

14 PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Novato residents and businesses are served by a variety of public services and facilities. These services include schools, libraries, police, emergency services, fire protection and solid waste. This chapter discusses existing conditions in Novato relating to all of these services.

A. Schools

1. Regulatory Framework

a. Novato Unified School District Facility Master Plan

The Facility Master Plan, prepared in 2012, provides a framework for facilities planning and implementation. The Facility Master Plan provides detailed demographic information about NUSD's community and the effects of those demographics on NUSD's student enrollment and the impact on long range planning for facilities. It provides projections and establishes school site, building and capacity standards.

b. Novato General Plan

Although schools in Novato are owned and operated by the Novato Unified School District (NUSD), not by the City, the existing General Plan addresses schools in both the Land Use and Public Facilities and Services chapters of the existing General Plan. LU Objective 2 in the Land Use chapter calls for the City to "allow development consistent with infrastructure and adequate public services." Policies and programs to implement this objective call for the City to require new development to pay its fair share of public service costs and to support NUSD in its efforts to collect fees necessary to provide levels of service consistent with NUSD standards.

PF Objective 3 in the Public Facilities and Services chapter calls for the City to "ensure that public service providers can continue to provide adequate public services given the additional demand from new development." Programs implementing this objective call for the City to consider additional project mitigation fees when there are insufficient revenues to construct a new school necessitated by new development and to plan for future school sites that may be needed to serve new growth.

2. Novato Unified School District

The City of Novato is served by the Novato Unified School District (NUSD) which operates seven elementary schools, one K-8 school, one K-8 charter school, two middle schools, two high schools, one alternative high school and one K-12 independent study program.

a. Schools and Facilities

The names and addresses of the 15 public schools in Novato are shown in Table 14-1. The location of each school and the NUSD service area boundary are shown in Figure 14-1.

b. Student Enrollment and School Capacity

All of the NUSD schools currently have sufficient space for all enrolled students. According to the 2012 Facility Master Plan, the majority of schools are operating below capacity (see Table 14-1).

The Facility Master Plan projects future student enrollment for a ten-year period. These projections are based on historical and projected birth data (used to project future kindergarten students), residential development and student migration rates. The Plan projects that school enrollment will decrease by approximately seven percent through 2022. This is based on current and projected declining local birth rates. Declining birth rates are also being realized across the nation, California, and Marin County. Projected district enrollment for the 2021-22 school year is 7,349 students.

c. Facilities and staff

As of the 2011-2012 school year, the NUSD employed 427 full-time equivalent teachers (Table 14-2). The average ratio of students to teachers for the NUSD was 20.7, which was slightly higher than the Marin County average ratio (18.8) and slightly lower than the State average ratio (22.7).

d. Services and Programs

The NUSD offers a range of educational programs for students of all needs and levels. For example, the English Learner Program aims to develop language and academic skills of the non-native speaker and the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program for high-achieving students. San Marin High School offers a STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) program and Novato High School offers Marin School of the Arts, an arts academy within the high school.

e. Planned Improvements

Novato residents passed a \$107 million bond in 2001 to improve facilities in the District. The NUSD categorized facility needs into two phases. All bond projects are complete and the bond proceeds have been expended in accordance with the provision of the measure.

3. College of Marin

The College of Marin, established in 1926, is a public community college that serves Marin County residents. The college has two campuses, the Kentfield Campus and the Indian Valley Campus in Novato. The College of Marin acquired Indian Valley College in 1985 to form the Indian Valley Campus, which occupies a 333 acre site containing 22 buildings. Approximately 6,620 credit and non-credit students enrolled in the college for the spring 2013 semester, a decrease of about nine percent from spring 2013.¹

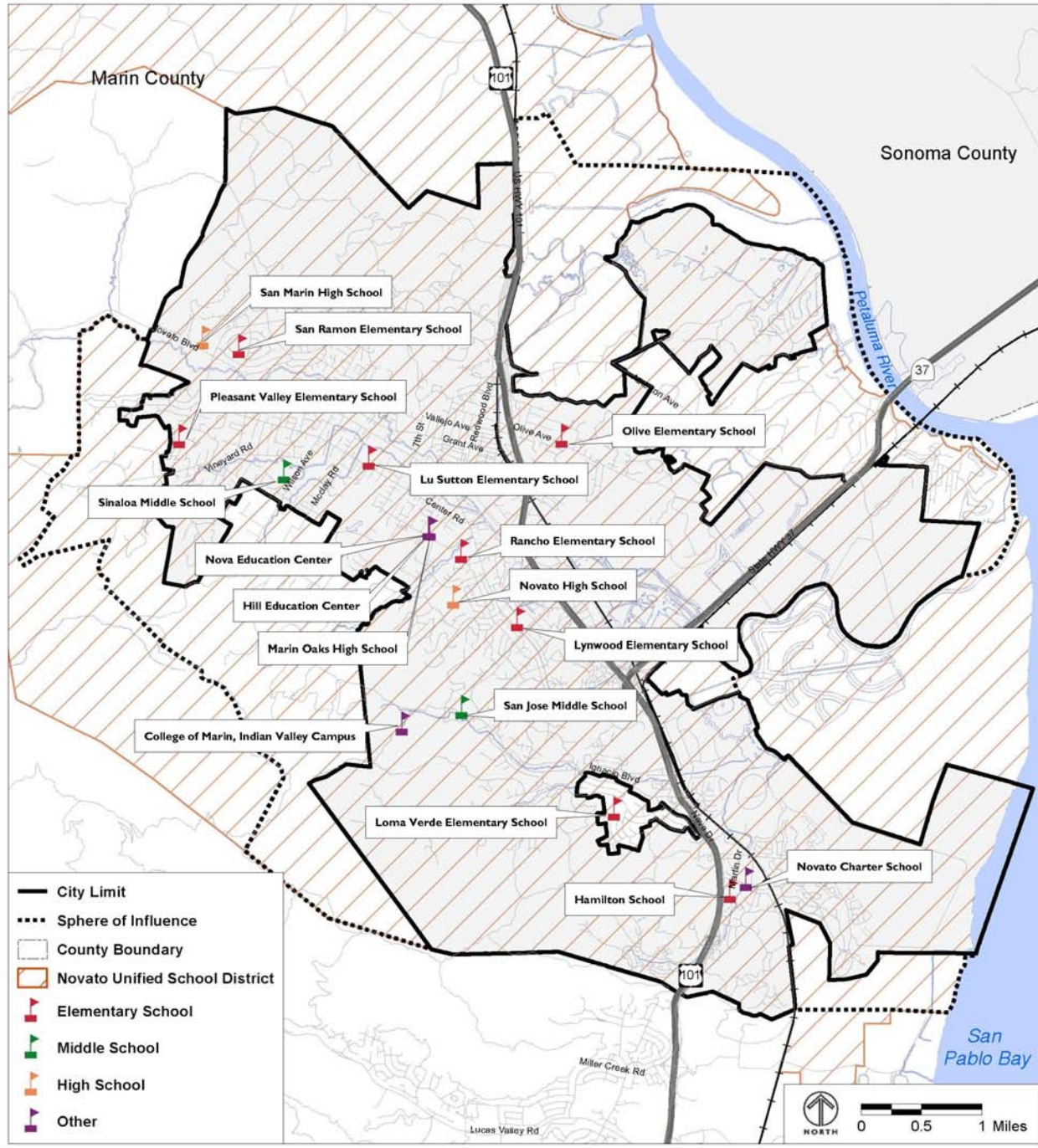
¹ "College of Marin Spring Enrollment is Down," College of Marin, Feb. 5, 2013, http://www.marin.edu/News/press_release/02052013.htm, accessed 12/17/13.

