wi-Fi, printing, scanning, and copying facilities, adult and family literacy course, several eLearning resources, as well as books, eBooks, and audiobooks (Lassen Library 2023).

### 3.13.1.3 Central Sierra Nevada (Tuolumne Facility) Site

## Police Protection

Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office (TSCO) provides law enforcement services to the unincorporated areas of Tuolumne County (County) as well as provides staffing to the County jail. The TSCO provides a wide range of services for the public including investigations, narcotics investigation, boat patrol, courts security, records, swat, search & rescue, crime prevention, K-9, and administrative services. The County's General Plan estimates that there are approximately 135 authorized positions within the TSCO. This includes 63 patrol deputies and 38 adult detention deputies. These positions provide services to the 54,531 residents of the County (U.S. Census Bureau 2022). The only Sheriff Station in the County is located at 28 Lower Sunset Drive, in the City of Sonora. The TSCO further operates the Emergency Dispatch Center that is staffed by 13 Dispatchers and functions on a 24/7 basis.

As a result of the large geographic area of the County, TSCO does not have an adopted service ratio standard. However, TSCO works to ensure that they have sufficient personnel to cover the large geographic area. The General Plan states that as of 2015, TSCD had a service ratio of 403 residents to one officer and an average response time of 3 minutes and 18 seconds (County of Tuolumne 2018). The TSCO Patrol Division responds to approximately 55,000 calls for service per year (County of Tuolumne 2023a).

Additional traffic enforcement along state highways and County roadways is provided by the CHP. The CHP issues traffic citations for traffic violations and assists in providing a range of other services for the greater goal of supporting the safety of residents within the County. The County is located within the CHP's Central Division that covers the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. The County has one CHP office located at 18437 Fifth Avenue in Jamestown (CHP 2023b).

### Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

Fire protection for the County is provided by the Tuolumne County Fire Department (TCFD) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). TCFD and CAL FIRE provide emergency medical responses, rescue, extrication, fire control, as well as fire and life safety inspections. A mix of professional and volunteer firefighters and mutual aid agreements among the fire service agencies provide fire services for the County. A contract between TCFD and CAL FIRE allows TCFD to protect the unincorporated areas of the County even though the majority of the unincorporated areas fall outside of a fire district boundary. In total, the two agencies cover 2,200 square miles and provide services to 54,531 residents within the County (County of Tuolumne 2023b; U.S. Census Bureau 2022). TCFD has a total of 13 fire stations, with 8 located in the unincorporated area. Station 61 is the closest station to the project site, located approximately 4.75 miles northeast. Out of the 8 fire stations located unincorporated areas, the Jamestown and Groveland stations are the only stations that are not staffed by volunteer firefighters. The Jamestown Station is the closest of the two, located approximately 9.32 miles northeast of the site. Table 3.13-1 below displays the Tuolumne County Fire Stations and their respective staffing. Current funding permits TCFD 50.5 full-time positions. These positions include 3.5 Emergency Command Center positions, 2 Training/Safety Captains, an Assistant Chief, 40 Engine Operators, and 1 Heavy Equipment Manager. 46.5 of these positions are funded through cooperative agreements with CAL FIRE, Mariposa County, and Columbia College (County of Tuolumne 2023b).

**Table 3.13-1. Tuolumne County Fire Department Locations and Staffing**

County Stations	Location	Staffing
Mono Village Station 51	19500 Hillsdale Dr., Sonora	5 paid full time, 12 volunteer
Ponderosa Hills Station 53	20810 Tomira Meadows Ct., Tuolumne	12 volunteer
Long Barn Station 54	25910 Long Barn Rd., Long Barn	12 volunteer
Pinecrest Station 55	Pinecrest Ave., Pinecrest	12 volunteer
Mono Vista Station 56	16925 Mono Vista Rd. North, Sonora	12 volunteer
Crystal Falls Station 57	21720 Phoenix Lake Rd., Sonora	12 volunteer
Cedar Ridge Station 58	24190 Kewin Mill Rd., Sonora	12 volunteer
Chinese Camp Station 61	Highway 120, Chinese Camp	12 volunteer
Smith Station 63	223260 Elmore Rd., Groveland	12 volunteer
Don Pedro Station 64	2990 Highway 132, La Grange	12 volunteer
Jamestown Station 76	18249 4th Ave., Jamestown	5 paid, 12 volunteer
Groveland Station 78	18930 Highway 120 Groveland	5 full time and 21 part time paid
Columbia College Station 79	11600 Columbia College Dr., Sonora	1 full time paid, 15 student, 12 volunteer

**Source:** County of Tuolumne 2023b.

As set forth in the 2018 General Plan EIR, TCFD carries out shifts of nine firefighters that are on duty for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For urban areas, the TCFD response time is an average of 9 minutes; suburban areas have a response time of 10 minutes; rural areas have a response time of 14 minutes; and remote areas have response times dependent directly on travel distance (County of Tuolumne 2018, 2021). These goals specify response times, minimum staffing for different demand zones such as Urban areas, Suburban Areas, and Rural or Remote areas. TCFD reports that in 2022 there were a total of 6,431 incidents inside the TCFD jurisdiction. Of those, 4,541 were calls for medical assistance, 596 were for fires, 246 were related to hazardous materials/fire standby, and 1,048 were 'other' incidents. From 2021 to 2022, TCFD has seen a 5.2% increase in incidents reported (County of Tuolumne 2023b).

The CAL FIRE Green Springs Station is located only 0.25 miles from the project site entrance, south of the project site. This station houses one engine, and is staffed by Battalion 6 of the Tuolumne Calaveras Unit (CAL FIRE 2022). As the site is within a State Responsibility Area, and due to the proximity, it is expected that this station would be the primary responder for fire protection.

