

## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

This section of the EIR analyzes the potential environmental effects on public services from implementation of the proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood and implementing ordinances and the proposed Sylmar Community Plan and implementing ordinances (proposed plans). For purposes of this EIR, the public service analysis is divided into five subsections: (1) fire protection and emergency response, (2) police protection, (3) schools, (4) libraries, (5) parks, and (6) recreation. Cumulative impacts associated with fire protection and emergency response, police protection, schools, libraries, parks, and recreation are addressed at the end of each respective subsection.

Ten comments total, five for each proposed plan, addressing public services and recreation were received in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) circulated for the proposed plans.

### Fire Protection and Emergency Response

This section of the EIR describes fire protection services within the Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar Community Plan Areas (CPAs) and analyzes the potential physical environmental effects related to fire protection created by construction of new or additional facilities associated with implementation of the proposed plans. The EIR evaluates the environmental impacts related to fire protection services based upon information from a variety of sources including the City of Los Angeles General Plan and the City of Los Angeles ZIMAS (Zone Information and Map Access System), as well as communications with the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD). Full reference-list entries for all cited materials are provided in Section 4.12.5 (References).

#### 4.12.1 Environmental Setting

Fire prevention, fire suppression, and life safety services are provided throughout the City of Los Angeles by the LAFD. These activities are governed by the Safety Element of the City’s General Plan, as well as the City of Los Angeles Fire Code (Fire Code) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). The Safety Element and Fire Code serve as guides to City departments, government offices, developers, and the public for the construction, maintenance, and operation of fire protection facilities located within the City of Los Angeles. Policies and programs addressed in the documents include the following: fire station distribution and location, required fire flow (i.e., water supply), fire hydrant standards and locations, access provisions, and emergency ambulance service.

The LAFD has 3,586 uniformed personnel and 353 non-uniformed support staff. Their services include fire prevention, firefighting, emergency medical care, technical rescue, hazardous materials mitigation, disaster response, public education and community service. A professionally trained staff of 1,101 firefighters (including 242 paramedic-trained personnel) is on duty at all times at 106 neighborhood fire stations located across the LAFD 471-square-mile jurisdiction.<sup>127</sup>

---

<sup>127</sup> Los Angeles Fire Department, About the Los Angeles Fire Department, <http://lafd.org/about.htm> (accessed December 5, 2008).

## Service Performance Measures

LAFD services are based on the community’s needs, as determined by ongoing evaluations. When an evaluation indicates increased response time, the acquisition of equipment, personnel, and/or new stations is considered. As development occurs, the LAFD reviews environmental impact reports and subdivisions applications for needed facilities. Where appropriate, construction of new facilities is required as a condition of development for individual projects.<sup>128</sup>

## Response Distance

Response distance relates directly to the linear travel distance (i.e., miles between a station and a site) and the LAFD’s ability to successfully navigate through an areas’ circulation system. The Fire Code specifies maximum response distances allowed between specific locations and Engine/Truck companies, based upon land use and fire flow requirements (refer to Table 4.12-1 [Fire Flow and Response Distance Requirements]).

<b>Table 4.12-1 Fire Flow and Response Distance Requirements</b>		
<i>Type of Land Development</i>	<i>Fire Flow</i>	<i>Engine or Truck Company Response Distance</i>
<b>Residential</b>		
Low Density Residential	2,000 gpm from three adjacent fire hydrants flowing simultaneously	1.5 mile (Engine/Truck Co.)
High Density Residential and Neighborhood Commercial	4,000 gpm from four adjacent fire hydrants flowing simultaneously	1.5 mile (Engine/Truck Co.)
<b>Commercial</b>		
Industrial and Commercial	6,000 to 9,000 gpm from four to six fire hydrants flowing simultaneously	1 mile (Engine) 1.5 mile (Truck Co.)
High Density Industrial and Commercial (Principal Business Districts or Centers)	12,000 gpm available to any block (where local conditions indicate that consideration must be given to simultaneous fires, and additional 2,000 to 8,000 gpm will be required).	0.75 mile (Engine) 1 mile (Truck Co.)

SOURCE: Los Angeles Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Safety, *Los Angeles Fire Code*, Section 57.09.06, [http://www.lafd.org/prevention/hydrants/division\\_9\\_fc.html](http://www.lafd.org/prevention/hydrants/division_9_fc.html) (accessed July 2, 2009).  
gpm = gallons per minute; Co. = company

When response distances exceed these requirements, plans for all new commercial and residential structures must be reviewed and various fire suppression equipment (e.g., automatic fire sprinkler systems, fire signaling systems, fire extinguishers, smoke removal systems, and any other fire protection devices) as deemed necessary by the Fire Chief are required to be incorporated in the plans prior to the approval of an occupancy permit.

Emergency medical services are provided through the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. The City standard for EMS is 1.5 miles, similar to that of the desirable response distance for engine companies for

<sup>128</sup> Los Angeles Department of City Planning, *The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan*, CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162 (adopted August 8, 2001), Chapter 9 (Infrastructure and Public Services), Status of Infrastructure System/Facilities, Fire, <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/cwd/framwk/chapters/09/09.htm> (accessed February 2, 2011).

neighborhood land uses. Most ambulances are accompanied by trained paramedics to provide additional service other than only transport. LAFD considers EMS to be providing adequate service.<sup>129</sup>

## Response Time

Response time relates to the physical linear travel distance (i.e., the number of miles between a fire station and a specific location) and the Fire Department's ability to successfully navigate the given roadway network. Roadway congestion, intersection level of service (LOS), weather conditions, and construction traffic along the response route can affect the response distance in terms of travel time. The citywide response time goal is within 5 minutes 90 percent of the time.

### ■ Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA

Fire stations are organized by division and battalion and the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA is served by Division 3, Battalion 15. As shown in Figure 4.12-1a (Fire Station, Police Station, and Library Locations), fire protection and paramedic services for the CPA would be provided by the LAFD from the following three fire stations:

- Fire Station No. 18, located at 12050 Balboa Boulevard
- Fire Station No. 75, located at 15345 San Fernando Mission Road
- Fire Station No. 87, located at 10124 Balboa Boulevard

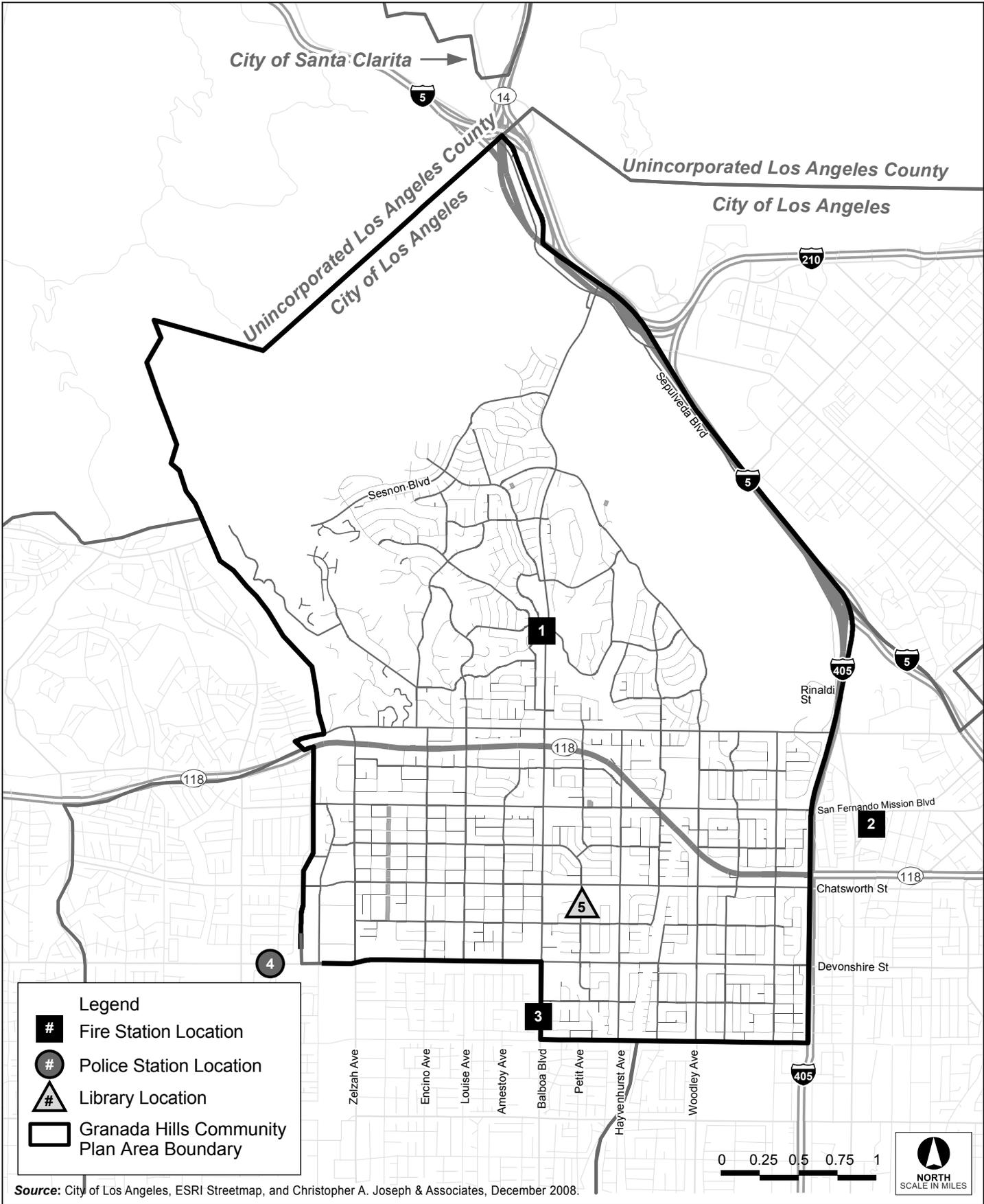
Equipment and staffing for these stations are shown in Table 4.12-2 (Fire Protection Equipment and Staffing [Granada Hills–Knollwood]).

<b>Table 4.12-2 Fire Protection Equipment and Staffing (Granada Hills–Knollwood)</b>			
<i>Figure Location</i>	<i>Station No.</i>	<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Staff</i>
1	18	Paramedic Assessment Fire Engine Basic Life Support (BLS) Rescue Ambulance	6
2	75	Paramedic Assessment Light Force (Truck and Engine Company) Fire Engine Paramedic Rescue Ambulance	12
3	87	Paramedic Assessment Light Force (Truck and Engine Company) Fire Engine Hazardous Materials Squad Paramedic Rescue Ambulance	16

SOURCES: William Wells, written correspondence with Los Angeles Fire Department Captain (March 25, 2009); William Wells, written correspondence with Los Angeles Fire Department Captain (April 7, 2009).

As shown in Table 4.12-3 (Fire Protection Response Time), response times from all stations are in excess of 5 minutes; therefore, this response time cannot be met in all areas of the CPA.<sup>130</sup>

<sup>129</sup> Los Angeles Department of City Planning, *The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan*, CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162 (adopted August 8, 2001), Chapter 9 (Infrastructure and Public Services), Status of Infrastructure System/Facilities, Fire, <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/cwd/framwk/chapters/09/09.htm> (accessed February 2, 2011).



100018655 | Granada Hills-Sylmar NCP EIR

Figure 4.12-1a

Fire Station, Police Station, and Library Locations (Granada Hills-Knollwood CPA)

<i>Figure Location</i>	<i>Station No.</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Response Time</i>
1	18	12050 Balboa Boulevard	6.96 minutes
2	75	15345 San Fernando Mission Road	5.31 minutes
3	87	10124 Balboa Boulevard	5.55 minutes

SOURCES: William Wells, written correspondence with Los Angeles Fire Department Captain (March 25, 2009);  
William Wells, written correspondence with Los Angeles Fire Department Captain (April 7, 2009).

### **Fire Flows**

The adequacy of fire protection for a given area is based on required fire flow, response time from existing fire stations, and the LAFD’s judgment of assessment of the needs in a given area. The required fire flow is closely related to the type and size of land use. The quantity of water necessary for fire protection varies with the type of development, life hazard, occupancy, and the degree of fire hazard. City established fire flow requirements vary from 2,000 gallons per minute (gpm) in low-density residential areas to 12,000 gpm in high-density commercial or industrial areas (refer to Table 4.12-1). In any instance, a minimum residual water pressure of 20 pounds per square inch (psi) is to remain in the water system while the required gpm is flowing.<sup>131</sup>

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) provides fire flow to the CPA. Fire flows are supplied by the same water mains as the domestic water system, including the lines located in local streets and major roadways. Fire hydrants and building fire water service systems connect directly to local water mains. The fire service system for each building or structure, however, has water lines, vaults, etc., for fire water flows that are separate from their respective domestic water systems.

### **Wildland Fire Hazards**

Some areas in the northern, eastern, and western portions of the CPAs are located in areas designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone or Brush Clearance Zones.<sup>132</sup> Impacts from wildland fires are specifically addressed in Section 4.7 (Hazards/Hazardous Materials).

### **■ Sylmar CPA**

The Sylmar CPA is served by Division 3, Battalion 12. As shown in Figure 4.12-1b (Fire Station, Police Station, and Library Locations—Sylmar CPA), fire protection and paramedic services for the CPA would be provided by the LAFD from the following two fire stations:

- Fire Station No. 91, located at 14430 Polk Street
- Fire Station No. 98, located at 13035 Van Nuys Boulevard

<sup>131</sup> Los Angeles Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Safety, *Los Angeles Fire Code*, Section 57.09.06, [http://www.lafd.org/prevention/hydrants/division\\_9\\_fc.html](http://www.lafd.org/prevention/hydrants/division_9_fc.html) (accessed July 2, 2009).

<sup>132</sup> Los Angeles Fire Department, *Brush Clearance Zones Map* (December 2003), [http://lafd.org/brush/lafd\\_bcz8x11.pdf](http://lafd.org/brush/lafd_bcz8x11.pdf) (accessed April 25, 2011).

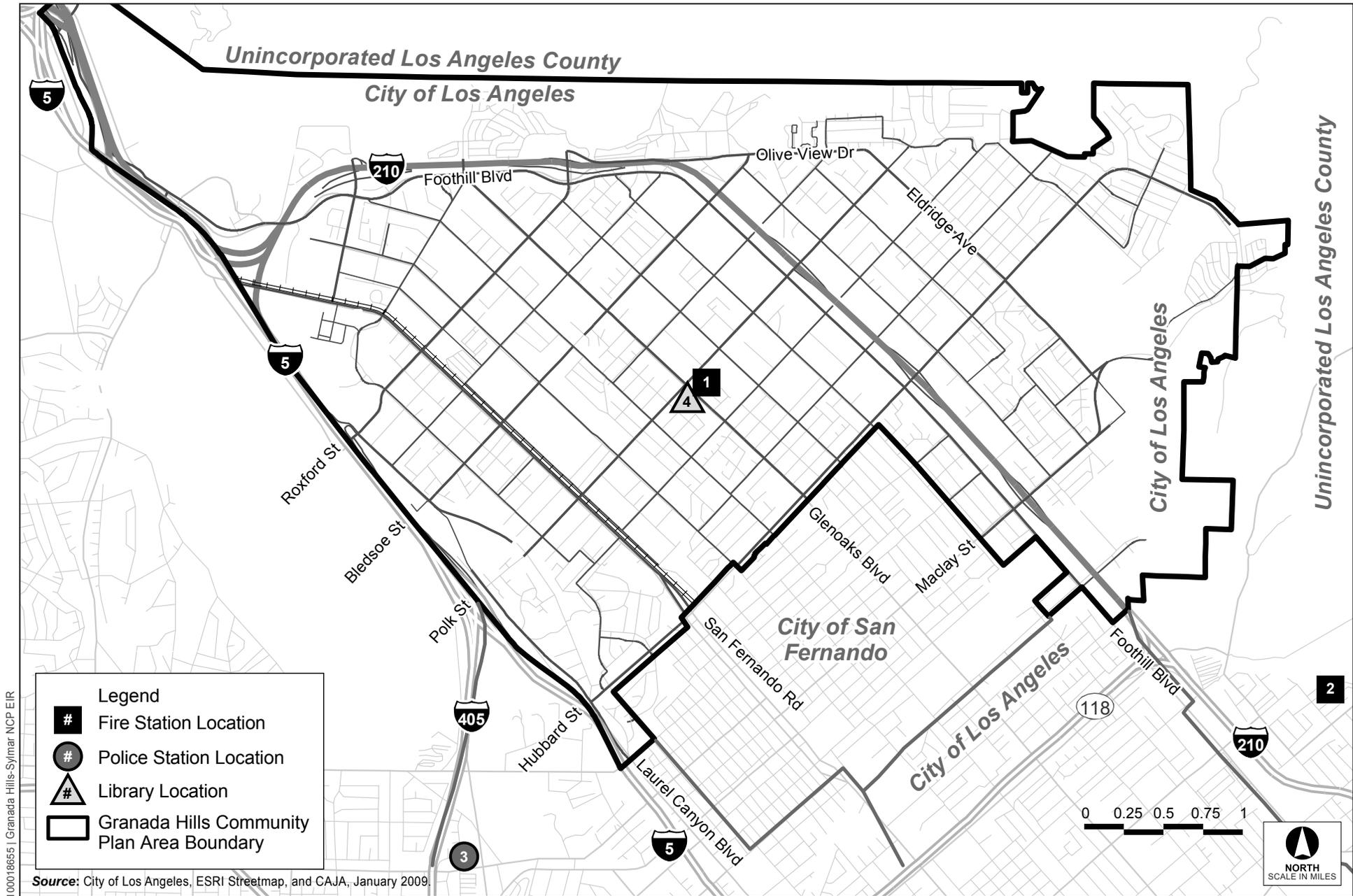


Figure 4.12-1b  
 Fire Station, Police Station, and Library Locations (Sylmar CPA)

Equipment and staffing for these stations are shown in Table 4.12-4 (Fire Protection Equipment and Staffing [Sylmar]).

<b>Table 4.12-4 Fire Protection Equipment and Staffing (Sylmar)</b>			
<i>Figure Location</i>	<i>Station No.</i>	<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Staff</i>
1	91	Paramedic Assessment Fire Engine Paramedic Rescue Ambulance Basic Life Support (BLS) Rescue Ambulance	8
2	98	Paramedic Assessment Light Force (Truck and Engine Company) Fire Engine Paramedic Rescue Ambulance Basic Life Support (BLS) Rescue Ambulance Battalion Command Team	16

SOURCES: William Wells, written correspondence with Los Angeles Fire Department Captain (March 25, 2009);  
William Wells, written correspondence with Los Angeles Fire Department Captain (April 7, 2009).

As shown in Table 4.12-5 (Fire Protection Response Time [Sylmar]), response times from all stations are in excess of 5 minutes; therefore, this response time cannot be met in all areas of the CPA.<sup>133</sup>

<b>Table 4.12-5 Fire Protection Response Time (Sylmar)</b>			
<i>Figure Location</i>	<i>Station No.</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Response Time</i>
1	91	14430 Polk Street	6.65 minutes
2	98	13035 Van Nuys Boulevard	5.60 minutes

SOURCES: William Wells, written correspondence with Los Angeles Fire Department Captain (March 25, 2009);  
William Wells, written correspondence with Los Angeles Fire Department Captain (April 7, 2009).

## Fire Flows

The adequacy of fire protection for a given area is based on required fire flow, response time from existing fire stations, and the LAFD’s judgment of assessment of the needs in a given area. The required fire flow is closely related to the type and size of land use. The quantity of water necessary for fire protection varies with the type of development, life hazard, occupancy, and the degree of fire hazard. City established fire flow requirements vary from 2,000 gallons per minute (gpm) in low-density residential areas to 12,000 gpm in high-density commercial or industrial areas (refer to Table 4.12-1). In any instance, a minimum residual water pressure of 20 psi is to remain in the water system while the required gpm is flowing.<sup>134</sup>

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) provides fire flow to the CPA. Fire flows are supplied by the same water mains as the domestic water system, including the lines located in local streets and major roadways. Fire hydrants and building fire water service systems connect directly to

<sup>133</sup> William Wells, written correspondence with Los Angeles Fire Department Captain (March 25, 2009).

<sup>134</sup> Los Angeles Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Safety, *Los Angeles Fire Code*, Section 57.09.06, [http://www.lafd.org/prevention/hydrants/division\\_9\\_fc.html](http://www.lafd.org/prevention/hydrants/division_9_fc.html) (accessed July 2, 2009).

local water mains. The fire service system for each building or structure, however, has water lines, vaults, etc., for fire water flows that are separate from their respective domestic water systems.

## ■ Wildland Fire Hazards

Some areas in the northern, eastern, and western portions of the CPAs are located in areas designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone or Brush Clearance Zones.<sup>135</sup> Impacts from wildland fires are specifically addressed in Section 4.7 (Hazards/Hazardous Materials).

### 4.12.2 Regulatory Framework

#### ■ Federal

There are no federal regulations relating to fire services.

#### ■ State

There are no state regulations relating to fire services.

#### ■ Regional

There are no regional regulations relating to fire services.

#### ■ Local

##### *City of Los Angeles General Plan*

State law since 1975 has required city general plans to include a safety element that addresses the issue of protection of its people from unreasonable risks associated with natural disasters, e.g., fires, floods, earthquakes. The State did not intend that a safety element address fire and police protection, except in the context of natural disasters. The Safety Element of the General Plan complies with state law by providing a contextual framework and overview of the City's natural hazards, hazard mitigation and emergency response operations. Within the City of Los Angeles, fire prevention, fire suppression, and emergency medical services are provided by the LAFD, as governed by the Safety Element of the General Plan of the City of Los Angeles (General Plan), as well as the Los Angeles Fire Code (LAMC, Chapter V, Article 7).