**TABLE 14-1 NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOLS,
ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITY**

School	Address	2011-2012 Enrollment	Capacity
Hamilton School (K-8)	5530 Nave Dr.	732	865
Loma Verde Elementary (K-5)	399 Alameda De La Loma	444	473
Lu Sutton Elementary (K-5)	1800 Center Rd.	406	460
Lynwood Elementary (K-5)	1320 Lynwood Dr.	426	460
Olive Elementary (K-5)	629 Plum St.	389	400
Pleasant Valley Elementary (K-5)	755 Sutro Ave.	447	440
Rancho Elementary (K-5)	1430 Johnson St.	468	505
San Ramon Elementary (K-5)	45 San Ramon Way	458	490
San Jose Middle (6-8)	1000 Sunset Pkwy	653	765
Sinaloa Middle (6-8)	2045 Vineyard Rd.	840	808
Marin Oaks High (9-12)	720 Diablo Ave.	74	150
Novato High (9-12) (includes Marin School of the Arts)	625 Arthur St.	1,401	2,077
San Marin High (9-12) (incl. Plus Program)	15 San Marin Dr.	908	1,183
Nexus Academy (7-10)	720 Diablo Ave.	26	150
Nova Independent Study (K-12)	720 Diablo Ave.	65	150
Novato Charter School (K-8)	940 C St.	249	250

Sources: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>, accessed on December 12, 2013.

Jack Schreder & Associates, September 2012, *Facility Master Plan for Novato Unified School District*, pages 83-85.



Source: Marin County, GIS

FIGURE 14-1
 NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARY AND SCHOOLS

TABLE 14-2 STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO (2011-2012)

	Number of Schools	Full-Time Equivalent Teachers	Novato Pupil- Teacher Ratio	Marin County Pupil Teacher Ratio	State Pupil Teacher Ratio
Elementary	9 ^a	207.2	19.6	19.0	23.1
Middle	2	64.9	22.9	19.6	23.1
High School	2	103.2	22.3	18.9	23.9
Alternative	1	3	21.7	12.7	23.6
Continuation	1	5.6	13.2	11.8	18.5
Total	18	391.2	20.7	18.8	22.7

^a This total includes the seven K-5 elementary schools, one K-8 school and the Novato Charter School (K-8).
Source: <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us>, accessed on December 11, 2013.

B. Libraries²

The Marin County Free Library (MCFL) District serves Novato, unincorporated areas of Marin County as well as the Cities of Corte Madera, Fairfax and Novato. There are a total of 10 facilities and one bookmobile in the District. The two library branches that serve Novato include the Novato Library, located at 1720 Novato Boulevard, and the South Novato Library, located at 6 Hamilton Landing (see Figure 14-2). Programs and services offered at both branches include loan of library materials, wireless network access, reference service, homework assistance, English- and Spanish-language storytime, computer classes, book clubs and conversation clubs.

The Novato Library, established in 1927, serves a population of approximately 41,000 residents and has a circulation of approximately 443,000 volumes. The South Novato branch, established in 1998, serves a population of approximately 18,000 residents and has a circulation of approximately 87,000 volumes. As of 2013, there were 17 employees at the Novato Library and 2 employees at the South Novato Branch. Funding for the library is mainly from County property taxes. Measure A (June 2010) supplements the Library's budget with a \$49 per year parcel tax through June of 2015. Other funding sources include a \$32 parcel tax with no sunset date.

The 2007 *Marin County Free Library Vision Plan* identified several areas that need improvement in the MCFL system. System-wide improvements include adding shelf space to accommodate new resources, increasing seating and space and acquiring additional computers. The Novato Library is the busiest branch in the MCFL system and as such needs additional space to accommodate its users. The building, designed in the 1960s, lacks the electrical wiring needed for current use. The Library underwent a remodel in 2013 and used Measure A funds to replace carpeting, add new shelving and

² Updated 2013 by Janet Doerge, Branch Manager, *Marin County Free Library*.

upgrade service desks. Although the South Novato Branch is less used and housed in a recently renovated facility, it is in need of additional space to accommodate its service population. Additional funding is also needed at the South Novato Branch to increase hours of operation.

C. Police

1. Regulatory Framework

a. Novato Police Department Mission, Vision and Values Statement

The City of Novato Police Department is guided by an official statement of Department mission, vision and values. The mission of the Department is to “provide a safe and secure environment through professional and proactive law enforcement in partnership with the community.” For its vision, the Department “embraces the challenge of change and builds community trust while continually enhancing the safety, environment, quality of life and economic vitality of Novato’s diverse communities and neighborhoods.” The values of the Department focus on fairness, integrity, performance, responsibility, teamwork and trust.

b. Novato General Plan

Police service is addressed in the Safety and Noise chapter of the existing Novato General Plan. SF Objective 6 calls for the City to “maintain effective police services.” Policies and programs to implement this objective call for the City to require mitigation measures for new development to ensure adequate standards of police service, to maintain civilian support for sworn staff and to continue to provide community-oriented services.