Emergency and non-emergency medical transport services are provided by the Tuolumne County Ambulance Service. There are approximately 60 part time and full time Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics employed in the County. The General Plan EIR states that they handle roughly 8,000 calls per year (County of Tuolumne 2018).

#### Fire Hazard Severity Zone

The project site is within a high severity zone for wildfire hazard. The site is within a State Responsibility Area. Please see Section 3.13.2.2, below, and Section 3.17 Wildfire for further discussion of fire hazard severity zones.

#### Schools

The project site is served by the Jamestown School District and the Sonora Union High School District. The closest schools to the project site are Chinese Camp Elementary located approximately 4.5 miles northeast and Sonora Union High School located approximately 12.5 miles northeast (TCSOS 2023).

#### Parks and Recreation Facilities

The Tuolumne County Recreation Department along with multiple other agencies have jurisdiction over parks and other recreational facilities within the planning area. These agencies include the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and California Fish and Wildlife. County residents are also permitted to use schools as recreational facilities when they are not in session. The County's park system consists of several community parks that serve as both recreational and open spaces. The National Parks in the County offer natural settings for hiking, water skiing, horseback riding, camping, snowmobiling, and a variety of other activities. Human-made attractions include museums, golf courses, restaurants, train rides, and casinos. There are a several other community parks in the incorporated and unincorporated area of County that offer picnic areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, pools, and campsites. As of 2015, the County's unincorporated area provided approximately 7 acres of parks per 1,000 residents. The closest recreational site to the project location is Lake Tulloch Marina, located approximately 6 miles northwest (County of Tuolumne 2018). Please see Section 3.15 of this EIR for additional information on Parks and Recreation Facilities in Tuolumne County.



## Library Services

The Tuolumne County Library system provides one main location along with three additional branches in the County. The Main Library is located in Sonora and the three branches are in Groveland, Tuolumne City, and Twain Harte. These locations offer reference and circulating collections, videos, periodicals and newspapers, interlibrary loans, as well as children's programs (County of Tuolumne 2018). The closest library location to the project site is the Groveland Branch located approximately 15.4 miles east.

### 3.13.1.4 Port of Stockton

#### Police Protection

As the project site is located in the Port of Stockton, the Port of Stockton Police Department would primarily serve the project site. The Port Police are a full-service police department that is certified as a P.O.S.T. Police Agency. Their jurisdiction lies within the City's Port District. Services by the Port Police are provided twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and include the enforcement of local, state, and applicable federal laws, in addition to US Department of Homeland Security and US Coast Guard Relations. To prevent security breaches and ensure quick responses, available to the Port Police are automated access control gates, remotely monitored video camera systems, and vehicle-mounted computers (Port of Stockton 2024).

The Port patrol maintains mutual aid agreements with the City of Stockton Police Department, the San Joaquin Sheriff's Department, and the California Highway Patrol in the event that backup services are needed. The Stockton Police Department operates out of three police stations in the City: the Police Operations Facility, Police Administration and Support Building, and the Police Firing Range Training Facility. The Police Operations Facility is located approximately 3.5 miles east of the proposed project site (City of Stockton 2018).

#### Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

The Stockton Fire Department (SFD) provides fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS) to the City, including the project site. The SFD serves a 90-square-mile area and population of approximately 336,000 (City of Stockton 2023a). The SFD is organized into six operational divisions: Administration, Operations, Fire Prevention, Training, Communications/Dispatch, and Emergency Medical services (City of Stockton 2023b). There are additional specialized units and teams including the Hazardous Materials Team, Water Rescue Team, and the Urban Search and Rescue Team, which are staffed by the Operations personnel and provide services 24 hours, seven days a week. All personnel are trained in EMS by the Departments Training Division.

As of 2022, the SFD consisted of 182 sworn personnel, and 35 civilian employees, led by one Fire Chief. Based on the Department of Finance Population estimates for 2023, the current service ratio is .58 personnel per 1,000 residents<sup>1</sup> (DOF 2024). The City's General Plan indicates that the current staffing levels are not sufficient to support the community need. However, the General Plan EIR includes several goals, policies, and actions related to service levels to address this issue and ensure SFD continues to provide adequate facilities and staffing levels. For example, Action LU-6.1.G, states that the City should maintain adequate staffing levels to support achieving the service level goals for police and fire protection. See Subsection 3.13.2.3 for additional policies relating to fire protection services. There are 13 fire stations throughout the City, listed in Table 3.13-2 below, that contain three

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<sup>1</sup> Stockton Fire Department current service ratio: 182 sworn personnel / (315,685 residents / 1,000) = .58 sworn personnel per 1,000 residents.

four-person truck companies and 13 three-person fire engine companies. Station 3 houses the HazMat Team, and Station 2 houses the Urban Search and Rescue Team. The closest stations to the project site are Station 1, located approximately 2.8 mile driving distance southeast, and Station 2 located approximately 2.4 miles driving distance east. Station 6 is a similar distance geographically to the Port as Station 2, but is an additional 2 miles driving distance.

**Table 3.13-2. City of Stockton Fire Department Locations**

Station Number	Street Address
Station 1	1818 S. Fresno Avenue, Stockton, CA 95206
Station 2	110 West Sonora Street Stockton, CA 95203
Station 3	1116 East First Street Stockton, CA 95206
Station 4	5525 Pacific Avenue Stockton, CA 95207
Station 5	3499 Manthey Road Stockton, CA 95206
Station 6	1501 Picardy Drive Stockton, CA 95203
Station 7	1767 West Hammer Lane Stockton, CA 95209
Station 9	550 East Harding Way Stockton, CA 95204
Station 10	2903 West March Lane Stockton, CA 95219
Station 11	1211 East Swain Road Stockton, CA 95210
Station 12	4010 East Main Street Stockton, CA 95215
Station 13	3606 Hendrix Drive Stockton, CA 95212
Station 14	3019 McNabb Street Stockton, CA 95209

Source: City of Stockton 2023c.