##### **Safety Element**

The Safety Element provides a contextual framework for understanding the relationship between hazard mitigation, response to a natural disaster and initial recovery from a natural disaster. The policies of the Safety Element reflect the comprehensive scope of the City's Emergency Operations Organization (EOO), which is tasked with integrating the City's emergency operations into a single operation.

---

<sup>135</sup> Los Angeles Fire Department, Brush Clearance Zones Map (December 2003), [http://lafd.org/brush/lafd\\_bcz8x11.pdf](http://lafd.org/brush/lafd_bcz8x11.pdf) (accessed April 25, 2011).

## General Plan Framework

The City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework (Framework), adopted December 1996 and amended most recently in August 2001, is a long range, citywide, comprehensive growth strategy. The Framework includes policies related to public services. These policies are included in Chapter 9 (Infrastructure and Public Services) of the Framework. The Framework includes policies which address deficiencies, including the expansion of public services and infrastructure commensurate with levels of demand.

Policies from the Safety Element and Framework related to fire protection services are listed in Table 4.12-6 (General Plan Policies Relevant to Fire Protection and Emergency Response).<sup>136</sup>

<b>Table 4.12-6 General Plan Policies Relevant to Fire Protection and Emergency Response</b>	
<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
<b>General Plan Framework- Chapter 9 Public Services and Infrastructure</b>	
Policy 9.16.1	Collect appropriate fire and population development statistics for the purpose of evaluating fire service needs based on existing and future conditions.
Policy 9.17.2	Identify areas of the City with deficient fire facilities and/or service and prioritize the order in which these areas should be upgraded based on established fire protection standards.
Policy 9.17.3	Develop an acquisition strategy for fire station sites in areas deficient in fire facilities.
Policy 9.17.4	Consider the Fire Department's concerns and, where feasible adhere to them, regarding the quality of the area's fire protection and emergency medical services when developing general plan amendments and zone changes, or considering discretionary land use permits.
Policy 9.18.1	Engage in fire station development advance planning, acknowledging the amount of time needed to fund and construct these facilities.
Policy 9.19.1	Maintain mutual aid or mutual assistance agreements with local fire departments to ensure an adequate response in the event of a major earthquake, wildfire, urban fire, fire in areas with substandard fire protection, or other fire emergencies.
Policy 9.19.3	Maintain the continued involvement of the Fire Department in the preparation of contingency plans for emergencies and disasters.
<b>Safety Element-Hazard Mitigation</b>	
Policy 1.1.1	Coordination. Coordinate information gathering, program formulation and program implementation between City agencies, other jurisdictions and appropriate public and private entities to achieve the maximum mutual benefit with the greatest efficiency of funds and staff.
Policy 1.1.2	Disruption reduction. Reduce, to the greatest extent feasible and within the resources available, potential critical facility, governmental functions, infrastructure and information resource disruption due to natural disaster.
Policy 1.1.3	Facility/systems maintenance. Provide redundancy (back-up) systems and strategies for continuation of adequate critical infrastructure systems and services so as to assure adequate circulation, communications, power, transportation, water and other services for emergency response in the event of disaster related systems disruptions.
Policy 1.1.4	Health/environmental protection. Protect the public and workers from the release of hazardous materials and protect City water supplies and resources from contamination resulting from accidental release or intrusion resulting from a disaster event, including protection of the environment and public from potential health and safety hazards associated with program implementation.

<sup>136</sup> Los Angeles Department of City Planning, *The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan*, CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162 (adopted August 8, 2001), Chapter 9 (Infrastructure and Public Services), <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/cwd/framwk/chapters/09/09.htm> (accessed July 20, 2009).

**Table 4.12-6 General Plan Policies Relevant to Fire Protection and Emergency Response**

<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy 1.1.5	Risk reduction. Reduce potential risk hazards due to natural disaster to the greatest extent feasible within the resources available, including provision of information and training.
Policy 1.1.6	State and federal regulations. Assure compliance with applicable state and federal planning and development regulations, e.g., Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, State Mapping Act and Cobey-Alquist Flood Plain Management Act.
<b>Safety Element-Emergency Response (Multi-Hazard)</b>	
Policy 2.1.1	Coordination. Coordinate program formulation and implementation between City agencies, adjacent jurisdictions and appropriate private and public entities so as to achieve, to the greatest extent feasible and within the resources available, the maximum mutual benefit with the greatest efficiency of funds and staff.
Policy 2.1.2	Health and environmental protection. Develop and implement procedures to protect the environment and public, including animal control and care, to the greatest extent feasible within the resources available, from potential health and safety hazards associated with hazard mitigation and disaster recovery efforts.
Policy 2.1.3	Information. Develop and implement, within the resources available, training programs and informational materials designed to assist the general public in handling disaster situations in lieu of or until emergency personnel can provide assistance.
Policy 2.1.4	Interim procedures. Develop and implement pre-disaster plans for interim evacuation, sheltering and public aid for disaster victims displaced from homes and for disrupted businesses, within the resources available. Plans should include provisions to assist businesses which provide significant services to the public and plans for reestablishment of the financial viability of the City.
Policy 2.1.5	Response. Develop, implement and continue to improve the City's ability to respond to emergency events.
Policy 2.1.6	Standards/fire. Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression. The Fire Department and/or appropriate City agencies shall revise regulations or procedures to include the establishment of minimum standards for location and expansion of fire facilities, based upon fire flow requirements, intensity and type of land use, life hazard, occupancy and degree of hazard so as to provide adequate fire and emergency medical event response. At a minimum, site selection criteria should include the following standards which were contained in the 1979 General Plan Fire Protection and Prevention Plan: <sup>137</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Fire stations should be located along improved major or secondary highways. If, in a given service areas, the only available site is on a local street, the site must be on a street which leads directly to an improved major or secondary highway.</li> <li>■ Fire station properties should be situated so as to provide drive-thru capability for heavy fire apparatus.</li> <li>■ If a fire station site is on the side of a street or highway where the flow of traffic is toward a signalized intersection, the site should be at least 200 feet from that intersection in order to avoid blockage during ingress and egress.</li> </ul> <p>The total number of companies which would be available for dispatch to first alarms would vary with the required fire flow and distance as follows: (a) less than 2,000 gpm would require not less than 2 engine companies and 1 truck company; (b) 2,000 but less than 4,500 gpm, not less than 2 or 3 engine companies and 1 or 2 truck companies; and (c) 4,500 or more gpm, not less than 3 engine companies and 2 truck companies.</p>
Policy 2.1.7	Volunteers. Develop and implement, within the resources available, strategies for involving volunteers and civic organizations in emergency response activities.
<b>Safety Element-Disaster Recovery (Multi-Hazard)</b>	
Policy 3.1.1	Coordination. Coordinate with each other, with other jurisdictions and with appropriate private and public entities prior to a disaster and to the greatest extent feasible within the resources available, to plan and establish disaster recovery programs and procedures which will enable cooperative ventures, reduce potential conflicts, minimize duplication and maximize the available funds and resources to the greatest mutual benefit following a disaster.

<sup>137</sup> These provisions of the 1979 Plan were modified by the Fire Department for purposes of clarification.

**Table 4.12-6 General Plan Policies Relevant to Fire Protection and Emergency Response**

<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy 3.1.2	Health/safety/environment. Develop and establish procedures for identification and abatement of physical and health hazards which may result from a disaster. Provisions shall include measures for protecting workers, the public and the environment from contamination or other health and safety hazards associated with abatement, repair and reconstruction programs.
Policy 3.1.3	Historic/cultural. Develop procedures which will encourage the protection and preservation of City-designated historic and cultural resources to the greatest extent feasible within the resources available during disaster recovery.
Policy 3.1.4	Interim services/systems. Develop and establish procedures prior to a disaster for immediate reestablishment and maintenance of damaged or interrupted essential infrastructure systems and services so as to provide communications, circulation, power, transportation, water and other necessities for movement of goods, provision of services and restoration of the economic and social life of the City and its environs pending permanent restoration of the damaged systems.
Policy 3.1.5	Restoration. Develop and establish prior to a disaster short- and long-term procedures for securing financial and other assistance, expediting assistance and permit processing and coordinating inspection and permitting activities so as to facilitate the rapid demolition of hazards and the repair, restoration and rebuilding, to a comparable or a better condition, those parts of the private and public sectors which were damaged or disrupted as a result of the disaster.

SOURCE: Los Angeles Department of City Planning, *The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan*, CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162 (adopted August 8, 2001), Chapter 9 (Infrastructure and Public Services), <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/cwd/framwk/chapters/09/09.htm> (accessed July 20, 2009).

a. These provisions of the 1979 Plan were modified by the Fire Department for purposes of clarification.

### ***City of Los Angeles Municipal Code***

The Fire Code serve as guides to City departments, government offices, developers, and the public for the construction, maintenance, and operation of fire protection facilities located within the City of Los Angeles. Policies and programs addressed in the documents include the following: fire station distribution and location, required fire flow (i.e., water supply), fire hydrant standards and locations, access provisions, and emergency ambulance service.

All new construction must comply with applicable provisions set forth in the LAMC. In the Fire Protection and Prevention chapter of the LAMC, Chapter V, Article 7 (Fire Code), the LAFD’s Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Safety is required to administer and enforce basic building regulations set by the State Fire Marshal. The local Fire Code contained within the LAMC also reflects the policies of the General Plan Safety Element. The Fire Code sets forth regulatory requirements pertaining to the prevention of fires, the investigation of fires or life safety hazards, the elimination of fire and life safety hazards in any building or structure including buildings under construction, the maintenance of fire protection equipment and systems, and the regulation of the storage, use, and handling of hazardous materials.

As part of standard development approval in Los Angeles, project plans for specific projects are reviewed by the LAFD, and project applicants are required to incorporate the LAFD recommendations into the final design of a project. Additionally, the LAFD requires that fire prevention measures be incorporated into final project plans for each building, in accordance with the California State Fire Code. Prior to issuance of any occupancy permits for development projects, the LAFD reviews the project plans for adequate onsite access, exit, and any necessary special equipment to assist firefighters.

## ■ Proposed Plan Policies

Table 4.12-7 (Proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan Policies) and Table 4.12-8 (Proposed Sylmar Community Plan Policies) list plan policies that are applicable to issues of fire protection.

<b>Table 4.12-7 Proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan Policies</b>	
<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy LU4.2	Emergency Access. Design developments for safe, direct, and efficient exit of residents during emergency events. Investigate and consider feasible secondary access connections as part of the hillside subdivisions. Require extensions, completions, and connections of the existing street network, where feasible, to provide secondary access to hillside development.
Policy CF2.1	Facility Location. Assist the LAFD in identifying appropriate throughout Granada Hills–Knollwood for fire service facilities in order to provide adequate fire and emergency services protection.
Policy CF2.2	Project Review. Coordinate with the LAFD during the review of significant development projects and General Plan amendments affecting land use changes to determine the impacts on service infrastructure. (PX)
Policy CF2.3	Emergency Preparedness Coordination. Coordinate with in the identification of primary access routes for emergency preparedness.

<b>Table 4.12-8 Proposed Sylmar Community Plan Policies</b>	
<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy LU6.2	Emergency Access. Design developments for safe, direct, and efficient exit of residents during emergency events. Investigate and consider feasible secondary access connections as part of the hillside subdivisions. Require extensions, completions, and connections of the existing street network, where feasible, to provide secondary access to hillside development.
Policy CF2.1	Facility Location. Assist the LAFD to locate fire service facilities in appropriate locations throughout Sylmar to provide adequate fire and emergency services protection.
Policy CF2.2	Project Review. Coordinate with the LAFD during the review of significant development projects and General Plan amendments affecting land use changes to determine the impacts on service infrastructure.
Policy CF2.3	Emergency Preparedness Coordination. Coordinate with in the identification of primary access routes for emergency preparedness.

### Consistency Analysis

The proposed plans will replace the existing 1996 Granada Hills–Knollwood and 1997 Sylmar Community Plans. The proposed plans contain policies addressing the distribution of land uses, population density, and building intensity, transportation network improvements, as well as provisions for public infrastructure and public safety. The proposed plans intend to allocate land uses in a manner that promotes the physical welfare of the community. Development projects under the proposed plans would be required to comply with all applicable LAFD fire code requirements associated with adequate fire access, fire flows, and number of hydrants as a condition of project approval. Implementation of the proposed plans would be consistent with the policies of the City of Los Angeles Safety Element.

### 4.12.3 Project Impacts and Mitigation

#### ■ Analytic Method

Impacts on fire protection services are considered significant if an increase in population or building area would result in response times that would exceed that established goal of 5 minutes 90 percent of the time requiring the construction of new fire protection facilities or the expansion of existing fire protection facilities that may have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The LAFD has established objectives for response times for emergency and non-emergency events.

The Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide (2006) sets forth guidance for the determination of significance of aesthetic impacts. This guidance is based on CEQA Guidelines Appendix G and provides specific criteria to be considered when making a significance determination. In some cases, the Thresholds Guide includes quantitative thresholds. For purposes of this analysis, Thresholds Guide criteria are used.

#### ■ Thresholds of Significance

Implementation of the proposed plans may have a significant adverse impact on fire protection and emergency response services if it would:

- Require the addition of a new fire station or the expansion, consolidation or relocation of an existing facility to maintain service, 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 and emergency response.

#### ■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

There are no impacts of implementation of the proposed plan with respect to fire protection and emergency response services not found to be significant.

#### ■ Less-Than-Significant Impacts

**Impact 4.12-1**      **Implementation of the proposed plans would not foreseeably require the addition of a new fire station or the expansion, consolidation, or relocation of an existing facility to maintain service, 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 and emergency response. Compliance with existing regulations would ensure this impact remains *less than significant*.**

#### ***Granada Hills–Knollwood***

New land uses under the proposed plan could increase the population in the City (refer to Section 4.11 [Population, Housing, and Employment] of this EIR for clarification). However, an increase in population, by itself, would not increase demand for fire protection services. Emergency response times are used by the LAFD to determine adequacy of service. Therefore the provision of new fire stations varies more as a function of the geographic distribution of structures than of population increases. The

proposed plan concentrates development along established commercial corridors such as Chatsworth Street and Devonshire Street. While there are currently areas within the CPA that exceed the maximum response distance standard to an engine or truck company and/or beyond the average response time, these are generally the neighborhoods near the outer boundaries of the CPA, the furthest distance from the fire stations. Since the proposed plan would concentrate most new future development as infill in the central and southern portions of the CPA or other areas proximate to existing stations, implementation of the proposed plan would not further degrade the response times of the LAFD.

As development occurs under the proposed plan, there is potential for increases in congestion that may affect the response times within the City. However, as noted in Section 4.13 (Transportation/Traffic) of this EIR, implementation of the proposed plan would not substantially increase traffic volumes and worsen intersection operations on a citywide scale. Further, implementation of the proposed plan and its corresponding Transportation Improvement and Mitigation Program (TIMP) would, at certain intersections, improve traffic congestion from existing conditions, thereby having potentially beneficial impact on the LAFD's ability to respond to emergency calls for service.

The northern edge of the CPA is located adjacent to the Santa Susana Mountains and the eastern portions contain lands designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone or Fire Buffer Zone (impacts from wildfires are specifically addressed in Section 4.7 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials)). Much of this area is designated as Open Space or Minimum Residential and the proposed plan and implementing ordinances do not propose any changes to these areas. Undeveloped land that could be developed is scattered throughout the CPA, development would occur as infill development in areas already served by fire protection services and there would be no expansions of the area needed to be served with fire protection services.

Policies contained in the Safety Element of the General Plan require that adequate infrastructure be provided as new development occurs by requiring long-range planning of the fire prevention requirements and requiring site-specific fire prevention measures to reduce demand for fire protection services. The City currently funds fire protection services through existing mechanisms (i.e., property taxes, government funding), to which any proposed projects and existing uses within the CPAs would contribute. The Fire Protection and Prevention Plan and Fire Code serve as guides to City Departments, government offices, developers, and the public for the construction, maintenance, and operation of fire protection facilities located within the City. Any development resulting from the proposed plans and implementing ordinances would be required to comply with all applicable LAFD fire code requirements associated with adequate fire access, fire flows, and number of hydrants as a condition of project approval. Additionally, any development in areas that are located at distances that exceed response distance requirements included in Table 4.12-1 would be required to undergo plan review by the Fire Chief, who would determine fire suppression measures that would be required for approval of construction on that site.

As described previously, the LAMC Fire Code requires the LAFD to review the design of new development, and requires new development to meet all life safety requirements and incorporate LAFD recommendations into individual project approvals. Development resulting from the proposed plan would be required to provide LAFD- or LADWP-required upgrades to the water distribution systems serving the CPA. As with the code requirements for fire access, fire flows, number of hydrants, and fire

suppression measures, these upgrades would be addressed for new development under the proposed plan in conjunction with individual project approvals.

Existing Framework Element Policy 9.16.1 calls for the collection of appropriate fire and population development statistics for the purpose of evaluating fire service needs based on existing and future conditions. Other GPF policies would help minimize potential impacts to fire protection services by maintaining, enforcing and upgrading requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression, identifying areas of the City that are deficient in fire protection and prioritize upgrades and fire station development to these areas, and maintaining mutual aid agreements with other local fire department to ensure adequate response.

The proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan Policies LU4.2, CF2.1, CF2.2, and CF2.3 promote enhanced access in hillside areas and coordination with the LAFD to ensure adequate fire protection services for the community. These policies would increase the efficiency of fire protection services and thereby reduce impacts to fire protection services.

In addition, existing Safety Element policies would help minimize the impact the need to construct fire protection services. These policies include Safety Element Policies 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.5, and 1.1.6, which require the City to maintain facilities and systems for emergency response in the event of a natural disaster and require compliance with state and federal planning and development regulations. Policies 2.1.2, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, and 2.1.7, require that the City develop, implement, and continue to improve its emergency response systems. Additionally, Policies 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, and 3.1.5, require that they City develop procedures to reestablish essential infrastructure systems and establish procedures to repair hazardous conditions. Implementation of the Fire Protection and Prevention Plan, the Fire Code, and the existing policies described above would reduce impacts to fire protection and maintain and increase emergency response systems to guard public safety. These measures would reduce the need to construct new fire stations to serve the CPAs.

The areas within the CPA targeted for growth are served by existing fire stations, but some expansion of the existing facilities or construction of new facilities may be required to serve additional development over time. However, as discussed above, existing operational structures, policies, and regulations will ensure that the LAFD can adequately plan for and serve the new growth. Based on reasonably expected build-out of the CPA in 2030, implementation of the proposed plan would result in growth that is consistent with SCAG 2030 population forecasts of 65,293 for Granada Hills–Knollwood. The proposed plan capacity is also consistent with SCAG 2030 projections for the City as a whole. These projections are the same that public service providers, City departments and other government agencies rely on for long range planning. Therefore, on a program level, implementation of the proposed plan and implementing ordinances would not cause the construction of a new fire station. Impacts are *less than significant*.

## **Sylmar**

New land uses under the proposed plan could increase the population in the City (refer to Section 4.11 [Population, Housing, and Employment] of this EIR for clarification). However, an increase in population, by itself, would not increase demand for fire protection services. Emergency response times are used by the LAFD to determine adequacy of service. Therefore the provision of new fire stations

varies more as a function of the geographic distribution of structures than of population increases. The proposed plan concentrates development along established commercial corridors such as Foothill Boulevard and San Fernando Road, particularly in the vicinity of the Metrolink station. While there are currently areas within the CPA that exceed the maximum response distance standard to an engine or truck company and/or beyond the average response time, these are generally the neighborhoods near the outer boundaries of the CPA, the furthest distance from the fire stations. Since the proposed plan would concentrate most new future development as infill in the central and southern portions of the CPA or other areas proximate to existing stations, implementation of the proposed plan would not further degrade the response times of the LAFD.

As development occurs under the proposed plan, there is potential for increases in congestion that may affect the response times within the City. However, as noted in Section 4.13 (Transportation/Traffic) of this EIR, implementation of the proposed plan would not substantially increase traffic volumes and worsen intersection operations on a citywide scale. Further, implementation of the proposed plan and its corresponding Transportation Improvement and Mitigation Program (TIMP) would, at certain intersections, improve traffic congestion from existing conditions, thereby having potentially beneficial impact on the LAFD's ability to respond to emergency calls for service.

The northern edge of the CPA is located adjacent to the San Gabriel Mountains and the northern and eastern portions contain lands designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone or Fire Buffer Zone (impacts from wildfires are specifically addressed in Section 4.7 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials)). Much of this area is designated as Open Space or Minimum Residential and the proposed plan and implementing ordinances do not propose any changes to these areas. Undeveloped land that could be developed is scattered throughout the CPA, development would occur as infill development in areas already served by fire protection services and there would be no expansions of the area needed to be served with fire protection services.