2. Novato Police Department

The Novato Police Department (NPD) provides service to a 28-square-mile area serving a population of approximately 52,000 people. Responsibilities of the NPD include patrol, investigations, traffic, emergency services, crime prevention and other programs designed to enhance the quality of life in Novato.³

a. Staff

The NPD is made up of the Operations Division and the Services and Administrative Division. The NPD has 59 sworn police officers and 23 non-sworn personnel. Additionally, the NPD has three part-time interns and 17 volunteers of which four are Chaplains.⁴

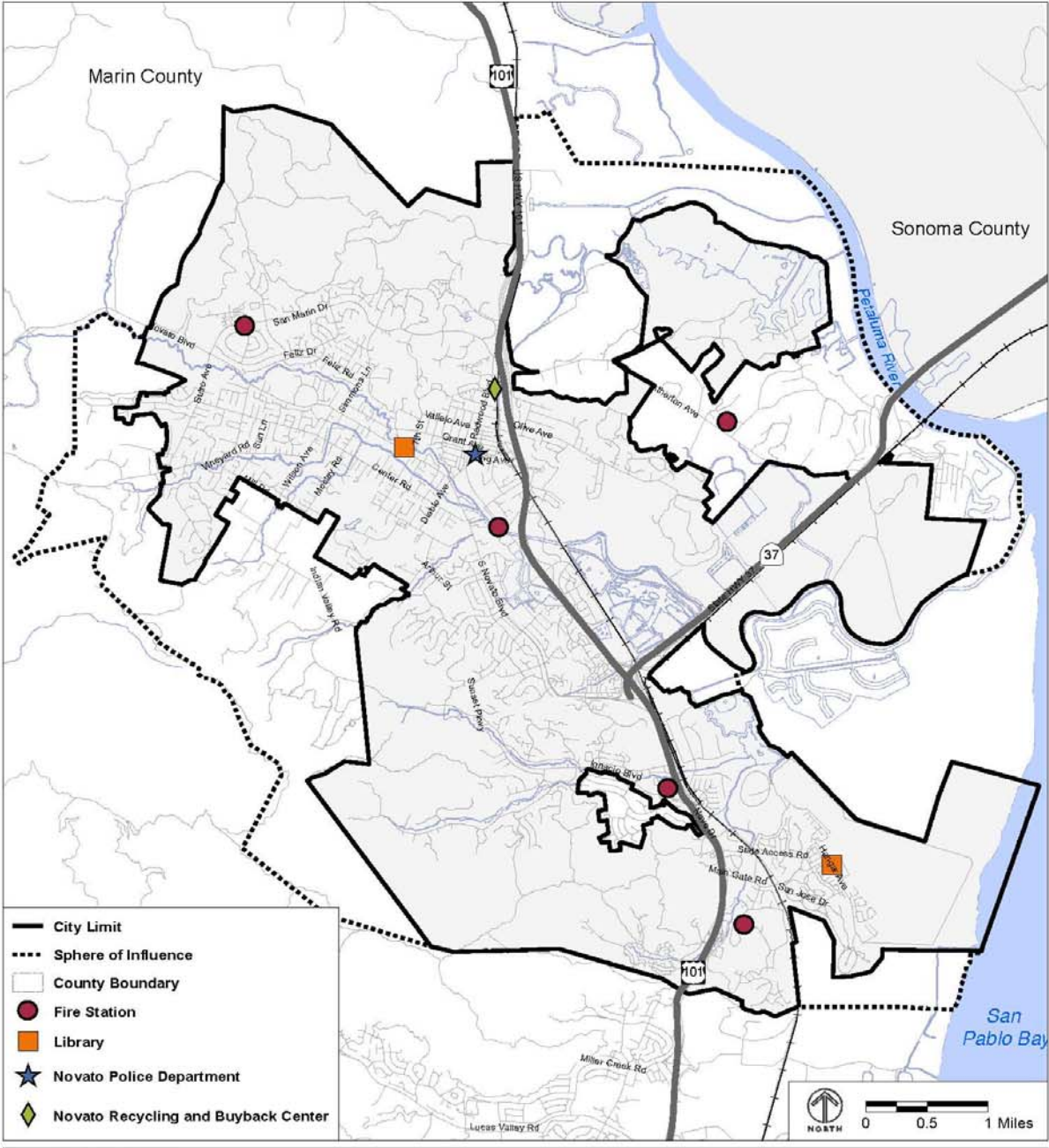
b. Facilities

A single central police station located at 909 Machin Avenue also operates one satellite office at Fire Station 5 at 5 Bolling Drive. The satellite office is mainly used to write reports and to conduct follow-up investigations while an officer is working his/her patrol shift in the south end of the City.

³ City of Novato Police Department website, <http://www.ci.novato.ca.us/Index.aspx?page=669>, accessed on September 18, 2013.

⁴ City of Novato Police Department website, <http://www.ci.novato.ca.us/Index.aspx?page=669>, accessed on September 18, 2013.

**CITY OF NOVATO
EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT
PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES**



Source: Marin County GIS

**FIGURE 14-2
FIRE, POLICE, LIBRARY SERVICES AND RECYCLING FACILITIES**

c. Reported Crimes and Arrests

From 2008-2012, total reported crimes and arrests were down 6 percent and 7 percent respectively (Table 14-3). Although reported crimes decreased in most categories from 2008-2012, there were significant increases in some crimes such as domestic violence. In general, arrests in most categories have decreased during this same period. Arrests that increased by 40 percent or more included sex offenses, and grand theft.

d. Service Standards

Although the NPD does not have a standard for staffing levels, the current ratio of officers per 1,000 residents is 1.12. This is below the Federal Bureau of Investigations recommended standard of 2 officers per 1,000 residents and below staffing levels of all law enforcement agencies in Marin County and the City of Petaluma. The NPD's 2012-2013 critical unmet staffing needs include two police officers, a half-time evidence technician, a neighborhood policing team and a records specialist.

e. Funding

Funding for the department comes mainly from the City's General Fund. Other sources of revenue come from user fees, fees for service and fines. Due to City budget constraints, the Novato Police Department is currently unable to expand service.

f. Mutual Aid Agreements

The NPD operates under a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and will provide service to unincorporated areas when requested by MCSO. Unincorporated areas in or near Novato include Loma Verde, part of Bel Marin Keys, Indian Valley, Wild Horse Valley and Atherton Avenue. Additional law enforcement in Novato is provided by the California Highway Patrol (CHP), primarily along Highway 101, on unincorporated roadways and at Park and Ride areas.

3. Marin County Sheriff

The Marin County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement in unincorporated areas of Marin County, with the exception of traffic enforcement, traffic complaints, vehicular accidents and auto theft investigations. Traffic and automobile-related incidents are primarily the responsibility of the California Highway Patrol.

