

APPENDIX 5.9.1

Fire Department Correspondence



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

(323) 890-4330

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN
January 22, 2007

Betty Sears, Staff Planner
Impact Sciences
234 East Colorado Blvd.
Suite 205
Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Ms. Sears:

NOTICE OF PREPARATION, DRAFT EIR MASTER'S COLLEGE EXPANSION, SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA, FFER 200600324

The Notice of Preparation has been reviewed by the Planning Division, Land Development Unit, and Forestry Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. The following are their comments:

PLANNING DIVISION:

Thank you for providing the maps and the detailed information on proposed construction and demolition of buildings.

FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AVAILABILITY:

The jurisdictional (closest) fire station for this project is Fire Station 73. Located at 24875 N. San Fernando Road, this station has a 4-person engine company and a 2-person paramedic squad. The closest ladder company, necessary for fighting fires in structures over 30' high, is in Fire Station 126, located at 26320 Citrus Street in the Valencia Civic Center. The closest hazardous materials squad is in Fire Station 76, located at 27223 Henry Mayo Drive in Valencia.

The closest available units are dispatched as needed to any emergency incident. Most incidents require multiple response units from two or more stations. To calculate response distances/times to the project site, we would need a scaled map showing the linkages between existing and proposed roads.

The Fire Department follows the nationally-recognized guidelines of a 5-minute response time for an engine company and an 8-minute response time for a paramedic unit within urbanized areas.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS	BRADBURY	CUDAHY	HAWTHORNE	LA MIRADA	MALIBU	POMONA	SIGNAL HILL
ARTESIA	CALABASAS	DIAMOND BAR	HIDDEN HILLS	LA PUENTE	MAYWOOD	RANCHO PALOS VERDES	SOUTH EL MONTE
AZUSA	CARSON	DUARTE	HUNTINGTON PARK	LAKESWOOD	NORWALK	ROLLING HILLS	SOUTH GATE
BALDWIN PARK	CERRITOS	EL MONTE	INDUSTRY	LANCASTER	PALMDALE	ROLLING HILLS ESTATES	TEMPLE CITY
BELL	CLAREMONT	GARDENA	INGLEWOOD	LAWNDALE	PALOS VERDES ESTATES	ROSEMEAD	WALNUT
BELL GARDENS	COMMERCE	GLENORA	IRWINDALE	LOMITA	PARAMOUNT	SAN DIMAS	WEST HOLLYWOOD
BELLFLOWER	COVINA	HAWAIIAN GARDENS	LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE	LYNWOOD	PICO RIVERA	SANTA CLARITA	WESTLAKE VILLAGE
			LA HABRA				WHITTIER

PROJECT IMPACT ON SERVICES:

Any development will increase the service demand on existing resources. Although this development would be in reasonable proximity to an existing fire station, it would increase service demand on the existing fire protection resources in the general area. Additional manpower, equipment, and facilities are needed in the area now.

SERVICE RESPONSIBILITY:

The applicant shall participate in an appropriate financing mechanism, such as a developer fee or an in-kind consideration in lieu of developer fees, to provide funds for fire protection facilities which are required by new development in an amount proportionate to the demand created by this project. Currently, the developer fee is a set amount per square foot of building space, adjusted annually, and is due and payable at the time a building permit is issued. In the event that the developer fee is no longer in effect at the time of building permit issuance, alternative mitigation measures shall be required. It is normally assumed that the staffing and operational costs of new facilities and equipment will be paid for by the additional property tax revenues generated by new development.

