

## **3F Public Services**

### **3F.1 Introduction**

The analysis performed in the Initial Study prepared for the proposed project eliminated certain impacts from further consideration (see Appendix A). As a result, this Draft EIR focuses on potential impacts that were found to be potentially significant in the Initial Study and, therefore, warranted further analysis and discussion in this EIR. As noted elsewhere in this EIR, the project has been substantially reduced in scale since publication of the NOP. Now a total of 6 homes are proposed on-site compared to the 16 homes analyzed in the Initial Study and NOP.

This section addresses the impacts of the proposed project on police protection and fire services. The analysis specifically addresses whether the project would affect current levels of public services.

### **3F.2 Environmental Setting**

The assessment below provides information on the availability of public services and utilities within the project area.

#### **Police Protection Services**

The project site is served by the Hollywood Community Police Station.

#### **Fire and Emergency Medical Services**

The project is located in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, formerly a Mountain Fire District. The Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (or “Zone”) was first established in the City of Los Angeles in 1999 and replaced the older “Mountain Fire District” and “Buffer Zone.”

The project site is served by Los Angeles Fire Department, Fire Station 97 located at 8021 Mulholland Drive, about 1 mile from the site.

The five partially completed homes on the site currently represent a fire hazard, they have no sprinklers and are not served by a hydrant. In addition the homes have been entered by unauthorized persons and interiors have been destroyed. The potential for fire starts by vandals and uncontrolled fires in the homes is high. Woodstock is not fully improved and fire access is impeded. There is some brush present on the hillside that also presents a hazard.

### **3F.3 Applicable Regulations**

#### **City of Los Angeles Hillside Ordinance**

The City of Los Angeles Planning and Zoning Code (§12.21(A)17) sets forth regulations regarding fire protection services, street access and parking.

(d) Fire Protection

(1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Code to the contrary, any new construction of a one-family dwelling or detached accessory building, shall be protected throughout with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system, in compliance with the Los Angeles Plumbing Code.

(3) The sprinkler system . . . shall be sufficient to cover the entire dwelling or building, unless otherwise determined by the Department of Building and Safety, and shall be installed in compliance with all applicable codes.

(e) Street Access

(1) For any new construction of, or addition to, a one-family dwelling on a lot fronting on a Substandard Hillside Limited Street, no building permit or grading permit shall be issued unless at least one-half of the width of the street(s) has been dedicated for the full width of the frontage of the lot to Standard Hillside Limited Street dimensions or to a lesser width as determined by the City Engineer. **(Ord. No. 174,652,)**

**City of Los Angeles General Plan, Safety Element**

The City of Los Angeles General Plan includes goals, objectives and policies relating to safety and public service. The following goals are relevant to the project.

Goal 1: A city where potential injury, loss of life, property damage and disruption of the social and economic life of the City due to fire, water related hazard, seismic event, geologic conditions or release of hazardous materials disasters is minimized.

**3F.4 Significance Criteria**

The criteria used to determine the significance of an impact are based on Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*. For this analysis, the proposed project may result in significant impacts if it would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:
  - Fire protection;
  - Police protection;
- Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or.

- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residence are intermixed with wildlands

## 3F.5 Impacts and Mitigation

### **Impact 3F.1 Implementation of the proposed project could result in increased need for fire and police protection services. Potentially significant.**

The proposed project is located within the Hollywood Community police service area and is served by Los Angeles Fire Department, Fire Station 97. The addition of 6 new homes into the area would incrementally increase residents, thereby incrementally increasing the need for police protection in the area. With the mitigation measure below, the proposed project would not result in a significant impact to police protection services.<sup>1</sup>

The project site is located in an area that is prone to fire and is deemed a Very High Fire Severity Zone by the City of Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles Municipal Code includes standard requirements for fire flow, response times and distance based on development type. For Low Density Residential areas, such as the project site, the minimum required fire flow is 2,000 gallons per minute from three adjacent fire hydrants flowing simultaneously; the Fire Department would like 4,000 gpm flowing from four hydrants. The code also sets a minimum distance between hydrants on roads or fire lanes in low-density residential areas as 600 feet. For new developments homes are not allowed to be more than 700 feet from a secondary access point (i.e. streets must not dead end more than 700 feet from the secondary access). As with the project site, in existing tracts, homes are frequently further from the secondary access.