TABLE 14-3 CRIMES REPORTED AND ARRESTS

Felony & Misdemeanor	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	% Change from '08-'12
<i>Crimes Reported</i>						
Aggravated Assault	87	69	67	67	65	-25%
Child Abuse	51	193	198	188	68	33%
Domestic Violence	17	11	154	154	164	865%
Forcible Rape	9	12	3	10	5	-44%
Hate Crimes	5	0	0	0	1	-80%
Homicide	1	1	0	0	0	-100%
Kidnap	2	3	1	2	1	-50%
Robbery	22	21	29	24	26	18%
Sex Offenses	33	30	45	35	47	42%
Weapons	20	18	35	26	19	-5%
Arson	14	13	11	10	13	-7%
Auto Burglary	148	228	165	119	92	-38%
Commercial Burglary	148	108	103	109	117	-21%
DUI	179	164	148	168	221	23%
Grand Theft	202	199	186	113	76	-62%
Identity Theft	77	60	71	99	106	38%
Narcotics	195	227	173	99	149	-24%
Other	966	1,227	998	1,147	1,179	22%
Residential Burglary	96	89	101	106	124	29%
Simple Assault	450	378	341	330	293	-35%
Stolen Vehicle	106	111	109	70	91	-14%

CITY OF NOVATO
EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT
PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Felony & Misdemeanor	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	% Change from '08-'12
Vandalism	571	562	512	533	337	-41%
Warrant	286	267	222	219	264	-8%
Total	3,685	3,991	3,672	3,628	3,458	-6%
<i>Arrests</i>						
Aggravated Assault	31	18	18	20	21	-32%
Child Abuse	12	5	13	13	7	-42%
Domestic Violence	128	107	119	118	112	-13%
Forcible Rape	2	2	1	2	0	-100%
Hate Crimes	0	0	0	0	1	100%
Homicide	0	7	0	0	0	0%
Kidnap	1	3	3	1	0	-100%
Robbery	21	14	12	13	16	-24%
Sex Offenses	14	12	11	12	20	43%
Weapons	20	16	44	25	19	-5%
Arson	7	2	8	2	1	-86%
Auto Burglary	3	2	1	1	3	0%
Commercial Burglary	47	45	48	44	30	-36%
DUI	171	176	133	151	202	18%
Grand Theft	5	10	6	4	7	40%
Identity Theft	1	0	1	0	0	-100%
Narcotics	209	217	180	118	184	-12%
Other	544	726	573	572	587	8%
Residential Burglary	18	3	8	1	4	-78%

Felony & Misdemeanor	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	% Change from '08-'12
Simple Assault	102	90	93	78	40	-61%
Stolen Vehicle	14	13	7	9	12	-14%
Vandalism	51	42	42	61	38	-25%
Warrant	296	267	222	219	272	-8%
Total	1,697	1,777	1,543	1,464	1,576	-7%

D. Emergency Services

1. Regulatory Framework

a. Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan prepared by the Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES) guides the management of major emergency response programs. The Plan establishes the following five goals:

1. Monitor and evaluate emerging threats.
2. Support and influence community disaster readiness efforts.
3. Evaluate, influence, and implement developments in the practice of emergency management.
4. Maintain a professional staff in a productive and supportive work environment.
5. Build an optimally functional Operational Area team.

The Strategic Plan includes policies to implement each goal. Policies to implement Goal 5 call for the OES to support and integrate local efforts into the Operational Area Program, conduct multi-jurisdictional Emergency Operations Center staff training, and identify training resources for all jurisdictions and organizations.

b. Novato General Plan

SF Objective 4 of the Safety and Noise chapter of the General Plan calls for the City to assure emergency preparedness. Policies under this objective include interagency cooperation, updating the City's Emergency Preparedness plan as needed and identifying emergency facilities.

c. Novato 2009 Emergency Preparedness Plan

The purpose of the 2009 Emergency Preparedness Plan is to prepare the City of Novato to respond to emergencies; save lives; maintain and restore public services; distribute supplies, food and water; and establish shelter sites and coordinate with other jurisdictions.

2. Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES)

Emergency services in Novato are provided by the Marin County Sheriff's OES. OES coordinates emergency operations activities among local jurisdictions in Marin County in the case of a natural or manmade disaster. OES also serves as the liaison between the State and local governments on issues relating to emergency services. OES offices are located in Marin County Civic Center in San Rafael.

3. City of Novato Emergency Operations Center

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is located at the Novato Fire District Administrative Office at 95 Rowland Way. The EOC will provide centralized emergency management during major disasters and emergencies.

4. Maintenance Division Emergency Response System

The Street Division within the Department of Public Works implements the Emergency Response System for the Maintenance Division. Emergency response duties include:

- ◆ Flood and storm operations
- ◆ Hazardous materials spills
- ◆ Activating maintenance operations center
- ◆ Maintenance disaster preparation
- ◆ Debris removal and cleanup
- ◆ Supporting Police Department and Fire District

The Street Division also responds to mutual aid requests from the Fire and Police Department as needed.

E. Fire

1. Regulatory Framework

a. State Regulations and Plans

i. California Government Code

Section 65302 of the California Government Code requires General Plans to include a Safety Element, which must include an assessment of wildland and urban fire hazards.

ii. California Code of Regulations

Title 24, also referred to as the California Building Standards Code, is published in its entirety every three years by order of the California Legislature. These building regulations or standards have the force of law. Title 19 pertains to fire prevention and engineering measures for new construction.

iii. Assembly Bill 337 (Bates Bill)

In response to the Oakland Hills fire of 1991, this bill was passed in 1992. It requires brush clearance and fire resistant roof material (Class A, B or C) to be used on all new construction that is located in any fire hazard zone.

iv. Public Resources Code

Section 4290 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) covers Fire Safe Regulations. This section establishes minimum standards for roads, signage, private water supply resources, and wild land fuel modification. Section 4290 works in conjunction with current and new building construction development standards in State Responsibility Areas (SRA), defined by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as an area in which the State has primary financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires. Section 4291 of the PRC requires annual defensible space of 100 feet to be provided around all structures in or adjoining any mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material.

v. Uniform Fire Code

This code may be adopted by local jurisdictions with amendments, and provides minimum standards for many aspects of fire prevention and suppression activities, such as access, water supply, fire protection systems, and the use of fire resistant building materials.

vi. California Fire Code

The California Fire Code incorporates, by adoption, the International Fire Code of the International Code Council with California amendments. This is the official Fire Code for the State and all political subdivisions. It is located in Part 9 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. The California Fire Code is revised and published every three years by the California Building Standards Commission.

