

4.11 PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

This chapter provides a discussion of the existing conditions and potential impacts relating to police, fire, schools, libraries and park and recreation services in the Specific Plan.

A. *Police*

The following describes current conditions and potential impacts of the Specific Plan with regard to police services in Santa Rosa.

1. **Regulatory Framework**

a. Relevant City of Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan Goals and Policies

The following lists applicable General Plan goals and policies most pertinent to the Specific Plan with regards to police services.

Goal PSF-E: Provide fire and police services that ensure the safety of the community.

- ◆ **Policy PSF-E-1:** Provide for citizen safety through expedient response to emergency calls. The fire response goal is 4 minutes to 80 percent of emergency calls, 5 minutes to 90 percent of emergency calls and 6 minutes or less to all emergency calls. The police response goal is 6 minutes for emergency calls, 14 minutes for urgent calls and 32 minutes for routine calls.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-E-2:** Provide for the safety of Santa Rosa citizens by maintaining efficient, well-trained and adequately equipped police and fire personnel.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-E-3:** Collaborate with other local jurisdictions in the provision of some police and fire services, if such collaboration can improve service levels and is cost effective.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-E-5:** Assist neighborhoods and increase community contact through the Neighborhood Oriented Policing Program.

b. Measure O (Ordinance 3680)¹

On August 3, 2004, the Council adopted Ordinance 3680 which imposed a special transactions and use tax to generate revenues to be utilized for specific police, fire and gang prevention and intervention programs, as set forth in the Ordinance. The special tax ballot measure, known as Measure O, was approved by over two-thirds of the voters and the election results certified on December 7, 2004.

The ordinance sets forth permissible uses for the revenue generated, and allocates proceeds from the tax in the following manner: Police (40%), Fire (40%), and Neighborhood Safety/Gang Prevention (20%).

The Police Department's Measure O funds are designated for specific uses and purposes that enhance and expand the department's mission. These uses include, among other programs, traffic enforcement, patrol expansion, gang enforcement, school resource services, downtown enforcement and replacement of the patrol fleet. During the 2005/06 fiscal year the Police Department utilized Measure O funds to order six patrol cars, hire two Field and Evidence Technicians, a Police Lieutenant, a Police Technician and a Communications Supervisor. During the 2006/07 fiscal year, the Department assigned a sergeant to the downtown area utilizing Measure O funds and is in the process of housing its Downtown Team in the Courthouse Square area.

2. Existing Conditions

The Santa Rosa Police Department (SRPD) is the main provider of police services within the Specific Plan Area, but on the highways and within the unincorporated areas, the County Sheriff handles criminal law enforcement and the California Highway Patrol assists with traffic enforcement.

Mutual aid between neighboring law enforcement agencies is provided on an as-needed basis. The SRPD is made up of three divisions, each with two

¹ City of Santa Rosa's website. <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/default.aspx?PageId=2055>, accessed on January 17, 2007.

bureaus: Field Services (Patrol and Traffic Bureaus), Special Services (Investigations and Support Bureaus) and Technical Services (Communications and Records Bureaus). As of January 2006, there was a total of 184 sworn personnel, including 17 officers and three management vacancies and 89 civilian staff in the SRPD.² The City's standard for police service requires the SRPD to provide for citizen safety through an expedient response to emergency calls, requiring response standards at 6 minutes for emergency calls, 14 minutes for urgent calls and 32 minutes for routine calls. The nearest police station to the Specific Plan Area is located at 965 Sonoma Avenue. Additionally, the SRPD recently opened a new sub-station facility within the Specific Plan Area at 19 Old Courthouse Square.

According to data collected from 2005, the average response time to Priority I calls took an extra 0.37 minutes over the City's goal, but average response times to Priority II calls took 2.03 minutes fewer and Priority III calls took 5.65 minutes fewer than the goals set by the General Plan.³

3. Standards of Significance

The Specific Plan would have a significant impact with regard to police services if it would:

- ◆ Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police facilities, need for new or physically altered police facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable police service ratios and response times.

² Close, Colin. Research and Program Coordinator, Special Services Division, Santa Rosa Police Department. Personal e-mail communication with Ken MacNab, City of Santa Rosa, January 25, 2006.

³ Santa Rosa Police Department, 2005, *Staff Activity Report*, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa.

4. Impact Discussion

a. Project Impacts

An increase in population under the Specific Plan could have the potential to increase the demand for police services within the Specific Plan Area. Development under the Specific Plan would intensify the density of development within the Specific Plan Area, adding approximately 3,250 new residential units with an estimated population of 8,125 people⁴, along with about 198,000 square feet of office/public space and about 296,000 square feet of retail space, over the next 20 years. This increase in population and development could adversely affect the provision of police services by the SRPD.

The SRPD stated the Specific Plan would require more sworn personnel and civilian staff to meet the growing demands derived from the development under the Specific Plan. However, the SRPD recently opened a new sub-station facility within the Specific Plan Area at 19 Old Courthouse Square. As discussed below, there would not be a need for any additional facilities.⁵

The City does not have an established standard for the ratio of police officers per thousand residents. However, the SRPD's goal is to maintain the current ratio of officers to residents and to increase this ratio over time as budget constraints allow.⁶ The current ratio of sworn personnel to 1,000 residents is 1.17 and 0.57 civilian staff per 1,000 residents.⁷ Based on these ratios and projected growth from the Specific Plan, it is estimated a need increase of at least

⁴ Estimated buildout population assumes an average household size of 2.5 people for the City of Santa Rosa.

⁵ Weeks, Karen. Administrative Services Officer, Santa Rosa Police Department, City of Santa Rosa. Personal communication with Chad Markell, DC&E. November 6, 2006.

⁶ Close, Colin. Research and Program Coordinator, Santa Rosa Police Department, City of Santa Rosa. Personal e-mail communication with José Moreno, DC&E, November 14, 2006.

⁷ These calculations use the estimated January 1, 2006 Santa Rosa population of 157,145 by the California Department of Finance (<http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/ReportsPapers/Estimates/E1/documents/E-1table.xls>)

ten sworn personnel, five civilian staff and equipment to maintain or exceed current service levels. The opening of a new sub-station in the Courthouse Square Sub-Area, as mentioned above, will accommodate police facility needs in the Specific Plan Area for the foreseeable future.

Moreover, the SRPD will utilize Measure O funds, as mentioned above, to provide additional staff and vehicles, as well as additional support, traffic, a downtown sub-station and patrol services. However, Measure O funds are not anticipated to fully cover the cost of providing adequate police services to the community in accordance with General Plan response time goals. To that end, the Specific Plan includes a Goal and supporting Policies to provide funding for public services and utilities in the Plan Area (Goal SP-UPS-1). Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-1.1 would ensure that private development provides its fair share of funding for necessary improvements to public services and utilities in the Plan Area. Additionally, Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-1.2 would use the City's Capital Improvement Program, Park and Utility Fees, redevelopment program funds, federal and State grant funds and other funding sources to implement area-wide improvements that cannot be conditioned as part of private development projects.