The most recent year for which data is available, 2015, SFD responded to a total of 38,275 incidents, including calls for public assistance to major emergency management incidents. The City’s General Plan states that the response time goal for the SFD is within four minutes, 90 percent of the time. Data from 2015 concluded that 90 percent of the SFD’s Code 3 responses took 5 minutes 43 seconds or less. Thus, the SFD is not currently meeting its response time goal. The goal of 4 minutes was met 62 percent of the time (City of Stockton 2018). To adequately serve the growing population of the City, SFD predicts that they will require three additional fire stations in the east and southeast areas of the City (City of Stockton 2018). As is has previously been stated, the City’s General Plan includes policies and implementation measures to ensure staffing, service levels, and response times throughout the City are sufficiently maintained.

### Fire Hazard Severity Zone

The project site is not within a fire hazard severity zone. Please see Section 3.13.2.2, below, and Section 3.17 Wildfire for further discussion of fire hazard severity zones.

### Schools

The project site is served by the Stockton Unified School District (SUSD) (City of Stockton 2018). The closest schools to the project site are Washington Elementary School approximately 2 miles southeast and Edison High School approximately 3.7 miles southeast.



## Parks and Recreation Facilities

There are three categories of parks that the City owns and operates: neighborhood, community, and specialty parks. In addition to these three categories, the City also owns and operates trails, special purpose facilities, and accessible open space. In total, the City maintains 215 acres of neighborhood parks, 411 acres of community parks, and 14 acres of specialty parks. Population data from 2018 concludes that the ideal ratios of parkland to residents are not currently met by the city. The current ratios including both the City and San Joaquin County parks are:

- 0.8 acres of neighborhood parkland per 1,000 residents
- 1.3 acres of community parkland per 1,000 residents
- 0.6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents
- 2.8 acres of total parkland per 1,000 residents

The proposed standard in the City's General Plan is 2 acres of neighborhood parkland, 3 acres of community parkland, and 3 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents respectively (City of Stockton 2018).

The closest City owned park to the project site is Louis Park, located approximately 0.30 miles north of the project site, across the San Joaquin River.

## Library Services

The Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library (SSJCPL) provides library services to the residents of the City. Currently, the SSJCPL operates five facilities, all of which are open five days a week. The library facilities are the Cesar Chavez Central Library, the Margaret K. Troke Branch Library, the Maya Angelou Branch Library, the Fair Oaks Branch Library, and the Weston Ranch Branch Library. In addition to the library branches, SSJCPL offers mobile library services to areas of the county that are underserved or are remote. The library locations collectively offer residents access to electronic resources, reference and advisory materials., online learning platforms, free internet access, as well as computers equipped with printers (City of Stockton 2018). The closest library facility to the project site is the Cesar Chavez Central Library approximately 1.8 miles east.

## 3.13.2 Regulatory Setting

### 3.13.2.1 Federal

#### U.S. Forest Service

In 2019, the lead agency and the U.S. Forest Service signed a Master Stewardship Agreement (MSA) for the general purpose of achieving resilient forests within U.S. Forest Service Region 5, which includes all of the 18 national forests located in California. Individual Sustainable Forest Management Projects to reduce high hazard fuel loads and increase resiliency will be implemented through Supplemental Project Agreements and similar stewardship contracting mechanisms (SPAs). (While the MSA applies to the entirety of Region 5, only Sustainable Forest Management Projects within the Working Area described in Section 2.4 are contemplated under the proposed project.) The Forest Service's strategic plan (USDA 2015) includes four outcome-oriented goals:

1. Sustain Our Nation's Forests and Grasslands.
2. Deliver Benefits to the Public.

3. Apply Knowledge Globally.
4. Excel as a High-Performing Agency

The plan further identifies three strategic objectives for the first goal:

- Foster resilient, adaptive, ecosystems to mitigate climate change.
- Mitigate wildfire risk.
- Conserve open space.

### **Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974/Federal Fire Safety Act of 1992**

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 was created to provide federal assistance to states and communities for research and development, education, and training on fire problems; setting priorities; and identifying possible solutions to problems. The 1974 act was amended in 1992 by the Federal Fire Safety Act of 1992 to require, among other things, automatic sprinkler systems or an equivalent level of safety on buildings having more than 25 employees that have been purchased, constructed, or renovated with federal funds.

### **National Fire Protection Association Codes and Standards**

The National Fire Protection Association is a membership organization that develops and monitors the use of more than 300 fire codes and standards that have been widely incorporated into state and local fire codes. There are no legislative enforcement mechanisms in place. By working through numerous technical committees, the National Fire Protection Association uses a consensus approach to solve many safety-related issues. The National Fire Protection Association standards are updated every 3 to 5 years (NFPA 2018).

## **3.13.2.2 State**

### **State Fire Regulations**

The California Fire Code (CFC) is Part 9 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, which includes regulations concerning building standards (as also set forth in the California Building Code), fire protection and notification systems, fire protection devices such as extinguishers and smoke alarms, high-rise building and childcare facility standards, and fire suppression training. It was created by the California Building Standards Commission and is based on the International Fire Code created by the International Code Council. It is the primary means for authorizing and enforcing procedures and mechanisms to ensure the safe handling and storage of any substance that may pose a threat to public health and safety. The CFC regulates the use, handling, and storage requirements for hazardous materials at fixed facilities. The CFC and the California Building Code use a hazard classification system to determine what protective measures are required to protect fire and life safety (24 CCR Part 9). These measures may include construction standards, separations from property lines, and specialized equipment. To ensure that these safety measures are met, the CFC employs a permit system based on hazard classification. The CFC is updated every 3 years and was most recently updated in 2016, with an effective date of January 1, 2017.