In addition, policies contained in the Safety Element of the General Plan require that adequate infrastructure be provided as new development occurs by requiring long-range planning of the fire prevention requirements and requiring site-specific fire prevention measures to reduce demand for fire protection services. The City currently funds fire protection services through existing mechanisms (i.e., property taxes, government funding), to which any proposed projects and existing uses within the CPAs would contribute. The Fire Protection and Prevention Plan and Fire Code serve as guides to City Departments, government offices, developers, and the public for the construction, maintenance, and operation of fire protection facilities located within the City. Any development resulting from the proposed plans and implementing ordinances would be required to comply with all applicable LAFD fire code requirements associated with adequate fire access, fire flows, and number of hydrants as a condition of project approval. Additionally, any development in areas that are located at distances that exceed response distance requirements included in Table 4.12-1 would be required to undergo plan review by the Fire Chief who would determine fire suppression measures that would be required for approval of construction on that site.

As described previously, the LAMC Fire Code requires the LAFD to review the design of new development, and requires new development to meet all life safety requirements and incorporate LAFD recommendations into individual project approvals. Development resulting from the Proposed Plans

would be required to provide LAFD- or LADWP-required upgrades to the water distribution systems serving the CPA. As with the code requirements for fire access, fire flows, number of hydrants, and fire suppression measures, these upgrades would be addressed for new development under the proposed plan in conjunction with individual project approvals.

Existing Framework Element Policy 9.16.1 calls for the collection of appropriate fire and population development statistics for the purpose of evaluating fire service needs based on existing and future conditions. Other GPF policies would help minimize potential impacts to fire protection services by maintaining, enforcing and upgrading requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression, identifying areas of the City that are deficient in fire protection and prioritize upgrades and fire station development to these areas, and maintaining mutual aid agreements with other local fire department to ensure adequate response.

The proposed Sylmar Community Plan includes Policies LU6.2, CF2.1, CF2.2, and CF2.3, which promote enhanced access in hillside areas and coordination with the LAFD to ensure adequate fire protection services for the community. These policies would increase the efficiency of fire protection services and thereby reduce impacts to fire protection services.

In addition, existing Safety Element policies would help minimize the impact the need to construct fire protection services. These policies include Safety Element Policies 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.5, and 1.1.6, which require the City to maintain facilities and systems for emergency response in the event of a natural disaster and require compliance with state and federal planning and development regulations. Policies 2.1.2, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, and 2.1.7, require that the City develop, implement, and continue to improve its emergency response systems. Additionally, Policies 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, and 3.1.5, require that they City develop procedures to reestablish essential infrastructure systems and establish procedures to repair hazardous conditions. Implementation of the Fire Protection and Prevention Plan, the Fire Code, and the existing policies described above would reduce impacts to fire protection and maintain and increase emergency response systems to guard public safety. These measures would reduce the need to construct new fire stations.

The areas within the CPA targeted for growth are served by existing fire stations, but some expansion of the existing facilities or construction of new facilities may be required to serve additional development over time. However, as discussed above, existing operational structures, policies, and regulations will ensure that the LAFD can adequately plan for and serve the new growth. Based on reasonably expected build-out of the CPA in 2030, implementation of the proposed plan would result in growth that is consistent with SCAG 2030 population forecasts of 85,993 for Sylmar. The proposed plan capacity is also consistent with SCAG 2030 projections for the City as a whole. These projections are the same that public service providers, City departments and other government agencies rely on for long range planning. Therefore, on a program level, implementation of the proposed plan and implementing ordinances would not cause the construction of a new fire station. Impacts are *less than significant*.

## ■ Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

There are no significant and unavoidable impacts with respect to fire protection services.

## 4.12.4 Cumulative Impacts—Fire Protection and Emergency Response

The cumulative context for population and housing growth is the City of Los Angeles. Past development has occurred in accordance with the growth allowed under the City of Los Angeles General Plan, and all cumulative development in the City is required to maintain consistency with City of Los Angeles fire protection regulations and policies. Future projects would be developed consistent with the planned growth in the General Plan and would similarly be required to be consistent with fire protection regulations and policies. Currently, response times in the CPAs from all land-based stations are in excess of the City's response time goal of 5 minutes. Future development in the CPAs, as well as future development occurring within the LAFD service area, would be subject to the City's GPF and Safety Element policies relating to Fire Services, as well as the City's Fire Code.

As described above, all development pursuant to the proposed plans would be required to comply with all applicable LAFD fire code requirements associated with adequate fire access, fire flows, and number of hydrants as a condition of project approval. Additionally, any development in areas that are located at distances that exceed response distance requirements would be required to undergo plan review by the Fire Chief who would determine fire suppression measures that would be required for approval of construction on that site. New development would be required to provide LAFD or LADWP-required upgrades to the water distribution systems serving the LAFD service area. As with the code requirements for fire access, fire flows, number of hydrants, and fire suppression measures these upgrades would be addressed for new development in conjunction with individual project approvals.

It is reasonably expected that at full build-out of the proposed plan, the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA would accommodate a resident population of approximately of up to 66,168, a housing inventory of up to 23,801 residential units, and 192,374,050 square feet (sf) of nonresidential development. The Sylmar CPA would accommodate a resident population of approximately 89,378, a housing inventory of up to 24,827, and 12,429,742 square feet (sf) of nonresidential development. Because future development under the proposed plans would be concentrated as infill development in the central and southern portions of the CPAs, which are adequately served by the LAFD, this increase in development would not contribute to existing service deficiencies that would likely require the construction of new fire stations, with potential significant environmental effects, and the contribution of the plan would not be cumulatively considerable. The existing regulations discussed above would ensure that the impact of the proposed plans would remain less than significant. Therefore, the cumulative impact of the proposed plans is *less than significant*.

## 4.12.5 References—Fire Protection and Emergency Response

Los Angeles, City of. *City of Los Angeles Municipal Code*. Article 7 (Fire Protection and Prevention) (Fire Code).

Los Angeles Department of City Planning. *The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan*. CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162, adopted August 8, 2001.  
<http://cityplanning.lacity.org>.

———. *General Plan of the City of Los Angeles*. Safety Element, adopted November 26, 1996.

Los Angeles Fire Department. About the Los Angeles Fire Department. <http://lafd.org/about.htm> (accessed December 5, 2008).

———. Brush Clearance Zones Map, December 2005. [http://lafd.org/brush/lafd\\_bcz8x11.pdf](http://lafd.org/brush/lafd_bcz8x11.pdf) (accessed August 10, 2009).

Los Angeles Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Safety. *Los Angeles Fire Code*. Section 57.09.06. [http://www.lafd.org/prevention/hydrants/division\\_9\\_fc.html](http://www.lafd.org/prevention/hydrants/division_9_fc.html) (accessed July 2, 2009).

Wells, William. Written correspondence with Los Angeles Fire Department Captain, March 25, 2009.

———. Written correspondence with Los Angeles Fire Department Captain, April 7, 2009.

## **Police Protection**

This section of the EIR describes police protection services within the Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar CPAs and analyzes the potential physical environmental effects related to police protection impacts created by construction of new or additional facilities associated with implementation of the proposed plans. The EIR evaluates the environmental impacts related to police protection services based upon information from a variety of sources including the City of Los Angeles General Plan and the City of Los Angeles ZIMAS (Zone Information and Map Access System) as well as communications with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). A regulatory framework is also provided describing applicable agencies and regulations related to police protection services. Full reference-list entries for all cited materials are provided in Section 4.12.10 (References).

### **4.12.6 Environmental Setting**

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is the local law enforcement agency responsible for providing police services to Los Angeles. The LAPD serves a population of approximately 4 million in an area of 485 square miles with 9,942 sworn officers.<sup>138</sup> The LAPD is divided into four Bureaus: Central, South, Valley, and West. The CPAs are located in the Valley Bureau, which contains seven community police stations: Devonshire, Foothill, Mission, North Hollywood, Topanga, Van Nuys, and West Valley.

In 2009, the LAPD received 3,630,188 calls for service. In that same year, the LAPD dispatched 743,214 units to respond to calls-for service, a decrease of 0.6 percent compared 2008.

The crime rate, which represents the number of crimes reported, affects the “needs” projection for staff and equipment for the LAPD. To some extent, it is logical to anticipate that the crime rate in a given area will increase as the level of activity or population, along with the opportunities for crime, increases. However, because a number of other factors also contribute to the resultant crime rate, such as police presence, crime prevention measures, and ongoing legislation/funding, the potential for increased crime rates is not necessarily directly proportional to increase in land use activity.

In addition to crime rates, the LAPD’s operational statistics are also analyzed in terms of response time. Response time is the amount of time from when a call requesting assistance is made until the time that a

---

<sup>138</sup> Los Angeles Police Department, Sworn and Civilian Personnel by CS Class, Sex, and Descent as of 12/03/10, [http://www.lapdonline.org/sworn\\_and\\_civilian\\_report](http://www.lapdonline.org/sworn_and_civilian_report) (accessed through the Sworn and Civilian Report webpage January 19, 2011).

police unit arrives at the scene. Calls for police assistance are prioritized based on the nature of the call. Unlike fire protection services, police units are often in a mobile state; hence actual distance between a headquarters facility and the project site is often of little relevance. Instead, the number of officers on the street is more directly related to the realized response time. Response time is defined as the total time from when a call requesting assistance is placed until the time that a police unit responds to the scene. Telephone calls for police assistance are prioritized based on the nature of the call. The LAPD has an existing preferred response time of 7 minutes for emergency calls.

## ■ Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA

The Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA is served by the Devonshire Community Police Station, located at 10250 Etiwanda Avenue in Northridge (see Figure 4.12-1a, location #4). The Devonshire Community Police Station protects 48 square miles and serves approximately 219,000 people in five distinct communities: Chatsworth, Northridge, Canoga Park, Granada Hills, and Winnetka.<sup>139</sup> The Devonshire Police Station boundaries are as follows: from Interstate 405 (I-405) along the east to I-5 and along the Los Angeles City Boundary to the north and west, with Roscoe Boulevard marking the southern boundary.

A total of 30,001 units were dispatched to calls-for-service from the Devonshire Community Police Station, accounting for 4.0 percent of all units dispatched in the City during 2009.<sup>140</sup> Of the total number of units dispatched from the Devonshire Community Police Station, approximately 15 percent were emergency, 34 percent were urgent, and 51 percent were routine.

Table 4.12-9 (Crime Statistics for Devonshire Station Area and Citywide) provides the crime statistics for the Devonshire Area and citywide for years 2008 and 2009. With the exception of homicide and vehicle theft which decreased, all other violent and property crimes saw an increase as compared to 2008 in the Devonshire Area and the crime rate for Part I offenses increased 6.34 percent. Crime citywide decreased from all violent and property crimes, with the exception of rape and larceny, as compared to 2008 and the overall crime rate dropped 5.97 percent.

The crime rate, which represents the number of crimes reported, affects the “needs” projection for staff and equipment for the LAPD. To some extent, it is logical to anticipate that the crime rate in a given area will increase as the level of activity or population, along with the opportunities for crime, increases. However, because a number of other factors also contribute to the resultant crime rate, such as police presence, crime prevention measures, and ongoing legislation/funding, the potential for increased crime rates is not necessarily directly proportional to increase in land use activity.

---

<sup>139</sup> Los Angeles Police Department, About Devonshire, [http://www.lapdonline.org/devonshire\\_community\\_police\\_station/content\\_basic\\_view/1589](http://www.lapdonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station/content_basic_view/1589) (accessed April 26, 2011).

<sup>140</sup> Los Angeles Police Department, Information Technology Division, Management Report Unit, *Statistical Digest 2009* (2009), 2009 Statistical Digest Summary, [http://www.lapdonline.org/year\\_in\\_review/pdf\\_view/46534](http://www.lapdonline.org/year_in_review/pdf_view/46534).

**Table 4.12-9 Crime Statistics for Devonshire Station Area and Citywide**

Type of Crime	YTD 2009		YTD 2008		% Change	
	Devonshire	Citywide	Devonshire	Citywide	Devonshire	Citywide
<b>Part I Offenses</b>						
Homicide	10	314	12	9	-16.67	-17.80
Rape	41	818	14	26	192.86	5.82
Aggravated Assaults	266	10,579	225	517	18.22	-11.18
Robbery	293	12,170	278	408	5.40	-8.50
Burglary	1,270	18,316	1,225	1,115	3.67	-5.23
Larceny	3,502	56,969	3,247	2,270	7.85	0.27
Vehicle Theft	723	18,869	740	1,098	-2.30	-18.02
<b>Total Part I Offenses</b>	<b>6,105</b>	<b>118,035</b>	<b>5,741</b>	<b>5,443</b>	<b>6.34</b>	<b>-5.97</b>
<b>Total Part II Offenses</b>	<b>4,055</b>	<b>84,174</b>	<b>3,682</b>	<b>4,038</b>	<b>10.13</b>	<b>2.8</b>

SOURCE: Los Angeles Police Department, Information Technology Division, Management Report Unit, *Statistical Digest 2009* (2009), 2009 Statistical Digest Summary, [http://www.lapdonline.org/year\\_in\\_review/pdf\\_view/46534](http://www.lapdonline.org/year_in_review/pdf_view/46534).

## ■ Sylmar CPA

The Sylmar CPA is served by the Mission Community Police Station, located at 11121 Sepulveda Boulevard in Mission Hills (see Figure 4.12-1b, location #3). The Mission Community Police Station protects 25 square miles and serves approximately 226,000 people in five distinct communities: Arleta, Mission Hills, North Hills, Panorama City, and Sylmar.<sup>141</sup> The Mission Police Station boundaries are as follows: from Interstate 405 (I-405) and I-5 along the west and along the Los Angeles City Boundary to the north and west, with I-5 and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right-of-way marking the eastern and southern boundaries.

In 2009, the LAPD received 3,630,188 calls for service. In that same year, the LAPD dispatched 743,214 units to respond to calls-for service, a decrease of 0.6 percent compared 2008. A total of 36,303 units were dispatched from the Mission Community Police Station, accounting for 4.9 percent of all units dispatched in the City during 2009.<sup>142</sup> Of the total number of units dispatched from the Mission Community Police Station approximately 13 percent were emergency calls, 34 percent were urgent, and 53 percent were routine.

Table 4.12-10 (Crime Statistics for Mission Station Area and Citywide) provides the crime statistics for the Mission Area and citywide for years 2008 and 2009. With the exception of aggravated assaults and vehicle theft which decreased, all other violent and property crimes saw an increase as compared to 2008 in the Mission Area and the crime rate for Priority 1 offenses increased 0.85 percent. Crime citywide

<sup>141</sup> Los Angeles Police Department, About Mission, [http://www.lapdonline.org/mission\\_community\\_police\\_station/content\\_basic\\_view/1738](http://www.lapdonline.org/mission_community_police_station/content_basic_view/1738) (accessed April 26, 2011).

<sup>142</sup> Los Angeles Police Department, Information Technology Division, Management Report Unit, *Statistical Digest 2009* (2009), 2009 Statistical Digest Summary, [http://www.lapdonline.org/year\\_in\\_review/pdf\\_view/46534](http://www.lapdonline.org/year_in_review/pdf_view/46534).

decreased from all violent and property crimes, with the exception of rape and larceny, as compared to 2008 and the overall crime rate dropped 5.97 percent.

<b>Table 4.12-10 Crime Statistics for Mission Station Area and Citywide</b>						
<i>Type of Crime</i>	<i>YTD 2009</i>		<i>YTD 2008</i>		<i>% Change</i>	
	<i>Mission</i>	<i>Citywide</i>	<i>Mission</i>	<i>Citywide</i>	<i>Mission</i>	<i>Citywide</i>
<b>Part I Offenses</b>						
Homicide	13	314	9	382	44.44	-17.80
Rape	35	818	26	773	34.62	5.82
Aggravated Assaults	515	10,579	517	11,911	-0.39	-11.18
Robbery	497	12,170	408	13,301	21.81	-8.50
Burglary	1,124	18,316	1,115	19,327	0.81	-5.23
Larceny	2,333	56,969	2,270	56,817	2.78	0.27
Vehicle Theft	972	18,869	1,098	23,017	-11.48	-18.02
<b>Total Part I Offenses</b>	<b>5,489</b>	<b>118,035</b>	<b>5,443</b>	<b>125,528</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>-5.97</b>
<b>Total Part II Offenses</b>	<b>4,428</b>	<b>84,174</b>	<b>4,038</b>	<b>81,884</b>	<b>9.66</b>	<b>2.8</b>

SOURCE: Los Angeles Police Department, Information Technology Division, Management Report Unit, *Statistical Digest 2009* (2009), 2009 Statistical Digest Summary, [http://www.lapdonline.org/year\\_in\\_review/pdf\\_view/46534](http://www.lapdonline.org/year_in_review/pdf_view/46534).

The crime rate, which represents the number of crimes reported, affects the “needs” projection for staff and equipment for the LAPD. To some extent, it is logical to anticipate that the crime rate in a given area will increase as the level of activity or population, along with the opportunities for crime, increases. However, because a number of other factors also contribute to the resultant crime rate, such as police presence, crime prevention measures, and ongoing legislation/funding, the potential for increased crime rates is not necessarily directly proportional to increase in land use activity.

## 4.12.7 Regulatory Framework

### ■ Federal

There are no federal regulations relating to police services

### ■ State

There are no state regulations relating to police services

### ■ Regional

There are no regional regulations relating to police services

## ■ Local

### *City of Los Angeles General Plan*

#### **Safety Element**

State law since 1975 has required city general plans to include a safety element which addresses the issue of protection of its people from unreasonable risks associated with natural disasters, e.g., fires, floods, earthquakes. The Safety Element of the General Plan complies with state law by providing a contextual framework for understanding the relationship between hazard mitigation, response to a natural disaster, and initial recovery from a natural disaster, and overview of the City's natural hazards, hazard mitigation, and emergency response operations. The state did not intend that a safety element address fire and police protection, except in the context of natural disasters. The policies of the Safety Element reflect the comprehensive scope of the City's Emergency Operations Organization (EOO), which is tasked with integrating the City's emergency operations into a single operation.

#### **General Plan Framework**

The City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework (Framework), adopted December 1996 and amended most recently in August 2001, is a long range, citywide, comprehensive growth strategy. The Framework includes policies related public infrastructure and services. These policies address infrastructure and public service systems, many of which are interrelated and support the City's population and economy. The Framework includes policies which address deficiencies, including the expansion of public services and infrastructure commensurate with levels of demand. Policies from the General Plan Framework related to police protection are listed in Table 4.12-11 (General Plan Policies Relevant to Police Protection).

### *City of Los Angeles Charter and Administrative and Municipal Codes*

The law enforcement regulations and the powers and duties of the LAPD are outlined in the City of Los Angeles Charter Article V, Section 570; the City of Los Angeles Administrative Code, Chapter 11, Section 22.240; and the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC), Chapter 5, Article 2. City Charter Article V, Section 570, gives power and duty to the LAPD to enforce the penal provisions of the Charter and City ordinances, as well as State and Federal law. The Charter also gives responsibility to the LAPD to act as peace officers, as defined by State law, and the power and duty to protect lives and property in case of disaster or public calamity. Administrative Code Section 22.240 requires the LAPD to adhere to the State standards described in California Penal Code Section 13522, which charges the LAPD with adhering to certain standards for recruitment and training of Public Safety Dispatchers. The LAPD is given the power and the duty to protect residents and property and to review and enforce specific security-related mitigation measures with regards to new development. Furthermore, as stated in the Administrative Code, the LAPD is given the duty and power to protect the lives and properties of the community in the case of a disaster or public calamity.

**Table 4.12-11 General Plan Policies Relevant to Police Protection**

<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
<b>General Plan Framework Chapter 9 Infrastructure and Public Services–Police</b>	
Policy 9.13.1	Monitor and report police statistics, as appropriate, and population projections for the purpose of evaluating police service based on existing and future needs.
Policy 9.14.1	Work with the Police Department to maintain standards for the appropriate number of sworn police officers to serve the needs of residents, businesses, and industries.
Policy 9.14.2	Support the provision of additional sworn police offers to meet the safety needs of the City.
Policy 9.14.3	Pursue state, federal, and other non-conventional funding sources to expand the number of sworn police officers.
Policy 9.14.4	Complete all funded capital facilities in as short a time as possible.
Policy 9.14.5	Identify neighborhoods in Los Angeles where facilities are needed to provide adequate police protection.
Policy 9.14.6	Minimize the processing required to establish needed facilities and, if necessary, modify facility standards to utilize existing available structures for this purpose.
Policy 9.14.7	Participate fully in the planning of activities that assist in defensible space design and utilize the most current law enforcement technology affecting physical development.
Policy 9.15.1	Maintain mutual assistance agreements with local law enforcement agencies, State law enforcement agencies, and the National Guard to provide for public safety in the event of emergency situations.
SOURCE: Los Angeles Department of City Planning, <i>The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan</i> (adopted August 8, 2001), CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162, <a href="http://cityplanning.lacity.org">http://cityplanning.lacity.org</a> .	

The latest applicable Municipal Code was adopted by legislation on June 26, 2009, and contains information relating to Public Safety and Protection in Chapter V.<sup>143</sup> It does not list any performance standards for the LAPD. As part of standard development approval in Los Angeles, project plans for specific projects are reviewed by the LAPD, and project applicants are required to incorporate the LAPD recommendations into the final design of a project. As part of the conditions of approval for a project in the City of Los Angeles, the project applicant is required to incorporate building design standards, such as adequate public lighting, landscaping, sidewalks, and buffering, that provide visual access and “safe” places.

