



SECTION 5.8
FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

5.8 FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

This section provides an analysis of fire services, which is based on information provided by the City of Los Angeles Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau (Fire Department or Fire Bureau). The Fire Department maintains ultimate review and approval authority over aspects of the proposed development that relate to fire protection, and may identify further recommendations and/or requirements.

5.8.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

The City of San Fernando is served by the City of Los Angeles Fire Department, which serves the community at three nearby fire stations (Station 75, Station 91, and Station 98), none of which are located within the City of San Fernando.¹ The station location and distance from the project sites are noted in *Table 5.8-1, Fire Station Locations*. The City of San Fernando is negotiating an agreement with the Fire Department to construct and operate a fire station within the corporate boundaries of the City.

The Fire Department currently reviews all new development plans, and future development would be required to conform to all fire protection and prevention requirements, including, but not limited to, building setbacks, emergency access, and interior sprinklers. The City as a matter of operational practicality has adopted the City of Los Angeles' Fire Code as its own, with the exceptions of amendments outlined in the City of San Fernando *Municipal Code*.

The entire incorporated area of the City is designated by the fire code as its own fire district, specifically fire zone #2 as outlined on the "Fire Zoning Map of the City of San Fernando."²

TABLE 5.8-1
Fire Station Information

Equipment	Address	Response Distance (miles)
Fire Station 75	15345 San Fernando Mission Boulevard Mission Hills	0.5 miles southwest
Fire Station 91	14430 Polk Street Sylmar	1.54 miles northwest
Fire Station 98	13035 Van Nuys Boulevard Pacoima	1.65 miles southeast

¹ Inspector Duff, City of Los Angeles Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau, Construction Services. Personal communications, January 24, 2008.

² City of San Fernando Municipal Code, updated November 1, 2002.

FIRE PREVENTION

The primary objectives of the Fire Prevention Bureau are as follows:

- Prevention of fires;
- Investigation of the cause, origin, and circumstances of fires;
- Elimination of fire and life safety hazards in buildings, marine vessels, aircraft, and vehicles;
- Maintenance of fire protection equipment and systems;
- Regulation of storage, use, and handling of hazardous materials and hazardous substances; and
- Enforcement of the basic building regulations of the State Fire Marshal as they apply to the City of Los Angeles in matters regarding fire, panic, and explosion safety.

In addition, the Bureau is dedicated to enhancing environmental protection and creating a more business friendly environment. These basic principles are applied to the service regimen provided by the Los Angeles City Fire Department to the City of Fernando under existing contract.

5.8.2 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD CRITERIA

The environmental analysis in this section is patterned after the Initial Study Checklist recommended by the *CEQA Guidelines*, as amended, and used by the City of San Fernando in its environmental review process, which is contained in Appendix A of the EIR. The Initial Study includes questions relating to fire protection. The issues presented in the Initial Study Checklist have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this section. Accordingly, a project may create a significant environmental impact if it causes one or more of the following to occur:

- 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.

Based on these standards, the effects of the proposed project have been categorized as either a “less than significant impact” or a “potentially significant impact.” Mitigation measures are recommended for potentially significant impacts. If a potentially significant impact cannot be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of mitigation, it is categorized as a significant unavoidable impact.

5.8.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- ◆ DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT COULD RESULT IN REDUCED RESPONSE TIMES OR THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FIRE PROTECTION STAFF, EQUIPMENT, OR FACILITIES.

Level of Significance Before Analysis and Mitigation: Potentially Significant Impact.

Impact Analysis: The proposed project would involve the redevelopment of an urbanized area currently developed with public parking lots with mixed-use or commercial development. The project area is currently served by the Los Angeles City Fire Department through contract with the City of San Fernando. The proposed project must comply with all applicable Building and Fire Code requirements for such items as types of roofing materials, building construction, water mains, fire hydrant flows, hydrant spacing, building setbacks, access and design, interior sprinklers, and other hazard reduction programs. This would ensure that project operations would not diminish the staffing or the response times of existing fire stations serving the City, and would not create a special fire protection problem on the sites that would result in a decline in existing service levels in the area. The Fire Department has indicated that the proposed project would not result in the need for additional fire protection or emergency medical staffing, equipment, or facilities.³ However, implementation of the recommended mitigation measures would be required to ensure that fire service impacts are reduced to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measures:

- FP-1 Adequate emergency vehicle access to all buildings on the project site shall be provided throughout the building construction process.
- FP-2 Adequate water availability shall be provided to meet construction activity needs, including potential fire suppression needs.
- FP-3 The proposed project shall comply with all applicable Building Code and Fire Code requirements, subject to review and approval by the City of Los Angeles Fire Department.

Level of Significance After Analysis and Mitigation: Less Than Significant Impact.

³ Inspector Duff, City of Los Angeles Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau, Construction Services. Personal communications, January 24, 2008.

5.8.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- ◆ DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND OTHER RELATED CUMULATIVE PROJECTS COULD RESULT IN CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE IMPACTS TO FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES IN THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO AND NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS.

Level of Significance Before Analysis and Mitigation: Potentially Significant Impact.

Impact Analysis: The proposed project and related cumulative projects are required to meet City/County codes and requirements, as applicable, relative to providing adequate fire protection services to the site during both the construction and operational stages of the project. Additionally, because development projects in the area are subject to review and approval by the respective fire department with jurisdiction, all developments must meet each department's fire flow, fuel modification, and site access requirements to protect developments against structure and wildland fire hazards. Consequently, operation of cumulative projects would not diminish the staffing or the response times of existing fire stations in the area, and would not create a special fire protection problem on the various sites that would result in a decline in existing service levels in the area or pose an unacceptable fire risk to people or structures. As such, with implementation of applicable mitigation measures to address project-specific fire service impacts, cumulative impacts to the City of Los Angeles Fire Department's service capabilities would be considered less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: Refer to Mitigation Measures FP-1 through FP-3. No additional mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Analysis and Mitigation: Less Than Significant Impact.

5.8.5 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

All impacts related to fire protection resulting from implementation of the proposed project would be reduced to less than significant levels with the imposition of mitigation measures. As such, no significant unavoidable fire protection impacts would result from development of the proposed San Fernando Parking Lots Project.