### **Fire Hazard Severity Zones**

CAL FIRE maps Fire Hazard Severity Zones California based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors as directed by Public Resources Code Sections 4201–4204 and Government Code Sections 51175–51189. Fire Hazard Severity Zones are ranked from moderate to very high and are categorized for fire protection

within a federal responsibility area, state responsibility area, or local responsibility area under the jurisdiction of a federal agency, CAL FIRE, or local agency, respectively. The California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Section 1280 entitles the maps of the geographical areas as “Maps of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the State Responsibility Area of California.”

#### **California Public Resources Code**

California Public Resources Code Section 4290 and the implementing regulations adopted by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection set forth minimum fire safety standards related to defensible space within state responsibility areas approved after January 1, 1991, and within lands classified and designated as very high fire hazard severity zones, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 51177 of the Government Code after July 1, 2021. These regulations apply to the perimeters and access to all residential, commercial, and industrial building construction. The regulations include all of the following:

1. Road standards for fire equipment access.
2. Standards for signs identifying streets, roads, and buildings.
3. Minimum private water supply reserves for emergency fire use.
4. Fuel breaks and greenbelts.

#### **California Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

In accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 8 Sections 1270 “Fire Prevention” and 6773 “Fire Protection and Fire Equipment” the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) has established minimum standards for fire suppression and emergency medical services. The standards include, but are not limited to, guidelines on the handling of highly combustible materials, fire hose sizing requirements, restrictions on the use of compressed air, access roads, and the testing, maintenance and use of all firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

#### **California Education Code Section 17620 and Senate Bill 50**

California Senate Bill 50, the School Facilities Act of 1998, and the bond procedures under Proposition 1A of 1998 amended state law to reform school facilities financing and to set the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) standards for mitigation for school facilities. As amended by Senate Bill 50, California Education Code Section 17620 authorizes school districts to levy a fee against new development, including residential and non-residential, within the school district to fund construction, reconstruction, and/or modernization of school facilities. The school district must demonstrate the need for school construction or reconstruction, and demonstrate that the fee does not exceed the cost of construction or reconstruction necessary to meet this need. Senate Bill 50 also amended California Government Code Sections 65966–65968 to prohibit a local agency from either denying approval of a land use project because of inadequate school facilities or imposing school impact mitigation measures other than the designated fees provided for in the Education Code. However, in any year that a proposed statewide bond measure for K– 12 school facilities fails, Senate Bill 50 would permit a local agency to deny a development project requiring legislative approval on the basis of inadequate school facilities.

#### **Quimby Act**

In 1975, the Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477, as amended in 1982) granted cities and counties authority to pass ordinances requiring developers to set aside land, donate conservation easements, or

pay in-lieu fees for park improvements. The goal of the Quimby Act was to require developers to help mitigate the impacts of their developments. Special districts must work with cities and counties to receive parkland dedication and/or in-lieu fees. The fees must be paid and land conveyed directly to the local public agencies that provide park and recreation services to the affected community. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for operation and maintenance of park facilities.

### 3.13.2.3 Local

#### Lassen County

##### Lassen County General Plan

Goal L-14. A rate and the location of community growth which does not result in a significant burden to existing levels of public services and facilities, including schools, fire protection, and community sewer and water facilities.

Policy LU36. A rate and the location of community growth which does not result in a significant burden to existing levels of public services and facilities, including schools, fire protection, and community sewer and water facilities.

Policy LU37. The County shall periodically evaluate the impacts of general development trends on public services and, within its authority and in consultation with public service providers, encourage and facilitate mitigation of significant adverse cumulative impacts.

#### Lassen County Code

##### Section 12.60.020. - Fire Capital Impact Fees

Section 12.60.020 of the Lassen County Municipal Code presents the requirements for the payment of fire capital impact fees by new residential, commercial, industrial, and industrial developments. The amount of said fee shall be established by a competent analysis of the nexus, relationship and degree of the impact of growth upon the delivery of district services, commissioned and provided by said fire protection districts (Big Valley Fire Protection District). The impact fees are to be used for the acquisition of land and easements for fire facilities, design and ordinance construction of fire facilities, and/or fire capital expenditures made necessary by the development of new residential, commercial, industrial and other projects in the respective districts.

##### Section 9.16.070 - Enforcement Authority [Fire Warden]

Section 9.16.070 of the Lassen County Municipal Code states that the County Fire Warden is empowered to enforce all provisions of Chapter 9.16 - Fire Hazards of the County Municipal Code (see below) as well as the State SRA/VHFHSZ Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations Title 14, section 1270 et seq.). The term "County Fire Warden includes any person duly deputized as such by said county fire warden. The County Board of Supervisors first established the position of County Fire Warden in 1983 and designated the CAL FIRE Ranger in Lassen County as the Lassen County Fire Warden (Board Resolution Number 83/84-47). The current fire warden for the County is Scott Packwood.

The Fire Warden enforces the County and State Fire Safe Regulations in close coordination with the Lassen County Department of Planning and Building Services, who is responsible for the issuance of building permits in the unincorporated areas of Lassen County (all areas outside the City of Susanville, excluding certain state and federally managed property). In many instances, Lassen County performs certain inspections required pursuant to these standards on behalf of the Fire Warden (as delegated by the Fire Warden). Said delegation is provided in an August 31, 2022, letter from the Fire Warden/CAL FIRE titled "Delegation of authority to enforce the Fire Safe Regulations in any SRA within Lassen County to the Lassen County Planning and Building Services Department.

