3.5 Public Services and Facilities

This section analyzes the impacts of public services and facilities that could result from implementation of the Mobility Element Update (MEU; Project) to the General Plan of the City of Encinitas (City). The analysis is based on a collection of existing data, including the Public Service Element of the General Plan.

3.5.1 Existing Conditions

The City of Encinitas is a beach city in northern San Diego County. It is located approximately 25 miles north of the City of San Diego and 95 miles south of Los Angeles. The city incorporated five separate communities in 1986, including Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Leucadia, Old Encinitas, New Encinitas, and Olivenhain. The City of Encinitas has access to a variety of natural resources, including public beaches and State and county parks. Numerous beaches lie along the western coastal shoreline of the city, attracting surfers and surf contests year-round. The sections below provide a summary of public services and public facilities in the City.

3.5.1.1 Fire and Emergency Medical Services

The Encinitas Fire and Marine Safety Department (EFMD) provides a wide array of public safety services in the City. The EFMD has 70 full-time employees and five divisions: Fire Operations and Support Services, Fire Administration, Loss Prevention and Planning (Fire Prevention), Disaster Preparedness, and Marine Safety Services. These services include fire protection, emergency response, medical aid, fire prevention, disaster preparedness, search and rescue, lifeguard services and community education programs. The EFMD operates six Encinitas fire stations spanning approximately 20 square miles. In 2021, the EFMD responded to 6,143 incidents within City limits with an average response time of 5 minutes and 20 seconds. EFMD also manages the fire departments for the Cities of Del Mar and Solana Beach, covering approximately 25 square miles in 8 fire stations.

The San Dieguito Ambulance District, also known as County Service Area 17 (CSA-17), was formed by the County Board of Supervisors in 1969 to provide ambulance services to several cities in North County, including Encinitas. CSA-17 consists of Del Mar, Del Mar Heights, Solana Beach, Encinitas, Rancho Santa Fe, and portions of Elfin Forest. In 1992, the service area was redesigned as an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) district. The EMS district delivers pre-hospital medical care including emergency evaluation, sick and injury assessment, and rapid care and stabilization for transport to an emergency medical care facility. Ambulance service is provided through Medical Response stationed at Solana Beach Station 1, Encinitas Station 2, and Encinitas Station 5.

3.5.1.2 Police Services

The City contracts with the County of San Diego Sheriff's Department to provide police services. The Encinitas Sheriff's Station has approximately 113 staff members servicing nearly 60 square miles including the cities of Del Mar, Encinitas and Solana Beach, the unincorporated communities of Rancho Santa Fe, Del Dios, Camp Pendleton, and San Onofre. The station provides a wide range of municipal law enforcement services to the cities of Del Mar, Solana Beach, and Rancho Santa Fe, including helicopters, bomb/arson squad, special enforcement detail team, canine units, and modern crime lab facilities.

Divisions providing day-to-day law enforcement at the Encinitas Sheriff's Station include the following:

- Patrol Division: Patrol deputies are first responders, responding to crimes or emergencies in progress, calls for service. They conduct routine patrols and preliminary investigations and apprehend law violators.
- Traffic Division: Traffic deputies focus on vehicle code enforcement, traffic collision investigations, and traffic control. The California Highway Patrol is the agency responsible for traffic enforcement in unincorporated areas.
- Investigative Unit: This unit is responsible for investigating general crimes against people and property crimes. Follow-up investigations on specific crimes requiring specialized expertise may be conducted by the department's centralized units.
- Narcotics Investigations: Deputies respond to complaints originating from citizens who report suspicious activity and leads (including arrests) from patrol deputies. Investigators focus on crimes involving the sale, possession, and distribution of illicit drugs and cases involving seizures of property.
- Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving: Deputies target issues that can negatively impact the quality of life for citizens. Deputies tailor their enforcement to address problems they are specifically working on, allowing them to develop multifaceted responses to complex issues.
- Crime Prevention Unit: This unit focuses on community outreach regarding crime prevention techniques, current trends, and prevention education.

In 2015, the Encinitas Station was renamed the North Coastal Sheriff's Station to better serve the northern coastal cities of Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Del Mar. The North Coastal Station also provides services to the surrounding unincorporated areas of Rancho Santa Fe and Fairbanks Ranch. Altogether the station provides public safety services to over 80,000 residents.

The Encinitas Unified School District (EUSD) consists of nine elementary schools, six of which are located within the jurisdictional boundary of the City. The nine elementary schools in EUSD feed into the secondary schools in the San Dieguito Union High School District, which serves all middle- and high-school students from the City. The Cardiff School District also services elementary school students.

