
5.11 - Public Services

5.11.1 - Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this section is to describe the existing fire, emergency medical services and police services and potential effects from the proposed project implementation on these services. This section also identifies mitigation measures to reduce any potentially significant impacts and describes the residual impact, if any, after imposition of the mitigation. The tennis courts, swimming pool, and clubhouse are still in use as of the date the Notice of Preparation was published and work on the Draft EIR began, but the golf course and driving range ceased operations in November 2006.

Sources

Information in this section is based on the following sources:

- Interviews with the City Fire Department and City Police Department.
- Comments received at the public scoping meeting. These comments are contained in Appendix A.

5.11.2 - Existing On-Site Setting

Fire Protection

The project site is located within the service area of the City of Orange (City) Fire Department. The fire departments in Orange County, including the City Fire Department, operate on a “boundary drop” basis, which means that the closest available fire unit responds to a call regardless of the jurisdiction from which it originated.

The City Fire Department fire stations nearest to the project site are Fire Station 7, Fire Station 4, and Fire Station 2, respectively. Fire Station 7 is located at 7401 Fort Road and is approximately 2.6 miles from the project site. The City estimated response time from Fire Station 7 for a fire or emergency at the project site is estimated to be less than five minutes. Fire Station 4 is located at 210 S. Esplanade and is approximately 3.18 miles from the project site. Fire Station 2 is located at 2900 E. Collins Avenue and is approximately 3.35 miles from the project site. The closest “boundary drop” fire station is Orange County Fire Authority Fire Station No. 23 located approximately one mile from the project site at 5020 Santiago Canyon Road.

Police Services

The project site is within the service area for the City Police Department. The City Police Department has a mutual aid agreement with all law enforcement agencies in Orange County in the event that supplementary assistance is needed.

Police services are provided to the portion of the proposed project site and vicinity in the City by the Orange Police Station located at 1107 North Batavia Street, approximately 5.3 miles to the west of

the project site. Patrol officers are assigned to designated patrol areas in the field rather than directly from the station. In the Year 2006, the average emergency response time was five minutes.

5.11.3 - Regulatory Setting

Federal

There are no federal regulations associated with this topical environmental issue area.

State

There are no State regulations associated with this topical environmental issue area.

Local

City Fire Department

The City Fire Department provides fire suppression, fire prevention services, paramedic services, hazardous materials release stabilization, other emergency response and rescue services, and disaster planning. The City Fire Department is part of a county-wide/state-wide mutual aid agreement. In the event of a large-scale emergency, additional backup assistance can be provided from throughout Orange County and the State. In addition, the City has contracts for automatic aid with the Cities of Garden Grove and Santa Ana.

The City Fire Department provides fire stations, equipment, and staffing to different locations in the City based on the general development of the community. Revenue for fire facilities is collected through the Fire Protection Facilities Program. The funding for the stations and equipment comes from the Fire Facility Fees, as required by Chapter 15.38 of the Orange Municipal Code. These fees are based on the number of residential units (for units up to 1,800 square feet) and square footage for non-residential occupancies.

The City Fire Department uses a response time standard of less than five minutes. According to Ian MacDonald, Deputy Fire Marshall, City Fire Department, a first due Engine Company can provide first response within five minutes and a first due Truck or ladder Company can be on the scene within 10 minutes.

The construction of residential development within the City is required to comply with the Uniform Building Code, the City Fire Code (Orange Municipal Code Chapter 15.32), and the California Building Code Article 9, Appendix III-A and Appendix III-B as interpreted by the City Fire Department related to fire access, fire flow requirements, the number, placement, and spacing of hydrants, and automatic fire extinguishing systems.

City Police Department

The City Police Department provides police protection services including routine patrol of the project vicinity by vehicle, motorcycle, and bicycle and responds to calls for service involving criminal complaints, traffic concerns, and general needs for police service. In addition, the City Police

Department provides a variety of public services to the community, including staffing for Neighborhood Watch programs, Citizen Academy, Kidsprint, You Are Not Alone volunteer program, presentations to merchants and citizen groups regarding crime prevention topics, residential and commercial security surveys, and bicycle rodeo and Every Fifteen Minutes presentations at local schools.

The present level of staffing for the City Police Department is 167 sworn police officers and six Police Service Officers. The City Police Department uses a response time standard of three to four minutes for a Priority 1 emergency call.