Analyses of several service providers include discussions of previously established service ratios (such as police officers per 1,000 population). These service ratios are changing as new methods, equipment and technologies become routine, and therefore, compliance with these service ratios are generally not used as thresholds of significance. Deployment of police officers to existing area stations in the City is based on a number of factors and cannot be precisely calculated based on police-need-per-population standards alone. The Los Angeles Police Department presently uses a quantitative workload model, known as Patrol Plan, to determine the deployment level in each of the area stations. Patrol Plan, which was developed by a private consultant, is a computer program that mathematically formulates twenty-five data variables (factors) to provide patrol officer deployment recommendations for the eighteen geographic areas in the City to meet predetermined constraints, such as response time and available time. These factors include patrol speed, number of units fielded, forecast call rate, percent of calls with 1 to

<sup>143</sup> City of Los Angeles Municipal Code, [http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=amlegal:lmc\\_ca](http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=amlegal:lmc_ca) (accessed July 6, 2009).

6+ units dispatched, average service time, dispatching policy, percent of calls dispatched by priority, square miles of an area, average travel time and street miles.

## ■ Proposed Plan Policies

Table 4.12-12 (Proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan Policies) and Table 4.12-13 (Proposed Sylmar Community Plan Policies) list proposed policies that are applicable to issues of police protection.

<b>Table 4.12-12 Proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan Policies</b>	
<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy CF1.1	Adequate Level of Service. Maintain police facilities and services at a level that is adequate to protect the community of Granada Hills–Knollwood.
Policy CF1.2	Project Review. Consult with LAPD to consider public safety and crime prevention as part of the review of new development projects (i.e., lighting, security, and visibility) and proposed land use changes to determine needs and services to ensure an appropriate level of service.
Policy CF2.3	Emergency Preparedness Coordination. Coordinate with the identification of primary access routes for emergency preparedness.

<b>Table 4.12-13 Proposed Sylmar Community Plan Policies</b>	
<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy CF1.1	Level of Service. Maintain police facilities and services at a level that is adequate to protect the community of Sylmar.
Policy CF1.2	Project Review. Consult with LAPD to consider public safety and crime prevention as part of the review of new development projects (i.e., lighting, visibility, and security) and proposed land use changes to determine needs and services to ensure an appropriate level of service.
Policy CF2.3	Emergency Preparedness Coordination. Coordinate with the identification of primary access routes for emergency preparedness.

## Consistency Analysis

The proposed plans will replace the existing 1996 Granada Hills–Knollwood and 1997 Sylmar Community Plans. The proposed plans contain policies addressing the distribution of land uses, population density, and building intensity, as well as provisions for public infrastructure and public safety. The proposed plans intend to allocate land uses in a manner that promotes the physical welfare of the community. Development projects would be designed consistent with the proposed plans’ policies with regard to landscaping and lighting in order to provide for visibility and security. Implementation of the proposed plans could provide for the development of civic and other community uses such as police facilities. As such, the proposed plans would be consistent with applicable policies.

## 4.12.8 Project Impacts and Mitigation

### ■ Analytic Method

Impacts on police protection services are considered significant if an increase in population of building area would result in an increased demand for services that would require the construction or expansion of new or altered police protection facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

The Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide (2006) sets forth guidance for the determination of significance of aesthetic impacts. This guidance is based on CEQA Guidelines Appendix G and provides specific criteria to be considered when making a significance determination. In some cases, the Thresholds Guide includes quantitative thresholds. For purposes of this analysis, Thresholds Guide criteria are used, supplemented by the thresholds identified in Appendix G, where appropriate.

The Thresholds guide includes several significance thresholds related to police services that would be primarily relevant at the project level, and applied on a case-by-case basis. These include:

- The population increase resulting from a proposed project, based on the net increase of residential units or square footage on non-residential floor area
- The demand for police services anticipated at the time of project buildout compared to the expected level of service available
- Whether the project includes security and/or design features that would reduce the demand for police services

### ■ Thresholds of Significance

Implementation of the proposed plans may have a significant adverse impact on police protection services if it would:

- Require the addition of a new police station or the expansion, consolidation or relocation of an existing facility to maintain service, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection.

### ■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

With respect to police protection, there were no effects identified that would not have any impact.

### ■ Less-Than-Significant Impacts

**Impact 4.12-2** Implementation of the proposed plans would not foreseeably require the addition of a new police station or the expansion, consolidation or relocation of an existing facility to maintain service, nor cause the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police services. Compliance with existing regulations would insure this impact remains *less than significant*.

### ***Granada Hills–Knollwood***

The proposed plan and implementing ordinances could result in an increase in population in the CPA. Approximately less than 1 percent of the land within the CPA is currently undeveloped or vacant and the proposed plan and implementing ordinances could result in development of vacant land within the CPA. This undeveloped land is scattered throughout the CPA and development of vacant land and redevelopment of existing development in the CPA would occur as infill development in areas already served by police protection services. No police protection facilities are proposed by the plan and implementing ordinances.

Although there is no direct proportional relationship between increases in land use activity and increases in demand for police protection services, the number of calls for police response to home and retail burglaries, vehicle burglaries, damage to vehicles, traffic-related incidents, and crimes against persons would be anticipated to increase with the increase in people, commercial and retail land uses, and dwelling units in the CPA. Such calls are typical of problems experienced in existing developed areas of the City and do not represent unique law enforcement issues that would be created specifically by implementation of the proposed plan and implementing ordinances.

The proposed plan concentrates development along established commercial corridors such as Chatsworth Street and Devonshire Street. The proposed plan would concentrate future development as infill in the central and southern portions of the CPA, closer to the existing Devonshire Station. Implementation of the proposed plan would not further affect the response times of the LAPD.

Security and/or design features to reduce demand for police services are proposed and evaluated on a project-by-project basis. The proposed plan discusses planned growth over a large region and does not detail any planned or proposed projects. Therefore, any project occurring within the CPA would be subject to environmental review or review upon submittal of the development application and be subject to any mitigation. All projects would be reviewed for security features and would be required to incorporate design guidelines relative to security, semi-public and private spaces, which may include but not be limited to access control to building, secured parking facilities, walls/fences with key systems, well-illuminated public and semi-public space designed with a minimum of dead space to eliminate areas of concealment, location of toilet facilities or building entrances in high-foot traffic areas, and provision of security guard patrol throughout the project site if needed. These measures would be approved by the Police Department prior to the issuance of building permits.

The Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan includes Policies CF1.1, CF1.2, and CF2.3, which provide for project review by the LAPD to consider public safety and crime prevention as part of the review of new development projects, and encourage coordination in identifying primary access routes for emergency access. These policies would increase the efficiency of the delivery of police protection services and thereby reduce impacts to police protection services.

Existing Framework Policies 9.13.1, 9.14.1 through 9.14.7, and 9.15.1 would help minimize potential impacts to police protection services by continuing monitoring and reporting of police statistics for the purpose of evaluating existing and future needs, maintaining officer to civilian standards, providing additional sworn officers, funding all police-related capital improvement projects, streamlining the processing for new facilities, participating in site review for new projects for safety features, and

maintaining mutual agreements with other local law enforcement agencies. The combination of proposed plans and Framework policies would increase the efficiency of the delivery of police protection services and thereby reduce the need to construct new police stations. Future discretionary development projects require project level environmental analysis. All development is subject to LAMC Codes, regulations and standards.

The increase in people and dwelling units in the CPA created through development allowed under the proposed plans could potentially increase the demand for police protection services. However, due to the mobile nature of police services, it is unlikely that the need for additional officers created by the increase in demand for police services would result in the need for the construction of new or physically altered police protection facilities. Additional police service demands can be accommodated through a variety of methods, including overtime or provision of substations in existing structures, which would increase police protection without the need for construction of new stations. As discussed above, existing operational structures, policies, and regulations will ensure that the LAPD can adequately serve new development. Based on reasonably expected build-out of the CPA in 2030, implementation of the proposed plan would accommodate growth that is consistent with SCAG 2030 projections for the City as a whole.

This increase in population and housing units is not sufficient to lead to a substantial increase in the need for police protection services. Impacts are *less than significant*.

### **Sylmar**

The proposed plan and implementing ordinances could result in an increase in population in the CPA. Approximately less than 1 percent of the land within the CPA is currently undeveloped or vacant and the proposed plan and implementing ordinances could result in development of vacant land within the CPA. This undeveloped land is scattered throughout the CPA and development of vacant land and redevelopment of existing development in the CPA would occur as infill development in areas already served by police protection services. No police protection facilities are proposed by the plan and implementing ordinances.

Although there is no direct proportional relationship between increases in land use activity and increases in demand for police protection services, the number of calls for police response to home and retail burglaries, vehicle burglaries, damage to vehicles, traffic-related incidents, and crimes against persons would be anticipated to increase with the increase in people, commercial and retail land uses, and dwelling units in the CPA. Such calls are typical of problems experienced in existing developed areas of the City and do not represent unique law enforcement issues that would be created specifically by implementation of the proposed plan and implementing ordinances.

The proposed plan concentrates development along established commercial corridors such as Foothill Boulevard and San Fernando Road, particularly adjacent to the Metrolink Station. The proposed plan would concentrate future development as infill in the central and southern portions of the CPA, closer to the existing Mission Station. Implementation of the proposed plan would not further affect the response times of the LAPD.

Security and/or design features to reduce demand for police services are proposed and evaluated on a project-by-project basis. The proposed plan discusses planned growth over a large region and does not detail any planned or proposed projects. Therefore, any project occurring within the CPA would be subject to environmental review or review upon submittal of the development application and be subject to any mitigation. All projects would be reviewed for security features and would be required to incorporate design guidelines relative to security, semi-public and private spaces, which may include but not be limited to access control to building, secured parking facilities, walls/fences with key systems, well-illuminated public and semi-public space designed with a minimum of dead space to eliminate areas of concealment, location of toilet facilities or building entrances in high-foot traffic areas, and provision of security guard patrol throughout the project site if needed. These measures would be approved by the Police Department prior to the issuance of building permits.

The Sylmar Community Plan includes Policies CF1.1, CF1.2, and CF2.3 for police protection that provide for project review by the LAPD to consider public safety and crime prevention as part of the review of new development projects, and encourage coordination in identifying primary access routes for emergency access. These policies would increase the efficiency of the delivery of police protection services and thereby reduce impacts to police protection services.

Existing Framework Policies 9.13.1, 9.14.1 through 9.14.7, and 9.15.1 would help minimize potential impacts to police protection services by continuing monitoring and reporting of police statistics for the purpose of evaluating existing and future needs, maintaining officer to civilian standards, providing additional sworn officers, funding all police-related capital improvement projects, streamlining the processing for new facilities, participating in site review for new projects for safety features, and maintaining mutual agreements with other local law enforcement agencies. The combination of proposed plans and Framework policies would increase the efficiency of the delivery of police protection services and thereby reduce the need to construct new police stations. Future discretionary development projects require project level environmental analysis. All development is subject to LAMC Codes, regulations and standards.

The increase in people and dwelling units in the CPA created through development allowed under the proposed plans could potentially increase the demand for police protection services. However, due to the mobile nature of police services, it is unlikely that the need for additional officers created by the increase in demand for police services would result in the need for the construction of new or physically altered police protection facilities. Additional police service demands can be accommodated through a variety of methods, including overtime or provision of substations in existing structures, which would increase police protection without the need for construction of new stations. As discussed above, existing operational structures, policies, and regulations will ensure that the LAPD can adequately serve new development. Based on reasonably expected build-out of the CPA in 2030, implementation of the proposed plan would accommodate growth that is consistent with SCAG 2030 projections for the City as a whole.

This increase in population and housing units is not sufficient to lead to a substantial increase in the need for police protection services. Impacts are *less than significant*.

## 4.12.9 Cumulative Impacts—Police Protection

The geographic context for this analysis is the City of Los Angeles as served by the LAPD. Both past and present development in the City have not caused a deficit in police protection services and response times. Future cumulative development in this geographic context is not anticipated to create a significant impact. Future development in the project area, as well as future development occurring within the LAPD service area, would be subject to the City's Framework Safety Element and the proposed plan's policies relating to police services. Future needs for police protection are reviewed annually during the budgeting process. As described above, development projects within the City, including the CPAs, would be subject to environmental review or review upon project submittal of the development application and be subject to any mitigation. Development would be reviewed for security features and would be required to incorporate design guidelines relative to security, semi-public and private spaces, which may include but not be limited to access control to building, secured parking facilities, walls/fences with key systems, well-illuminated public and semi-public space designed with a minimum of dead space to eliminate areas of concealment, location of toilet facilities or building entrances in high-foot traffic areas, and provision of security guard patrol throughout the project site if needed.

The EIR for the proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar Community Plans provide only program level environmental clearance, and identifies reasonably expected levels of housing, population, and job growth over the life of the plan. This increase in population and housing units is not sufficient to lead to a substantial increase in service need. Individual discretionary projects shall require project-level environmental analysis and the identification of project level mitigation and features to reduce impacts to police services. Adoption of the plan does not change the regulatory context of LAPD project level review prior to issuance of building permits. Compliance with existing regulations and standards would ensure the cumulative impact of the proposed plan would remain *less than significant*.

## 4.12.10 References—Police Protection

- Los Angeles, City of. *City of Los Angeles Municipal Code*,  
[http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=amlegal:lamc\\_ca](http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=amlegal:lamc_ca)  
(accessed July 6, 2009).
- Los Angeles Department of City Planning. About Devonshire.  
[http://www.lapdonline.org/devonshire\\_community\\_police\\_station/content\\_basic\\_view/1589](http://www.lapdonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station/content_basic_view/1589)  
(accessed April 26, 2011).
- . About Mission.  
[http://www.lapdonline.org/mission\\_community\\_police\\_station/content\\_basic\\_view/1738](http://www.lapdonline.org/mission_community_police_station/content_basic_view/1738)  
(accessed April 26, 2011).
- . Sworn and Civilian Personnel by CS Class, Sex, and Descent as of 12/03/10.  
[http://www.lapdonline.org/sworn\\_and\\_civilian\\_report](http://www.lapdonline.org/sworn_and_civilian_report) (accessed through the Sworn and Civilian Report webpage January 19, 2011).
- . *The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan*. CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162, adopted August 8, 2001. <http://cityplanning.lacity.org>.
- Los Angeles Police Department, Information Technology Division, Management Report Unit. *Statistical Digest 2009*, 2009. [http://www.lapdonline.org/year\\_in\\_review/pdf\\_view/46534](http://www.lapdonline.org/year_in_review/pdf_view/46534).

## Schools

This section of the EIR describes school services within the Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar CPAs and analyzes the potential physical environmental effects related to school services impacts created by construction of new or additional facilities associated with implementation of the proposed plans. The EIR evaluates the environmental impacts related to school services based upon information from a variety of sources, including the City of Los Angeles General Plan, as well as communications with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Full reference-list entries for all cited materials are provided in Section 4.12.15 (References).

### 4.12.11 Environmental Setting

Public schools in the City of Los Angeles are under the jurisdiction of the LAUSD. The LAUSD is divided into eight local districts. The project area is located within Local Districts 1 and 2, which covers the San Fernando Valley and northern parts of the City of Los Angeles. During the 2009/2010 school year, Local District 1 had an enrollment of approximately 100,679 students distributed amongst grades K through 12, and Local District 2 had an enrollment of approximately 88,617 students distributed amongst grades K through 12.<sup>144</sup>

The LAUSD has opened and expects to continue to open 131 new schools over the next few years to accommodate growth in the student population within and surrounding the City of Los Angeles. New schools and site expansions require the acquisition of over 450 acres of land, much of which has already been acquired. The total estimated cost of this Master Plan program is approximately \$11.2 billion dollars. Funding has been identified from various sources including state Proposition 1A bonds, local Proposition BB bonds, Measures K and R, Propositions 47/55, and developer fees.<sup>145</sup>

#### ■ Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA

The LAUSD Schools that currently serve the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA are provided in Table 4.12-14 (LAUSD Schools Serving the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA), along with the location, current enrollment, and enrollment capacities for each of the schools listed (school year 2008/09). See Figure 4.12-2a (Public School Locations [Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA]) for the locations of these public schools. The total enrollment for the schools within the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA is 26,903 students, with a capacity for 29,867 students.

---

<sup>144</sup> Los Angeles Unified School District, District Profiles Website, Districtwide Search, <http://search.lausd.k12.ca.us/cgi-bin/fccgi.exe?w3exec=profile0> (accessed April 28, 2011).

<sup>145</sup> Los Angeles Unified School District, Facilities Services Division, New Construction (January 27, 2011), <http://www.laschools.org/employee/nf/>.

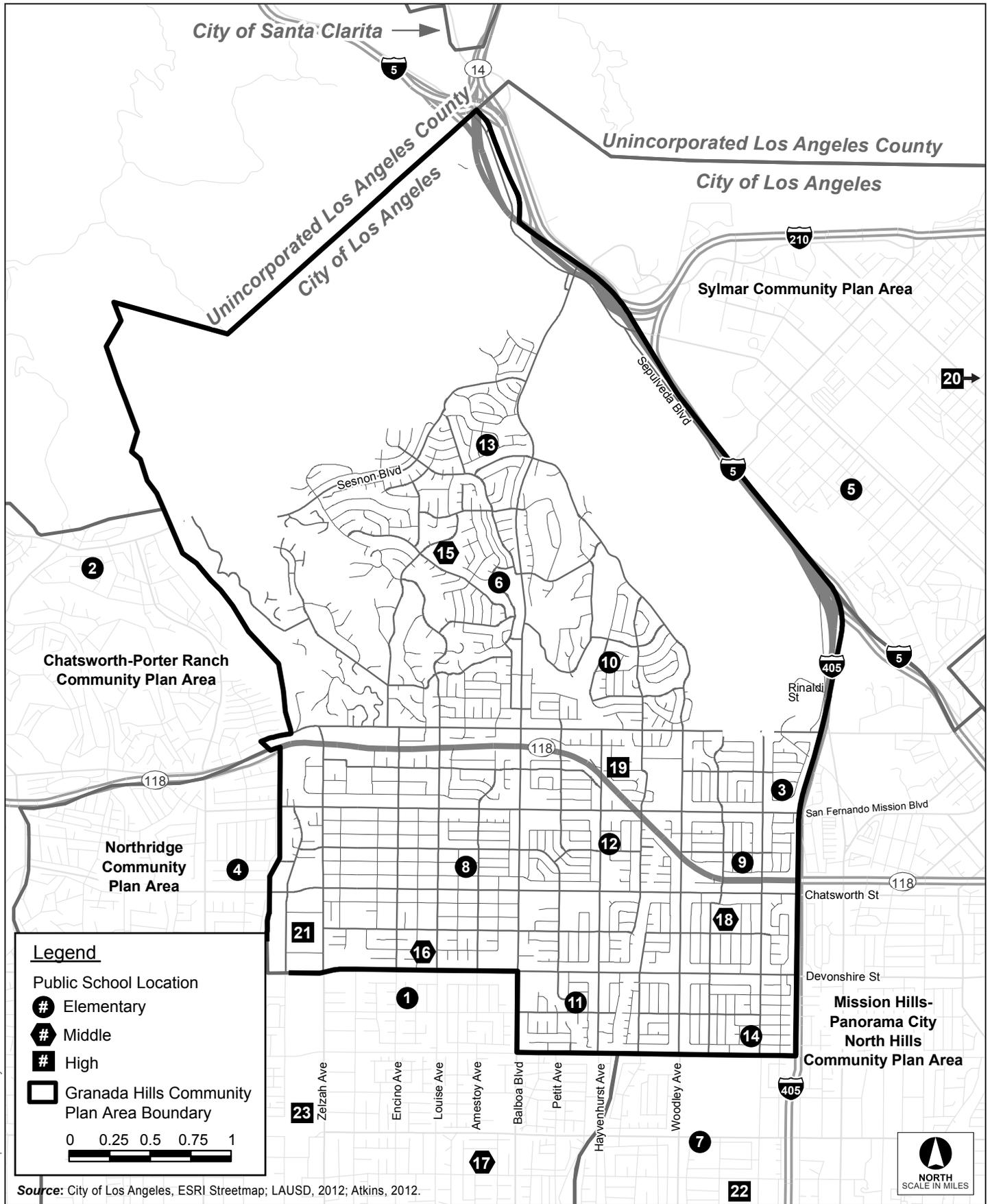
**Table 4.12-14 LAUSD Schools Serving the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA**

<i>Figure Location</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Current Enrollment</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
1	Andasol Elementary	10126 Encino Avenue	455	554
2	Castlebay Lane Elementary	19010 Castlebay Lane	809	832
3	Danube Elementary	11220 Danube Avenue	409	454
4	Darby Elementary	10818 Darby Avenue	406	521
5	El Dorado Elementary	12749 El Dorado Avenue	632	707
6	El Oro Elementary	12230 El Oro Way	512	552
7	Gledhill Elementary	16030 Gledhill Street	488	649
8	Granada Elementary	17170 Tribune Street	477	509
9	Haskell Elementary	15850 Tulsa Street	435	456
10	Knollwood Elementary	11822 Gerald Avenue	463	504
11	Mayall Elementary	16701 Mayall Street	470	506
12	Tulsa Elementary	10900 Hayvenhurst Avenue	540	544
13	Van Gogh Elementary	17160 Van Gogh Street	437	464
14	Vintage Math/Science Magnet (K only)	15848 Stare Street	673	675
<i>Elementary (K–5) Schools Subtotal</i>			<i>7,905</i>	<i>8,734</i>
15	Frost Middle School	12314 Bradford Place	1,807	2,140
16	Henry Middle School	17340 San Jose Street	1,355	1,658
17	Holmes Middle School	9351 Paso Robles Avenue	1,482	1,495
18	Porter Middle School	15960 Kingsbury Street	1,811	2,094
<i>Middle (6–8) Schools Subtotal</i>			<i>8,253</i>	<i>9,688</i>
19	Kennedy High School	11254 Gothic Avenue	3,139	3,218
20	Sylmar High School	13050 Borden Avenue	3,690	3,606
21	Granada Hills High School	10535 Zelzah Avenue	N/A	N/A
22	Monroe High School	9229 Haskell Avenue	2,930	3,594
23	Northridge Academy High School	9601 Zelzah Avenue	986	1,027
<i>High (9–12) Schools Subtotal<sup>a</sup></i>			<i>10,745</i>	<i>11,445</i>
<b><i>All Schools Total</i></b>			<b><i>26,903</i></b>	<b><i>29,867</i></b>

SOURCE: Rena Perez, written correspondence with Director, Master Planning and Demographics, Los Angeles Unified School District (September 22, 2009).

a. Totals for Granada Hills High School were not included because enrollment and capacity information was not provided.