3.5.1.3 Library Services

The County of San Diego operates 33 branches of libraries, two of which are within the City—the Cardiff branch and the Encinitas branch. These two branches provide computers, books, media, magazines, displays, programs, and events.

The Encinitas Library community room and computer lab is maintained by the City. Both libraries use their community rooms to provide a variety of free informative programs for visitors of all ages. The Cardiff branch was expanded in 2011 to include a children's area, a community room, and an exterior patio. The library was expanded from 5,997 to 6,884 square feet.

3.5.1.4 Recreation Facilities

The City's park system is composed of a variety of recreation amenities that provide opportunities for both passive and active recreation, including parks, beaches, open spaces, playgrounds, sports fields, a dog park, and community amenities such as the Encinitas Ranch Golf Course and the Encinitas Community and Senior Center.

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for a wide range of services for the City including the maintenance and repair of all parks, beaches, and trail facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department manages 10 miles of streetscapes, approximately 184 acres of open space, 46 acres of both developed and undeveloped parks, 48 acres of beaches, and 41 miles of trails. Encinitas' system of parks and open spaces is described in the following sections.

Mini-Parks

Mini-parks are small, specialized park facilities that are often designed to serve a specific group, such as seniors or young children. Mini-park amenities may include park benches or small play lots. Encinitas' mini-parks include the Leucadia Roadside, Mildred MacPherson, and Wiro Park. Encinitas' existing mini-parks do not have parking facilities.

The Encinitas General Plan identifies mini-parks as those up to one acre in size. Mini-parks are intended to serve residents living within approximately one-half mile of the park. The General Plan specifies that mini-parks should be located near higher-density residential development in urbanized areas, where the acquisition of larger park parcels is unlikely.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks frequently include areas for active and passive recreational uses and include a variety of facilities such as play areas, picnic sites, and athletic fields. Encinitas' existing neighborhood parks are between approximately 2.5 and 4.5 acres and are intended to provide convenient access to residents living within 1 mile of the park. Encinitas' neighborhood parks include Hawk View, Leucadia Oaks, Cottonwood Creek, Las Verdes, Encinitas Viewpoint, Glen, Orpheus, Scott Valley and Sun Vista parks. Encinitas Viewpoint, Orpheus, and Sun Vista parks have off-leash dog hours on certain days of the week.

Community Parks

Community parks support both active and passive recreation and provide an array of facilities and amenities. Existing community parks in Encinitas are between 5 and 15 acres in size. These parks are often more highly developed than neighborhood parks and suited for intense recreational uses such as citywide events and league and community sports practice and competition. Encinitas community parks include Oakcrest Park and Cardiff, Ecke, and Leo Mullen Sports Parks.

Special Use Parks

Special use parks are developed for a specific type of use, as opposed to neighborhood or community parks that support multiple uses. Special use parks often serve the entire community and enjoy regular, intensive use. Special use facilities, such as golf courses, community centers, or sports complexes, are stand-alone recreation facilities (that is, not located within larger parks). Encinitas' special use parks include Encinitas Community Park, Encinitas Ranch Golf Course, which is owned by the City and

privately operated and maintained, Little Oaks Equestrian Park in Olivenhain, Mountain Vista Trail/off-leash dog area, and the Encinitas Community and Senior Center at Oak Crest Park.

The Encinitas Community and Senior Center is an approximately 39,000-square-foot building that includes a banquet hall, kitchen, gymnasium/auditorium, and various activity and meeting rooms that support a range of activities for people of all ages. Classes and activities include tiny tot arts and crafts, computer classes for seniors, dance lessons, competitive sports leagues, and daily open gym hours for youth, adults, and seniors.

City Beaches

The City of Encinitas owns or maintains a number of beaches, beach access areas, and related facilities. Beaches that are leased from California State Parks and then operated and maintained by the City include Beacon's, Grandview, and Moonlight Beaches. The City recently renewed its agreement with the State to lease and maintain these beaches through 2030. Other beaches in Encinitas include San Elijo and Cardiff State Beaches, which are operated and maintained by the State.

Open Space

The City owns and/or maintains approximately 81.52 acres of open space land. Open space areas include Indian Head Canyon and properties along Saxony Drive. Some areas have habitat value or have the potential to be managed for the benefit of wildlife. However, open space areas are used primarily for passive recreation and are currently managed to minimize fire hazards and the spread of invasive vegetative species.