The SRPD expressed particular concern in the potential impact of the SMART commuter rail station on calls for service, criminal offense rates and quality of life issues. However, the potential impacts of the SMART commuter rail station are outside the scope of this EIR and are analyzed in a separate EIR. It is anticipated that these concerns regarding development of the SMART site will be addressed through Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).⁸ Proper design and effective use of the built envi-

⁸ Most implementations of CPTED are based solely upon the theory that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can reduce crime, reduce the fear of crime and improve the quality of life. Built environment implementations of CPTED seek to dissuade offenders from committing crimes by manipulating the built environment in which those crimes proceed from or occur. The three most common built environment strategies are natural surveillance, natural access control and natural territorial reinforcement.

ronment reduces crime, reduces the fear of crime and improves the quality of life by enhancing the needs of bona fide users of the space.⁹

Although implementation of the Specific Plan would require additional personnel, the expansion of personnel, and the need to improve existing facilities is part of an existing plan to increase police to meet the demand in the community. Therefore, implementation of the Specific Plan policies discussed above, this impact is considered *less than significant*.

b. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulatively, in conjunction with the anticipated buildout of the 2002 General Plan, the Specific Plan may require increased police staffing, as implementation of the Specific Plan will result in an increase in residents, customers and employees, resulting in the need to increase the number of full-time equivalent police necessary for adequate staffing ratios and patrol coverage. However, the Specific Plan would not contribute to a significant cumulative impact related the creation or expansion of physical police facilities since it would not result in the need for additional facilities other than those already planned.

5. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since no significant impacts were identified resulting from the implementation of the Specific Plan in regards to police services, no mitigation measures are required.

⁹ Close, Colin. Research and Program Coordinator, Santa Rosa Police Department, City of Santa Rosa. Personal e-mail communication with José Moreno, DC&E, November 14, 2006.

B. Fire

The following describes current conditions and potential impacts of the proposed project with regard to fire services in City of Santa Rosa. Wildfire hazards and emergency evacuation are addressed in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials chapter (4.6) of this EIR.

1. Regulatory Framework

a. Relevant City of Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan Goals and Policies

The following lists applicable General Plan goals and policies most pertinent to the Specific Plan with regards to police services.

Goal PSF-E: Provide fire and police services that ensure the safety of the community.

- ◆ **Policy PSF-E-1:** Provide for citizen safety through expedient response to emergency calls. The fire response goal is 4 minutes to 80 percent of emergency calls, 5 minutes to 90 percent of emergency calls and 6 minutes or less to all emergency calls. The police response goal is 6 minutes for emergency calls, 14 minutes for urgent calls and 32 minutes for routine calls.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-E-2:** Provide for the safety of Santa Rosa citizens by maintaining efficient, well-trained and adequately equipped police and fire personnel.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-E-3:** Collaborate with other local jurisdictions in the provision of some police and fire services, if such collaboration can improve service levels and is cost effective.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-E-4:** Require implementation of fire protection measures, such as non-combustible roofing materials and fire sprinklers in areas of high fire hazard.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-E-6:** Develop three new fire stations, one in northeast, one in southwest and one in southeast Santa Rosa.

b. Measure O (Ordinance 3680)¹⁰

As discussed previously, the Council adopted Ordinance 3680 which imposed a special transactions and use tax to generate revenues to be utilized for specific Police, Fire and gang prevention and intervention programs, as set forth in the Ordinance. The special tax ballot measure, known as Measure O, was approved by over two-thirds of the voters and the election results certified on December 7, 2004.

The approval of Measure O by Santa Rosa voters had an immediate effect in the Fire Department, providing funding to maintain Engine 26 and Truck 2 that had been scheduled for a service level reduction due to budget constraints in the FY 2004/2005 budget year. Additionally, a site search for the new Southwest fire station (Station 10) was completed with the purchase of a building at 2373 Circadian Way. The construction of interim Fire Station 10 was completed and opened in March of 2006 in a portion of the building. Additional Fire Station development funded by Measure O continued in FY 2005/06. This included the search for an interim fire station site in the Mendocino/Steele Lane area, the planning for the relocation of existing Fire Station 5 to City owned property at Newgate and Fountaingrove Parkway, and the preliminary planning for the addition of a new station at Kawana Springs and Franz Kafka Avenue. All are part of a multi-year Measure O funded Fire Station expansion plan.

2. Existing Conditions¹¹

Fire protection and emergency services in the Specific Plan Area are primarily the responsibility of the Santa Rosa Fire Department (SRFD). The SRFD serves the City of Santa Rosa as well as the Roseland Fire Protection District through a contractual agreement, for a total population served of approximately 158,000 within an area of approximately 43 square miles. The SRFD is staffed by 128 sworn and seven civilian employees, including one fire

¹⁰ City of Santa Rosa's website. <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/default.aspx?PageId=2055>, accessed on January 17, 2007.

¹¹ City of Santa Rosa's website, Fire Department. <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/default.aspx?PageId=2576>, accessed on November 20, 2006.

chief, one deputy chief, one fire marshal, one division chief for training and safety, three battalion chiefs, six fire inspectors, one fire protection engineer, one administrative assistant, 34 fire captains, 72 firefighters, one administrative secretary, four senior administrative assistants, one public education coordinator and one administrative technician. In addition, the SRFD has an agreement with the Rincon Valley Fire Protection District, with whom they jointly utilize the equipment and personnel assigned to the Rincon Valley Station on Todd Road.

The SRFD is organized into three Divisions: Administration, Fire Operations and Fire Prevention. The Administration Division provides for the overall management of the SRFD by the development of new programs, the promotion of life safety and environmental protection, the provision of administrative support for SRFD personnel and the administration of the Roseland Fire District contract. The Fire Operations Division is responsible for responding to emergency incidents, including fires of all types, medical emergencies and hazardous material incidents.

Each fire station houses an Engine Company and is staffed 24 hours per day. Each of the nine engine companies is staffed with a captain and two firefighters. Additionally, Headquarters and Station 3 each house two ladder trucks with three firefighters and a captain. Fire stations located closest to the project site and responsible for first response to any emergency, are Headquarters/Fire Station 1 (955 Sonoma Avenue in the Downtown area) and Fire Station 8 (830 Burbank Avenue in the Roseland/Southwest area).

Between the years 2002 and 2004, the SRFD responded to an annual average of 16,784 calls from within the City of Santa Rosa and the Roseland Fire Protection District, of which 68 percent were for emergency medical attention or rescue operations.¹² In 2005 alone, the SRFD responded to about 18,000 calls. Over the last twenty years there has been a 220 percent increase

¹² City of Santa Rosa Fire Department, 2005, *Protecting Santa Rosa: A Strategic Plan for the Santa Rosa Fire Department*, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa, page 4.

in the numbers of calls for service. The last time a fire station was added in Santa Rosa was in 1983, when the SRFD answered about 5,300 calls for service.¹³

The City's SRFD response standards are at 4 minutes to 80 percent of emergency calls, 5 minutes to 90 percent of emergency calls and 6 minutes or less to all emergency calls. Based upon SRFD's 2003 call volume the SRFD was named in *Firehouse Magazine's* 2004 list of 150 busiest fire departments. Response time standards for the SRFD established in the City's General Plan are not in line with current national standards and the SRFD has never been able to meet the achievement rate.¹⁴ For example, in 2004, the overall performance of the SRFD for all emergencies was 21 percent within 4 minutes or less, 55 percent within 5 minutes and 76 percent within 6 minutes.¹⁵

The General Plan set forth Policy PSF-E-6, calling on the SRFD to develop two new fire stations, one in southwest and one in southeast Santa Rosa. The General Plan states that the City has sites for these stations at 1955 Northpoint Parkway and on the south side of Kawana Springs Road just east of Petaluma Hill Road. Since certification of the General Plan EIR, the SRFD has conducted a deployment analysis, identifying improvements needed in SRFD infrastructure and response configuration. The SRFD's Strategic Plan, completed in October 2005, recommends that the City reevaluate the SRFD's objective and standards.