In addition to the existing schools, the schools listed in Table 4.12-15 (Planned Public Schools for the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA) illustrate the new schools planned in the CPA. In addition, there are ten private schools located within the CPA.



100018655 | Granada Hills-Sylmar NCP EIR

Figure 4.12-2a  
 Public School Locations (Granada Hills-Knollwood CPA)

<b>Table 4.12-15 Planned Public Schools for the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA</b>			
<i>Planned School Area Served</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Granada Hills–Knollwood	Valley Region Span K–8 #2	TBD	1,047
Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar	Valley Region Span K–8 #1	TBD	1,047
Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar	Valley Region High School #4	TBD	1,215
Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar	Valley Region High School #5	TBD	2,160
<i>Total Planned School Capacity</i>			<b>6,194</b>

## ■ Sylmar CPA

The LAUSD Schools that currently serve the Sylmar CPA are provided in Table 4.12-16 (LAUSD Schools Serving the Sylmar CPA), along with the location, current enrollment, and enrollment capacities for each of the schools listed (school year 2008/09). See Figure 4.12-2b (Public School Locations [Sylmar CPA]) for the locations of these public schools. The total enrollment for the schools within the Sylmar CPA is 24,469 students, with a capacity for 27,595 students.

<b>Table 4.12-16 LAUSD Schools Serving the Sylmar Area</b>				
<i>Figure Location</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Current Enrollment</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
1	Broadous Elementary	12561 Filmore Street	777	814
2	Dyer Street Elementary	14500 Dyer Street	962	1,173
3	El Dorado Avenue Elementary	12749 El Dorado Avenue	632	707
4	Fenton Avenue Elementary	11828 Gain Street	1,006	N/A
5	Fenton Primary Center	11828 Gain Street	451	N/A
6	Gridley Elementary	1907 Eighth Street	937	1,186
7	Harding Elementary	13060 Harding Street	616	679
8	Herrick Elementary	13350 Herrick Avenue	699	807
9	Hubbard Elementary	13325 Hubbard Street	998	1,063
10	Osceola Elementary	14940 Osceola Street	390	443
11	San Fernando Elementary	1130 Mott Street	673	756
12	Sylmar Elementary	13291 Phillippi Avenue	909	920
<i>Elementary (K–5) Schools Subtotal<sup>a</sup></i>			<i>7,593</i>	<i>8,548</i>
13	Maclay Middle School	12540 Pierce Avenue	999	1,558
14	Olive Vista Middle School	14600 Tyler Street	1,798	2,301
15	San Fernando Middle School	130 North Brand Boulevard	1,660	2,400
<i>Middle (6–8) Schools Subtotal</i>			<i>4,457</i>	<i>6,259</i>

<i>Figure Location</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Current Enrollment</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
16	Evergreen Continuation	13101 Dronfield Avenue		
17	Kennedy High School	11254 Gothic Avenue	3,139	3,218
18	San Fernando High School	11133 O'Melveny Avenue	3,321	3,513
19	Sylmar High School	13050 Borden Avenue	3,690	3,606
20	Verdugo Hills High School	10625 Plainview Avenue	2,269	2,451
<i>High (9–12) Schools Subtotal</i>			<i>12,419</i>	<i>12,788</i>
<b><i>All Schools Total</i></b>			<b><i>24,469</i></b>	<b><i>27,595</i></b>

SOURCE: Rena Perez, written correspondence with Director, Master Planning and Demographics, Los Angeles Unified School District (September 18, 2009).

a. Total for Fenton Avenue Elementary and Fenton Primary Center were not included because capacity information was not provided.

In addition to the existing schools, the schools listed in Table 4.12-17 (Planned Public Schools for the Sylmar CPA) illustrate the new schools planned in the CPA. In addition, there are six private schools within the Sylmar CPA.

<i>Planned School Area Served</i>	<i>Planned School</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Sylmar	Valley Region ES #8	TBD	725
Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar	Valley Region Span K–8 #1	TBD	1,047
Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar	Valley Region High School #4	TBD	1,215
Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar	Valley Region High School #5	TBD	2,160
<b><i>Total Planned School Capacity</i></b>			<b><i>5,147</i></b>

## 4.12.12 Regulatory Framework

### ■ Federal

No federal plans, policies, regulations, or laws related to school services are applicable.

### ■ State

#### ***California State Assembly Bill 2926 (AB 2926)—School Facilities Act of 1986***

In 1986, AB 2926 was enacted by the State of California authorizing entities to levy statutory fees on new residential and commercial/industrial development in order to pay for school facilities. AB 2926, titled the School Facilities Act of 1986, was expanded and revised in 1987 through the passage of AB 1600, which added Sections 66000 et seq. of the Government Code. Under this statute, payment of statutory fees by developers would serve as total CEQA mitigation to satisfy the impact of development on school facilities.

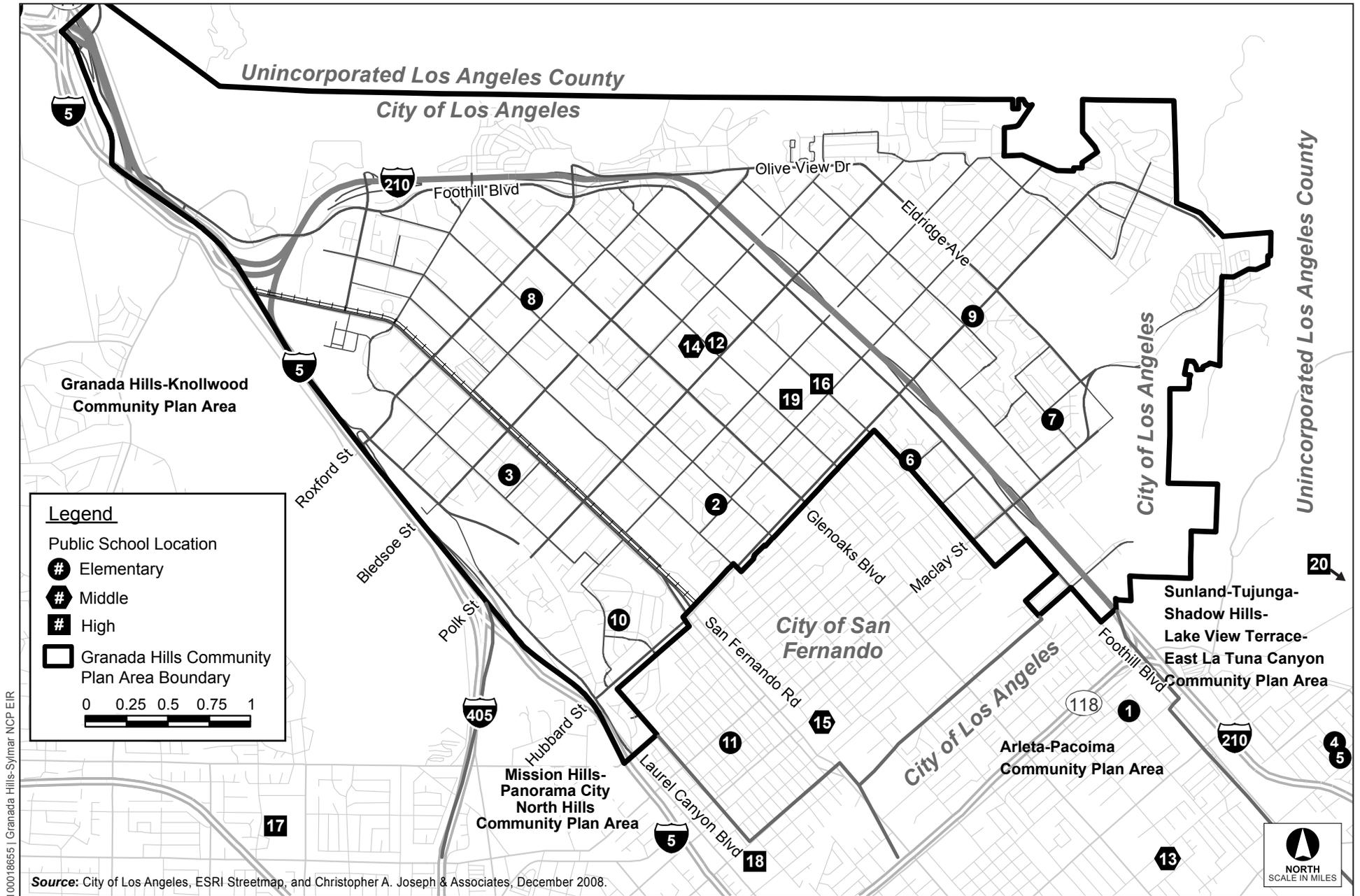


Figure 4.12-2b  
Public School Locations (Sylmar CPA)

## **California Government Code Section 65995—School Facilities Legislation**

The School Facilities Legislation was enacted to generate revenue for school districts for capital acquisitions and improvements.

### **School Facilities Fees**

California Education Code Section 17620(a)(1) states that the governing board of any school district is authorized to levy a fee, charge, dedication, or other requirement against any construction within the boundaries of the district, for the purpose of funding the construction or reconstruction of school facilities. The LAUSD School Facilities Fee Plan has been prepared to support the school district's levy of the fees authorized by California Education Code Section 17620.<sup>146</sup>

The Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 (SB 50) sets a maximum level of fees a developer may be required to pay to reduce a project's impacts on school facilities. The maximum fees authorized under SB 50 apply to zone changes, general plan amendments, zoning permits and subdivisions. The provisions of SB 50 are deemed to provide full and complete mitigation of school facilities impacts, notwithstanding any contrary provisions in CEQA or other State or local laws (Government Code Section 65996).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65995.5-7, the LAUSD has imposed Level 2 residential developer fees at a rate of \$4.18 per square foot on new residential construction, \$0.42 per square foot of commercial/industrial construction, \$0.28 per square foot of self-storage space, and \$0.09 per square foot of parking structure construction within the boundaries of the LAUSD.<sup>147</sup>

### **Open Enrollment Policy**

The open enrollment policy is a state-mandated policy that enables students anywhere in the LAUSD to apply to any regular, grade-appropriate LAUSD school with designated "open enrollment" seats. The number of open enrollment seats is determined annually. Each individual school is assessed based on the principal's knowledge of new housing and other demographic trends in the attendance area. Open enrollment seats are granted through an application process that is completed before the school year begins. Students living in a particular school's attendance area are not displaced by a student requesting an open enrollment transfer to that school.<sup>148</sup>

## **Local**

### **Los Angeles Unified School District Standards**

The LAUSD has learning standards that comply with the California Department of Education Grade Level Content Standards.<sup>149</sup> The standards are for curricula, not for facilities.

---

<sup>146</sup> Los Angeles Unified School District, *School Facilities Fee Plan* (March 2, 2002).

<sup>147</sup> Los Angeles Unified School District, Fax correspondence from Developer Fee Program Office (January 24, 2008). These rates are valid from October 23, 2007, to October 22, 2008, and are subject to change thereafter.

<sup>148</sup> Los Angeles Unified School District, News Release, Office of Communications (April 17, 2000).

<sup>149</sup> Los Angeles Unified School District, Division of Instruction, LAUSD Learning Standards (July 6, 2009), <http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/lausd/offices/instruct/standards/>.

### City of Los Angeles General Plan

The City of Los Angeles General Plan (General Plan) addresses community development goals and policies relative to the distribution of land use, both public and private. The General Plan integrates the citywide elements and community plans, and gives policy direction to the planning regulatory and implementation programs.

The General Plan Framework (Framework) is a more general, long-term, programmatic document, implemented by the various individual elements of the General Plan. Policies related to public schools are contained in the General Plan Framework.

### City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework

The City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework (Framework), adopted December 1996 and amended most recently in August 2001, is a long range, citywide, comprehensive growth strategy. The Framework includes policies related to public infrastructure and services. These policies address infrastructure and public service systems, many of which are interrelated and support the City’s population and economy. The Framework includes policies which address deficiencies, including the expansion of public services and infrastructure commensurate with levels of demand.

Policies from the General Plan<sup>150</sup> related to schools are listed in Table 4.12-18 (General Plan Policies Relevant to Schools).

**Table 4.12-18 General Plan Policies Relevant to Schools**

<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy 9.31.1	Participate in the development of, and share demographic information about, population estimates.
Policy 9.32.1	Work with the Los Angeles Unified School District to ensure that school facilities and programs are expanded commensurate with the City’s population growth and development.
Policy 9.32.2	Explore creative alternatives for providing new school sites in the City, where appropriate.
Policy 9.32.3	Work with LAUSD to explore incentives and funding mechanisms to provide school facilities in areas where there is a deficiency in classroom seats.
Policy 9.33.1	Encourage a program of decision-making at the local school level to provide access to school facilities by neighborhood organizations.
Policy 9.33.2	Develop a strategy to site community facilities (libraries, parks, schools, and auditoriums) together.

SOURCE: Los Angeles City Planning, *Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan* (August 8, 2001), Chapter 9 (Infrastructure and Public Services), <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/cwd/framwk/chapters/09/09.htm> (accessed July 20, 2009).

<sup>150</sup> Los Angeles Department of City Planning, *The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan*, CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162 (adopted August 8, 2001), Chapter 9 (Infrastructure and Public Services), <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/cwd/framwk/chapters/09/09.htm> (accessed July 20, 2009).

## ■ Proposed Plan Policies

Table 4.12-19 (Proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan Policies) and Table 4.12-20 (Proposed Sylmar Community Plan Policies) list proposed policies that are applicable to issues of schools.

<b>Table 4.12-19 Proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan Policies</b>	
<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy CF4.1	Existing Facilities. Place a high priority on the repair and of any inadequate structural components that threaten the integrity and/ or function of instructional buildings. Expansion of existing schools is preferred over the acquisition of new sites, when feasible.
Policy CF4.2	Coordination with LAUSD. Identify future school sites in a cooperative effort with LAUSD to ensure that they are safely and conveniently located within the Community Plan Area.
Policy CF4.3	Siting of New Facilities. Locate new schools in areas with complementary land uses, access to transit, and recreational opportunities. Encourage the siting of schools in locations which can utilize topography and landscaping, as well as building design, to provide noise and air quality buffering, when necessary.
Policy CF4.4	Compatible Development. Encourage compatibility between locations, site layouts, architectural designs, and local neighborhood character. Utilize schools to create a logical transition and buffer between different uses, such as multi- and single-family residential and commercial and residential.
Policy CF4.5	Joint Use. Coordinate with LAUSD and other agencies to explore creative alternatives that integrate the uses of recreation, local open space, and neighborhood use.

<b>Table 4.12-20 Proposed Sylmar Community Plan Policies</b>	
<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy CF4.1	Existing Facilities. Place a high priority on the repair and of any inadequate structural components that threaten the integrity and/or function of instructional buildings. Expansion of existing schools is preferred over the acquisition of new sites, when feasible.
Policy CF4.2	Coordination with LAUSD. Identify future school sites in a cooperative effort with LAUSD to ensure that they are safely and conveniently located within the Community Plan Area.
Policy CF4.3	Facility Location. Locate new schools in areas with land uses, access to transit, and recreational opportunities. Encourage the siting of schools in locations which can utilize topography and landscaping, as well as building design, to provide noise and air quality buffering, when necessary.
Policy CF4.4	Compatible Development. Encourage compatibility between locations, site layouts, and architectural designs that contribute to the semi-rural suburban character of the community and that embrace the area's agricultural heritage.
Policy CF4.5	Joint Use. Coordinate with LAUSD and other agencies to explore creative alternatives that integrate the uses of recreation, local open space, and neighborhood use.

### **Consistency Analysis**

The proposed plans will replace the existing 1996 Granada Hills–Knollwood and 1997 Sylmar Community Plans. Future residential development projects under the proposed plans would be required to pay all relevant school impact fees. These fees would be distributed as appropriate to the LAUSD and would provide funds for any additional school facilities that could be required as a result of future increases in student enrollment through additional residential projects. A majority of schools serving the project site anticipate declining enrollment; therefore, implementation of future residential projects

would not immediately result in overcrowding existing schools and would not necessitate the need for any additional school facilities. The proposed plans would be consistent with applicable policies of Framework Chapter 9 (Infrastructure and Public Services, Schools).

### 4.12.13 Project Impacts and Mitigation

#### ■ Analytic Method

Information on existing levels of service collected from the LAUSD was compared against conditions reasonably expected to occur with implementation of the proposed plans. Proposed policies and development changes in the plans were compared against current conditions to determine if significant impacts to schools would occur.

The Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide (2006) sets forth guidance for the determination of significance of aesthetic impacts. This guidance is based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and provides specific criteria to be considered when making a significance determination. In some cases, the Thresholds Guide includes quantitative thresholds. For purposes of this analysis, Thresholds Guide criteria are used, supplemented by the thresholds identified in Appendix G, where appropriate.

#### ■ Thresholds of Significance

Implementation of the proposed plans may have a significant adverse impact on schools if it would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the need for new or physically altered school facilities, attributed to anticipated growth that exceeds the operational capacities of existing and/or planned school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts

#### ■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

With respect to schools, there were no effects identified that would not have any impact.

#### ■ Less-Than-Significant Impacts

**Impact 4.12-3** Implementation of the proposed plans could result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the need for new or physically altered school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools. Implementation of mitigation measure MM4.12-1 would reduce this impact to *less than significant*.

#### ***Granada Hills–Knollwood***

The Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA is located in a suburbanized area of the City that is predominantly developed with residential uses. Approximately 4 percent of the land within the CPA is currently undeveloped or vacant. The proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan would allow for the development of this vacant or undeveloped land and infill development within the CPA. An increase in

development in the City would result in an increase in people and dwelling units in the CPA, and would generate students that would attend schools in the CPA. No school facilities are proposed as part of the proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan.

According to the LAUSD School Facilities Needs Analysis (2006), the additional 4,428 dwelling units would generate approximately 1,781 students (904 elementary school students, 437 middle school students, and 440 high school students) through 2030.<sup>151</sup> The LAUSD schools in this CPA enroll approximately 26,903 students. An increase of 1,781 students represents a growth of approximately 6 percent. This percentage of increase is comparable to the 6 percent increase in total population anticipated in the proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan projections. As of July 2009, as shown in Table 4.12-14, the LAUSD has indicated that nine schools within the CPA are currently over capacity and seven of these schools will be over capacity in the future.

It is possible that the LAUSD would need to expand existing schools and/or provide new facilities in order to accommodate the growth proposed in the Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan. In fact, as shown in Table 4.12-15, the LAUSD has indicated that several new schools are planned for the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA that could alleviate overcrowding. While overcrowded schools constitute a social impact, they do not rise to the level of an environmental impact. The LAUSD planning department would make the choice to provide new or physically altered school facilities and any new facility would undergo its own environmental analysis to address site-specific environmental concerns.

The state has a mechanism in place to collect funding needed to improve schools. Any future development that would occur as a result of the proposed plan would be subject to California Education Code Section 17620(a)(1), which states that the governing board of any school district is authorized to levy a fee, charge, dedication, or other requirement against any construction within the boundaries of the district, for the purpose of funding the construction or reconstruction of school facilities. Additionally, future projects would be subject to the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 (SB 50), which sets a maximum level of fees a developer may be required to pay to reduce a project's impacts on school facilities. The provisions of SB 50 are deemed to provide full and complete mitigation of school facilities impacts, notwithstanding any contrary provisions in CEQA or other State or local laws (Government Code Section 65996). In addition, standard City mitigation measures provide for the payment of appropriate fees to offset school impacts.

Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan Policies CF4.1 through CF4.5 would place a high priority on the repair and improvement of inadequate school structures, coordinate with LAUSD to plan future school sites to accommodate growth, locate new schools with complementary land uses and encourage compatibility between locations, and encourage joint use for recreational purposes.

Furthermore, existing Framework policies would help to minimize any impacts to school. Framework Policies 9.31.1, 9.32.1 through 9.32.3, 9.33.1, and 9.33.2 call for the City to participate in the development of demographic estimates for school planning, to cooperate with LAUSD to expand schools facilities commensurate with population growth, explore alternatives for new school sites, and to strategize on

---

<sup>151</sup> Student generation rates are as follows for multi-family residential units: 0.2042 elementary (K–5), 0.0988 middle (6–8), and 0.0995 high (9–12) students per dwelling unit. The rates vary slightly with single-family units, but provide an accurate approximation.

planning and access for school facilities. These policies, in conjunction with state-mandated funding mechanisms and mitigation measure MM4.12-1, would reduce impacts to school services from implementation of the Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan to *less than significant*.