#### Chapter 9.16 - Fire Hazards

Chapter 9.16 of the Lassen County Municipal Code presents basic wildfire protection standards of the California Board of Forestry. The Chapter states that any law, regulation or ordinance involving fire safety which is more restrictive will take precedence over the standards presented therein.

#### Chapter 12.08 - California Building Code

Chapter 12.08 of the Lassen County Municipal Code adopts the California Building Code.

### Tuolumne County

#### Tuolumne County General Plan

##### Police Protection

Goal 9D. Protect and enhance the quality of life in Tuolumne County by providing a criminal justice system that offers peace of mind to the citizens of Tuolumne County that their lives and personal property will be protected from crime.

Policy 9.D.2. Provide law enforcement, such as patrol, investigation, supervision, administration, clerical support, dispatch, coroner, crime laboratory, prosecution, probation, and jail services within the unincorporated area of Tuolumne County and assure that the established level of service is maintained and maintain this level.

Policy 9.D.3. Assure that the established level of service in the criminal justice system is maintained prior to approving new development.

##### Fire Protection

Goal 9C. Protect and enhance the quality of life by continuing to provide the highest quality and cost-effective emergency services to the citizens of, and visitors to, Tuolumne County.

Policy 9.C.1. Provide participating first responder medical aid units with the equipment necessary to efficiently and safely provide emergency first aid, along with the training programs necessary for the safe and effective use of the equipment.

Policy 9.C.2. Provide ambulance service within the County which maintains a professional level of service to the public in a cost-efficient manner.

Goal 9E. Provide structural fire protection to persons and property within Tuolumne County consistent with the needs dictated by the level of development and in accordance with current Federal, State, and local fire protection agency regulations and policies.

Policy 9.E.2. Maintain adopted levels of fire service.

Policy 9.E.3 Require new development to be consistent with State and County regulations and policies regarding fire protection.

Goal 9G. Establish and maintain a codified fire protection risk management strategy which requires new development within Tuolumne County to incorporate or supply fire protection infrastructure and improvements necessary so that such development does not exceed the capabilities of the County's fire protection resources.

Policy 9.G.3. Determine the impact proposed development will have on the provision of fire protection services and maintain the established level of service as outlined in the current Tuolumne County Fire Department Service Level Stabilization Plan.

#### Parks and Recreation

Goal 11A. Provide an adequate supply and equitable distribution of recreation facilities for residents based on existing and projected population and the results of community needs surveys.

Policy 11.A.1. Acquire and develop recreation facilities to fulfill the County's projected unmet need based on a goal of 5 acres of recreational facilities per 1,000 residents.

Goal 11E. Address the impacts of new development on the County's recreational facilities.

Policy 11.E.1. Maintain and update, as necessary, the Tuolumne County Ordinance Code sections pertaining to land dedications and/or payment of in-lieu fees for new development's contribution to providing recreational facilities consistent with Government Code Section 66477.

#### Library Services

Goal 12C. Adopt an acceptable level of availability and variety of library services and maintain that level as new development occurs within Tuolumne County.

Policy 12.C.1. Maintain a goal through the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for levels of library services throughout Tuolumne County equivalent to 325 square feet of gross floor area of adequately equipped and staffed library facilities per 1,000 population, exclusive of the Sierra Conservation Center.

#### Tuolumne County Code

##### Chapter 15.04

Chapter 15.04 of the Tuolumne County Code of Ordinances adopts the California Building Code.



## Chapter 15.20

Chapter 15.20 of the Tuolumne County Code of Ordinances adopts the California Fire Code and provides regulations for fire hydrant, off-street signing, gate entrances, setbacks, defensible space, and fuel modifications.

## City of Stockton

### City of Stockton General Plan

Goal PFS-1. To ensure the provision of adequate facilities and services that maintain service levels are adequately funded and allocated strategically.

Policy PFS-1.1 *Maintain Existing Levels of Services*. The City shall give priority to providing services to existing urban areas in order to prevent the deterioration of existing levels-of-service.

Policy PFS-1.4 *Development Impacts to Existing Infrastructure*. The City shall ensure that proposed developments do not create substantial adverse impacts on existing infrastructure and that the necessary infrastructure will be in place to support the development.

Policy PFS-1.5 *Funding for Public Facilities*. The City shall continue to utilize developer fees, the City's public facilities fees, and other methods (i.e., grant funding and assessment districts) to finance public facility design, construction, operation, and maintenance.

Policy PFS-1.8 *Impact Mitigation*. The City shall review development proposals for their impacts on infrastructure (i.e., sewer, water, fire stations, libraries, streets) and require appropriate mitigation measures if development reduces service levels.

Policy PFS-1.9 *Development Guidelines*. During the development review process, the City shall not approve new development unless the following guidelines are met:

- The applicant provides acceptable documentation demonstrating infrastructure capacity will be available to serve the project prior to occupancy;
- The applicant can demonstrate that all necessary infrastructure to serve the project is adequately financed and will be installed prior to occupancy;
- Infrastructure improvements are consistent with City or other service provider's infrastructure master plans; and
- Infrastructure improvements incorporate a range of feasible measures that can be implemented to reduce all public safety and/or environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation, or maintenance of any required improvement.

## Police Protection

Goal PFS-7 To provide protection to the public through adequate police staffing and related resources, effective law enforcement, and the incorporation of crime prevention features in new development, as approved by the Police Department.

Policy PHS-7.1 Police Response Time. The City shall maintain an average response time of 5 minutes or less for priority one calls.