The maximum response distance is 1-1/2 miles. Fire Station 97, which serves the project site, is located at 8021 Mulholland Drive, a distance of approximately one mile.

The Fire Department has indicated that one two hydrants must be installed on Woodstock Road and for the previously proposed project four on Leicester Drive. The four hydrants on Leicester Drive would now not be constructed.; the applicant may be required to place additional hydrant(s) on Woodstock.

With addition of the mitigation measure below the proposed project would not result in a significant impact to fire protection services.

#### **Mitigation:**

**Mitigation Measure 3F-1:** The project sponsor will comply with mitigation measures required by the police department, including providing the Hollywood Commanding Officer a diagram of each portion of the project site indicating information relevant to police response to the site.

<sup>1</sup> Fred Booker, Lieutenant, Officer in Charge, Community Relations Section, Office of the Chief of Police, letter dated August 10, 2007

**Mitigation Measure 3F-2:** Prior to project approval, the project sponsor shall obtain a letter indicating capacity to serve the project from the City of Los Angeles Fire Department, including fire hydrants as required, and minimum of 4,000 gpm fireflow from four hydrants, and sprinkler systems throughout the homes.

**Mitigation Measure 3F-3:** In the interests of fire protection for the entire area, emergency fire access to Mt. Olympus Drive should be made available from Woodstock.

**Level of Significance After Mitigation:** With mitigation the project alone would not substantially increase the need for police and fire protection services compared to existing conditions.<sup>2</sup> Less than significant.

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**Impact 3F2: The proposed project would not substantially impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Potentially significant.**

As discussed in Section 3G Traffic and Parking, streets in the project area are narrow and windy. The project would include street width and parking similar to what exists in the area. However as noted in the discussion of parking, the project (as with other homes in the area) includes no guest parking, and any parking on-street would serve to further narrow the effective width of the street making access by emergency vehicles difficult. The project is at the end of what are already extremely narrow streets. It is essential that streets remain clear for emergency access and that guest/visitor parking not impede emergency access. Unfortunately the major problem with access already exists in the area, the project could incrementally continue this problem and add homes to an area that already has impaired emergency access.

**Mitigation:**

See Mitigation Measure 3G-4 prohibiting parking on streets through the site.

**Level of Significance after Mitigation:** Project residents would be in a similar position to others in the area, the impact is thus determined to be less than significant.<sup>3</sup>

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**Impact 3F3: The proposed project would expose additional people and structures to a risk that presently exists in the area, of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. (Potentially significant without mitigation.)**

As discussed under Impacts 3F-1 and 3F-2 above, the project site is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Zone. Building new homes would result in the exposure of people and structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving from fires (similar to other homes in the area).

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<sup>2</sup> Terence O'Connell, Lieutenant, Los Angeles Fire Department, telephone Conversation October 16, 2007

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

The project site currently includes five partially completed homes. These homes are located on a dirt street with limited access and inadequate fire protection. In its current state, proper brush clearance and maintenance is the responsibility of the property owners. Although implementation of the proposed project would result in the placement of additional homes in a Very High Fire Hazard Zone, the homes would be designed with fire-wise principles in mind and the new occupants would be responsible for maintaining proper brush clearance to minimize the risk of fire. Furthermore, the proposed project will comply with all applicable state and local codes, and ordinances in the Los Angeles Fire Code and the Safety Element of the Los Angeles General Plan.

With addition of the mitigation measure below as well as measures 3F-1 to 3F-3, the project would not substantially increase exposure to fire risk.

**Mitigation:**

**Mitigation Measure 3F-4:** The project sponsor shall minimize fire risk to the maximum extent feasible through fire-wise landscaping and proper brush clearance and maintenance.

**Mitigation Measure 3F-5:** The project shall include Fire Hydrants and allow for fireflow as required by the Fire Department.

**Level of Significance After Mitigation:** With mitigation the project would present no more of a hazard than the homes that currently exist in the area and the impact is therefore presumed to be less than significant.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