To improve the SRFD fire and emergency response resources and capabilities, the City participates in a Countywide mutual aid system. SFRD has entered into mutual aid agreements with the Rincon Valley Fire Protection District,

¹³ City of Santa Rosa Fire Department, 2005, *Protecting Santa Rosa: A Strategic Plan for the Santa Rosa Fire Department*, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa, page 4.

¹⁴ City of Santa Rosa Fire Department, 2005, *Protecting Santa Rosa: A Strategic Plan for the Santa Rosa Fire Department*, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa, page 6.

¹⁵ LSA Associates, Inc., 2005, *Gateways Redevelopment Project Area EIR*, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa, page 129.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, as well as the neighboring jurisdictions of Bennett Valley, Gold Ridge and Sebastopol. Additional resources provided by these agreements include engines, water tender, air tankers, a helicopter, a bull dozer and a battalion chief in urban areas.

3. Standards of Significance

The Specific Plan would have a significant impact with regard to fire services if it would:

- ◆ Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire facilities, need for new or physically altered fire facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable fire service ratios and response times.

4. Impact Discussion

a. Project Impacts

An increase in population under the Specific Plan could have the potential to increase the demand for fire services within the Specific Plan Area. Development under the Specific Plan would intensify the density of development within the Specific Plan Area, adding approximately 3,250 new residential units with an estimated population of 8,125 people, along with about 198,000 square feet of office/public space and about 296,000 square feet of retail space, over the next 20 years. This increase in population and development could adversely affect the provision of fire and emergency medical services by the SRFD.

The SRFD estimates that the implementation of the Specific Plan would require the addition of another half of company of fire fighters to be hired to maintain current performance levels and response times.¹⁶ These additional

¹⁶ Verner, Bruce (Fire Chief) and Mark McCormick (Deputy Chief Fire Marshal), Fire Department, City of Santa Rosa. Personal communication with Chad Markell, DC&E, November 1, 2006.

firefighters would not constitute the need for an additional facility as the SRFD has already planned to develop a new fire station with sufficient capacity to incorporate the extra personnel.¹⁷ As part of the SRFD's Strategic Plan, Measure O funding, and General Plan Policy PSF-E-6, the City is moving forward in developing new fire stations as well as reevaluating the Department's response time standards. Individual environmental review would be required for each of these new fire facilities. In addition, the City's participation in a Countywide mutual aid system, as mentioned above, assists in improving the SRFD's fire and emergency response capabilities and response standards.

The Specific Plan contains a series of policies aimed at addressing the need for fire services. For example, Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-7.1 would require developers to be in compliance with the Fire Department's High-Rise Requirements. Additionally, Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-7.2 would relocate Engine Company No. 8 to a new site in the vicinity of Sebastopol Road. This same policy would also explore the feasibility of acquiring the historic Fitzgerald Building site on Roberts Avenue as a multi-use site for both a Fire Station and neighborhood community facility. Moreover, Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-7.3 would require new development along the SMART rail corridor to comply with Fire Department requirements for equipment access and circulation.

Furthermore, the SRFD will utilize Measure O funds, as mentioned above, to construct new fire stations and provide for new equipment, fire engines and firefighter positions. However, Measure O funds are not anticipated to fully cover the cost of providing adequate fire services to the community in accordance with General Plan response time goals. To that end, the Specific Plan includes a goal and supporting policies to provide funding for public services and utilities in the Plan Area (Goal SP-UPS-1). Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-1.1 would ensure that private development provides its fair share of funding

¹⁷ Verner, Bruce (Fire Chief) and Mark McCormick (Deputy Chief Fire Marshal), Fire Department, City of Santa Rosa. Personal communication with Chad Markell, DC&E, November 1, 2006.

for necessary improvements to public services and utilities in the Plan Area. Additionally, Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-1.2 would use the City's Capital Improvement Program, Park and Utility Fees, redevelopment program funds, federal and State grant funds and other funding sources to implement area-wide improvements that cannot be conditioned as part of private development projects.

Although implementation of the Specific Plan would require additional personnel, the expansion of personnel, and the need to improve existing facilities is part of an existing plan to increase police to meet the demand in the community. Therefore, implementation of the Specific Plan policies discussed above, this impact is considered *less than significant*.

b. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulatively, in conjunction with the anticipated buildout of the 2002 General Plan, the Specific Plan may require increased fire staffing and equipment, as implementation of the Specific Plan will result in an increase in residents, customers and employees, resulting in the need to increase the number of full-time equivalent fire staff necessary for adequate staffing ratios and fire protection coverage. However, the Specific Plan would not contribute to a significant cumulative impact related the creation or expansion of physical fire protection facilities since it would not result in the need for additional facilities other than those already planned by the General Plan and SRFD's Strategic Plan.

5. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since no significant impacts were identified resulting from the implementation of the Specific Plan in regards to fire services, no mitigation measures are required.

C. Schools

The following describes current conditions and potential impacts of the Specific Plan with regard to schools in the City of Santa Rosa.

1. Regulatory Framework

Relevant State and City goals and policies in regards to schools are listed in this section. The majority of the Specific Plan Area is under the Santa Rosa School District, but a few parcels in the southwestern quadrant are under the Roseland School District.

a. Senate Bill 50

The regulatory framework for schools is determined at the school district and State level. Senate Bill 50 (SB 50), which is funded by Proposition 1A and approved in 1998, limits the power of cities and counties to require fiscal mitigation of school facilities impacts on home developers as a condition of approving new development and provides for a standardized developer fee. The SB 50 generally provides for a 50/50 State and local school facilities funding match, with a \$9.2 billion bond authorized to fund the State portion.¹⁸

SB 50 also provides for three levels of statutory impact fees. The application level depends on whether State funding is available, the school district is eligible for State funding and the school district meets certain additional criteria involving bonding capacity, year round school and the percentage of moveable classrooms in use.

b. Relevant City of Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan Goals and Policies

The following lists applicable General Plan goals and policies most pertinent to the Specific Plan with regards to school facilities and services, including child care and youth-oriented facilities.

¹⁸ San Lorenzo Unified School District, *Level 1 Developer Fee Justification Study*, page 3.

Goal PSF-C: Provide superior educational opportunities for children and all members of the community.

i. Public Services and Facilities Element

- ◆ **Policy PSF-C-2:** Maintain good communication with area school districts on all matters pertaining to the need for and the provision of school sites and facilities. Integrate the planning efforts of the City and the school districts by: locating school facilities that allow safe pedestrian and bicycle access, as well as ensuring construction of traffic calming measures in the vicinity; and designing attractive facilities that contribute to neighborhood identity and pride.

ii. Youth and Family Element

Goal YF-A: Create an environment where children can grow and develop in secure and supportive families and neighborhoods.