#### Fire Protection

Goal PFS-8 To provide protection to the public through effective fire protection services and the incorporation of fire safety features in new development.

Policy PFS-8.1 Fire Response Time. The City shall work to maintain a fire response time as indicated in Table 9-1, which shall be used to determine future fire stations needs.

Policy PFS-8.4 Cost Sharing. The City shall require new development to pay all public facility fees (PFF) as a means to provide a fair share of costs to provide fire station facilities and equipment in order to maintain current levels of service in newly developed areas. Also, new development may be required to create a Community Facility District (CFD) or other funding mechanisms to pay the costs associated with the operation of a fire station.

Policy PFS-8.6 Adequate Emergency Access. The City shall require that new development provide adequate access for emergency vehicles, particularly firefighting equipment, as well as provide evacuation routes.

Goal LU-6 Effective Planning. Provide for orderly, well-planned, and balanced development.

Policy LU-6.1 Carefully plan for future development and proactively mitigate potential impacts.

Action LU-6.1.G. Maintain adequate staffing levels to support achieving the City's service level goals for police and fire protection.

#### Parks and Recreation

Goal RW-2. To provide a variety of recreational facilities to meet the diverse needs of Stockton's residents, workers, and visitors.

Policy RW-2.2 Funding for Recreational Areas and Facilities. The City shall strive for adequate funding to meet the park standards in Policy RW-2.1 through development fees and State, Federal, and local grants to construct new recreational facilities.

#### Schools

Goal PFS-9 To ensure that adequate school facilities are available to meet the needs of City residents.

Policy PFS-9.2 Funding for New School Construction. The City shall support school districts in maximizing the use of developer fees and other funding options (Mello-Roos districts) to fund new construction.

Policy PFS-9.5 School Funding To the extent allowed by State law, the City will require new projects to mitigate impacts on school facilities, which could occur through the use of developer fees. The City

will also work with school districts, developers, and the public to evaluate alternatives to funding/providing adequate school facilities.

### Library Services

There are no local laws or regulations addressing library services that are relevant to the proposed project.

### Port of Stockton

#### West Complex Development Plan

As part of long-term planning for the West Complex, the Port identified and considered the types of development and operations that could occur based on existing infrastructure, approved land uses, and future regional consumer demand. The West Complex Development Plan (WCDP) was approved in 2004, along with certification of WCDP EIR.

### City of Stockton Municipal Code

#### Section 16.72.260

Section 16.72.260 of the Stockton Municipal Code establishes a public facilities fee on the issuance of permits for development within the city. Subsection B.1 defines public facilities as City offices, fire stations, libraries, police stations, community recreation centers, street improvements, and water and sewage facilities. Per Subsection C, revenue from building permits will be used to pay for design and construction of designated public facilities, program development, and overall maintenance.

## 3.13.3 Thresholds of Significance

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to Public Services are based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a significant impact related to Public Services would occur if the project would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:
  - Fire protection?
  - Police protection?
  - Schools?
  - Parks and Recreation facilities?<sup>2</sup>
  - Other public facilities?

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<sup>2</sup> As indicated in the Notice of Preparation issued June 1, 2023, the project is not anticipated to significantly impact recreation - and particularly does not involve any activities that might 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. This Environmental Impact Report therefore does not include a separate "Recreation" chapter, and whether the project would induce construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment is evaluated in this chapter.

## 3.13.4 Impact Analysis

### 3.13.4.1 Methodology

The proposed project would consist of three primary phases: feedstock acquisition, wood pellet production, and transport to market. The impact analyses below evaluate each of these primary phases as related to public services.

Evaluation of potential public service impacts was based on a review of documents identifying current level service standards for the local jurisdictions, including the Lassen County 2000 General Plan, Tuolumne County 2018 General Plan, Envision Stockton 2040 General Plan, Big Valley Fire Department, Tuolumne County Fire Department, Port of Stockton, and the U.S. Forest Service. Impacts on public services that would result from the project were identified by comparing existing service capacity and facilities against future demand associated with project implementation.

### 3.13.4.2 Project Impacts

Impact SER-1                      The project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services.

## Feedstock Acquisition

### Sustainable Forest Management Projects

Feedstock for the proposed project will derive from Sustainable Forest Management Projects on public forest lands (federal, state, and tribal) or private lands zoned for timber production within the Working Area described in Section 2.4. It is anticipated that USFS and CAL FIRE would be the primary fire protection services for feedstock acquisition areas of the project, within Federal and State Responsibility Areas, respectively. Local fire departments and fire protection districts would have primary responsibility for Local Responsibility Areas. Note that mutual aid agreements may affect which agency is the “first” responder, but do not change who has overall financial responsibility. Please refer to Section 3.17 for a discussion about possible impacts relating to wildfire. It is not anticipated that the proposed project would result in an increase in a service demand for fire protection services such that additional facilities would be necessary. As stated in Chapter 2 of this EIR, one of the primary objectives of the proposed project is to reduce the possibility for wildfire across the state.

Vegetation management that would occur as a result of project operations would be temporary in nature. Therefore, the demand for law enforcement or other public services in the varying feedstock acquisition regions would not significantly increase and not necessitate the need for new or altered facilities for public services. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**.