Novato Fire Protection District (NFPD) adopts the most current edition of the applicable California Fire Code and building standards relative to fire and life safety. This includes, but is not limited to, the International Urban Wildland Interface Code and the International Fire Code and also references the National Fire Protection Association standards. The NFPD amends these codes locally to provide more restrictive requirements to meet the specific topographic, geologic or climatic conditions of the NFPD. The code is adopted once every three years or as the California Fire and Building Code editions are adopted.

vii. California Health and Safety Code and the Uniform Building Code

This code provides regulations pertaining to the abatement of fire-related hazards. It also requires that local jurisdictions enforce the International Building Code, which provides standards for fire resistant building and roofing materials and other fire-related construction methods.

viii. California Fire Plan

The California Fire Plan is the State's "road map" for reducing the risk of wildfire. The overall goal of the plan is to reduce total costs and losses from wildland fire in California through focused pre-fire management prescriptions and increased initial attack success. The plan was adopted in March 1996 and is revised annually by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

b. County and Local Plans and Regulations

i. Marin County Fire Management Plan

The Marin County Fire Management Plan evaluates the County's geographic environment to reduce fire danger. The Marin County Fire Department has adopted the California Fire Plan, including the following five objectives:

1. Create wildfire protection zones that reduce the risks to citizens and firefighters.

2. Assess all wildlands, not just the State responsibility areas. Analyses will include all wildland fire service providers: federal, State, local government, and private.
3. Identify and analyze key policy issues and develop recommendations for changes in public policy.
4. Monitor the wildland fire protection system in fiscal terms.
5. Translate the analyses into public policies.

ii. Novato Fire Protection District Integrated Risk Management Plan: Standards of Cover

The NFPD's Standards of Cover document assists NFPD in ensuring a safe and effective response force for fire suppression, emergency medical services, and specialty response situations, in addition to homeland security issues. The plan discusses areas such as risk assessment, critical task analysis, agency service level objectives, and distribution and concentration measures. It documents reliability studies and historical performance through charts, maps and graphs, and concludes with policy recommendations.

iii. Novato Fire Protection District Community Driven Strategic Plan

The NFPD Community Driven Strategic Plan sets forth a comprehensive vision and mission statement that provides the agency with a clear path into the future. Additionally, this plan identifies the core values that embody how the agency's members, individually and collectively, will carry out the agency's mission. Strategic goals, objectives, and strategies are included that will allow the NFPD to realize its vision. These goals and objectives are prioritized through the annual budget planning process, which then establishes the required funding.

iv. Novato Fire Protection District Department Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles

The mission statement of the NFPD is: "The Novato Fire Protection District exists to care for, protect, and serve our communities."

The vision statement of the NFPD is: "Our vision is to position the Fire District, operationally, financially, and political-ly, through and beyond economic uncertainty while creating a predictable, sustainable future."

The NFPD observes the following Guiding Principles:

- ◆ "We are committed to the protection of life, property, and the environment."
- ◆ "We believe that our communities are the reason for our existence."
- ◆ "We will foster and sustain the trust of our communities and each other, while also protecting that confidence through our attitude, conduct, and actions."
- ◆ "We believe that all members of our diverse communities are entitled to our industry's best practices."
- ◆ "We will serve our communities with honesty, fairness, and integrity."
- ◆ "We will pursue safe, effective, timely, economical, and measurable solutions."
- ◆ "We will consistently provide professional, skilled, courteous, and compassionate customer service."
- ◆ "We will be sensitive to the changing needs of our communities."

v. *Novato Fire Protection District Ordinance 2013-1*

This ordinance adopts the codes that regulate conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion, provide for permits for hazardous uses or operations, and establish and staff a fire loss management division. It is ratified by the City of Novato and County of Marin.

vi. *City of Novato General Plan*

Fire safety is addressed in the Safety and Noise chapter of the existing General Plan. SF Objective 5 calls for the City to “reduce fire hazards.” Policies and programs to implement this objective call on the City to require mitigation measures for new development to reduce hazards from fire, work with the NFPD to ensure a high level of fire protection, implement an effective vegetation management and weed abatement program, ensure sufficient water flow in fire hydrants, continue to participate in mutual aid agreements, and manage public lands to minimize wildfire risks.

2. **Novato Fire Protection District**

The City of Novato, as well as surrounding unincorporated areas, is served by the NFPD. The NFPD is an independent special fire district formed by the Marin County Board of Supervisors on July 6, 1926. The NFPD is governed by a five-person Board of Directors elected by the citizens for four-year terms. The NFPD’s legal authority and responsibilities are contained in the State of California Health and Safety Code under Fire Protection District Law of 1987.

The NFPD is located in the northernmost section of Marin County, California. The NFPD encompasses approximately 71 square miles and serves a population of 65,000. The NFPD protects approximately 43,000 acres of which approximately 44 square miles are wildland open space or urban interface areas. It is bounded on the north by San Antonio Creek and Sonoma County, on the south by Pacheco Grade and the community of Marinwood, the Petaluma River and San Pablo Bay to the east. It extends west to a point approximately 3 miles past Stafford Lake along the ridgeline of Big Rock Ridge.

a. **Services**

The NFPD provides an integrated all risk response to the community. Services include emergency medical services, fire and rescue response for vehicle accidents, surface water bodies, confined space, technical rescue, and hazardous material incidents.

b. **Staffing**

The NFPD currently has daily 19 emergency response personnel on duty plus one Battalion Chief per shift. There are three shifts (A, B and C) and the personnel work a 2 by 4 (48 by 96 hours) work week known as the modified Kelly schedule. There are an additional 17 administrative and executive team members and 10 reserve firefighters for a total of 87 NFPD members.

All Advanced Life Support (ALS) Type I Engines are staffed with three personnel: Captain, Engineer, and Firefighter/Paramedic. All ALS transport ambulances are staffed by two Firefighter/Paramedics. The Truck Company/Rescue is staffed with three personnel: Captain and two Engineers.

c. **Facilities**

The NFPD has five fire stations and one administrative facility. At these stations there are a total of five engine companies, one truck company, and two ALS transport ambulances. The facilities are described below.

- ◆ **Administration Building, 95 Rowland Way.** The Administration Building was purchased and renovated in 2003 and opened in February 2004 as the new administrative support services facility. A total of 17 support personnel provide NFPD administration and direction for the Finance, Fire Loss Management, and Emergency Medical Services divisions, and the EMS Billing Department. It services and hosts the office of the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief.
- ◆ **Station 61, 7025 Redwood Boulevard.** Station 61 has nine personnel on duty daily and the following equipment and apparatus:
 - One Type I ALS Engine
 - One Water Tender
 - One ALS Transport Ambulance
 - One Battalion Chief's command vehicle
 - One Medium Rescue Engine
 - One Reserve ALS Transportation Ambulance
 - One Reserve Battalion Chief's Command Vehicle
 - Reserve Type I ALS Engine
 - Utility pick-up
- ◆ **Station 62, 450 Atherton Avenue.** Station 62 has three personnel on duty daily and the following equipment and apparatus:
 - One Type I ALS Engine
 - One Reserve ALS Transport Ambulance
 - One Reserve Type I ALS Engine
- ◆ **Station 63, 65 Ramon Way.** Station 63 has three personnel on duty daily and the following equipment and apparatus:
 - One Type I ALS Engine
 - One Type III Engine
 - One utility pick-up
- ◆ **Station 64, 105 Roblar Drive (temporary location pending construction of new station at 319 Enfrente Road).** Station 64 has three personnel on duty daily and the following equipment and apparatus:
 - One Type I ALS Engine
 - One Type III Engine
- ◆ **Station 65, 5 Bolling Drive.** Station 65 has five personnel on duty daily and the following equipment and apparatus:
 - One Type I ALS Engine
 - One ALS Transport Ambulance
 - One Aerial Ladder Truck
 - Marin County Fire Department Tamalpais Fire Crew apparatus

d. Novato Fire Protection District Incidents

Table 14-4 identifies the number and types of incidents the NFPD responded to between 2008-2013. Emergency medical services represented the majority of incidents for all five years. Alarm and motor vehicle incidents each represented

approximately 5 percent of all yearly incidents for the same period. Fire represented approximately 3 percent of all yearly incidents.