- ◆ **Policy YF-A-1:** Work with project applicants to identify sites (in areas slated for new development or reuse) that would be suitable for child care or youth-oriented facilities. Promote this type of development in areas where such facilities are lacking.
- ◆ **Policy YF-A-3:** Promote development of multi-use buildings and/or community centers that can be utilized for youth and teen activities and child care.

Goal YF-B: Expand child care services to meet the existing and future needs of Santa Rosa.

- ◆ **Policy YF-B-1:** Endorse the development of new child care facilities in all areas of the city, including residential neighborhoods, employment centers and school sites. Promote development of new child care facilities during review of development projects at sites designated Community Shopping Center on the Land Use Diagram.

2. Existing Conditions

a. School Enrollment

As of 2000, there were 40,052 students enrolled within Santa Rosa. The majority of these students are from the elementary school level, grades 1 through 8, at 40.3 percent. The next biggest group is that of college or graduate school level, consisting of 26.7 percent, followed by the high school level, grades 9 through 12, at 22 percent. Table 4.11-1 shows the student population for each of the educational levels.

b. School Districts

The majority of the Specific Plan Area is within the Santa Rosa City Schools District, which is comprised of the Santa Rosa Elementary School District and Santa Rosa High School District. The portion of the Specific Plan Area west of the railroad right-of-way and south of Santa Rosa Creek is within the Roseland School District. These School Districts are shown in Figure 4.11-1 along with local school in or adjacent to the Specific Plan Area.

The only public school within the Specific Plan Area is the Luther Burbank Elementary School located on A Street, northeast of the Highway 101 and Highway 12 interchange. Elementary school students within the Specific Plan Area attend the following elementary schools:¹⁹

- ◆ Roseland Elementary School (Roseland School District)
- ◆ Lincoln Elementary School (Santa Rosa City Schools)
- ◆ Fremont Elementary School (Santa Rosa City Schools)
- ◆ Luther Burbank Elementary School (Santa Rosa City Schools)
- ◆ Doyle Part Elementary School (Santa Rosa City Schools)

¹⁹ City of Santa Rosa, on-line GIS data, <http://imaps.ci.santa-rosa.ca.us>, accessed March 1, 2006.

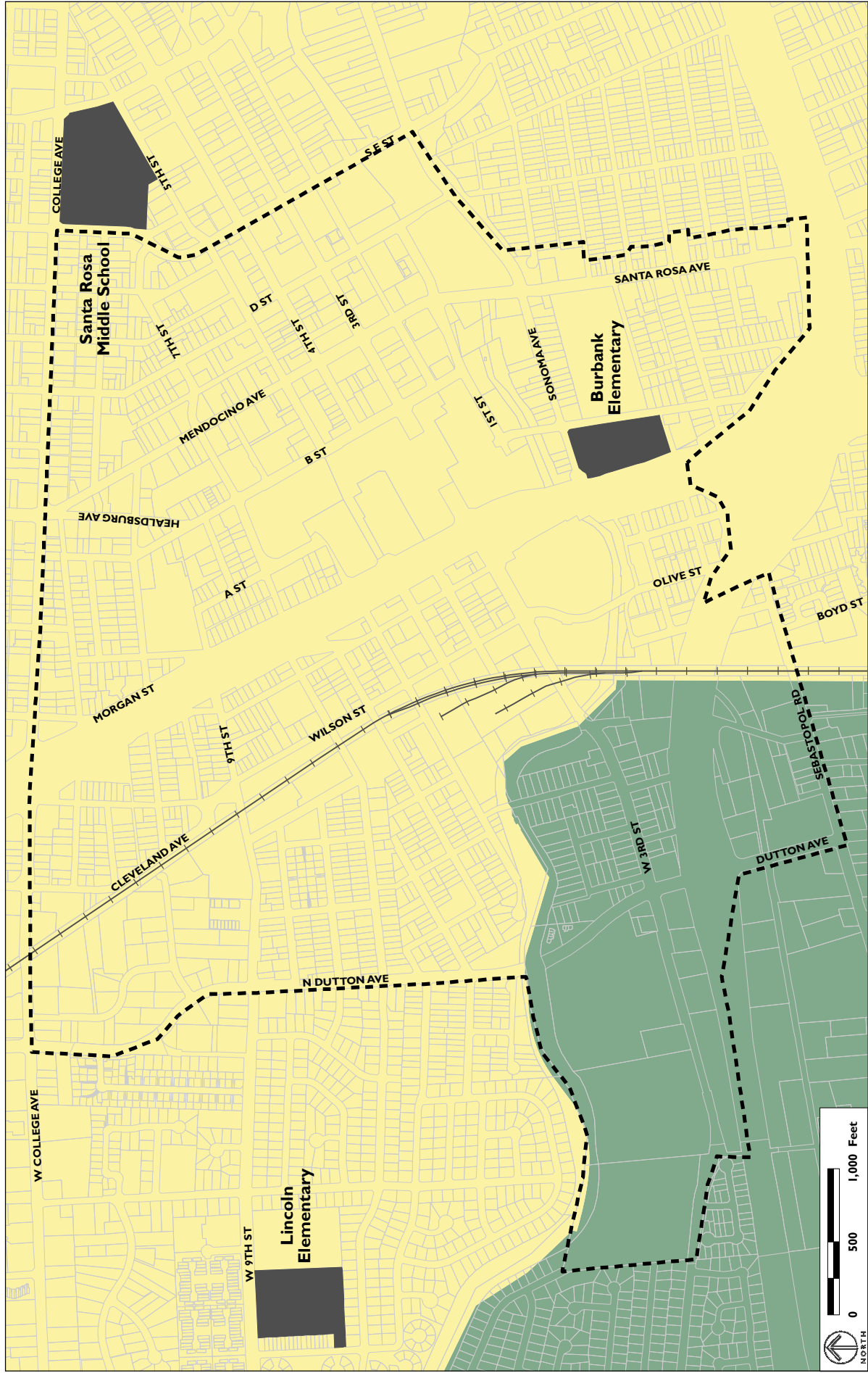


FIGURE 4.11-1

EXISTING SCHOOL IN THE VICINITY

- Specific Plan Area
- Railroad
- Santa Rosa School District
- Roseland School District

TABLE 4.11-1 **SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN SANTA ROSA, 2000**

	Student Population	Percent of Total
Nursery School/Preschool	2,215	5.5%
Kindergarten	2,205	5.5%
Elementary School (grades 1 st -8 th)	16,130	40.3%
High School (grades 9 th -12 th)	8,809	22%
College or Graduate School	10,693	26.7%
Total	40,052	-

Source: U.S. Census 2000.

The following Santa Rosa City Schools middle and high schools serve the Specific Plan Area:²⁰

- ◆ Santa Rosa Middle School
- ◆ Laurence Cook Middle School
- ◆ Herbert Slater Middle School
- ◆ Santa Rosa High School
- ◆ Elsie Allen High School
- ◆ Montgomery High School

The Roseland School District offers two charter schools for middle and high school education, the Roseland Accelerated Middle and Roseland University Prep schools.²¹

²⁰ Santa Rosa School District's website, www.highschoolchoices.com, accessed March 1, 2006.