## Sylmar

The Sylmar CPA is located in a suburbanized area of the City that is predominantly developed with residential uses. Approximately 11 percent of the land within the CPA is currently undeveloped or vacant. The proposed Sylmar Community Plan would allow for the development of this vacant or undeveloped land and infill development within the CPA. An increase in development in the City would result in an increase in people and dwelling units in the CPA, and would generate students that would attend schools in the CPA.

According to the LAUSD School Facilities Needs Analysis (2006), the additional 6,498 dwelling units would generate approximately 2,616 students (1,327 elementary school students, 642 middle school students, and 647 high school students) through 2030.<sup>152</sup> The LAUSD in the Sylmar CPA enrolls approximately 24,469 students. An increase of 2,616 students represents a growth of approximately 8 percent. As of July 2009, as shown in Table 4.12-16, the LAUSD has indicated that eight schools within the Sylmar CPA are currently over capacity and nine of schools will be over capacity in the future.

It is possible that the LAUSD would need to expand existing schools and/or provide new facilities in order to accommodate the growth proposed in the plan and implementing ordinances. In fact, as shown in Table 4.12-17, LAUSD has indicated that several new schools are planned for the Sylmar CPA that could alleviate overcrowding. While overcrowded schools constitute a social impact, they do not rise to the level of an environmental impact. The LAUSD planning department would make the choice to provide new or physically altered school facilities and any new facility would undergo its own environmental analysis to address site-specific environmental concerns.

The state has a mechanism in place to collect funding needed to improve schools. Any future development that would occur as a result of the proposed plan and implementing ordinances would be subject to California Education Code Section 17620(a)(1), which states that the governing board of any school district is authorized to levy a fee, charge, dedication, or other requirement against any construction within the boundaries of the district, for the purpose of funding the construction or reconstruction of school facilities. Additionally, future projects would be subject to the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 (SB 50), which sets a maximum level of fees a developer may be required to pay to reduce a project's impacts on school facilities. The provisions of SB 50 are deemed to provide full and complete mitigation of school facilities impacts, notwithstanding any contrary provisions in CEQA or other State or local laws (Government Code Section 65996). In addition, standard City mitigation measures provide for the payment of appropriate fees to offset school impacts.

The Sylmar Community Plan includes policies for school facilities would help minimize potential impacts to schools in the CPA. Policies CF4.1 through CF4.5 would place a high priority on the repair and

---

<sup>152</sup> Student generation rates are as follows for multi-family residential units: 0.2042 elementary (K–5), 0.0988 middle (6–8), and 0.0995 high (9–12) students per dwelling unit. The rates vary slightly with single-family units, but provide an accurate approximation.

improvement of inadequate school structures, coordinate with LAUSD to plan future school sites to accommodate growth, locate new schools with complementary land uses and encourage compatibility between locations, and encourage joint use for recreational purposes.

Furthermore, existing Framework polices would help to minimize any impacts to schools. GPF Policies 9.31.1, 9.32.1 through 9.32.3, 9.33.1, and 9.33.2 call for the City to participate in the development of demographic estimates for school planning, to cooperate with LAUSD to expand schools facilities commensurate with population growth, explore alternatives for new school sites, and to strategize on planning and access for school facilities. These policies in conjunction with state-mandated funding mechanisms, and mitigation measure MM4.12-1, would reduce impacts to school service and this impact is *less than significant*.

## ■ Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

There are no significant and unavoidable impacts with respect to schools.

## ■ Mitigation Measures

The proposed plans incorporate policies that help reduce impacts related to community-specific school service issues. In addition, the City of Los Angeles provides standard City mitigation measures that are applied on a project-by-project basis, where applicable. These standard City mitigation measures are part of the conditions of approval for projects that are subject to approval and permitting by the City. In addition to these programs and policies, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented for the Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar Community Plans:

*MM4.12-1 Individual project applicants shall pay school fees to the Los Angeles Unified School District to offset the impact of additional student enrollment at schools serving the Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar Community Plan Areas.*

## ■ Level of Significance after Mitigation

Implementation of the described mitigation would reduce impacts on schools to *less than significant*.

### 4.12.14 Cumulative Impacts-Schools

Cumulative impacts are only analyzed for those impacts that achieve a significance level of less-than-significant or higher. Therefore, thresholds with no impact will not be analyzed in this section.

The geographic context for this cumulative analysis is the City of Los Angeles, as served by the LAUSD. Past and present development in the City as a whole has not caused a deficit in school services, as many schools are under-enrolled compared to capacity. However, future cumulative development in this geographic context could create a significant impact on the school capacity citywide. The analysis of school service impacts resulting from the adoption and implementation of the proposed plans and implementing ordinances considers the effects of future growth and development throughout the geographic extent of the CPA. Consequently, impacts of cumulative growth are already incorporated throughout the assessment of school service impacts. However, payment of school fees is considered full

mitigation for all school impacts; therefore, the cumulative impact of past, present, and future development on schools would not be significant. Appropriate school fees would be paid for all new development, the proposed plans would have a *less than significant* cumulative impact on schools.

#### 4.12.15 References—Schools

- Los Angeles Department of City Planning. *The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan*. CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162, adopted August 8, 2001. <http://cityplanning.lacity.org>.
- Los Angeles Unified School District. District Profiles Website. Districtwide Search. <http://search.lausd.k12.ca.us/cgi-bin/fccgi.exe?w3exec=profile0> (accessed January 19, 2011).
- . Fax correspondence from Developer Fee Program Office, January 24, 2008.
- . *School Facilities Fee Plan*, March 2, 2002.
- Los Angeles Unified School District, Division of Instruction. LAUSD Learning Standards, July 6, 2009. <http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/lausd/offices/instruct/standards/>.
- Los Angeles Unified School District, Facilities Services Division. *New Construction: Strategic Execution Plan 2010*, January 2010.
- . New Construction, January 27, 2011. <http://www.laschools.org/employee/nf/>.
- Los Angeles Unified School District, Office of Communications, News Release, April 17, 2000.
- Orellana, Rosa. Verbal correspondence with Office Manager, Harbor (Math/Science Magnet), March 1, 2012.
- Perez, Rena. Written correspondence with Director, Master Planning and Demographics, Los Angeles Unified School District, September 18, 2009.

#### Libraries

This section of the EIR describes library services within the Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar CPAs and analyzes the potential physical environmental effects related to library services impacts created by construction of new or additional facilities associated with implementation of the proposed plans. The EIR evaluates the environmental impacts related to library services based upon information from a variety of sources including the City of Los Angeles General Plan and the City of Los Angeles ZIMAS (Zone Information and Map Access System) as well as communications with the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL). A regulatory framework is also provided in this section describing applicable agencies and regulations related to library services. Full reference-list entries for all cited materials are provided in Section 4.12.20 (References).

#### 4.12.16 Environmental Setting

The City of Los Angeles Public Library System provides library services to the City, including the Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar CPAs. The Public Libraries Plan, an element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan, was first adopted by the City Council in 1968. It serves as a general guide for the construction, maintenance, and operation of libraries in the City.

The 1988, the Board of Library Commissioners adopted another Library Branch Facilities Plan, consisting of two components: a set of Site Selection Guidelines that establish standards for the size and

features of branch libraries based on location and the population served in each community, and a List of Projects, identifying the facility status and need of each existing branch library and identifying the need for branch libraries in communities without existing libraries. The 1988 Branch Facilities Plan established criteria for the size of libraries, recommending building 10,500 sf facilities for communities with less than 50,000 population and 12,500 sf libraries for communities with more than 50,000 population. When the Branch Facilities Plan was first adopted, only a few of the sixty-three branch libraries met the standards established in the Site Selection Guidelines.

The Branch Facilities Plan was implemented through two Bond Measures: the 1989 Bond Program and the 1998 Bond Program. Phase I, the 1989 Bond Program, provided \$53.4 million for twenty-six projects. Twenty-nine libraries were built in the 1989 Bond Program, with additional funds from the Community Development Block Grant award of Federal funds, from the California State Library Proposition 85, and from Friends of the Library groups for a total branch construction program of \$108 million. Phase II was the 1998 Bond Program which provided \$178.3 million for thirty-two projects. Four additional projects were added through managed savings, Friends of Library contributions, and a California State Library Proposition 14 grant, for a total construction program of \$226.3 million. A total of sixty-five facilities were built and/or renovated under the two Bond Programs. Through separate funding, during the same period, the Central Library was renovated and expanded.

On February 8, 2007, in anticipation of future library services and facilities needs and the population growth projections to the year 2030, the Board of Library Commissioners adopted an updated branch Facilities Plan. According to the 2007 Branch Facilities Plan, the Criteria for New Libraries (formerly the Site Selection Guidelines) propose building larger libraries and the proposed project list includes a total of nineteen projects.

The 2007 Branch Facilities Plan contains new building standards. The 2007 Branch Facilities Plan's Criteria for New Libraries recommends larger branch libraries, as shown in Table 4.12-21 (LAPL Branch Building Size Standards). In general, the recommended sizes are 12,500 sf facilities for communities with less than 45,000 population and 14,500 sf facilities for communities with more than 45,000 population. In addition, it also recommends that when a community reaches a population of 90,000, an additional branch library should be considered for that area.

<b>Table 4.12-21 LAPL Branch Building Size Standards</b>		
<i>Population Served</i>	<i>Size of Facility</i>	<i>Property Required</i>
Above 45,000	14,500 sf	40,000 sf
Below 45,000	12,500 sf	32,500 sf
Expansion or special situation	Special Size	
Regional Branch	Up to 20,000 sf	52,000 sf

SOURCE: Los Angeles Public Library, Branch Facilities Plan Criteria for New Libraries (1998), [http://www.lapl.org/about/Branch\\_Facilities\\_Criteria.pdf](http://www.lapl.org/about/Branch_Facilities_Criteria.pdf) (accessed March 10, 2008).  
sf = square feet

Within the City of Los Angeles, the LAPL provides library services at the Central Library, eight regional branch libraries, seventy-one community branches, and two bookmobile units, consisting of a total of

five individual bookmobiles. Approximately 6.5 million books and other materials comprise the LAPL collection. According to the Citywide General Plan Framework EIR, libraries in the City of Los Angeles have a service area of 2 miles.<sup>153</sup> There is currently one library in the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA, the Granada Hills Branch at 10640 Petit Avenue (see Figure 4.12-1a for location). The Sylmar Branch Library is located at 14561 Polk Street (see Figure 4.12-1b for location).

## 4.12.17 Regulatory Framework

### ■ Federal

There are no federal regulations related to library services applicable to the proposed plans.

### ■ State

There are no state regulations related to library services applicable to the proposed plans.

### ■ Regional

There are no regional regulations related to library services

### ■ Local

#### ***City of Los Angeles General Plan***

The City of Los Angeles General Plan (General Plan) addresses community development goals and policies relative to the distribution of land use, both public and private. The General Plan integrates the citywide elements and community plans, and gives policy direction to the planning regulatory and implementation programs.

The General Plan Framework (Framework) is a more general, long-term, programmatic document, implemented by the various individual elements of the General Plan. Policies related to libraries are contained in the General Plan Framework.

#### ***General Plan Framework***

The City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework (Framework), adopted December 1996 and amended most recently in August 2001, is a long range, citywide, comprehensive growth strategy. The Framework includes policies related to public infrastructure and services. These policies address infrastructure and public service systems, many of which are interrelated and support the City's population and economy. The Framework includes policies which address deficiencies, including the expansion of public services and infrastructure commensurate with levels of demand.

---

<sup>153</sup> City of Los Angeles, *Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework Draft Environmental Impact Report*, SCH No. 94071030, City Case File No. EIR-94-0212, CPC No. 94-03554(GPF), Council File No. 89-2104, prepared by Envicom Corporation (January 19, 1995), Figure L-1 (Los Angeles Public Libraries).

Policies from the General Plan<sup>154</sup> related to libraries are listed in Table 4.12-22 (General Plan Policies Relevant to Libraries).

<b>Table 4.12-22 General Plan Policies Relevant to Libraries</b>	
<i>General Plan Framework—Chapter 9 Infrastructure and Public Services</i>	
<b>Policy No.</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Policy 9.20.1	Develop library standards dealing with the facilities' net floor area, the appropriate number of permanent collection books per resident, and their service radius.
Policy 9.20.2	Develop a citywide policy for locating non-English-language permanent collections.
Policy 9.21.1	Seek additional resources to maintain and expand library services.
Policy 9.21.2	Encourage the expansion of non-traditional library services, such as book mobiles and other book sharing strategies, where permanent facilities are not adequate.
Policy 9.21.3	Encourage the inclusion of library facilities in mixed-use structures in community and regional centers, at transit stations, and in mixed-use boulevards.

SOURCE: Los Angeles Department of City Planning, *The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan* (adopted August 8, 2001), CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162, <http://cityplanning.lacity.org>.

### **Library Facilities Plan**

The Library Facilities Plan is a long-range planning document for future development of LAPL services, including the preparation of cost estimates for property acquisition, design and construction of the proposed library projects and the analysis of options for obtaining funding to build the new libraries. However, it is important to note that there are currently no funding sources to initiate the development of any of the proposed library construction projects. Funding for specific branch library projects (i.e., renovations, expansions, and new construction) is generally funded by bond measures presented to City of Los Angeles voters. As it is unknown at this time what funding for branch library facility projects will be included on future ballots measures, it cannot be assumed that these potential new library facilities would be constructed in the foreseeable future. Library service is funded by the taxes and developer fees that are housed in the General Fund. The budget varies with economic conditions.

### **■ Proposed Plan Policies**

Table 4.12-23 (Proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan Policies) and Table 4.12-24 (Proposed Sylmar Community Plan Policies) list proposed policies that are applicable to issues of libraries.

<sup>154</sup> Los Angeles Department of City Planning, *The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan*, CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162 (adopted August 8, 2001), <http://cityplanning.lacity.org>.

<b>Table 4.12-23 Proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan Policies</b>	
<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy CF3.1	Library Services. Support construction of new libraries and the retention, rehabilitation and expansion of the existing library, as required, to meet the changing needs of the community.
Policy CF3.2	Flexibility of Siting. Encourage new developments to incorporate library facilities in commercial and office buildings, pedestrian-oriented areas, community centers, transit stations, and similarly accessible facilities.
Policy CF3.3	Joint Use. Continue to support joint-use opportunities, especially Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (LARAP) when the City of Los Angeles Library Department and decision-makers review and approve new library sites.
Policy CF3.4	Non-Traditional Services. Expand non-traditional library services, such as book mobiles and other book sharing strategies, where permanent facilities are not available or adequate.

<b>Table 4.12-24 Proposed Sylmar Community Plan Policies</b>	
<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy CF3.1	Library Services. Support construction of new libraries and the retention, rehabilitation and expansion of the existing library, as required, to meet the changing needs of the community.
Policy CF3.2	Flexibility of Siting. Encourage new developments to incorporate library facilities in commercial and office buildings, pedestrian-oriented areas, community centers, transit stations, and similarly accessible facilities, particularly in the western portion of Sylmar.
Policy CF3.3	Joint Use. Continue to support joint-use opportunities, especially joint-use with Los Angeles Unified School District and Los Angeles Recreation and Parks, when the City of Los Angeles Library Department and decision-makers review and approve new library sites.
Policy CF3.4	Non-Traditional Services. Expand non-traditional library services, such as book mobiles and other book sharing strategies, where permanent facilities are not available or adequate.

### Consistency Analysis

The proposed plans will replace the existing 1996 Granada Hills–Knollwood and 1997 Sylmar Community Plans. As discussed below under Impact 4.12-4, it is anticipated that the proposed plans would not require the development of new library facilities or require the rehabilitation of existing library facilities in order to meet the needs of its users. Similarly, implementation of the proposed plans would not preclude inclusion of library facilities or joint-use opportunities. Therefore, implementation of the proposed plans would not conflict with the applicable policy of the City’s General Plan.

## 4.12.18 Project Impacts and Mitigation

### ■ Analytic Method

Impacts on library services are considered significant if an increase in population or building area would result in an increased demand for services that would require the need for new or physically altered library facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios.

The Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide (2006) sets forth guidance for the determination of significance of aesthetic impacts. This guidance is based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and provides specific criteria to be considered when making a significance determination. In some cases, the

Thresholds Guide includes quantitative thresholds. For purposes of this analysis, Thresholds Guide criteria are used, supplemented by the thresholds identified in Appendix G, where appropriate.

## ■ Thresholds of Significance

Implementation of the proposed plans may have a significant adverse impact on library services if it would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered library facilities, attributed to anticipated growth that exceeds the operational capacities of existing and/or planned library facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

## ■ Effects Found Not to Be Significant

There were no effects identified that would not have any impact with respect to libraries.

## ■ Less-Than-Significant Impacts

**Impact 4.12-4**      **Implementation of the proposed plans would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered library facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for libraries. This impact is *less than significant*.**

### ***Granada Hills–Knollwood***

The Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA is currently served by the Granada Hills Branch Library, which is 11,310 sf. The existing branch does not fully meet the current and projected demand for library service and new technology. The 2007 Branch Facilities Plan recommends ultimately replacing the current Granada Hills Branch Library with a new 14,500 sf facility with parking on a new site. Currently, the replacement project is not funded.<sup>155</sup>

The Library Facilities Plan is a long-range planning document for future development of LAPL services, including the preparation of cost estimates for property acquisition, design and construction of the proposed library projects and the analysis of options for obtaining funding to build the new libraries. However, it is important to note that there are currently no funding sources to initiate the development of any of the proposed library construction projects. Funding for specific branch library projects (i.e., renovations, expansions, and new construction) is generally funded by bond measures presented to City of Los Angeles voters. As it is unknown at this time what funding for branch library facility projects would be included on future ballots measures, it cannot be assumed that these potential new library facilities would be constructed in the CPA in the foreseeable future.

In addition to these branch libraries, there are libraries in neighboring community plan areas, as well as all branch libraries in the City of Los Angeles Public Library system, through their inter-library loan services,

---

<sup>155</sup> Rona Berns, Written correspondence with Library Facilities Division, Los Angeles Public Library (May 8, 2009).

continue to augment available library services. Furthermore, all branch libraries provide free access to computer workstations that are connected to the Library's information network. These workstations provide access to the Internet and enable the public to search the LAPL's many electronic resources, including the online catalog and over 100 subscription databases.

The State of California Library Standard, as cited in the Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework Draft EIR, recommends 0.5 sf of public library space per resident.<sup>156</sup> The State also recommends a minimum threshold of two volumes of permanent collection per resident. Based on this standard, at least 164,224 volumes would be needed to serve the existing population of the CPAs. However, the existing permanent collection contains 90,000 volumes and falls short of the State standard by 74,224 volumes.

When other nearby branch libraries are taken into consideration, the library services for the CPAs are enhanced. These branch libraries serve more than one community plan area and it is speculative to assign a percentage or ratio of the total available library space that serves the residences of any given community plan area. There is no City standard regarding the adequacy of materials collections.

Existing Framework Policies 9.21.1 through 9.21.3 seek additional resources to maintain and expand library services, including the expansion of nontraditional library services and inclusion of library facilities in mixed use structures in community and regional centers, transit stations, and mixed-use boulevards. Additionally, although the proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan does not proposed any specific development projects that would include library facilities, proposed Policy CF3.1 encourages new development to incorporate library facilities in commercial or office buildings, pedestrian-oriented areas, community centers, transit stations, and similarly accessible facilities, and Policy CF3.2 supports the construction of new libraries and the retention, rehabilitation, and expansion of existing library sites as required to meet the changing needs of the community. Policies CF3.3 and CF3.4 encourage joint-use libraries and nontraditional library services, such as bookmobiles and other book-sharing strategies, where permanent facilities are not available or adequate. Since existing and proposed policies encourage the development of library facilities as part mixed-use development or as of other development, it is possible a mixed-use facility could be constructed. Library facilities that are part of mixed-use or other development projects would be subject to environmental review of the project as a whole, and would not result in separate environmental impacts related strictly to the library facilities.

The provision of library services is influenced by the distance and the concentration or level of population in a given area. The implementation of the proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan would generally reduce the reasonably expected population capacity of the plan area; however growth is forecast that may affect parts of the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA more than other parts with respect to the provision of library services. The available public library services in Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA, in terms of library space and permanent volume collection, currently do not fully meet library standards based on volumes and square footage. However, online services and virtual libraries with computer workstations that provide access to the library's online catalog, extensive information databases, multimedia software for students, and the availability of additional library facilities adjacent to the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA reduce any impacts from future development. Therefore, it is not

---

<sup>156</sup> City of Los Angeles, *Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework Draft Environmental Impact Report*, SCH No. 94071030, City Case File No. EIR-94-0212, CPC No. 94-03554(GPF), Council File No. 89-2104, prepared by Envicom Corporation (January 19, 1995), pp. 2.13-1 and 2.13-2.

anticipated that additional library locations would be required to serve CPA residents. As such, this impact would be *less than significant*.

### **Sylmar**

The Sylmar CPA is currently served by the Sylmar Branch Library. The existing branch does fully meet the current demand for library service and new technology.

The Library Facilities Plan is a long-range planning document for future development of LAPL services, including the preparation of cost estimates for property acquisition, design and construction of the proposed library projects and the analysis of options for obtaining funding to build the new libraries. However, it is important to note that there are currently no funding sources to initiate the development of any of the proposed library construction projects. Funding for specific branch library projects (i.e., renovations, expansions, and new construction) is generally funded by bond measures presented to City of Los Angeles voters. As it is unknown at this time what funding for branch library facility projects would be included on future ballots measures, it cannot be assumed that these potential new library facilities would be constructed in the CPA in the foreseeable future.