e. Major Risk Scenarios

The NFPD has determined that there are eight major risk scenarios within the NFPD. These include earthquake, flooding, hazardous materials, wildland interface fires, structure fires, railroad, aviation events, and emergency medical services. Seismic, flood and hazardous materials risks are discussed in Chapters 10, 12 and 14. Risk scenarios regarding wildland interface fires, structure fires, railroad, aviation hazards, and emergency medical services are discussed below.

i. *Wildland Fires*

Wildland fires are generally caused by the ignition of dry grass, brush, or timber and more frequently occur in areas with steep, heavily vegetated hillsides. Wildfires play an important role in the ecology of many natural habitats; however, as urban development moves into areas susceptible to wildfire hazards, risks to human safety and property increase. The term *wildland-urban interface* is commonly used to describe an area where urban development has been located in proximity to open space, or wildland areas. Development located within a wildland-urban interface experiences high risk of wildland fire.

After the disastrous firestorm in the Oakland-Berkeley Hills in 1991, the State Legislature required CAL FIRE to identify very high fire hazard severity zones. Very high fire hazard severity zones are based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors. The NFPD service area includes very high fire hazard severity zones, as identified by CAL FIRE and the NFPD in 2005 that encompass wildland-urban interface areas. The wildland-urban interface areas in Novato are shown in Figure 14-3. The NFPD has experienced several devastating wildland fires in high and very high hazard severity zones.

ii. *Structure Fires*

Structure fire risk is greatest in older structures and neighborhoods built before modern building codes for fire safety and building systems were in place. Other factors affecting urban fire risk and relative likelihood of loss of life or property include building age, height, and use; storage of flammable material; building construction materials; availability of sprinkler systems; and proximity to a fire station and hydrants.

The NFPD has conducted an assessment of the significant structures that exist within the NFPD using a process called Risk, Hazard, and Value Evaluation (RHAVE), a nationally recognized evaluation tool. RHAVE offers a set of tools and methods to help fire service and community leaders make objective, quantifiable decisions about their fire and emergency service needs. According to the RHAVE categories, most properties in Novato are classified as Category 3, routine or typical risks.

iii. *Railroad Hazards*

The Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way has been purchased for transit use. An increase in rail traffic may result in additional exposure to railroad hazards. In the past, the NFPD has responded to fires that were caused by railroad uses. Although these fires are unusual, they are easily handled incidents by fire service personnel. Currently the railroad operates limited freight service. Passenger rail service is expected to begin operating by 2016. The NFPD plans to incorporate potential railroad hazards risks into the its future planning efforts as well as into any updates of the Standards of Cover.

CITY OF NOVATO
EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT

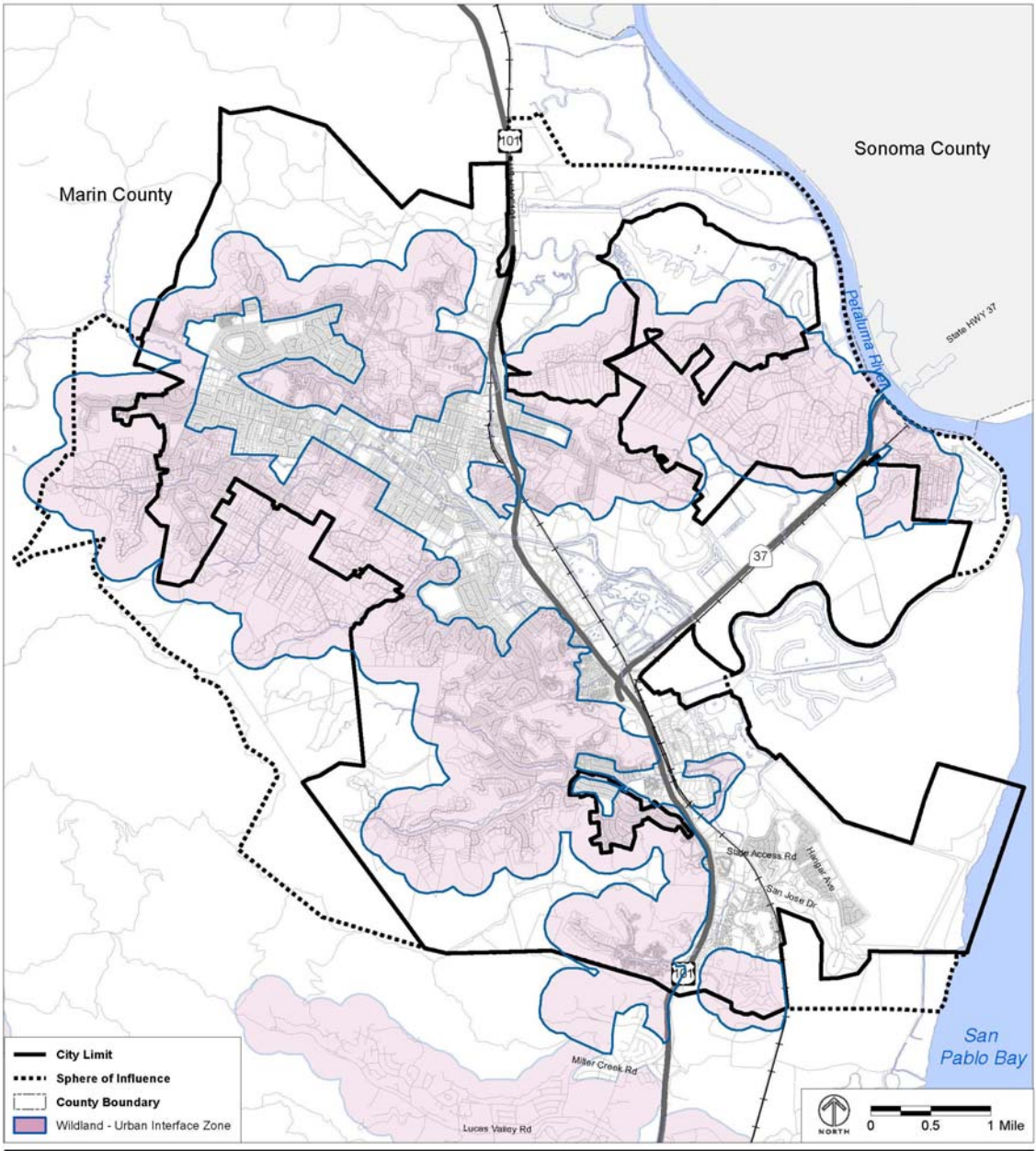


FIGURE 14-3
WILDLAND - URBAN INTERFACE ZONE

TABLE 14-4 NUMBER OF NOVATO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT INCIDENTS, 2008-2013