²¹ Roseland School District's website, www.roselandsd.org, accessed March 1, 2006.

According to the City's General Plan, many Santa Rosa City schools are at or near capacity and district boundaries are adjusted periodically based on shifts in the school-age population. As of January 2006, there were approximately 18,500 students within the Santa Rosa School District.²² The number of students enrolled in Santa Rosa schools is expected to increase over the next decades, primarily at the middle school and elementary school levels based on a generation factor of 0.4 students per housing unit. In response to projected demand for schools during the next 20 years, the City has identified potential sites for two middle schools and seven elementary schools. Of these potential but non-specifically identified schools, all but two of the elementary schools are within three miles of the Specific Plan Area.²³

3. Standards of Significance

The Specific Plan would have a significant impact with regard to schools if it would:

- ◆ Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered school facilities, need for new or physically altered school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable student-teacher ratios.

4. Impact Discussion

a. Project Impacts

An increase in population under the Specific Plan could have the potential to increase the demand on schools serving the Specific Plan Area. Development under the Specific Plan would add approximately 3,250 new residential units with an estimated buildout population of 8,125 people over the next 20 years. The estimated population increase would produce an estimated 1,300 students, given the Santa Rosa School District's generation factor of 0.4 students

²² Santa Rosa City Schools' websites, <http://www.srscs.k12.ca.us/schools/default.asp>, accessed January 31, 2006.

²³ City of Santa Rosa, 2002, *Santa Rosa 2020: General Plan*, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa, Figure 6-2.

per housing unit.²⁴ These students would be spread across the various schools operated by the Roseland School District (RSD), receiving approximately 350 students, and the Santa Rosa School District (SRSD), receiving approximately 950 students, within and adjacent to the Specific Plan Area. This increase in population could adversely affect the provision of educational services and school facilities.

The RSD is currently developing an independent EIR for a new elementary school in the RSD. The new elementary school is expected to be built and ready to serve the community by 2010 at the latest. With the development of this new elementary school and recent addition of charter schools, which have undergone their own environmental analysis, within the RSD. Given this proposed facility, the RSD does not expect the Specific Plan to require the construction of any new facilities. Therefore, a *less-than-significant* impact from the implementation of the Specific Plan.²⁵

Public school facilities and services are supported through the assessment of development fees in addition to funds from the State and local school districts. All new development in the Specific Plan Area will be required to pay impact fees to off-set the impact of new development on the school system. These fees will be assessed in accordance with provisions detailed under SB50.

The SRSD expects the elementary student population to increase over the next decades, current estimates show the elementary school population is stabilizing. Additionally, the middle school and high school populations are projected to decline two to three percent per year based on the expectation of no new growth. A slowing growth rate in student population over the next decades in addition to the City's already identified potential sites for two middle schools and seven elementary schools would provide adequate capacity for the student population expected to accompany development of the

²⁴ Bower, Douglas. Santa Rosa School District. Personal communication with Chad Markell, DC&E. October 30, 2006.

²⁵ Ahlas, Gail. Roseland School District. Personal communication with Chad Markell, DC&E. October 25, 2006.

Specific Plan. Given the expected student generation to result from the Specific Plan would develop over the next 20 years and would be supported in already planned educational facilities, the Specific Plan would not result in the need for new, unplanned facilities; therefore, the Specific Plan would result in a *less-than-significant* impact.

b. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulatively, in conjunction with the anticipated buildout of the 2002 General Plan, the Specific Plan may require increased teachers and support staffing, as implementation of the Specific Plan will result in an increase in residents, resulting in the need to increase the number of full-time equivalent teachers and support staff necessary for adequate staffing ratios. However, the Specific Plan would not contribute to a significant cumulative impact related the creation or expansion of physical educational facilities since it would not result in the creation or expansion of physical facilities other than those already planned within the school districts.

5. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since no significant impacts were identified resulting from the implementation of the proposed Specific Plan in regards to schools, no mitigation measures are required.

D. Library

The following describes current conditions and potential impacts of the Specific Plan with regard to libraries in Santa Rosa.

1. Regulatory Framework

The following lists applicable City of Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan Goals and Policies most pertinent to the Specific Plan with regards to libraries.

a. Public Services and Facilities Element

Goal PSF-D: Provide library facilities necessary to meet the needs of the community.

- ◆ **Policy PSF-D-3:** Require community shopping centers and other major developments to consider incorporating sites and/or building spaces for branch facilities, when the locations coincide with the library administration's Master Plan.

b. Art and Culture Element

Goal AC-A: Develop places for art.

- ◆ **Policy AC-A-1:** Support the development of centrally located multipurpose facilities to house visual and performing arts activities, such as exhibition, studio/class, performance and theater/lecture space.
- ◆ **Policy AC-A-2:** Develop outdoor locations that encourage cultural events for the enjoyment of the citizens as well as attract tourism.
- ◆ **Policy AC-A-4:** Increase public art throughout Santa Rosa. Encourage the placement of art in locations that are interactive and accessible to the public and entryways into the City.

2. Existing Conditions

Public library services in Santa Rosa are provided by the County. There are three libraries serving Santa Rosa:

- ◆ Central Santa Rosa Library Branch is located at Third and E Streets (211 E Street) within the Specific Plan Area. It is approximately 67,200 square feet, which makes it the biggest library branch in the County, has a collection of 216,630 volumes and is currently serving a population of 85,132 people.²⁶

²⁶ Group 4 Architecture Research + Planning, Inc., 2003, *Sonoma County Library Facilities Master Plan*, page 62, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa. (http://www.sonoma.lib.ca.us/doc/Sonoma_MP_Report.pdf)

- ◆ Northwest Branch is located at 150 Coddington Center (at the intersection of Guerneville Road and W. Steele Lane). It is approximately 7,840 square feet, has a collection of 39,450 volumes and is currently serving a population of 61,186 people.²⁷
- ◆ Rincon Valley Branch is located at 6959 Montecito Boulevard (at the Rincon Valley Park). It is approximately 15,000 square feet, has a collection of 51,700 volumes and is currently serving a population of 35,000 people.²⁸

According to the Sonoma County Library Facilities Master Plan the Central Library was recently renovated and expanded. However, it still has a shortage of space for books, computers, seating and parking. The building needs to be retrofitted to be seismically safe, but the architecture of the structure makes that impractical. As a result, there is a need for a replacement facility in the Downtown. According to the Library, the eventual new Central Branch facility in the Downtown area should be designed as part of collaborative planning process to possibly include the library with a cultural and performing arts center. The facility would ultimately have multi-use and meeting room spaces available.²⁹ The Branch currently benefits from its proximity to the Downtown and public transportation, with 63 percent of patrons reporting that they usually walk to the facility.³⁰

²⁷ Group 4 Architecture Research + Planning, Inc., 2003, *Sonoma County Library Facilities Master Plan*, page 64, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa. (http://www.sonoma.lib.ca.us/doc/Sonoma_MP_Report.pdf)

²⁸ Group 4 Architecture Research + Planning, Inc., 2003, *Sonoma County Library Facilities Master Plan*, page 66, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa. (http://www.sonoma.lib.ca.us/doc/Sonoma_MP_Report.pdf)

²⁹ Cooper, Sandra. Director, Sonoma County Library. Personal communication with Chad Markell, DC&E. October 20, 2006.