LAND DEVELOPMENT UNIT:

1. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Land Development Unit appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

2. The proposed development may necessitate multiple ingress/egress access for the circulation of traffic, and emergency response issues.
3. The development of this project must comply with all applicable code and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire flows and fire hydrants.
4. This property is located within the area described by the Forester and Fire Warden as a Fire Zone 4, Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). All applicable fire code and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire hydrants, fire flows, brush clearance and fuel modification plans, must be met.
5. Every building constructed shall be accessible to Fire Department apparatus by way of access roadways, with an all-weather surface of not less than the prescribed width. The roadway shall be extended to within 150 feet of all portions of the exterior walls when measured by an unobstructed route around the exterior of the building.
6. When a bridge is required to be used as part of a fire access road, it shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with nationally recognized standards and designed for a live load sufficient to carry a minimum of 75,000 pounds. All water crossing designs are required to be approved by the Public Works Department prior to installation.
7. The maximum allowable grade shall not exceed 15% except where topography makes it impractical to keep within such grade; in such cases, an absolute maximum of 20% will be allowed for up to 150 feet in distance. The average maximum allowed grade, including

topographical difficulties, shall be no more than 17%. Grade breaks shall not exceed 10% in 10 feet.

8. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Land Development Unit's comments are only general requirements. Specific fire and life safety requirements will be addressed at the building and fire plan check phase. There may be additional requirements during this time.

COMMERCIAL REQUIREMENTS:

9. Fire sprinkler systems are required in most commercial occupancies. For those occupancies not requiring fire sprinkler systems, it is strongly suggested that fire sprinkler systems be installed. This will reduce potential fire and life losses.
10. The development may require fire flows up to 5,000 gallon per minute at 20 pounds per square inch residual pressure for up to a five-hour duration. Final fire flows will be based on the size of buildings, its relationship to other structures, property lines, and types of construction used.
11. Fire hydrant spacing shall be 300 feet and shall meet the following requirements:
 - a. No portion of lot frontage shall be more than 200 feet via vehicular access from a public fire hydrant.
 - b. No portion of a building shall exceed 400 feet via vehicular access from a properly spaced public fire hydrant.
 - c. Additional hydrants will be required if hydrant spacing exceeds specified distances.
 - d. When cul-de-sac depth exceeds 200 feet on a commercial street, hydrants shall be required at the corner and mid block.
 - e. A cul-de-sac shall not be more than 500 feet in length, when serving land zoned for commercial use.
12. Turning radii shall not be less than 32 feet. This measurement shall be determined at the centerline of the road. A fire department approved turning area shall be provided for all Driveways exceeding 150 feet in length and at the end of all cul-de-sacs.
13. All on-site driveways/roadways shall provide a minimum unobstructed width of 28 feet, clear-to-sky. The on-site driveway is to be within 150 feet of all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of any building. The centerline of the access driveway shall be located parallel to, and within 30 feet of an exterior wall on one side of the proposed structure.
14. Driveway width for Non-Residential developments shall be increased when any of the following conditions will exist:
 - a. Provide 34 feet in width, when parallel parking is allowed on one side of the access roadway/driveway. Preference is that such parking is not adjacent to the structure.
 - b. Provide 42 feet in width, when parallel parking is allowed on each side of the access roadway/driveway.

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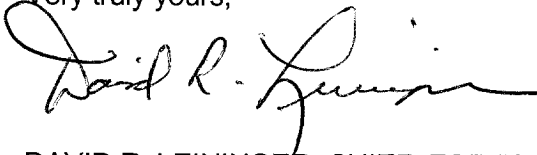
- c. Any access way less than 34 feet in width shall be labeled "Fire Lane" on the final recording map, and final building plans.
 - d. For streets or driveways with parking restrictions: The entrance to the street/driveway and intermittent spacing distances of 150 feet shall be posted with Fire Department approved signs stating "NO PARKING - FIRE LANE" in three inch high letters. Driveway labeling is necessary to endure access for Fire Department use.
15. Should any questions arise regarding subdivision, water systems, or access, please contact the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Land Development Unit's EIR Specialist at (323) 890-4243.

FORESTRY DIVISION – OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

1. The statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division include erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or Fire Zone 4, archeological and cultural resources, and the County Oak Tree Ordinance. Potential impacts in these areas should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

If you have any additional questions, please contact this office at (323) 890-4330.

Very truly yours,



DAVID R. LEININGER, CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION
PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU

DRL:cm