Incident Type	2008/09	Percent	2009/10	Percent	2010/11	Percent	2011/12	Percent	2012/13	Percent
Cover Assignment	338	7%	505	10%	66	1%	55	1%	47	<1%
Alarm	198	4%	294	6%	224	5%	247	5%	264	5%
Cancelled	327	6%	303	6%	312	7%	467	9%	548	11%
Fire	177	4%	161	3%	159	3%	173	3%	157	3%
Hazmat	22	<1%	15	<1%	24	<1%	24	<1%	26	<1%
Medical	2,907	58%	2,940	56%	2,959	63%	3,180	64%	3,089	62%
Motor Vehicle	275	5%	284	5%	260	5%	242	5%	244	5%
Other	194	6%	287	5%	243	5%	140	3%	100	2%
Public Assist/Service	505	10%	475	9%	483	10%	464	9%	541	11%
Total	5,043	100%	5,264	100%	4,730	100%	4,992	100%	5,016	100%

iv. Aviation Hazards

Gross Field is an airport within the service area of the NFPD. The NFPD does not have any specialized equipment to handle air crash rescue scenarios. The Type I engines carry a reserve of Class B foam and staff are trained to fight flammable liquid fires and to respond to multi-causality incidents that may occur from a crash landing. The NFPD has responded to several incidents at the airport, including aircraft landing without their landing gear down, aircraft that have overshot the runway and occasional airplane crashes. However, the airport has an excellent safety record and there have not been any recent significant events.

v. Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The NFPD's resource deployment strategy is predicated on training as many personnel as possible in all phases of fire protection and emergency medical care. All uniformed personnel have dual roles, as fire suppression and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel. The EMS Division is responsible for first response EMTs, paramedic engine companies and paramedic transport. The Division utilizes the services of a part-time medical director and fulltime quality improvement coordinator. Medical emergencies make up nearly two-thirds of emergency responses.

In the event an emergency situation exceeds the capacity of the NFPD, the multi-casualty incident response plan is implemented. This is a mutual aid plan, which increases medical resources and establishes an emergency organization to deal with major emergencies. Novato maintains four multi-casualty incidents medical caches, one at each station.

F. Solid Waste and Recycling

1. Regulatory Framework

a. California Integrated Waste Management Act

California's Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) set a requirement for cities and counties throughout the State to divert 50 percent of all solid waste from landfills by January 1, 2000, through source reduction, recycling, and composting. To help achieve this, AB 939 requires that each city and county prepare and submit a Source Reduction and Recycling Element. AB 939 also established the goal for all California counties to provide at least 15 years of on-going landfill capacity. As part of the California Integrated Waste Management Board's (CIWMB) Zero Waste Campaign, regulations affect what common household items can be placed in the trash. Under California's Universal Waste Rule, as of February 8, 2006, household materials including fluorescent lamps and tubes, batteries, electronic devices, and thermostats that contain mercury, are no longer permitted in the trash.⁵ In 2010, California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) became the successor agency to the CIWMB, integrating the state's recycling and waste management programs.

b. California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991

California's Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act requires areas to be set aside for collecting and loading recyclable materials in development projects. The Act required the CIWMB to develop a model ordinance for adoption by any local agency relating to adequate areas for collection and loading of recyclable materials as part of development projects. Local agencies are required to adopt the model, or an ordinance of their own, governing adequate areas for collection and loading of recyclable materials in development projects. Novato Municipal Code Section 19.20.120 – *Solid Waste and*

⁵ CalRecycle website at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/ReduceWaste> accessed January 8, 2014.

Recyclable Materials Storage, provides standards for solid waste and recyclable materials storage areas in new multi-family residential and non-residential projects, and additions to existing non-residential projects.

c. Marin County Regional Integrated Waste Management Plan

Marin County's Regional Integrated Waste Management Plan is mandated by State law under AB 939, and was developed in 1990 under the Marin Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The JPA includes the cities and towns of Belvedere, Corte Madera, Fairfax, Larkspur, Mill Valley, Novato, Ross, San Anselmo, San Rafael, Sausalito, Tiburon, and the County of Marin. The plan describes waste disposal trends, diversion efforts, and programs intended to achieve the waste diversion goals outlined in AB 939. The plan serves as the primary tool for designing waste reduction programs that are Countywide in scope. In 2012, as part of the JPA, Novato, in collaboration with 10 other jurisdictions in Marin County, successfully diverted 75 percent of its waste, equivalent to 3.8 bs./person/day. Although the JPA fell short of its goal of attaining 80 percent diversion by 2012, its intent is to continue to increase outreach to change consumption and disposal behavior, incorporate additional diversion opportunities, and reallocate resources to meet future diversion goals.⁶

d. City of Novato Construction and Demolition Debris Ordinance

Section 4-12 of the Novato Municipal Code establishes recycling and reuse diversion requirements for construction and demolition (C&D) projects. The ordinance requires the reuse or recycling of 50 percent of all debris for C&D projects. In November 2013, the City adopted the 2013 California Green Building Standards Code (CAL Green Code) with local amendments, effective January 1, 2014. In addition, the City adopted CAL Green Tier 1 requirements for new construction projects. A prerequisite of compliance with Tier 1 requirements is a 65 percent diversion of C&D waste for residential and non-residential structures.⁷ As a result, new construction projects in Novato are required to divert 65 percent of C&D waste. All other projects are subject to the 50 percent diversion requirement.

2. Solid Waste and Recycling

Weekly garbage service is provided to Novato residents by Novato Disposal Service, Inc. (NDS) through a contract with the Novato Sanitary District (NSD). Commercial collection is provided up to 6 days per week. Novato Disposal Service provides weekly residential curbside recycling, including yard waste and food waste composting. In addition to the usual items accepted such as weeds, leaves, landscape prunings, and grass clippings, customers can also add all food scraps into their yard waste cart. Food scraps accepted include meat, fish, cheese, food leftovers, fruits, vegetables, pasta, rice, bread, coffee filters and grounds, tea bags, soiled paper towels, and eggshells.