³⁰ Group 4 Architecture Research + Planning, Inc., 2003, *Sonoma County Library Facilities Master Plan*, page 62, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa. (http://www.sonoma.lib.ca.us/doc/Sonoma_MP_Report.pdf)

Individual branch deficiencies are partially offset by the fact that Santa Rosa residents are able to patronize other Sonoma County Library branches with their assigned library cards. This is a result of the Library's systems Joint Partnership Agreement (JPA) with the County and all nine cities in the County. Per the JPA, cities are required to build new library facilities as needed. The Library is funded through a Special Tax District.³¹

The Library's countywide service level guidelines establish a standard of 0.55 to 0.63 square feet of library area per capita.³² Currently, the three branches mentioned above have a combined square footage of 90,040 square feet. Compared with the current estimated population of Santa Rosa of approximately 158,000,³³ City residents experience a 0.57 square feet of library area per capita, which is within the Library's established service standards.

To maintain these standards based on anticipated growth, the Library plans to replace the Northwest Branch, complete extensive additions to the other two Santa Rosa branches and to construct a new library in southwestern Santa Rosa. If all planned improvements are completed, Santa Rosa libraries would provide a combined 0.59 to 0.68 square feet of library area per capita.³⁴

³¹ Cooper, Sandra. Director, Sonoma County Library. Personal communication with Chad Markell, DC&E. October 20, 2006.

³² Group 4 Architecture Research + Planning, Inc., 2003, *Sonoma County Library Facilities Master Plan*, pages 1 to 8, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa. (http://www.sonoma.lib.ca.us/doc/Sonoma_MP_Report.pdf)

³³ The California Department of Finance estimates as of January 1, 2006 that Santa Rosa's population is 157,145. (<http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMO-GRAP/ReportsPapers/Estimates/E1/documents/E-1table.xls>)

³⁴ Group 4 Architecture Research + Planning, Inc., 2003, *Sonoma County Library Facilities Master Plan*, page 4, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa. (http://www.sonoma.lib.ca.us/doc/Sonoma_MP_Report.pdf)

3. Standards of Significance

The proposed project would have a significant impact with regard to library services if it would:

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

4. Impact Discussion

a. Project Impacts

An increase in population under the Specific Plan could have the potential to increase the demand on libraries serving the Specific Plan Area. Development under the Specific Plan would add approximately 3,250 new residential units with an estimated buildout population of 8,125 people over the next 20 years. This increase in population could adversely affect the provision of library facilities.

The estimated population increase resulting from the implementation of the Specific Plan would decrease the City's existing square feet of library area per capita from 0.57 to 0.54 based on the Library's countywide service standards. This is the equivalent to 4,594 to 5,262 square feet of current library space. Although such a population increase would push the City's library service standard below the Library's countywide service standards, the Library is already planning the addition of a new Central Library Branch after the replacement of the Northwest Branch and the expansion of the Rincon Valley Branch, independent of the status of this Specific Plan. The City of Santa Rosa is currently aware of these planning efforts and is required to assist in these library improvements. Additionally, each of these facilities will undergo independent environmental analysis.

In addition, the Specific Plan contains policies addressing the need to maintain and improve adequate library services. Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-8.1 would collaborate with the Sonoma County Library in their planning efforts

to either renovate the Central Library branch in its current location or develop a new facility at an alternative site within the downtown area. Funding for the Library will continue through the existing Special Tax District already established.

Since the Specific Plan would not result in the need for additional library facilities in excess of what is already planned, potential impacts related to the implementation of the Specific Plan would be *less than significant*.

b. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulatively, the Specific Plan may require increased library staffing, as implementation of the Specific Plan will result in an increase in resident, resulting in the need to increase the number of full-time equivalent librarians necessary for adequate staffing ratios. However, the Specific Plan would not contribute to a significant cumulative impact related the creation or expansion of physical library facilities since it would not result in the creation or expansion of physical library facilities, other than already planned.

5. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since no significant impacts were identified resulting from the implementation of the Specific Plan in regards to libraries, no mitigation measures are required.

E. Parks and Recreation

The following describes current conditions and potential impacts of the Specific Plan with regard to park and recreation facilities in Santa Rosa.

1. Regulatory Framework

The following lists applicable State and City laws and regulations most pertinent to the Specific Plan with regards to parks and recreation.

a. State Laws and Regulations

i. *The Quimby Act*

Cities and counties have been authorized since the passage of the 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code §66477) to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities.³⁵ A 1982 amendment (AB 1600) requires agencies to clearly show a reasonable relationship between the public need for the recreation facility or park land and the type of development project upon which the fee is imposed. Cities with a high ratio of park space to inhabitants can set a standard of up to five acres per thousand persons for new development. 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-owned parkland. Santa Rosa has a standard of six acres of parkland per thousand inhabitants (see General Plan Policy PSF-A-2 below), of which 3.5 would be required under the Quimby Act.

b. Local Laws and Regulations

i. *Santa Rosa City Code: Chapter 19-70 Park and Recreation Land and Fees*

Santa Rosa City Code Chapter 19-70 require that six acres of property for each 1,000 persons residing within this City be devoted to local park and recreational purposes. The six acre requirement can be satisfied by a combination of park land and park development dedications, open space and school recreational land. The acreage of each park type per 1,000 residents is determined by the City Council by resolution. Additionally, park land and park development standard are required to meet the minimum ratio of park land to residents, as set forth in the Quimby Act.

³⁵ Westrup, Laura, 2002, *Quimby Act 101: An Abbreviated Overview*, Sacramento: California Department of Parks and Recreation. (<http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/quimby101.pdf>)

ii. City of Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan Policies

The following lists applicable General Plan goals and policies most pertinent to the Specific Plan with regards to park and recreation facilities.

a) Land Use Element

Goal LUL-E: Promote livable neighborhoods. Ensure that everyday shopping, schools and park and recreation facilities are within easy walking distance of most residents.

- ◆ **Policy LUL-E-1:** Provide new neighborhood parks and recreation facilities, elementary schools and convenience shopping in accordance with the General Plan Land Use Diagram.

b) Urban Design Element

- ◆ **Policy UD-B-9:** Seek opportunities to develop small public spaces throughout Downtown that will provide for the comfort of pedestrians, enhance street life and provide protection from sun and rain.

Goal UD-E: Create a framework of public spaces at the neighborhood, city and regional scale.

- ◆ **Policy UD-E-1:** Provide for new open space opportunities throughout the city, especially in neighborhoods that have less access to open spaces. This includes exploring potential for creek corridors, bicycle and pedestrian ways, as well as new pocket parks and conservation areas.
- ◆ **Policy UD-E-4:** Enhance pedestrian activity and safety by designing street, buildings, pathways and trails to provide a visual connection with public spaces such as parks and Santa Rosa Creek. Review and revise the Zoning Code and Subdivision Guidelines to support this policy.

Goal UD-G: Design residential neighborhoods to be safe, human-scaled and livable.