Regional Parks and Beaches

Regional parks and beaches are developed parks, beaches, and natural open spaces that serve City residents, surrounding communities, and visitors to the greater San Diego region. Regional parks and beaches are owned or managed by entities other than the City of Encinitas, including California State Parks, San Diego County, and private landholders. The sizes of regional parks vary, as do their locations relative to major population centers. Regional parks and beaches in Encinitas include the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Preserve; the San Diego Botanic Garden; San Elijo, Cardiff, and Seaside State Beaches; Magdalena Ecke County Park; and the Manchester Preserve, which is owned and managed as a habitat mitigation bank by the Center for Natural Lands Management.

The San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Preserve is one of the few remaining wetlands in San Diego County. The preserve is an example of a natural area that is largely undeveloped and managed primarily for its natural resource value, and secondarily for recreational use. San Diego County maintains 5 miles of trails within the Preserve and a well-visited nature center located on the north side of the lagoon in Cardiff-by-the-Sea.

Recreational Trails

Greenbelts and trails are linear open spaces that provide trail corridors and/or green buffers within neighborhoods and communities. Greenbelts and trails typically follow features such as streets, abandoned railroad rights-of-way, power lines, or waterways. These corridors often contain hard- or soft-surfaced trails, along with amenities such as trailheads viewpoints, seating areas, and interpretive displays. They provide public access to natural features, preserve open space, and can support trail-

related recreation and transportation. These corridors may serve specific neighborhoods, the entire City, and the North County region.

The City currently has 40.5 miles of developed trails and plans to develop an additional 40 miles of trails and pedestrian connections throughout the City. City trails provide pedestrian, bicycle, and/or equestrian access to undeveloped open spaces such as Indian Head Canyon and Manchester Preserve. The Olivenhain community enjoys an extensive network of trails relative to other parts of the City. The San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Preserve includes approximately 5 miles of trails managed by the County of San Diego, which serve City residents and visitors. In addition, Encinitas residents have access to Rancho Santa Fe's well-developed trail system.

3.5.2 Regulatory Framework

3.5.2.1 State

California Fire and Building Code

The California Fire and Building Codes address general and specialized fire safety requirements for buildings. Topics addressed in the code include fire department access, fire hydrants, automatic sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire and explosion hazards safety, hazardous materials storage and use, provisions to protect and assist first responders, and industrial processes.

Senate Bill 50

Senate Bill (SB) 50 created various methods of generating revenue to pay for school construction and remodeling. These methods consist of State school bond funds, local school bonds, and developer fees. There are three levels of developer fees: Level I, Level II, and Level III. Level I fees are set by law but can be adjusted for inflation. Level II fees require that developers pay for the entire local share of construction costs, which is 50% of total construction costs. Level II fees may be imposed by a school district on a yearly basis, but only if certain conditions are met. Level III fees require developers to pay 100% of construction costs and are imposed if the State is no longer allocating bond funds. SB 50 stipulates that if a school district conducts a School Facilities Needs Analysis and meets certain other requirements, it may impose a statutory developer fee that may be significantly higher than the previously permitted.

3.5.2.2 Local

General Plan/ Local Coastal Program

Pertinent General Plan goals and policies related to the provision of adequate public services are listed below in **Table 3.5-1.**

Table 3.5-1 City of Encinitas General Plan Goals and Policies Related to Public Services	
Goal/Policy	**Description**
Safety Element	
Goal S-1A:	Promote a culture of emergency preparedness in Encinitas through comprehensive emergency management and planning.
Policy S-1.1:	The public safety system shall provide standards and levels of service guidelines that assure quality of life and protection of life and property from preventable losses.
Policy S-1.3:	Coordinate citywide emergency management and disaster planning and response through the integration of City departments into the preparedness and decision-making (EOP reference).
Goal S-1B:	A community that can easily evacuate.
Policy S-1.7:	Ensure adequate evacuation capacity and infrastructure is available for existing and new development.
Policy S-4.11:	Maintain access (ingress and egress) for fire apparatus vehicles along public streets in very high fire hazard severity zones for emergency equipment and evacuation.
Policy S-4.24:	Require and maintain adequate setbacks, easements, and accesses, to ensure that emergency services can function.
Recreation Element	
Policy 1.14:	The City shall attempt to acquire the Santa Fe railroad right-of-way, should it become available, for the development of recreational facilities and landscaping as well as transportation and other public needs.
Policy 5.1:	The City recognizes Cardiff Beach State Park, San Elijo Beach State Park, South Carlsbad Beach State Park and Moonlight Beach (future City) State Park, as the major visitor destination beaches in the Encinitas area. The City will work with the State to upgrade and promote access to these State beaches, and will act to upgrade and promote access to Moonlight Beach, in order that they may receive an increased proportion of visitor uses. (Coastal Act/30214).
Land Use Element	
Policy 1.14:	The City will maintain and enhance the Hwy 101 commercial corridor by providing appropriate community-serving tourist-related and pedestrian-oriented uses. (Coastal Act/30250).
Policy 1.15:	Commercial and industrial uses shall be required to provide easy and safe pedestrian, bicycle, and handicap access. (Coastal Act/30250).