Existing Framework Policies 9.21.1 through 9.21.3 seek additional resources to maintain and expand library services, including the expansion of nontraditional library services and inclusion of library facilities in mixed use structures in community and regional centers, transit stations, and mixed-use boulevards. Additionally, although the proposed Sylmar Community Plan does not proposed any specific development projects that would include library facilities, proposed Policy CF3.1 encourages new development to incorporate library facilities in commercial or office buildings, pedestrian-oriented areas, community centers, transit stations, and similarly accessible facilities, and Policy CF3.2 supports the construction of new libraries and the retention, rehabilitation, and expansion of existing library sites as required to meet the changing needs of the community. Policies CF3.3 and CF3.4 encourage joint-use libraries and nontraditional library services, such as bookmobiles and other book-sharing strategies, where permanent facilities are not available or adequate. Since existing and proposed policies encourage the development of library facilities as part mixed-use development or as of other development, it is possible a mixed-use facility could be constructed. Library facilities that are part of mixed-use or other development projects would be subject to environmental review of the project as a whole, and would not result in separate environmental impacts related strictly to the library facilities.

The provision of library services is influenced by the distance and the concentration or level of population in a given area. The implementation of the proposed Sylmar Community Plan would generally reduce the reasonably expected population capacity of the plan area, however growth is forecast that may affect parts of the Sylmar CPA more than other parts with respect to the provision of library services.

The available public library services in Sylmar CPA, in terms of library space and permanent volume collection, are currently inadequate to meet existing demands from the community's residents based on State library standards. However, on-line services and virtual libraries with computer workstations that provide access to the library's on-line catalog, extensive information databases, multimedia software for students, and free Internet searching for the public may lessen the adverse impacts resulting from a mismatch between available physical library space and resources and the community's need for library

facilities. Therefore, it is not anticipated that additional library locations would be required to serve CPA residents. As such, this impact would be *less than significant*.

### ■ Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

There are no significant and unavoidable impacts with respect to libraries.

### ■ Mitigation Measures

The proposed plans incorporate policies that help reduce impacts related to community-specific library services issues. No mitigation measure would be required.

### ■ Level of Significance After Mitigation

Not applicable, as no mitigation measures are required.

## 4.12.19 Cumulative Impacts—Libraries

The analysis of library service impacts resulting from the adoption and implementation of the proposed plans and implementing ordinances considers the effects of future growth and development throughout the geographic extent of the CPA. Consequently, impacts of cumulative growth are already incorporated throughout the assessment of library service impacts.

The geographic context for this cumulative analysis is the City of Los Angeles, as served by the LAPL. Past and present development in the City has caused a deficit in library services, as evidenced by the LAPL Branch Facilities Plan, which identifies eight new libraries to be constructed. Cumulative development could result in the need for new library facilities, the construction of which could result in adverse environmental impacts. However, development of additional libraries has been planned for in the Branch Facilities Plan and each individual project would be subject to project-specific environmental review. The Granada Hills–Knollwood proposed plan would accommodate a population increase of approximately 7,472 persons in the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA and the Sylmar proposed plan would accommodate a population increase of 17,584 persons in the Sylmar CPA, compared to population levels in 2005. Although build-out of the proposed plans would create increased demands on library services, these demands as well as those created by citywide population growth may be accommodated by expansion of nontraditional library services through on-line services and virtual libraries with computer workstations that provide access to the library's on-line catalog, extensive information databases, multimedia software for students, and free Internet searching. Accordingly, the contribution of the proposed plans population to the cumulative impact would not be cumulatively considerable, and the cumulative impact is *less than significant*.

## 4.12.20 References—Libraries

Berns, Rona. Written correspondence with Library Facilities Division, Los Angeles Public Library, May 8, 2009.

Los Angeles, City of. *Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework Draft Environmental Impact Report*. SCH No. 94071030. City Case File No. EIR-94-0212. CPC No. 94-03554(GPF). Council File No. 89-2104. Prepared by Envicom Corporation, January 19, 1995.

Los Angeles Department of City Planning. *The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan*. CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162, adopted August 8, 2001.  
<http://cityplanning.lacity.org>.

Los Angeles Public Library. Branch Facilities Plan Criteria for New Libraries, 1998.  
[http://www.lapl.org/about/Branch\\_Facilities\\_Criteria.pdf](http://www.lapl.org/about/Branch_Facilities_Criteria.pdf) (accessed March 10, 2008).

———. *Los Angeles Public Library Branch Facilities Plan*, adopted 1988, revised 1998.

## **Parks**

This section of the EIR describes parks and recreation services within the Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar CPAs and analyzes the potential physical environmental effects related to parks and recreation service impacts created by construction of new or additional facilities associated with implementation of the proposed plans. The EIR evaluates the environmental impacts related to parks and recreation services based upon information from a variety of sources including the City of Los Angeles General Plan and the City of Los Angeles ZIMAS (Zone Information and Map Access System) as well as communications with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (LARAP). Full reference-list entries for all cited materials are provided in Section 4.12.25 (References).

### **4.12.21 Environmental Setting**

As set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(a) this section describes the physical environmental conditions in the CPAs at the time the environmental analysis commenced. It constitutes the baseline physical conditions by which the City of Los Angeles will determine whether a parks and recreation services impact is significant and that may be affected by the adoption of the proposed plans.

#### **■ Parks and Recreational Facilities**

The LARAP manages all municipally owned and operated recreation and park facilities within the City. The LARAP operates and maintains over 15,000 acres of parkland with over 400 neighborhood and regional parks, eleven lakes, more than 180 recreation and community centers, twenty-six licensed childcare facilities, and thirteen golf courses.<sup>157</sup>

#### ***Regional Facilities***

There are numerous regional park facilities located in the project area, including O'Melveny Park in Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA and El Cariso Regional Park in Sylmar. Los Angeles contains numerous regional facilities that attract visitors from across southern California and the world, including Castaic Lake Recreation Area, Santa Monica State Beach, Topanga State Park, Los Angeles National Forest, and Griffith Park.

---

<sup>157</sup> Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, A Message from the General Manager, <http://www.laparks.org/dept.htm> (accessed: February 1, 2011).

## **Local Parks**

The Public Recreation Plan, a portion of the Public Facilities and Service Systems Element of the City's General Plan, categorizes parks into three groups: neighborhood, community, and regional. Ideally, neighborhood parks are 5 to 10 acres in size, have a service radius of approximately 0.5 mile, and are pedestrian-accessible without crossing a major arterial street or highway/freeway. Community parks are ideally 15 to 20 acres, have a service radius of 2 miles, and are easily accessible to the area served. Regional parks in the City are ideally greater than 50 acres, provide specialized recreational facilities and/or attractions, and have a service radius encompassing the entire Los Angeles region. The Public Recreation Plan establishes the standard of 2 acres per 1,000 persons for neighborhood parks and 2 acres per 1,000 persons for community parks.

In addition to the CPA's public recreational facilities, the CPAs have a variety of private recreational facilities, which are offered to members, guests, or students only. Examples include private gyms, swimming pools, and basketball and volleyball courts. Recreation facilities within private multi-family developments also provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities. In addition to the City's formal recreational structure, there is the informal or improvised recreational network present in any community. Public streets and hillside areas provide for jogging, bicycling, and unstructured children's play. The City's elaborate network of public and private open space and landscaping encourages such informal uses.

## **Granada Hills–Knollwood**

The Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA contains substantial open space in the north portion of the CPA, some of which is used for nonrecreational purposes, but much of the open space is recreational, including Bee Canyon, O'Melveny Park, Zelzah Park, and Petit Park. In addition to the CPA's public recreational facilities, the CPAs have a variety of private recreational facilities, which are offered to members, guests, or students only. Examples include private gyms, swimming pools, and basketball and volleyball courts. Recreation facilities within private multi-family developments also provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities. In addition to the City's formal recreational structure, there is the informal or improvised recreational network present in any community. Public streets and hillside areas provide for jogging, bicycling, and unstructured children's play. The City's elaborate network of public and private landscaping encourages such informal uses.

Table 4.12-25 (Parks and Recreation Facilities [Granada Hills–Knollwood]) includes parks and recreation facilities and parks that are located within the CPA (also refer to Figure 4.12-3a (Park and Recreation Center Facilities [Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA]) for park locations). There are currently no plans to add any new park or recreational facilities in the CPA.

<b>Table 4.12-25 Parks and Recreation Facilities (Granada Hills–Knollwood)</b>				
<i>Location No.</i>	<i>Facility</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Features</i>
1	Bee Canyon Park	22.2	17301 Sesnon Blvd	Children's play area, picnic tables, hiking trails
2	Granada Hills Park	17.8	16730 Chatsworth St	Tennis courts, soccer fields, baseball fields, passive open space
3	Granada Hills Youth Recreation Center	18.2	13100 Balboa Blvd	Auditorium, barbecue pits, basketball courts, children's play area, community room, indoor gym, picnic tables
4	O'Melveny Park	695.7	17300 Sesnon Blvd	Picnic tables, hiking trails, jogging path
5	Van Norman Lakes Reservoir	10.9	15800 Rinaldi St	Baseball fields
6	Zelzah Park	9.7	11690 Zelzah Ave	Children's play area, picnic tables, bridal trail
<b>Total Park Acres</b>		<b>774.5</b>		

SOURCE: Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Facility Locator, <http://www.laparks.org>;

## Sylmar

The community of Sylmar has a total of seven parks, including four regional parks, two community parks, and two neighborhoods parks. Regional parkland includes El Cariso Regional Community Park, El Cariso Golf Course, Veterans Memorial Regional Park, and Wilson Canyon Park. With the exception of Wilson Canyon Park, all three parks are owned and operated by the LARAP. Wilson Canyon Park is owned and operated by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

In addition to the CPA's public recreational facilities, the CPAs have a variety of private recreational facilities, which are offered to members, guests, or students only. Examples include private gyms, swimming pools, and basketball and volleyball courts. Recreation facilities within private multi-family developments also provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities. In addition to the City's formal recreational structure, there is the informal or improvised recreational network present in any community. Public streets and hillside areas provide for jogging, bicycling, and unstructured children's play. The City's elaborate network of public and private landscaping encourages such informal uses.

Table 4.12-26 (Parks and Recreation Facilities [Sylmar]) includes parks and recreation facilities and parks that are located within the CPA (also refer to Figure 4.12-3b [Park and Recreation Center Facilities—Sylmar CPA] for park locations). There are currently no plans to add any new park or recreational facilities in the CPA.

**Table 4.12-26 Parks and Recreation Facilities (Sylmar)**

<i>Location #</i>	<i>Facility</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Features</i>
1	El Cariso Community Regional Park <sup>a</sup>	79	13100 Hubbard Street	Picnic areas, play areas, tennis courts, community swimming pool, basketball court, horseshoe pit, community building, outdoor exercise area
2	Veterans Memorial Community Regional Park <sup>a</sup>	96.5	13000 Sayre Street	Open space, grassy picnic areas, large pavilion, camping areas and a community recreation building
3	Wilson Canyon Park <sup>b</sup>	240	14450 Olive View Drive	Secluded wilderness, network of easy-to-moderate trails.
4	Carey Ranch Park	23.8	15035 Crestknoll Drive	Passive open space, children's play area, picnic tables
5	Stetson Ranch Park	28.3	13877 Glenoaks Boulevard	Equestrian trails, horse ranch, riding arenas, shows, stables
6	Sylmar Park	19.8	13109 Borden Avenue	Auditorium, baseball field, basketball courts, children's play area, community room, indoor gym, picnic tables, soccer field, tennis courts
7	Telfair Park	1.3	15721 Cobalt Street	Passive open space, trails, picnic tables, children's play area, barbeques
<b>Total Park Acres</b>		<b>488.7</b>		

SOURCE: Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Facility Locator, <http://www.laparks.org>; LAMountains.com, Homepage, <http://www.lamountains.com/> (accessed August 27, 2012); Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, Parks and Recreation (2012), <http://parks.lacounty.gov/>.

a. Operated by Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

b. Operated by Los Angeles County Department of Recreation and Parks.

In addition to the parks noted above, the El Cariso Golf Course, 13100 Eldridge Street, offers an eighteen-hole golf course, banquet facilities, and pro shop.

## 4.12.22 Regulatory Framework

### ■ Federal

There are no federal regulations applicable to parkland or recreational facilities

### ■ State

#### **Quimby Act**

The Quimby Act was established by the California legislature in 1965 to provide parks for the growing communities in California. The Act authorizes cities to adopt ordinances addressing parkland and/or fees for residential subdivisions for the purpose of providing and preserving open space and recreational facilities and improvements. The Act requires that cities cannot set a standard higher than 3 acres of park area per 1,000 persons unless the amount of existing neighborhood and community park area meets or exceeds that limit, in which case the City may adopt a higher standard not to exceed 5 acres per 1,000 residents. The Quimby Act also specifies acceptable uses and expenditures of such funds.

## ■ Local

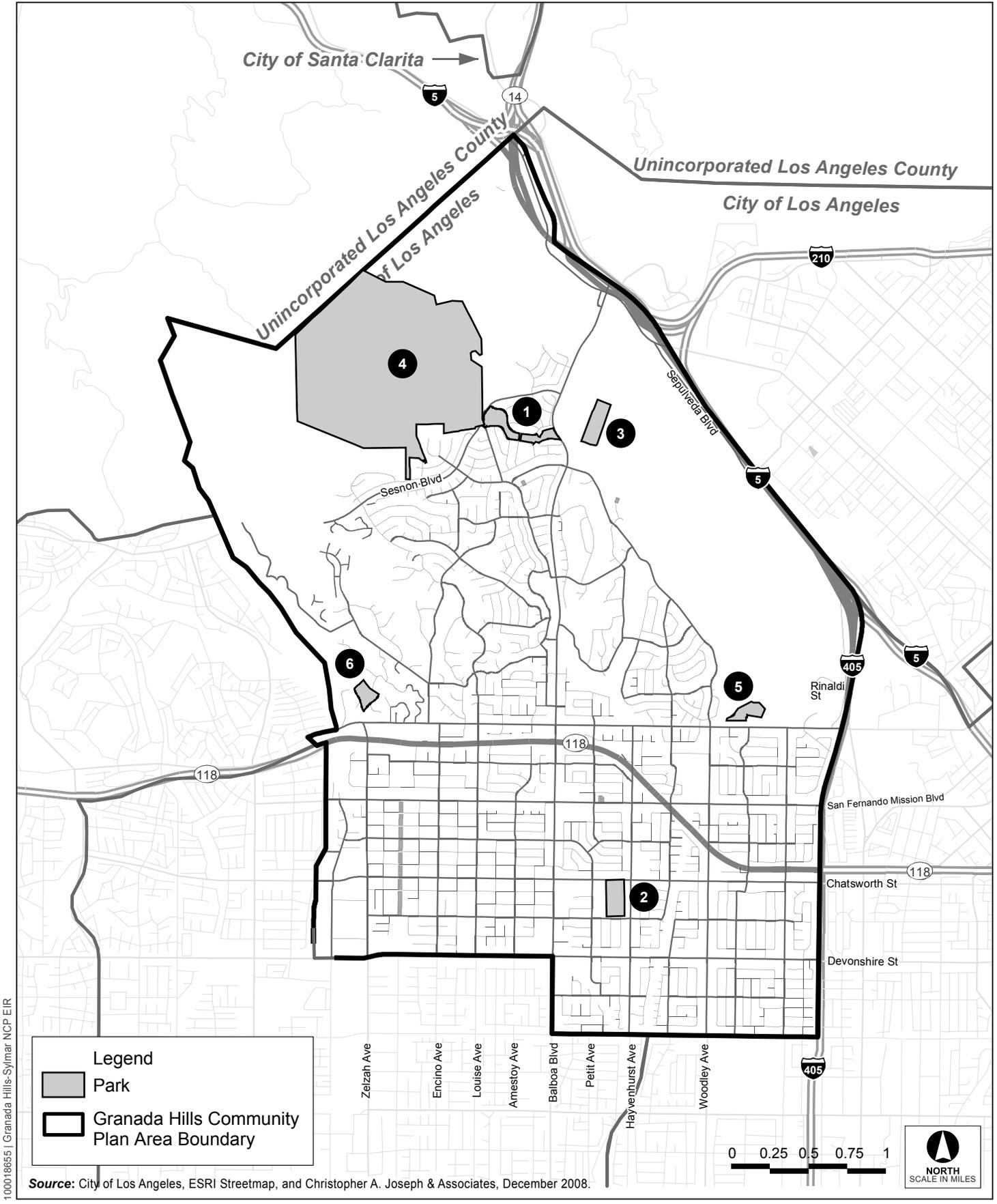
### Public Recreation Plan

The Public Recreation Plan categorizes parks into three types: neighborhood, community, and regional. Ideally, neighborhood parks have a service radius of approximately 0.5 mile and are pedestrian-accessible without crossing a major arterial street or highway/freeway. Community parks have a service radius of 2 miles and are easily accessible to the area served. Regional parks in the City provide specialized recreational facilities and/or attractions and have a service radius encompassing the entire Los Angeles region. The Public Recreation Plan also provides the City’s standard long-range ratios for parks to population. The City’s standard ratio of parks to population is 2 acres per 1,000 residents for neighborhood parks and 2 acres per 1,000 residents for community parks, or 4 acres per 1,000 residents of combined neighborhood and community parks.

In 2005, the population in the Granada Hill-Knollwood CPA was 58,696 persons and 71,794 persons in the Sylmar CPA. This results in a park-to-population ratio of 13 acres per 1,000 residents in the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA and 6.8 acres per 1,000 residents in the Sylmar GPA.

Table 4.12-27 (Public Recreation Plan Policies and Programs Relevant to Recreation) lists policies and programs included in the Public Recreation Plan. Using Quimby Act standard, the available parks and recreation facilities in both CPAs, even at maximum build-out, would exceed the standard and no deficiency exists.

<b>Table 4.12-27 Public Recreation Plan Policies and Programs Relevant to Recreation</b>	
<i>Service Systems Element</i>	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Policy or Program</i>
Policy	Recreational facilities and services should be provided for all segments of the population on the basis of present and future projected needs, the local recreational standards, and the City’s ability to finance.
Policy	Park and recreation sites shall be acquired and developed first in those areas of the City found to be most deficient in terms of the recreation standards.
Policy	Recreational use should be considered for available open space and unused or underused land, particularly publicly owned lands having potential for multiple uses.
Policy	High priority will be given to areas of the City which have the fewest recreational services and the greatest numbers of potential users.
Program	Continue to include land acquisition for park and recreational purposes as a regular item in the City’s Five Year Capital Improvement Program.
Program	Prepare a priority schedule based on greatest need for acquiring and developing park and recreational sites.
Program	Seek federal, state, and private funds to implement acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities.
Program	Establish policies to facilitate donation of parks to the City.
SOURCE: Los Angeles Department of City Planning, <i>General Plan of the City of Los Angeles</i> , Service Systems Element—Public Recreation Plan (1980).	



100018655 | Granada Hills-Sylmar NCP EIR

Figure 4.12-3a

**Park and Recreation Center Facilities (Granada Hills-Knollwood CPA)**

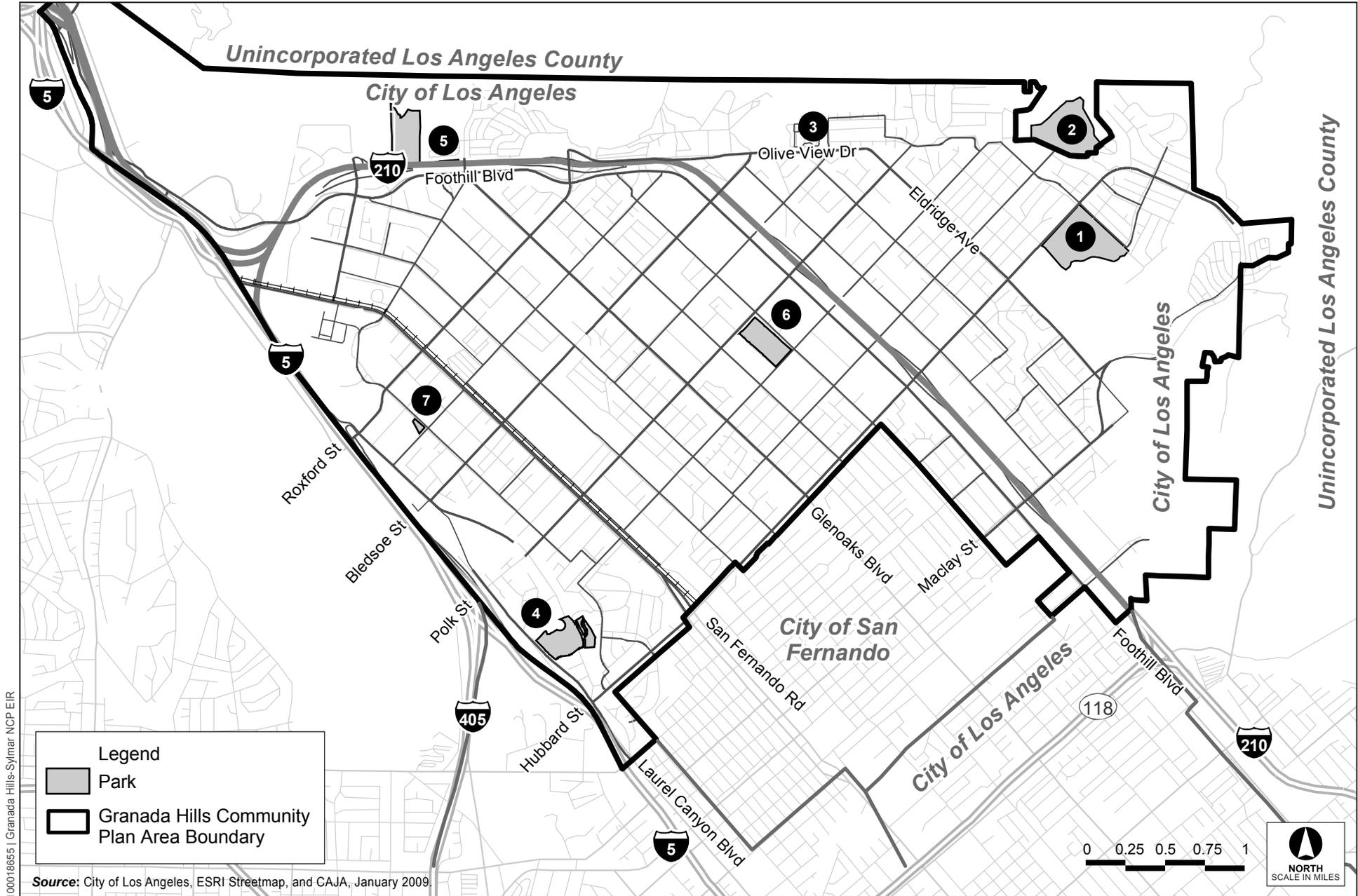


Figure 4.12-3b  
 Park and Recreation Center Facilities (Sylmar CPA)

## Los Angeles General Plan

The Los Angeles General Plan establishes goals, policies, and programs that serve as a decision-making tool to guide future growth and development in the City. The Service Systems Element of the General Plan contains a Public Recreation Plan, which specifies standards, policies, and programs for the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (LARAP).