- ◆ **Policy UD-G-1:** Establish a defined center – such as a park, school, neighborhood shopping center, or transit stop – at the core of large residential projects.

c) Public Services and Facilities Element

Goal PSF-A: Provide recreational facilities and parks for all sectors of the community.

- ◆ **Policy PSF-A-2:** Acquire and develop new park facilities to achieve a citywide standard (including school parks and non-City public open space) of 6 acres of parkland per thousand residents.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-A-5:** Design new parks so that they are highly visible from adjacent streets and neighborhoods to increase safety and enhance visual quality.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-A-7:** Acquire park sites adjacent to existing and proposed schools, where possible, and develop these sites as joint use facilities.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-A-13:** Require the provision of private play space for children in small lot subdivisions and multifamily developments, on each lot or in common open space areas as part of the development project.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-A-14:** Pursue dedication of small pocket parks featuring tot lots and resting areas, during review of residential subdivisions for those situations where provision of a neighborhood park is not feasible or practical for the area. Parkland dedication fees may serve as a revenue source for acquisition and development of pocket parks.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-A-15:** Develop community centers in the southwest and southeast areas of Santa Rosa.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-A-19:** Provide recreational opportunities and establish bike and pedestrian paths along Santa Rosa Creek through implementation of the Santa Rosa Creek Master Plan.

d) Art and Culture Element

Goal AC-A: Develop places for art.

- ◆ **Policy AC-A-1:** Support the development of centrally located multipurpose facilities to house visual and performing arts activities, such as exhibition, studio/class, performance and theater/lecture space.
- ◆ **Policy AC-A-2:** Develop outdoor locations that encourage cultural events for the enjoyment of the citizens as well as attract tourism.
- ◆ **Policy AC-A-4:** Increase public art throughout Santa Rosa. Encourage the placement of art in locations that are interactive and accessible to the public and entryways into the City.

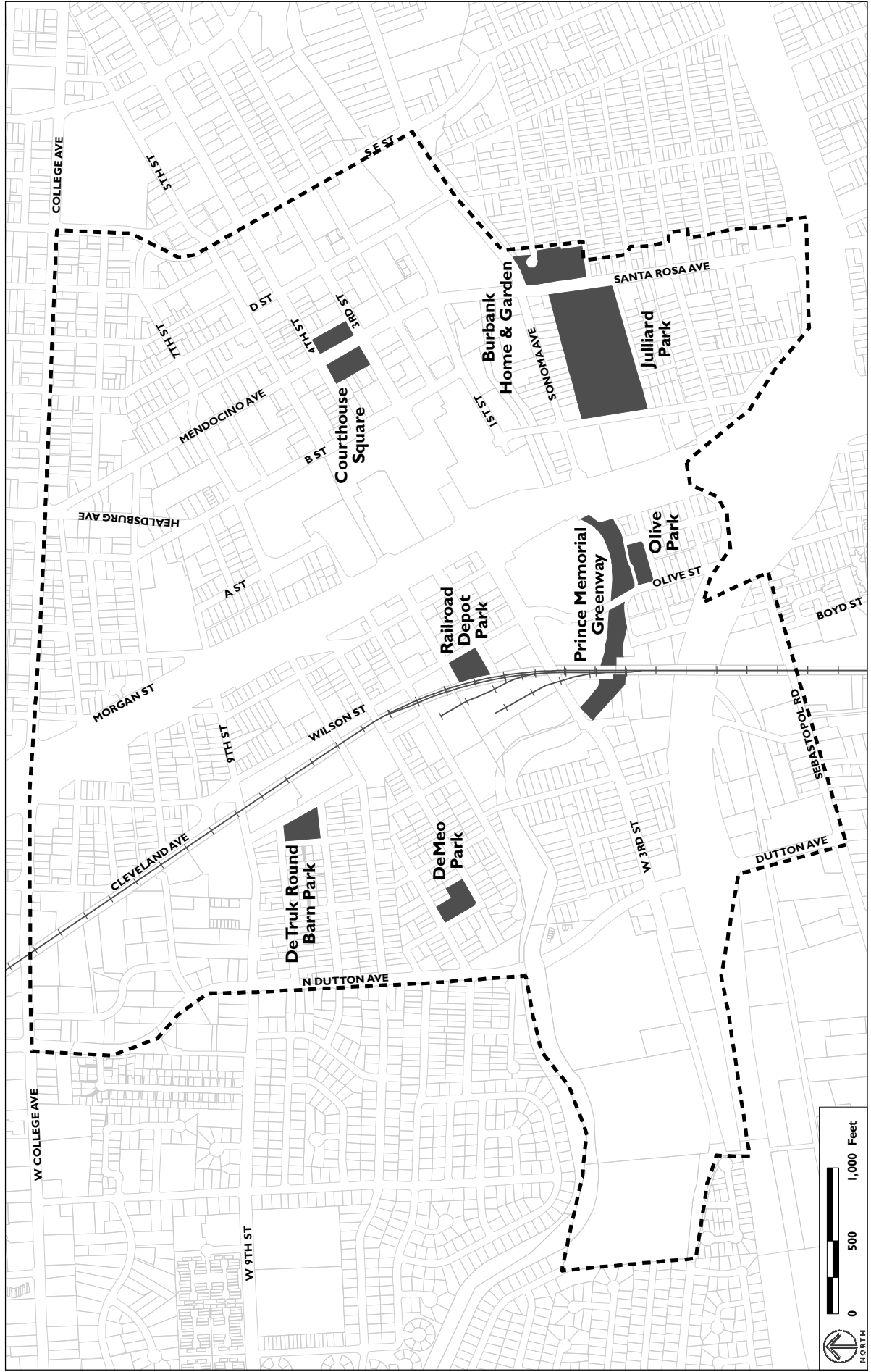
2. Existing Conditions

The City of Santa Rosa's Recreation and Parks Department (SRRPD) maintains, promotes and administers 57 neighborhood and community parks, totaling 514 acres, 222 acres of undeveloped parkland and 12 additional community and/or recreation facilities and programs.³⁶ Neighborhood parks are generally located within one-half mile of the residents they serve. Community parks serve residents throughout the City but are generally within one mile of their users. The community parks often contain specialized recreational facilities, such as sports fields and tennis courts. The City currently meets its standard of 6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, of which 1.1 acres are dedicated for open space, 1.4 acres for school related activities and 3.5 acres for parks.³⁷

Park and recreation facilities within or near the Specific Plan Area and most accessible to residents within the Specific Plan Area are shown on Figure 4.11-2 and Table 4.11-2 provides the acreages for each of the existing parks

³⁶ City of Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks Department website. <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/default.aspx?PageId=1220>, accessed on January 4, 2006.

³⁷ Richardson, Marc. Parks Director, Recreation and Parks Department, City of Santa Rosa. Personal communication with Chad Markell, DC&E. October 17, 2006.