Municipal Code

Fire Prevention (Title 10)

The City adopted the 2012 International Fire Code and the 2013 California Fire Code as the Fire Code of the City of Encinitas (Municipal Code Section 10.04.020).

Building and Construction (Title 23)

The City has adopted a Fire Mitigation Fee (Municipal Code Section 23.92) as a means to implement the goals of the Public Safety Element of the City's General Plan. Specifically, fees are assessed and collected during the subdivision or building permit process to finance the cost of additional fire protection facilities or equipment necessitated by the new development (Municipal Code Section 23.92.010).

The fire mitigation fee shall be determined by the Fire Chief or their designated agent and satisfied by the applicant as a condition of approval of the development project. If the development is not in a new subdivision, the fee shall be paid by the applicant as a condition of the granting of a building permit for the proposed development.

In order to meet the specifications of the City's recreational space and facilities standards and to implement the goals and objectives of the Recreation Element of the General Plan, new development is required to offer land dedication or pay in-lieu fees and park improvement fees for park and recreation purposes. The combined dedication/in-lieu fee and park improvement fee is called the Parkland Acquisition and Improvement Fee (Municipal Code Section 23.98), which funds park programming needs.

The Parkland Acquisition and Improvement Fee shall be determined by the Director of Parks and Recreation or their designated agent and satisfied by the applicant as a condition of approval of the development project. If the development is not in a new subdivision, the fee shall be paid by the applicant as a condition of the granting of a building permit for the proposed development.

3.5.3 Significance Determination Thresholds

Consistent with Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, impacts related to public services would be significant if the Project would result in any of the following:

1. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:
    a. Fire protection?
    b. Police protection?
    c. Schools?
    d. Parks?
    e. Other Public facilities?

3.5.4 Methodology

The impact analysis in the following subsections evaluates: (1) whether the Project would result in the need for substantial alterations or expansions to existing public services or facilities (e.g., new fire stations or parks) or the construction of new facilities; and (2) if the expansion or construction of new facilities necessitated by the Project would result in significant environmental impacts.

3.5.5 Issues 1a through 1e: Result in adverse physical impacts on the environment associated with the need for new public service facilities or the need for new or physically altered public facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts and the provision of public services.

3.5.5.1 Impacts

The MEU is a policy document that sets a long-term vision for the City through the establishment of goals, multimodal networks, and supporting policies. It complements regional and State mobility plans and works with the other elements of the General Plan to plan for and accommodate the City's mobility needs into the future. This policy document does not induce growth, rather it accommodates and plans for anticipated growth projected in the General Plan. The MEU plans for future growth by identifying multimodal mobility network improvements that would improve access throughout the City. The MEU would not result in changes to the existing circulation network, such that the MEU would not impact or create delay in any emergency response times, necessitating the need for additional or altered facilities. Because the MEU would not induce growth or include the construction of new buildings, implementation of the Project would not result in an increase in demand for public service facilities, including fire or police protection, or expanded school or park facilities. Additionally, the MEU does not propose constructing nor necessitate the construction of new public service facilities.

Future projects implemented in accordance with this MEU must adhere to the General Plan policies and comply with applicable development regulations that are intended to address the demand for public services that result from development. For example, future development would be required to pay applicable Fire Mitigation Fees and Parkland Acquisition and Improvement Fees. As described in Section 3.5.2, fees are determined by the Fire Chief and the Director of Parks and Recreation, respectively, or their designated agent. These fees shall be paid by the applicant as a condition of the granting of a building permit for the Project. Furthermore, as the City's population increases and the need for new facilities are identified, any future construction of public facilities would be subject to a separate environmental review at the time design plans are available. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

3.5.5.2 Significance of Impacts

Implementation of the Project would be consistent with local and regional plans and policies. Impacts would be less than significant.

3.5.5.3 Mitigation Measures

Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

3.5.5.4 Conclusion

The Project would not result in changes to the existing circulation network, such that the Project would not impact or create delay in any emergency response times, necessitating the need for additional or altered facilities. Because the MEU would not induce growth or include the construction of new buildings, implementation of the Project would not result in an increase in demand for public

service facilities, including fire or police protection, or expanded school or park facilities. Additionally, the Project does not propose constructing nor necessitate the construction of new public service facilities. Impacts would be less than significant.