The Novato Recycling and Buyback Center is located at 7576 Redwood Boulevard, and is for residential drop-offs only. The center pays for California Redemption Value (CRV) containers and accepts non-CRV cans and bottles, newspaper, cardboard, mixed paper, hard rigid plastics, and other single stream recycling (see Figure 14-2).

3. Landfills

Solid waste from Novato is taken to the Redwood Landfill and Recycling Center (Redwood Landfill), located at 8950 Redwood Highway, north of the Novato city limit. Redwood Landfill's 420-acre site consists of 222.5 acres of waste

⁶ Personal communication with Alex Soulard, County of Marin, Department of Public Works, Waste Management Division, January 15, 2014.

⁷ 2013 California Green Building Standards Code website at <https://law.resource.org/pub/us/code/bsc.ca.gov/gov.ca.bsc.2013.11.pdf>, accessed January 21, 2014.

disposal area, with the balance supporting composting, recycling, and operations facilities as well as open space and a freshwater lagoon.⁸ Currently, Redwood Landfill is permitted to accept 2,310 tons of material per day with a remaining capacity of 12,900,000 cubic yards.⁹

In 2013, approximately 45,000 tons of total solid waste was produced by Novato and transferred to Redwood Landfill by NDS (self-haul waste is not included in this number). Transferred solid waste is categorized as one of three types of solid waste: regular waste (54 percent of total solid waste in 2013); green waste (37 percent of total); and C&D waste (9 percent of total). Approximately 58 percent of the C&D waste was recycled and all the green waste was either recycled or composted.¹⁰ Redwood Landfill has the largest composting facility in Marin County. Its *Homegrown Compost* is listed by the Organic Material Review Institute and complies with the U.S. Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance.¹¹

In addition, a total of 31,330 tons of recyclables, including aluminum, cardboard, glass, paper, plastic, and tin cans, were produced by Novato and collected by NDS in 2013.¹²

In 1998, Redwood Landfill requested a new permit to allow for increased landfill capacity and operational changes, and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared by Marin County Environmental Health Services (EHS). An initial study concluded that substantial changes proposed in 1995 concerning issues related to the proximity of the landfill to water sources, and other issues, had not been addressed. Once these items were rectified, a draft EIR was prepared in 2003, and a final EIR was approved in 2005. The final EIR was amended twice and completed in October 2008. Based on the 2008 EIR, Redwood Landfill applied for and received from Marin County EHS a new solid waste facility permit in December 2008 for continuation and capacity expansion of their facility. However, the validity of the EIR and the 2008 permit were successfully challenged in court.¹³ San Anselmo-based No Wetlands Landfill Expansion filed a lawsuit in 2011 – now being appealed – challenging State approval of Redwood Landfill’s expansion, alleging the site could release contaminated groundwater and other waste into nearby waterways.¹⁴ The court appeals process is ongoing.

The new 2008 permit increased capacity by 9.3 million cubic yards to a total of 26 million cubic yards, allowing continued operation until 2024.¹⁵ In February 2013, a required fly-over of Redwood Landfill to estimate capacity concluded that if an average of 1,000 tons of solid waste per day is landfilled (Redwood Landfill is allowed 1,390 tons of solid waste per day), the landfill will reach capacity in 2023. Marin County EHS estimates that Redwood Landfill is bringing in one-

⁸ Redwood Landfill and Recycling Center website at <http://redwoodlandfill.wm.com/about-us/index.jsp>, accessed January 8, 2014.

⁹ CalRecycle website at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/21-AA-0001/Detail/>, accessed January 8, 2014.

¹⁰ Tanya Richard, Redwood Landfill, Inc., Report of Tonnage for 2013, dated January 1, 2014.

¹¹ Redwood Landfill and Recycling Center website at <http://redwoodlandfill.wm.com/about-us/operations.jsp>, accessed January 8, 2014.

¹² Personal communication with Sue Nelson, Timber Cove Recycling, Inc. on January 22, 2014.

¹³ 2012/2013 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report, *Garbology in Marin: Wasted Energy*, dated May 8, 2013, website at <http://www.marincounty.org/main/boardactions/2013/july/~media/Files/MarinGov/Board%20Actions/2013/2013Jul/20130730CAOCJGarbologyREPORT.pdf>, accessed January 22, 2014.

¹⁴ Marin Independent Journal, *Proposed Novato Landfill Composting Plans Get a Going-Over*, October 13, 2013, website at http://www.marinij.com/novato/ci_24302885/proposed-novato-landfill-composting-plans-get-going-over?source=pkg, accessed January 22, 2014.

¹⁵ CalRecycle website at <http://www.novatosan.com/green-pages/hazardous-waste>, accessed January 8, 2014.

half to two-thirds the amount of solid waste they are allowed, which effectively extends the estimated 2024 closure date.
¹⁶

In 2010, Redwood Landfill completed the installation of its new scale house, which supports solar panels expected to generate enough energy to power the site's administrative offices. Redwood Landfill has pending applications before CalRecycle and Marin County EHS to permit the construction of a landfill gas-to-energy plant, and the design of a public drop-off site for recyclables and reusable material.¹⁷ In late 2013, Marin County EHS issued a stand-alone permit to Redwood Landfill for expansion of their composting facility. Marin County EHS expects to receive an application from Redwood Landfill for a solid waste operations permit (separate from their composting operations permit) in early 2014. As part of the new solid waste permit, there will be a new estimated closure date for the landfill, which is likely to go beyond 2024. Marin County EHS also anticipates receipt of an application in 2014 from Redwood Landfill for a permit to complete a construction and demolition materials recovery facility.¹⁸

4. Household Hazardous Waste

The City of Novato and the NSD operate a permanent hazardous household waste drop-off site located at the Novato Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility, 7576 Redwood Boulevard. Wastes accepted at the HHW facility include aerosols, auto products (polishes and antifreeze), asbestos in small amounts (double-bagged), up to 5 televisions or computer monitors, fluorescent tubes and bulbs, fuels and motor oil, paint, pesticides and fertilizers, pool and photo chemicals, small propane tanks, fire extinguishers, and thermometers and thermostats. The facility is open on the first and third Sundays and Mondays of the month between 8:30 am and 1:30 pm.¹⁹

¹⁶ Personal communication with Mark Janofsky, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Marin County Environmental Health Services, January 21, 2014.

¹⁷ Redwood Landfill and Recycling Center Website at <http://redwoodlandfill.wm.com/plans-future/index.jsp>, accessed January 8, 2014.

¹⁸ Personal communication with Mark Janofsky, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Marin County Environmental Health Services, January 21, 2014.

¹⁹ Novato Sanitary District website at <http://www.novatosan.com/green-pages/hazardous-waste>, accessed on January 8, 2014.