Specific Plan Area
 Railroad
 Park and Open Space Area

FIGURE 4.11-2
EXISTING PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES

TABLE 4.11-2 **EXISTING PARKS WITHIN THE SPECIFIC PLAN AREA**

Existing Parks	Acreage
DeTurk Round Barn Park	1.0
DeMeo Park	1.0
Olive Park	1.0
Courthouse Square	2.0
Julliard Park	9.0
Burbank Home and Gardens	1.5
Prince Memorial Greenway	2.0
Railroad Depot Park	0.5
Total:	18.0

within the Specific Plan Area. The following provides a description of each of the existing parks within the Specific Plan Area:

- ◆ **DeTurk Round Barn Park.** This park is located at 819 Donahue Street and includes a dog park area, picnic area and the historic round barn from around 1880.
- ◆ **DeMeo Park.** Located at 610 Polk Street, this one-acre neighborhood park includes picnic areas, basketball hoop, play equipment and bocce ball courts.
- ◆ **Olive Park.** Located at 105 Orange Street, this one-acre neighborhood park includes picnic area, barbeques, children’s playground structure and access to the Prince Memorial Greenway.
- ◆ **Courthouse Square.** Courthouse Square is located in the center of Downtown between Third and Fourth Streets and provides passive

recreational space for Downtown residents, employees and visitors. Courthouse Square is bisected by Santa Rosa Avenue. Each half of the square offers a distinct environment. The eastern half of the Square has a more intimate park-like setting, with meandering pathways, small grass hills, tall redwood trees, park benches and a small courtyard with a round reflecting pool. The western half provides a more formalized setting, featuring a large sunken plaza that is complemented by water features and an elevated gazebo-like stage area. The City is in the process of reunifying the park and redirecting traffic around Third and Fourth Streets.

- ◆ **Juilliard Park.** Located at 227 Santa Rosa Avenue, across Santa Rosa Avenue from the Burbank Home and Gardens Park, these nine acres were once the showplace home and gardens of C. F. Juilliard, a cousin of the Juilliard family of the famous Juilliard Music Academy in New York. Today, the park includes the children’s Burbank Playground, the “Church of the One Tree” and hosts community festivals and events.
- ◆ **Burbank Home and Gardens.** Located at Santa Rosa Avenue at Sonoma Avenue. The grounds were home to Luther Burbank from 1884 to 1906 and include a Greek Revival house, a carriage house (which now houses a museum and a gift shop), a greenhouse and over an acre of gardens. The gardens include medicinal herbs, cutting flowers, wildlife habitats and ornamental grasses, many originally planted by Burbank himself.
- ◆ **Prince Memorial Greenway.** Located along the Santa Rosa Creek, through the southern portion of the Specific Plan Area, the Prince Memorial Greenway project began in the late 1980’s with the vision of a handful of people interested in restoring Santa Rosa Creek. This creek restoration project stretches from Santa Rosa City Hall to Railroad Square. The primary goal of the project was to recreate the creek for public use and benefit. Today, the enhanced creek and trail system makes it possible to observe and learn about nature in the heart of urban Santa Rosa and provides a connection to walk, bike or jog safely from one side of the city to another..

- ◆ **Railroad Depot Park.** Located at 9 West Fourth Street, this ½-acre neighborhood park includes turf area and a bronze statue of "Charlie Brown" and "Snoopy," the cartoon characters created by famed Santa Rosa resident Charles Shultz.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District has recently acquired Taylor Mountain, adding approximately 1,000 acres of land that will be developed for open space and parks. Additionally, there are two nearby regional parks, Spring Lake County Park (320 acres, including the 72-acre lake) and Annadel State Park (5,000 acres). Although these parks are not operated by the City, they do enhance and complement recreational opportunities available to city residents.

The SRRPD is also responsible for maintaining the City's cultural facilities. To this end, the SRRPD is estimating to spend \$2.5 million for renovations to the Deturk Round Barn located at 819 Donahue St.; \$1.5 million for renovation to the Church of One Tree located at Sonoma/Santa Rosa Avenue; and ½ million for renovation to the Burbank Home & Garden.

3. Standards of Significance

The Specific Plan would have a significant impact with regard to parks and recreation if it would:

- i. *Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered park and recreational facilities, need for new or physically altered park and recreational facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios.*
- ii. *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.*

4. Impact Discussion

a. Project Impacts

An increase in population under the Specific Plan could have the potential to increase the demand on park and recreational facilities serving the Specific

Plan Area. Buildout under the Specific Plan would add approximately 3,250 new residential units with an estimated buildout population of 8,125 people over the next 20 years. This increase in population could affect the provision of park and recreational facilities.

- i. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered park and recreational facilities, need for new or physically altered park and recreational facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios.*

On a programmatic level, the Specific Plan calls for the provision of several new parks within the Specific Plan Area, for a total of 4.5 acres of new parkland. The exact location of these parks has not been determined, but their physical impacts resulting from their construction are evaluated as part of the Specific Plan as a whole in this EIR since new parks are included in the Specific Plan. Thus, the construction of new parks within the Specific Plan would not result in additional significant impacts not otherwise identified in the other sections of this EIR. Impacts and mitigation measures identified in the other sections of this EIR for general development within the Specific Plan Area would also apply to the construction of parks.

- ii. 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.*

Based on the expected growth from the implementation of the Specific Plan and on the City's park standard, an additional 48 acres of parks and open space would be needed to be constructed to maintain current service levels.³⁸ As mentioned above, the Specific Plan proposes several new parks within the Specific Plan Area that would result in the development of 4.5 acres of new parking. Since the majority of the Specific Plan Area is already developed, the remainder of the necessary parkland would most likely be developed outside of the Specific Plan Area or would be provided through the improve-

³⁸ $(8,125 / 1,000) * 6 = 48.75$ acres. Note: 8,125 are the expected new residents; and 6 acres/1,000 residents is the City's park standard.

ment of existing facilities within the Specific Plan Area using fees collected from new development pursuant to the City Code Chapter 19-70, as allowed by the Quimby Act. These fees would be collected in compliance with the City's Park Development Fees ordinance, under Chapter 19-70 (Park and Recreation Land and Fees) of the City Code, as mentioned above. Full compensation of such fees is considered in full compliance by developers with the provision of adequate park space under State law.

Recognizing that parkland fees may be used to improve existing facilities within the Specific Plan Area, the Specific Plan includes Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-6.1, which would allow Park Fees paid on new residential units within the Specific Plan Area to be used for development and improvement of cultural facilities in the downtown area. This policy would allow the City to more appropriately focus suitable resources within the Specific Plan Area.

Given these existing and proposed policies and regulations, which will ensure that new development and the City provide adequate new recreational opportunities to avoid overusing existing facilities, a *less-than-significant* impact in regards to parks and recreation facilities are anticipated from implementation of the proposed Specific Plan.

b. Cumulative Impacts

Development within the Santa Rosa Urban Growth Boundary has the potential to result in a cumulative impact related to parks and recreational facilities. However, the 2002 General Plan EIR identified that with the policies included in the General Plan, that the potential for growth under the General Plan to result in a significant impact related to parks and recreational services would be reduced to a less-than-significant level. The Specific Plan would comply with these same policies and has included several park sites within the Specific Plan area. As a result, the Specific Plan would not contribute to a significant cumulative impact related to parks and recreational facilities.

5. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since no significant impacts were identified resulting from the implementation of the Specific Plan in regards to park and recreational facilities, no mitigation measures are required.

