
IV.I. PUBLIC SERVICES

1. POLICE PROTECTION

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) provides police services to the project site and immediate vicinity. The project site is located within Reporting District (RD) 811. RD 811 boundaries include Pacific Coast Highway and Sunset Boulevard to the south; Los Angeles City Boundary to the west; Palisades Drive, Monte Hermoso, Piedra Morada, Calles Arbolada, Calle Adrilla, Chastain Parkway, Calle Debroah, and Split Rock Fire Road to the north; and Temescal Road to the east. The West L.A. Community Police Station, located at 1663 Butler Avenue in the City of Los Angeles, is the LAPD community station serving the project area. This station provides service to approximately 225,558 residents over 65.14 square miles. The West L.A. Community Police station has approximately 267 sworn officers and 25 civilian staff.

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 out 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. Calls for police assistance are prioritized based on the nature of the call. The LAPD has a preferred response time of seven minutes to emergency calls. The average response time to emergency call for service in the West Los Angeles area during 2001 was 8.7 minutes. This time can be attributed to the narrow and windy streets that service the West L.A. area. The Citywide average for 2001 was 8.9 minutes.

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 on-going legislation/funding, the potential for increased crime rates is not necessarily directly proportional to increases in land use activity. The West L.A. Community Police Station has 259 sworn officers and 33 civilian staff deployed over three watches.¹

Table IV.I-1 provides crime statistics for the project area as well as Citywide. According to the LAPD, in 2001, the West L.A. area population was estimated at 225,558. In 2001, 34 crimes per

¹ Correspondence from Los Angeles Police Department, April 16, 2002.

1,000 persons were reported in the West L.A. area. The predominant crimes in the West L.A. area were burglary from vehicle, grand theft, and misdemeanor theft. Additionally, the LAPD reported that RD 811 had an estimated population of 6,073 in 2001. In 2001, 14 crimes per 1,000 persons were reported in RD 811. The predominant crimes in RD 811 were burglary from residence, burglary from vehicle, aggravated assault, and grand theft.²

Table IV.I-1
2001 Crimes by Occurrence

Type of Crime	RD 811	West L.A. Area	Citywide
Burglary from Business	0	312	5,823
Burglary from Residence	19	779	14,926
Burglary Other	1	216	4,857
Street Robbery	3	245	11,019
Other Robbery	3	195	6,155
Murder	0	11	589
Rape	2	47	1,424
Aggravated Assault	12	687	33,178
Burglary from Vehicle	14	1,357	25,786
Theft from Vehicle	9	624	15,607
Grand Theft	12	1,085	12,470
Theft from Person	0	26	1,222
Purse Snatch	0	17	371
Other Theft	9	1,228	24,273
Bicycle Theft	0	0	41
Vehicle Theft	4	904	31,991
Bunco	0	10	157
Total	88	7,743	189,889

Source: City of Los Angeles Police Department, April 16, 2002.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Thresholds of Significance

According to the Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide (1998), the proposed project's impacts to police protection service would be considered significant if the proposed increase in population and building area would result in a substantial need for additional police services or equipment, or would

² Correspondence from Los Angeles Police Department, April 16, 2002.

substantially diminish the current status of adequacy within the LAPD. The level of police protection is based upon the availability of police personnel and equipment, response time, and the LAPD's judgment for project needs (e.g. anticipated crime rate and police activity level) in the area.

Project Impacts

Implementation of the proposed project would result in additional residents in the project area (as well as pedestrian and vehicular traffic), which may increase the existing demands for the police protection, and traffic enforcement services provided by the LAPD. According to the LAPD, development of the proposed project would potentially result in a significant impact to police protection services provided by the West L.A. Community Police Station.³ The various construction phases of the proposed project could also result in increased response times the LAPD responding to other calls in the Castellammare area. Upon completion of the proposed project, the number of permanent residents and site visitors within the project site would generate a potential increase in the level of police service calls from the project site. However, project compliance with the mitigation measures listed below would reduce the significant impact upon police services to a less than significant level.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Implementation of the proposed project in conjunction with related projects would further increase demands for police protection services in the West L.A. area. Increases in population and employee uses in the City would increase average response times, primarily for non-emergency calls. However, the impacts created by new development would be reduced by the incorporation of required security measures into each proposed development. Provided the proposed project implements the mitigation measures below, cumulative impacts to police protection services would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures are required to reduce the project's impacts to police protection services to less than significant levels:

1. The project applicant shall consult with the LAPD's Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) on the design and implementation of a security plan for the proposed project and, which shall consider the following elements:
 - Design entryways, the lobby, and parking areas with lighting that eliminates areas of concealment;

³ Correspondence from Los Angeles Police Department, April 16, 2002.

- Landscaping should be designed so as to not conceal potential criminal activities near windows or doors
 - Outdoor night lighting should be provided to aid crime prevention and enforcement efforts;
 - All garages should be enclosed;
 - Provide solid core doors with deadbolt locks to all units;
 - The use of louvered windows should be prohibited
2. Upon the completion of the project, it is recommended that site plans for the property be provided to the West Los Angeles area commanding officer to help facilitate any police response.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Project impacts on police protection services would be less than significant.