3.11 Public Services

This section describes effects on public services that would be caused by the implementation of the Transpacific Fiber-optic Cables Project. The following discussion addresses existing environmental conditions in the affected area, identifies and analyzes environmental impacts for a range of Project alternatives, and recommends measures to reduce or avoid adverse impacts anticipated from Project construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning. In addition, existing laws and regulations relevant to public services described. In some cases, compliance with these existing laws and regulations would serve to reduce or avoid certain impacts that might otherwise occur with the implementation of the Project.

Please note that Utilities and Service Systems (i.e., water supply, solid waste, stormwater, and wastewater) are not included in this section. This topic is discussed in Section 5.1, which identifies topics for which no significant environmental impacts are anticipated and provides the reasoning for these conclusions.

3.11.1 Environmental Setting

The terrestrial portions of the proposed Project would be contained within the boundaries of the City of Hermosa Beach (City). The City has a total area of 1.4 (3.6 km^2) square miles, and the 2010 United States Census found the City had a population of 19,506, with a density of 13,673 people per square mile (5,279/km^2) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). The City operates its own fire department and police department, school district, and park system, which are fully described below. The Project would have no public services in the marine segment of the Project.

3.11.1.1 Public Services

Fire Protection

The City of Hermosa Beach Fire Department has one fire station, which houses one fire chief, one assistant fire chief, and 18 firefighters, 16 of whom are paramedics. Three platoons rotate a 48-hour schedule, maintaining a minimum daily staff of 5, all certified as paramedics, per shift. The department also employs an ambulance fire intern. This position provides individuals with technical firefighting training and ambulatory assistance.

The one station, at 540 Pier Avenue, serves the entire city of approximately 20,000 residents within 1.43 square miles (3.7 square kilometers). The station houses three fire engines and two ambulances (one Advance Life Support [ALS] and one Basic Life Support [BLS]) (City of Hermosa Beach Fire Department, 2014). Fire engines are operated by a captain, an engineer, and a firefighter. The ALS ambulance is operated by two firefighter/paramedics, and the BLS ambulance is operated by two ambulance operators/fire interns (ICMA, 2014).

The Fire Department provides traditional services to the City such as fire suppression, emergency medical service and rescue, regulation enforcement relevant to fire protection and safety of life and property, fire prevention and investigation, and community support. For many incidents fire department units operate as a joint response/mutual aid contingent, primarily with the Redondo Beach or Manhattan Beach Fire Departments.

Response time is defined as the length of time from when the call is received by the primary dispatch center to when the dispatched unit arrives on the scene to initiate action. The standard response time established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for fire suppression and emergency medical operations is 9 minutes within urban areas (greater than 1,000 people per square mile) (NFPA, 2015). The City's established response times for emergency medical service and fires average 5.3 minutes, which meets the NFPA's response time objectives (City of Hermosa Beach Fire Department, 2014).

Police Protection

The City of Hermosa Beach Police Department (located at 540 Pier Avenue) oversees a service area of approximately 1.3 square miles (3.4 square kilometers). Through nine divisions the Department offers a full range of services, and operates with 39 sworn personnel: 1 chief, 1 captain, 2 lieutenants, 8 sergeants, and 27 officers. The Police Department's response times for 2014 through the month of August are shown in Table 3.11-1. A 2008 national study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics determined that 30 percent of average police response times for violent crimes were 10 minutes or less, while this same response time occurred in only 20 percent of non-violent crimes nationwide (BJS, 2011). As indicated in Table 3.11-1, the City's police response times are consistently within the shortest timeframe (less than 10 minutes).

Table 3.11-1. Average Response Times for the City of Hermosa Police Department, 2014

Month	Average Response in Minutes:Seconds
January	3:59
February	4:09
March	3:48
April	3:27
May	4:25
June	3:47
July	3:17
August	3:56

Source: City of Hermosa Beach Police Department 2014

Parks

The City has over 20 parks throughout its borders. There are three large fields, located at Valley Park, Clark Stadium, and South Park, which are home to youth and adult sport leagues. Valley Park is a 5.33-acre landscaped park that is the largest park in the City of Hermosa Beach (RTI, 2014). Valley Park's western portion is devoted to active recreation. The eastern portion of Valley Park was designed in 1965 by prominent landscape architect Arthur Barton with early input from noted nurseryman Theodore Payne. The eastern portion features a rolling landscape with a variety of tree specimens, the Theodore Payne Native Flora Area, and an amphitheater that is used for community events such as Movie in the Park and Shakespeare by the Sea (City of Hermosa Beach, 2015).

Schools

The City of Hermosa Beach is serviced by the Hermosa Beach City School District and contains one school within the city limits. Located on two sites, Hermosa View School houses the Kindergarten through 2nd grade students and Hermosa Valley School houses 3rd through 8th grade students, both of which are part of one K-8 school. This school serves approximately 1,449 students. High school students are serviced by either Manhattan Beach (Mira Costa High School) or Redondo Beach (Redondo Union High School). The approximate distance from the Project for each school is outlined below in Table 3.11-2.

Table 3.11-2. Schools Potentially within 0.25 miles of the Project		
School Name	Address	Approximate Distance
Robinson Elementary	80 S. Morningside Drive, Manhattan Beach	0.19 mile (0.31 kilometer) southeast of Longfellow Avenue BMH
Hermosa View School	1800 Prospect Avenue, Hermosa Beach	0.9 mile (1.45 Kilometers) southeast of 25th Street BMH
Hermosa Valley School	1645 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach	0.5 mile (0.8 kilometer) southeast of 25th Street BMH

3.11.2 Regulatory Setting

3.11.2.1 Federal

There are no federal regulations on public services applicable to the local action of the City.