The City Police Department currently divides the City into 90 reporting districts for crime and activity tracking purposes and organizes the districts into seven patrol areas. According to Patrick Thayer of the City of Orange Police Department, the project site and vicinity are located within reporting district 114.

5.11.4 - Significance Thresholds

According to Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if it would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

- a.) Fire protection;
- b.) Police protection;
- c.) Schools;
- d.) Parks, and/or;
- e.) Other public facilities.

5.11.5 - Project Impacts

Impacts Not Found To Be Significant

The Initial Study identified impacts to schools and parks as less than significant. No impacts related to other public facilities were identified in the Initial Study. Refer to the Initial Study in Appendix A for a complete discussion.

Potentially Significant Impacts

Potential short-term impacts could result from construction crews and equipment on site during the ground-clearing activities, structure removal, and site grading activities associated with preparing the

site for development and construction the proposed improvements. Potential long-term operational impacts would be associated with activities typical of rural residential living activities.

Fire Protection

Impact 5.11-1 **The project has the potential to result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection.**

[CEQA Public Services Threshold 13(a)]

Short-Term Construction Impacts

The site preparation construction activities could require calls for fire protection services associated with razing of existing structures, clearing and grubbing, and site grading. These activities are typical of residential construction development projects. However, the site preparation construction phase could result in requests for fire protection services related to temporary construction workers on the site and construction-related traffic. These activities have the potential to increase the number of responses to the project site beyond the existing conditions. The City Fire Department response time is estimated to be from three to five minutes for all calls. Therefore, the construction-related activities for the proposed project would have the potential to result in a short-term significant impact related to the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services by the City Fire Department. Incorporation of Mitigation Measure PS-1, which requires a Construction Phase Emergency Fire Access Plan and Mitigation Measure PS-2, which requires an Emergency Fire Access Plan. Together, these plans would enable emergency responders to efficiently respond to an emergency call by knowing in advance the route to the project site, locations of fire hydrants, and vehicular access from adjacent roadways. Implementations of these plans would reduce this potential impact to a less than significant level. In addition, the potential impacts would cease upon the completion of the site preparation construction phase.

Long-Term Operational Impacts

The development of the proposed project would result in the addition of 39 single-family homes and could include private equestrian stables. This development type is different from the existing land uses on the project site and has the potential to increase the demand for fire protection services to the project site beyond the existing conditions. The elimination of demand for fire protection services from the existing on-site commercial recreation activities related to the use of the tennis courts, swimming pool, and social events at the clubhouse would be anticipated to offset any demand for fire protection services from the proposed residential uses. Although the proposed uses would result in a greater combined structure area than the existing uses, the inclusion of fire sprinklers in the residential units, distance between structures, and modern building materials would result in a decreased demand for fire protection services. A telephone interview with Captain Ed Engler of the City Fire Department revealed that historical response records to the existing site were unavailable. Captain Engler was of the opinion that the demand for fire protection services related to the proposed project would be less than for the existing on-site, private recreational uses. According to Captain

Engler, the standard City Fire Department response time is from three to five minutes and any calls for service to the project site should be answered within this response time. Therefore, a less than significant impact related to fire protection services for the proposed Ridgeline project would result.

Fire flow requirements were modeled using a worst-case scenario to determine if sufficient water pressure would be available. The buildings would be sprinklered resulting in a 50 percent reduction in the required fire-flow requirements as allowed by the 201 California Fire Code. The required fire-flow requirements of an 8,000 square foot residence (V-N construction) would require 2,500 gallons-per-minute (gpm). A building fitted with a sprinkler system would require approximately 1,250 gpm resulting in an approximate 50 percent reduction. The Water System Hydraulic Analysis (See Appendix P) determined that under the worst-case conditions the fire flow requirements are met. Therefore, less than significant impacts required to fire flow water supply would result from project implementation.

