



**SECTION 5.9**  
**POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES**

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## 5.9 POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES

This section provides an analysis of police services, which is based on information provided by the City of San Fernando Police Department (Police Department) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The Police Department maintains ultimate review and approval authority over aspects of the proposed development that relate to police protection, and may identify further recommendations and/or requirements.

### 5.9.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of San Fernando has a current estimated population of 25,145 people residing within a 2.4 square mile geographic area. Law enforcement services in the City are provided by the City San Fernando Police Department, which was established following the City's incorporation.

The Police Department operates from a facility located at 910 First Street in the Civic Center complex and presently employs 38 sworn officers and 22 reserve officers, and operates ten patrol vehicles. This location serves as the headquarters for the police force and is the primary station currently serving the project area. Average response time to the general project vicinity is estimated at two minutes during an emergency call.<sup>1</sup>

The Police Department provides a full array of services to the community including patrol, emergency dispatching, criminal and traffic collision investigation, community policing services, a drug abuse prevention program, a juvenile diversion program, neighborhood and business watches, motorbike patrol, a special response team (SRT), drunk driving checkpoints, volunteer and reserve officers programs, an Explorer Post, school crossing guards, and a custody holding/detention facility, among other services.

### 5.9.2 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 police 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

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<sup>1</sup> San Fernando Police Chief, Robert R. Ordelheide, correspondence dated October 2, 2007.

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.

### 5.9.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

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

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

*Impact Analysis:* The projected increase in population and commercial infrastructure attributed to the proposed project’s build-out would have a potentially significant impact to police protection services. The proposed project creates the need for added police protection for the residential units and the protection of commercial and retail service operations introduced into the downtown corridor area.

The proposed project would generate a projected increase in population of approximately 978 new residents. Currently, the per capita calculation per officer is one San Fernando Police Officer per 657.89 population. To maintain this current ratio, the Police Department would need to add 1.33 sworn officers in light of the population increase from the proposed project. Additionally, the projected traffic increase due to the proposed project would require one additional part-time parking enforcement officer and one additional patrol vehicle to the Department fleet. The projected annual cost of augmenting Police Department services to this effect is estimated to be approximately \$130,000. This amount would cover the expense of such personnel and supporting equipment for one year.<sup>2</sup>

The increase in demand for police protection services with respect to implementation of the *San Fernando Corridors Specific Plan* was identified through the environmental impact assessment of the plan.

To maintain the ratio of officers to population, the addition of four uniformed staff positions was anticipated as a condition of the *San Fernando Corridors Specific Plan* implementation over time, subject to the Police Department’s monitoring of increases in actual demand for services.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

The intensification of land use associated with the proposed project and the demands upon the Police Department are consistent with the needs estimates for the *Corridors Specific Plan*.

To ensure that adequate staffing and services are provided during and after the five-year development period for full implementation of the proposed project, the Police Department, as part of its annual budget review, will evaluate current and projected service demands, and recommend the appropriate level of resources to be allocated through the City's annual budget adoption process in order to address any significant increase in demand for police services.

The Police Department's freestanding police facility building at 910 First Street in the Civic Center complex contains 21,600 square feet of floor area on a site of 1.05 acres, from which the department provides the community with a full array of services as noted above. In light of the above analysis, the proposed project would not require the provision of new or physically altered police department facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, impacts to police protection service would be less than significant.

*Mitigation Measures:* No mitigation measures are required.

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

#### 5.9.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

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

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

*Impact Analysis:* The resident and daytime populations of the cumulative project sites would increase above current levels upon implementation of the proposed project and related projects. These populations would be subject to potential emergencies (e.g., earthquake, fire, etc.). However, all development projects in Los Angeles County are subject to review and approval by the respective police department with jurisdiction over each project site, which requires that, among other conditions, adequate access exists for emergency vehicles, and that staff and equipment levels are sufficient to serve the additional cumulative development. Given that the proposed project and related cumulative projects would be required to provide adequate emergency vehicle access, cumulative development would not adversely affect or prevent implementation of any emergency response or evacuation plans. Likewise, it is anticipated that

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

each respective jurisdiction's local law enforcement agency would assess the incremental impact to police services resulting from cumulative development projects within each service area and provide additional staff, officers, facilities, or equipment as necessary to maintain service levels. As such, cumulative impacts related to emergency vehicle access and police service levels would be less than significant in this regard.

*Mitigation Measures:* No mitigation measures are required.

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

### **5.9.5 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS**

Impacts related to police protection resulting from implementation of the proposed project would be less than significant. As such, no significant unavoidable police protection impacts would result from development of the proposed San Fernando Parking Lots Project.