3.11.2.2 State

There are no State regulations on public services applicable to the local action of the City.

3.11.2.3 Local

City of Hermosa Beach General Plan

The general plan contains an assumption regarding the preferential undergrounding of public utilities. It states “Underground utilities are preferable to overhead systems because of safety, better use of land area, and aesthetics.” The Utilities Element calls for all trenching for undergrounding to be designed to accommodate television cables as well as electric power and telephone lines.

The General Plan Utilities element lists the following relevant objectives:

- The City shall develop and systematically follow a schedule of undergrounding of utility service, and with the aid of underground districts, which are to be created in concert with the schedule, the undergrounding of private service connections is to be accomplished within reasonable time periods.
- All utilities which wish to locate new transmission or distribution facilities within the City shall have to have type and location approved by the City Engineer. In all cases the appropriate 100 Amp service box and a sweep shall be the minimum provided for future underground service.
- All trenching for undergrounding shall be designed to accommodate television cable as well as power lines and telephone.
- All new commercial, industrial, [...] shall underground utilities to the nearest available power source.

To maximize the level of fire prevention and minimize the potential hazards to life and property in the City of Hermosa Beach

- To minimize the response time to fire and rescue emergencies
- To identify fire hazards and develop appropriate code requirements and inspections to mitigate the hazard.

3.11.3 Impact Analysis

This section explains how potential impacts associated with the proposed Project are assessed with regard to public services. The baseline conditions described above in Section 3.11.1 were evaluated based on their potential to be affected by construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning activities related to the proposed Project. Sections 3.11.3.1 through 3.11.3.4, below, provide a discussion of the impacts identified for the proposed Project.

3.11.3.1 Methodology/Approach

Impacts to public service providers could potentially occur when an increase to the size of the population and geographic area served, the number and types of calls for service, physical development, or a conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency responsible for provision of public services would occur that could result in capacity constraints to existing public service providers. The impact analysis evaluates if the project would result in a substantial adverse physical impact associated with the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable performance objectives.

3.11.3.2 Significance Thresholds

The terrestrial features of the proposed Project—those that take place above the MHW line—would have potential impacts on public services such as fire, police, and emergency services.

The proposed Project would be considered to have a significant effect on public services if it would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical effects associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new for physically altered government facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection, police protection, schools, or other public facilities.

There would be no impacts to public services associated with the marine segment of the proposed Project. No public services will be needed to support the marine operations, except in the case of an emergency. Even in such an event, no new government facilities or expansion or alteration of existing facilities would be required.

3.11.3.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The impact discussions below address each of the significance thresholds listed above in Section 3.11.3.2.

Effects Associated with the Provision of New or Altered Facilities

<u>Fire and Police Protection</u>

Longfellow Avenue, 25th Street, and Neptune Avenue are access routes to the beach and adjacent areas for emergency vehicles. Construction of the landing manholes may temporarily result in reduced space for emergency vehicles or the obstruction of passage for emergency vehicles. Also, response times by fire, police, and medical personnel to certain beach areas and nearby properties may be temporarily increased as a result of Project construction activities. However, the applicant

will be required to coordinate Project construction activities with local emergency service providers to ensure that construction would not unnecessarily block emergency access routes in the vicinity of the construction areas or create confined spaces in which rescue may be difficult or significantly impaired. If the marine boring sites are located at the optional sites in 25th Street and Longfellow Avenue, temporary detours will need to be established for emergency vehicles and other traffic. Short-term effects on emergency vehicle access are fully discussed in Section 3.12, *Transportation and Traffic*. Furthermore, as discussed in Section 3.12, implementation of Mitigation Measure TT-1a would minimize adverse construction effects by locating construction activities to avoid restricting the movements of emergency vehicles, notifying police departments and fire departments in advance of roadway disruptions, and accommodating emergency vehicles in construction areas at all times (see Section 3.12). No permanent obstruction of emergency access routes would be caused by the proposed Project.

The Project's effect on emergency access is limited primarily to the construction period and would not require any expansion of current fire and police services. Although unlikely, it is possible that fire or police services may be required to respond to an emergency at one of the Project construction sites, such as in the case of an accident. Existing fire and police staffing, equipment, and facilities are considered adequate to respond to any emergencies or other demands on these services that may be caused by the Project. Therefore, no construction of new fire and polices facilities or expansion of existing facilities would be required.

During Project operations, little or no effect on fire or policies services is anticipated. It is possible that an accident or emergency could occur, perhaps related to Project repairs or at one of the PFE facilities. Decommissioning and abandonment of the Project would result in effects similar to construction, and would be further reduced if the facilities are abandoned in place. No effect that would require construction or expansion of police or fire facilities is anticipated.

Schools, Parks, and Other Public Facilities

The Project is limited to the installation of a telecommunications infrastructure and does not involve construction of any habitable structures or places of employment. As a result, there would be no increase in population associated with the Project, and the Project would not cause any increased demand for schools, parks, or other public facilities. Construction workers may temporarily utilize parks or other public facilities, such as libraries, but this minor and temporary increase in utilization of these facilities would not result in diminished service ratios or the need construct new facilities or expand existing facilities.

3.11.3.4 Cumulative Effects

Because the proposed Project would not result in any impacts relative to the thresholds of significance list in Section 3.11.3.2, it would not contribute to any cumulative impacts relative to public services.

3.11.3.5 Summary of Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Significance Conclusions

No significant impacts to public services have been identified based on the threshold of significance listed in Section 3.11.3.2.