## Wood Pellet Production

### Lassen Facility

#### Fire Protection

The BVFD is one of 16 fire protection districts in the County and provides services over 105.3 square miles, including the project site. The BVFD has one joint station with CAL FIRE located in the town of Bieber, approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the project site. The staffing consists of ten active volunteer fire fighters. The services provided include response to structural and wildland fire, in addition to medical emergency within the scope of traffic or crowd control. Ambulance services are provided through Southern Cascades Medical Services and respond from the town of Adin, roughly 13.9 miles northeast of the project site. The most recent municipal services review for the fire districts in the County was circulated in December of 2020. This report concludes that the BVFD is functioning at an adequate level in collaboration with CAL FIRE. Further, the report predicts that the BVFD will have the capacity to continue functioning at this level into the future. This determination was also made in consideration to the County's estimated future population growth, or lack thereof, in the unincorporated areas of the County (LAFCo 2020).

The proposed project would involve the development of a wood pellet processing facility, consistent with existing zoning. The project would increase the service population at the project site. However, as discussed in Section 3.13, Population and Housing of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR), it was determined that the proposed project would not induce a significant permanent population growth in the surrounding areas of the project site as there is not a residential component to the project and employees would likely commute from around the region.

The project would introduce new structures to the project site, and storage of materials, that would comply with local, state, and federal regulations regarding fire code, protection, and safety to assist in minimizing the likelihood of a fire event. The storage of wood pellets can create a potential fire hazard under certain conditions. The methods to reduce the risk of fire are described in Chapter 2, Project Description, and further described in Section 3.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials. These methods would substantially reduce the potential for fire related to the storage of wood pellets.

Through the increase in service population at the site, and the construction of new structures, the proposed project has the potential to slightly increase BVFD's calls for services. However, compliance with applicable regulations regarding fire code, protection, and safety, implementation of maintenance and operational measures as described in the project description, and the use of on-site fire suppression methods, would reduce the need for expanded fire protection facilities in the project vicinity. Impacts related to fire protection are **less than significant**.

#### Police Protection

The Lassen County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to the project site. The only sheriff's station in the County is located in the City of Susanville, approximately 54 miles southeast of the project site. However, the Sheriff's Office has one assigned deputy to the Big Valley patrol post, which serves the town of Nubieber. As it was previously identified in Section 3.13 of this EIR, the proposed project would not result in unplanned population growth. The project is a 24-hour, 7 day/week operation, which limits the opportunity for property crime. In addition, the facility is secure, with a perimeter fence, and access controlled by manned gatehouses. A substantial increase in demand for police protection is therefore not anticipated. Should additional patrols be required in the project vicinity, the Sheriff's Office employs a residential patrol model, that would not result in new public facilities (the

construction of which could result in potential environmental impacts). The project would not increase the demand for police protection services in a manner that would require new facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. Impacts related to police protection would be **less than significant**.

#### Schools

The project would not include residential uses. Although it is possible that the additional employment opportunities at the project site could induce population growth in the surrounding towns, it is anticipated that most of the jobs would be filled by commuters as it is consistent with the region's workforce patterns. As a result, the project is not expected to increase the demand on school facilities in the area. In addition, the project would be subject to school impact fees for non-residential construction. The payment of such fees are considered full mitigation for school facilities under CEQA. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

#### Parks

The County manages the parks and recreation facilities throughout the County. The project would not involve development of residential uses or result in direct or indirect population growth that would, in turn, increase demand on regional parks and open spaces. Therefore, impacts related to parks and recreation resources would be **less than significant**.

#### Library Facilities

The Lassen Library District is the only public library in the County and provides library services to the project site. As previously stated, the proposed project does not include any residential uses and is not anticipated to induce population growth that would, in turn, increase demand on regional libraries. Therefore, impacts related to library facilities would be **less than significant**.

#### Tuolumne Facility

#### Fire Protection

The project site is located within a State Responsibility Area. The primary fire response would come from the CAL FIRE Green Springs Station, located 0.25 miles from the project site. The project site is previously developed, and therefore has historically been served by existing fire facilities. The proposed project includes on site fire prevention and suppression systems (see also Section 3.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials). New, or expanded, fire protection facilities would not be required in order to serve the project site.

The proposed project involves the development of a wood pellet production facility. The project would increase the service population at the project site, in the form of employees. However, as noted in Section 3.13, Population and Housing, the proposed project would not cause substantial population growth within the area, and thus would not increase the permanent population requiring fire and medical services. The project would introduce new structures to the project site, and storage of materials, that would comply with local, state, and federal regulations regarding fire code, protection, and safety to assist in minimizing the likelihood of a fire event. The storage of wood pellets can create a potential fire hazard under certain conditions. The methods to reduce the risk of fire are described in Chapter 2, Project Description, and further described in Section 3.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials. These methods would substantially reduce the potential for fire related to the storage of wood pellets. Compliance with



General Plan policies in addition to local, state, and federal requirements would result in **less than significant** impacts to fire protection and emergency services.

#### Police Protection

The County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services within the County. The only Sheriff's Station in the County is located in the city of Sonora, approximately 12 miles northeast of the project site. As it was present in Section 3.13 of this EIR, the project would primarily employ individuals residing in the region and would not substantially increase the demand for housing or result in population growth. The County's General Plan anticipates a low level of population increase through the year of 2040. Based on the predicted growth percentage, the General Plan assumes that additional 23 Sheriff deputies will be added incrementally throughout their planning horizon. Therefore, there would not be significant impacts on the average response time of 3 minutes and 18 seconds. Furthermore, the potential for new facilities required to accommodate the additional law enforcement personnel have been addressed in the County's General plan. For these reasons, the project is not expected to increase demand for police protection services such that new or expanded facilities would be required. Impacts related to police protection would be **less than significant**.

#### Schools

The project would not include residential uses. Although additional employment opportunities at the project site could induce slight population growth in towns adjacent to the project site, it is anticipated that most of the jobs would be filled by people already living in the area, since the region has a reasonable workforce. Nevertheless, the proposed project would be required to pay impact fees to the Jamestown School District and the Sonora Union Highschool District for the construction of non-residential structures. The payment of such fees are considered full mitigation for school facilities under CEQA .Impacts related to school facilities would be **less than significant**.