The City of Los Angeles Framework, adopted in 1996 and amended most recently in 2001, is a long-range, citywide, comprehensive growth strategy included as an element of the Los Angeles General Plan. The Framework also includes policies related to public infrastructure and services. These policies address infrastructure and public service systems, many of which are interrelated and support the City’s population and economy. The policies related to parks and recreation are listed in Table 4.12-28 (General Plan Policies Relevant to Parks and Recreation).

**Table 4.12-28 General Plan Policies Relevant to Parks and Recreation**

Policy No.	Policy
<b>PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT</b>	
Policy 9.22.1	Monitor and report appropriate park and recreation statistics and compare with population projections and demand to identify the existing and future recreation and parks needs of the City.
Policy 9.23.1	Develop a strategy to purchase and develop land for parks, which is consistent with the appropriate open space policies found in Chapter 6 (Open Space and Conservation).
Policy 9.23.2	Prioritize the implementation of recreation and park projects in areas of the City with the greatest existing deficiencies.
Policy 9.23.3	Establish joint-use agreements with the Los Angeles Unified School District and other public and private entities which could contribute to the availability of recreation opportunities.
Policy 9.23.4	Pursue resources to clean-up land that could be used by the City for public recreation.
Policy 9.23.5	Re-evaluate the current park standards and develop modified standards which recognize urban parks, including multi-level facilities, smaller sites, more intense use of land, public/private partnerships and so on.
Policy 9.23.6	Identify and purchase, whenever possible, sites in every neighborhood, center, and mixed-use boulevard, and maximize opportunities for the development and/or use of public places and open spaces on private land in targeted growth areas.
Policy 9.23.7	Establish guidelines for developing non-traditional public park spaces like community gardens, farmer’s markets, and public plazas.
Policy 9.23.8	Prepare an update of the General Plan Public Facilities and Services Element based on the new Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks standards by 2005.
Policy 9.24.1	Phase the development of new programs and facilities to accommodate projected growth.
Policy 9.24.2	Develop Capital Improvement Programs that take into account the City’s forecasted growth patterns and current deficiencies.
Policy 9.25.1	Continue to actively participate in emergency planning.
Policy 9.25.2	Continue to utilize parks and recreation facilities as shelters in times of emergency.

SOURCE: Los Angeles Department of City Planning, *Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan* (August 8, 2001), Chapter 9 (Infrastructure and Public Services), <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/cwd/framwvk/chapters/09/09.htm> (accessed February 2, 2011).

## ***City of Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC)***

The City of Los Angeles has established a local ordinance, LAMC Section 17.12 (Park and Recreation Site Acquisition and Development Provisions), which requires land dedication or payment of fees for park or recreational purposes for projects involving residential subdivision. LAMC Section 17.12 provides standards for land acreage requirements by project density and identifies fees per unit by zoning designation. Pursuant to LAMC Section 17.12(B), the percentage of gross subdivision area required to be dedicated for park and recreation purposes ranges from 0.9 percent (for subdivisions with a net density of one dwelling unit per acre) to 32.0 percent (for subdivisions with a net density of 100 dwelling units per acre or less). As discussed above, the Quimby Act states that the dedication of land, or payment of fees, or both, shall not exceed a maximum of 3 acres of park area per 1,000 project residents if the current ratio is not already that high. Quimby fees are used to acquire necessary land and/or develop new neighborhood and community parks or recreation facilities, which would reasonably serve each residential project. In subdivisions containing more than 50 dwelling units, the City allows developers to dedicate parkland in lieu of paying fees.

### **Parkland Fees**

Pursuant to LAMC Section 21.10.3(a)(1) (Dwelling Unit Construction Tax), the City imposes a tax of \$200 per dwelling unit on all construction of new and modification of existing dwelling units to be paid to the Department of Building and Safety. These Parkland fees are placed into a “Park and Recreational Sites and Facilities Fund to be used exclusively for the acquisition and development of park and recreational sites. If a developer has already paid Quimby fees, as described under Section 17.12, or has dedicated in lieu parkland or recreational facilities, the Parkland fees required may be reduced accordingly.

### **City of Los Angeles Code-Required Open Space**

The LAMC provides minimum standards for the amount of “open space” that residential development projects should provide on site. Open space includes both common and private greenspace and recreational amenities that meet specific standards. Pursuant to LAMC Section 12.21(G), new construction in the City of six or more dwelling units on a lot is required to provide at a minimum 100 sf of usable open space for each dwelling unit having less than three habitable rooms; 125 sf for each dwelling unit having three habitable rooms; and 175 sf for each dwelling unit having more than three habitable rooms.

## **■ Proposed Plan Policies**

Table 4.12-29 (Proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan Policies) and Table 4.12-30 (Proposed Sylmar Community Plan Policies) list proposed policies that are applicable to issues of parks.

**Table 4.12-29 Proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan Policies**

<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy CF5.1	Parkland Preservation. Protect parklands from uses that would result in a loss of acreage for recreational purposes.
Policy CF5.2	Site Enhancements. Enhance and improve all parks and recreation areas by providing amenities where appropriate, such as pedestrian paths, bike and equestrian trails, and adequate parking.
Policy CF5.3	Surplus Property. Coordinate with the RAP and other applicable City departments, such as the Department of General Services and Department of Transportation, to review and evaluate surplus property as potential sites for parks and recreational activities.
Policy CF5.4	Vacant Land. Encourage continuous effort by public agencies to acquire vacant parcels for publicly owned open space and parks.
Policy CF5.5	Existing Public Land. Support the creation of new parks and park expansions within public rights-of-way, such as flood control channels, utility easements, debris basins, and other unused and underutilized public properties. Hiking, bicycle, and equestrian trails in Granada Hills–Knollwood should connect these facilities with parks and open spaces throughout the community.
Policy CF5.6	New Development. Encourage and allow opportunities for new development to provide pocket parks, small plazas, community gardens, commercial spaces, and other gathering places that are available to help meet recreational demands.
Policy CF5.7	Joint Use Agreements. Support the establishment of joint-use agreements with private and other public entities to increase recreational opportunities in Granada Hills–Knollwood, including shared use of land owned by public agencies and private property owners.
Policy CF5.8	Public Transit. Coordinate with the appropriate departments and agencies to create public transit that can connect neighborhoods to regional parks.
Policy CF5.9	Park Safety. Promote the design, construction, maintenance, and management of public parks to ensure that parks are adequately monitored, maintained, and illuminated at night, especially for families with children and senior citizens who use the parks.

**Table 4.12-30 Proposed Sylmar Community Plan Policies**

<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy CF5.1	Parkland Preservation. Protect parklands from uses that would result in a loss of acreage for recreational purposes.
Policy CF5.2	Site Enhancements. Enhance and improve all parks and areas by providing amenities where appropriate, such as pedestrian paths, and bike and equestrian trails.
Policy CF5.3	Surplus Property. Coordinate with the RAP and other applicable City departments, such as the Department of General Services and Department of Transportation, to review and evaluate surplus property as potential sites for parks and recreational activities.
Policy CF5.4	Vacant Land. Encourage continuous efforts by public agencies to acquire vacant parcels for publicly owned open space and parks.
Policy CF5.5	Public Rights-of-Way. Support the creation of new parks expansions within public rights-of-way, such as flood control channels, utility easements, debris basins, and other unused and underutilized public properties. Hiking, bicycle, and equestrian trails in Sylmar should connect these facilities with the Angeles National Forest, Hansen Dam Recreation Area, El Cariso Regional Park, and the Pacoima Wash.
Policy CF5.6	New Development. Encourage and allow opportunities for new development to provide pocket parks, small plazas, community gardens, commercial spaces, and other gathering places that are available to help meet recreational demands.
Policy CF5.7	Location. Encourage neighborhood parks and recreational centers near concentrations of residential areas and include safe pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths that encourage non-motorized use.
Policy CF5.8	Design. Encourage the development of new park facilities to the semi-rural suburban character of the community by utilizing architectural features and building materials that embrace the area’s agricultural and equestrian heritage.

<b>Table 4.12-30 Proposed Sylmar Community Plan Policies</b>	
<i>Policy No.</i>	<i>Policy</i>
Policy CF5.9	Joint-Use. Support the establishment of joint-use agreements with other public and private entities to increase recreational opportunities in Sylmar, including shared use of land owned by public agencies and private property owners.
Policy CF5.10	Public Transit. Coordinate with the appropriate departments and agencies to create public transit that can connect neighborhoods to regional parks.
Policy CF5.11	Park Safety. Promote the design, construction, maintenance, and management of public parks to ensure that parks are adequately monitored, maintained, and illuminated at night, especially for families with children and senior citizens who use the parks.

### **Consistency Analysis**

The proposed plans contain goals, objectives, policies, and programs that the City would promote during the lifespan of the plans and implementing ordinances. Open Space and Conservation goals of the Framework are intended to promote and enhance the conservation and protection of natural resources, recreation, and open space of neighborhoods by upgrading the quality of development and improving the quality of the public realm. The proposed plans would be consistent with the policies set forth in the Open Space and Conservation section of the City’s Framework document. Therefore, the proposed plans would be consistent with applicable guidelines and regulations.

## **4.12.23 Project Impacts and Mitigation**

### **■ Analytic Method**

Impacts on parks and recreation services are considered significant if an increase in population or building area would require the need for new park facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios. The City maintains a standard of 2 acres per 1,000 residents for neighborhood parks and 2 acres per 1,000 residents for community parks, or 4 acres per 1,000 residents of combined neighborhood and community parks, as adequate parkland ratio, according to the Public Recreation Plan of the Los Angeles General Plan. Based on these criteria, the impact of the proposed plans on park services is evaluated.

The Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide (2006) sets forth guidance for the determination of significance of aesthetic impacts. This guidance is based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and provides specific criteria to be considered when making a significance determination. In some cases, the Thresholds Guide includes quantitative thresholds. For purposes of this analysis, Thresholds Guide criteria are used, supplemented by the thresholds identified in Appendix G, where appropriate.

### **■ Thresholds of Significance**

Implementation of the proposed plans may have a significant adverse impact on parks and recreation services if it would:

- Result in substantial physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered park facilities due to increased demand for recreational services and facilities attributed to anticipated population increase, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts

## ■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

There were no effects identified that would not have any impact with respect to parks.

## ■ Less-Than-Significant Impacts

**Impact 4.12-5** Implementation of the proposed plans could result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered park facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts. Implementation of mitigation measures MM4.12-2 through MM4.12-4 would reduce this impact to *less than significant*.

### **Granada Hills–Knollwood**

The CPA is located in a suburbanized area of the City that is predominantly developed with residential uses. The proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan accommodates a population of 66,168 persons at maximum build-out, an increase of 7,472 persons compared to 2005 data. This additional population may increase the use of and demand for park facilities in the CPA.

Based on the 2005 resident population in the CPA of 58,696, and the CPA’s park inventory of 774.5 acres, the current parkland ratio in the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA is 13.2 acres per 1,000 residents. This is well above the combined standard of 4 acres of combined community/neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents as set forth in the Public Recreation Plan, and indicates that the CPA is well served by parkland. Implementation of the proposed Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan would accommodate an approximate population increase of 7,472. Since no future park facilities are proposed in the CPA, this would change the existing park ratio to 11.7 acres per 1,000 residents, still maintaining a ratio higher than the 4 acres per 1,000 residents as required by the Public Recreation Plan. Regional parks would gain additional users from the population increase, but these facilities are large enough to absorb the burden of any new visitors. Substantial adverse physical impacts would not occur, and new park construction would not be required. Additionally, if future developments were subdivided, they would be required to comply with LAMC Section 17.12 and either dedicate land or pay fees to compensate for necessary parkland. Also new residential development would be required to pay \$200 per dwelling unit pursuant to LAMC Section 12.10.3(a)(1), which would be used for the acquisition and development of park and recreational facilities.

The Granada Hills–Knollwood Community Plan includes policies to meet the parks and recreational needs of the community. Policies CF5.1 through CF5.9 protect and preserve existing parkland, provide for enhancements as appropriate, such as pedestrian and bike paths and equestrian trails. The policies further ask for coordination with LARAP and other applicable City departments, such as the Department of General Services and Department of Transportation, to review and evaluate surplus property as potential sites for parks and recreational activities, support initiatives to develop vacant publicly owned parcels as parks and encourage continuous efforts by public agencies to acquire vacant parcels for publicly owned open space and parks, and support the creation of new parks and park expansions within public rights-of-way, such as flood control channels, utility easements, debris basins, and other unused and underutilized public properties.

Existing Framework Policies 9.22.1, 9.23.1 through 9.23.8, 9.24.1, 9.24.2, 9.25.1, and 9.25.2 call for the City to monitor of park and recreation statistics to identify existing and future park and recreation needs in the City, develop a strategy to purchase and develop parks, prioritize park projects in areas of the City with the greatest existing deficiencies, establish joint-use agreements with LAUSD to expand recreational opportunities, and to maximize the opportunities to develop parklands, including nontraditional public park spaces. Implementation of the City's Codes and requirements, implementation of standard City mitigation measures, mitigation measures MM4.12-2 through MM4.12-4 and existing policies described above would ensure that impacts to parks is *less than significant*.

## **Sylmar**

The Sylmar CPA is located in a suburbanized area of the City that is predominantly developed with residential uses. The proposed Sylmar Community Plan accommodates a population of 89,378 persons at maximum build-out, an increase of 17,584 persons compared to 2005 data. This additional population may increase the use of and demand for park facilities in the CPA.

Based on the 2005 resident population in the CPA of 71,794 and the CPA's park inventory of 488.7 acres, the current parkland ratio in the Sylmar CPA is 6.8 acres per 1,000 residents. This is well above the combined standard of 4 acres of combined community/neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents as set forth in the Public Recreation Plan, and indicates that the CPA is well served by parkland. Implementation of the proposed Sylmar Community Plan would accommodate for an approximate population increase of 17,584. Since no future park facilities are proposed in the CPA, this would change the existing park ratio to 5.5 acres per 1,000 residents, still maintaining a ratio higher than the 4 acres per 1,000 residents as required by the Public Recreation Plan. Regional parks would gain additional users from the population increase, but these facilities are large enough to absorb the burden of any new visitors. Substantial adverse physical impacts would not occur, and new park construction would not be required. Additionally, if future developments were subdivided, they would be required to comply with LAMC Section 17.12 and either dedicate land or pay fees to compensate for necessary parkland. Also new residential development would be required to pay \$200 per dwelling unit pursuant to LAMC Section 12.10.3(a)(1), which would be used for the acquisition and development of park and recreational facilities.

The proposed Sylmar Community Plan contains policies to protect and preserve parkland. Policies CF5.1 through CF5.9 protect and preserve existing parkland, provide for enhancements as appropriate, such as pedestrian and bike paths and equestrian trails. The policies further ask for coordination with LARAP and other applicable City departments, such as the Department of General Services and Department of Transportation, to review and evaluate surplus property as potential sites for parks and recreational activities, support initiatives to develop vacant publicly owned parcels as parks and encourage continuous efforts by public agencies to acquire vacant parcels for publicly owned open space and parks, and support the creation of new parks and park expansions within public rights-of-way, such as flood control channels, utility easements, debris basins, and other unused and underutilized public properties. The proposed policies further provide that hiking, bicycle, and equestrian trails in Sylmar should connect these facilities with the Angeles National Forest, Hansen Dam Recreation Area, El Cariso Regional Park, and the Pacoima Wash.

Existing Framework Policies 9.22.1, 9.23.1 through 9.23.8, 9.24.1, 9.24.2, 9.25.1, and 9.25.2 call for the City to monitor of park and recreation statistics to identify existing and future park and recreation needs in the City, develop a strategy to purchase and develop parks, prioritize park projects in areas of the City with the greatest existing deficiencies, establish joint-use agreements with LAUSD to expand recreational opportunities, and to maximize the opportunities to develop parklands, including nontraditional public park spaces. Implementation of the City's Codes and requirements, implementation of standard City mitigation measures, mitigation measures MM4.12-2 through MM4.12-4 and existing policies described above would ensure that impacts to parks is *less than significant*.

## ■ Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

There are no significant and unavoidable impacts with respect to parks and recreation.

## ■ Mitigation Measures

The proposed plans incorporate policies that help reduce impacts related to community-specific parks and recreation services issues. In addition to existing regulations and code requirements, the City of Los Angeles provides standard City mitigation measures that are applied on a project-by-project basis, where applicable. These standard City mitigation measures are part of the conditions of approval for projects that are subject to approval and permitting by the City. In addition, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented for the proposed plans:

- MM4.12-2      *Develop City or private funding programs for the acquisition and construction of new Community and Neighborhood recreation and park facilities.*
- MM4.12-3      *Establish joint-use agreements with the Los Angeles Unified School District and other public and private entities which could contribute to the availability of recreational opportunities in the CPAs.*
- MM4.12-4      *Monitor appropriate recreation and park statistics and compare with population projections and demand to identify the existing and future recreation and park needs of the Granada Hills–Knollwood and Sylmar CPAs.*

## ■ Level of Significance After Mitigation

There is currently no deficit of parkland in the CPAs, and implementation of the proposed plans would not result in a deficit. Implementation of the measures identified above would ensure that measures would ensure that this impact would remain *less than significant*.

### 4.12.24 Cumulative Impacts—Parks

The geographic context for this analysis is the City of Los Angeles as served by the LARAP. Past and present development in the City has contributed to a significant deficit in park resources. The citywide parkland ratio of neighborhood and community parks to population is 0.76 acre per 1,000 persons. This ratio falls far below the standard established in the Public Recreation Plan. As described previously, the City's Public Recreation Plan recommends a parkland standard of 4 acres per 1,000 residents for neighborhood and community parks, or 2 acres per 1,000 residents combined. Future cumulative development in this geographic context would exacerbate the already significant impact. Implementation

of the proposed plan would increase the use and physical deterioration of existing park resources. It is reasonably expected that at full plan capacity, the Granada Hills–Knollwood CPA could have a resident population of approximately 66,168 persons, an increase of 7,472 residents, and the Sylmar CPA could have a resident population of approximately 89,378 persons, an increase of 17,584 residents and would contribute to the need for parkland. The population increase that could result from implementation of the plan and implementing ordinances would be incrementally small, representing only 3.6 percent of the expected 2035 population in the City as a whole.<sup>158</sup> Therefore, the contribution of the proposed plans to the current deficit of parkland citywide would not be cumulatively considerable. The proposed plan would result in a *less than significant* cumulative impact on recreational facilities and parks.

#### 4.12.25 References—Parks

LAMountains.com. Homepage. <http://www.lamountains.com/> (accessed August 27, 2012).

Los Angeles Department of City Planning. *General Plan of the City of Los Angeles*. Service Systems Element—Public Recreation Plan, 1980.

———. *The Citywide General Plan Framework: An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan*. CPC 94-0354 GPF CF 95-2259 CF 01-1162, adopted August 8, 2001. <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/> (accessed February 2, 2011).

Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. A Message from the General Manager. <http://www.laparks.org/dept.htm> (accessed: February 1, 2011).

———. Facility Locator. <http://www.laparks.org/>.

———. Response to Consultant Letter: Sylmar New Community Plan Environmental. Recreation and Parks information relative to the proposed Sylmar New Community Plan Environmental Document, January 26, 2010.

Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. Parks and Recreation, 2012. <http://parks.lacounty.gov/>.

Southern California Association of Governments. 2012 Adopted Growth Forecasts, 2012.

---

<sup>158</sup> Southern California Association of Governments, 2012 Adopted Growth Forecasts (2012).