#### Parks

The Tuolumne County Recreation Department provides park and recreation services to the project site. The proposed project would not involve development of residential uses and would not result in direct or indirect population growth that would, in turn, increase demand on regional parks and open spaces. Therefore, impacts related to libraries facilities would be **less than significant**.

#### Library Facilities

The County Library provides services to the project site. The proposed project would not involve development of residential uses and would not result in a direct or indirect population growth that would, in turn, increase demand on the regional libraries. Therefore, impacts related to libraries would be **less than significant**.

### Transport to Market

#### Port of Stockton

#### Fire Protection

The SFD provides fire protection and emergency medical services to approximately 90 square miles, including the project site. SFD has a total of 13 fire station that are staffed by a total of 182 sworn personnel. The 13 SFD stations

are equipped with 3 four-person truck companies and 13 three-person fire engine companies. The first responding station to the project site would be Station 1.

The proposed project includes the construction of a purpose-built export terminal at an existing port. The project site is zoned for industrial use and would be used as such. Likewise, the proposed project is consistent with surrounding land uses. The project would add approximately eight (8) employees to the site and eight (8) full-time equivalent stevedore positions for ship loading operations. The project would introduce new structures to the project site, and storage of materials, that would comply with local, state, and federal regulations regarding fire code, protection, and safety to assist in minimizing the likelihood of a fire event. The storage of wood pellets can create a potential fire hazard under certain conditions. The methods to reduce the risk of fire are described in Chapter 2, Project Description, and further described in Section 3.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials. These methods would substantially reduce the potential for fire related to the storage of wood pellets.

In addition to the measures for fire protection and suppression described above, under Stockton Municipal Code Section 16.72.260, the proposed project would be required to pay public facility impact fees to ensure proper mitigation of impacts from new development on public facilities. Compliance with applicable regulations regarding fire code, protection, and safety, implementation of maintenance and operational measures as described in the project description, and the use of on-site fire suppression methods, would reduce the need for expanded fire protection facilities in the project vicinity. Impacts related to fire protection are **less than significant**.

#### Police Protection

The project facility would be located within the Port of Stockton, which is currently served by Port police. In addition, the Port is a secure facility. Only authorized persons are granted entry to the project site. The project would be served by the existing police staffing and facilities. No new or expanded police facilities are anticipated to serve the project. Therefore, the proposed project would have a **less than significant** impact on police protection services.

#### Schools

The project would not include residential uses and would not generate additional students. It is anticipated that an additional eight employees, and eight full-time equivalent stevedore positions, will be required at the Port. It is anticipated that the existing local workforce would be sufficient (and thus not generate additional students). In addition, the proposed project would pay impact fees to the Stockton Unified School District for the construction of non-residential structures. The payment of such fees are considered full mitigation for school facilities under CEQA. Impacts related to school facilities would be **less than significant**.

#### Parks

The City of Stockton provides park and recreation services to the City, including the project site. The project would not involve development of residential uses and would not result in a direct or indirect population growth that would, in turn, increase demand on regional parks or open spaces. Therefore, impacts related to parks and recreational resources would be **less than significant**.

#### Library Facilities

The Stockton-San Joaquin County Library provides library services to the project site. The project would not involve development of residential uses and would not result in a direct or indirect population growth that would, in turn,

increase demand on regional libraries. Therefore, impacts related to parks and recreational resources would be **less than significant**.

### 3.13.4.3 Cumulative Impacts

#### Feedstock Acquisition

##### Sustainable Forest Management Projects

Other vegetation management projects, as described in Section 3.0, would occur within Northern California. However, it is unlikely that such projects would interact in such a way as to increase service demands in a particular location. Furthermore, feedstock operations are temporary in nature, and occur only during working hours. Such projects would not require new or expanded facilities. The proposed project would not have a considerable contribution to a cumulative service impact.

#### Wood Pellet Production

##### Lassen Facility

As described in Section 3.0, no other cumulative projects have been identified in Big Valley that would result in substantial service needs. In addition, the County General Plan states that County will continue its working relationship with community service districts in considering approval of new development to help anticipate and mitigate expanding demands and impacts upon those services. The County General Plan includes policies to address the effects of growth, including a requirement that new development pay its fair share of costs for new fire and police protection facilities and services. The proposed project would not result in a considerable contribution to a cumulative service impact.

##### Tuolumne Facility

As described in Section 3.0, cumulative projects in the project vicinity may require additional services. The two planned biomass plants would create minimal service demand, similar to the proposed project, and would be served by existing facilities. The proposed project would not result in a considerable contribution to a cumulative service impact.

#### Transport to Market

##### Port of Stockton

As described in Section 3.0, other cargo projects are planned within the Port of Stockton. The Port has planned for such expansion in its West Complex Development Plan (WCDP), and accompanying EIR. The WCDP EIR concluded that the existing fire response capacity was sufficient for development of the West Complex. Likewise, while new development activities have the potential to incrementally increase the demand for law enforcement, it would not require new or expanded facilities. Furthermore, the proposed project is consistent with type and intensity of land uses evaluated in the WCDP EIR. The proposed project would generate a negligible demand on law enforcement services and the findings would be the same as those described in the WCDP EIR. The proposed project would not result in a considerable contribution to a cumulative service impact.

### 3.13.4.4 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

### 3.13.4.5 Significance After Mitigation

Impact SER-1            The project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services. (Less than significant).

The project would not result in a significant impact to public services. No mitigation is required, as the potential impact is **less than significant**.

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