Police Protection

Impact 5.11-2 **The project has the potential to result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for police protection.**

[CEQA Public Services Threshold 13(b)]

Short-Term Construction Impacts

The construction activities associated with the proposed project would have the potential to result in an increase in demand for police protection services at the project site beyond existing conditions resulting from the addition of construction workers, construction-related traffic, and on-site construction activities. The City Police Department response time is approximately five minutes and from three to four minutes for a Priority 1 emergency call. According to a telephone interview with Lieutenant Jeff Burton, City Police Department, the Police Department currently has 167 sworn officers resulting in approximately one officer for every 844 residents. Lieutenant Burton stated that the Department does not maintain have an established ratio of officers to population and further stated that the Ridgeline project would by itself have a minimal impact on police services to the entire City. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure PS-3, which requires a Construction Phase Emergency Access Plan, and Mitigation Measure PS-4 requiring a Operations Emergency Access Plan. Together, these plans would enable emergency police responders to efficiently respond to an emergency call by knowing in advance the route to the project site, vehicular access from adjacent roadways, staging areas, and site construction signage. Implementations of these plans would be reduced to a less than significant level. In addition, the impacts on the Police Department resources will not cease upon completion of the short-term construction phase. The nature of the impacts and calls for service will simply change and possibly increase in frequency as the homes are occupied.

Long-Term Operational Impacts

The development of the proposed project would result in the creation of 39 single-family homes (34 of which could have private equestrian stables), and a Ride-In Only Arena. The existing commercial recreational uses are served by the City Police Department. City police protection services would continue to be provided to the project site. Michelle Micallef, Crime Prevention Specialist with the City Police Department, stated that the proposed project would minimally impact existing police services and would not result in the need to construct or expand new government facilities relating to the provision of police protection services. The Police Department currently has one sworn officer per 844 residents. Lieutenant Burton stated that the addition of the Ridgeline project would minimally impact this ratio. The City Police Department response time is approximately five minutes and from three to four minutes for a Priority 1 emergency call and response times Citywide would likely not increase overall as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, a less than significant impact related to police protection services from implementation of the proposed project would result.

5.11.6 - Mitigation Measures

Fire Protection

PS-1 Prior to the approval of the first grading plan or issuance of the first grading or building permit, whichever occurs first, the project applicant shall submit to the City Fire Chief or designee and Community Development Director or Designee a Construction Phase Emergency Fire Access Plan for review and approval. The Construction Phase Emergency Fire Access Plan shall include the location of all existing fire hydrants, apparatus access routes and access points from the adjacent public streets, and the emergency access areas provided to within 150 feet of all on-site combustible construction activities. The specific format and content of the Construction Phase Emergency Fire Access Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City Fire Chief, or his designee

PS-2 Prior to the approval of the first grading plan or issuance of the first building permit or grading permit, whichever occurs first, the project applicant shall submit to the City Fire Chief or designee and Community Development Director or Designee an Emergency Fire Access Plan for the on-going proposed project operations showing all proposed means of emergency access for both fire apparatus and emergency personnel into and around the proposed project. The specific format and content of the Emergency Fire Access Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City Fire Department.

Police Protection

PS-3 Prior to the issuance of the first grading or building permit, whichever occurs first, the project applicant shall submit to the Police Chief or designee and Community Development Director or Designee, a Construction Phase Emergency Access Plan. The Construction Phase Emergency Access Plan shall include the location of all

existing access points from the adjacent public streets and the on-site emergency access areas provided to within 150 feet of all construction activities. The Construction Phase Emergency Access Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City Police Department.

- PS-4** Prior to the approval of the first grading plan or issuance of the first grading permit or building permit, whichever occurs first, the project applicant shall submit to the Police Chief or designee and Community Development Director or Designee, an Operations Emergency Access Plan for on-going proposed project operations showing all proposed means of emergency access for both police and other emergency personnel into and around the proposed project. A point of contact for emergencies and during after-hours shall be provided. The Emergency Access Plan shall indicate the location of all access points, the location and type of signage provided to aid police and other emergency personnel on fire access roads and within the parking lots, the residential structures, and the recreation facilities. The specific format and content of the Emergency Access Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City Police Department.

5.11.7 - Project Design Features

PDF-PS-1 All residential structures will include fire sprinklers.

PDF-PS-2 The site plan provides ample distance between structures.

5.11.8 - Level of Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of the recommended mitigation measures would reduce all potentially significant impacts related to the provision of public services below the level of significance associated with the short-term construction-related phase and long-term operational phase of the project. Less than significant impacts were associated with long-term operations.

Fire Protection

With the implementation of the recommended Mitigation Measures PS-1 and PS-2, less than significant impacts to the provision of fire protection services would result from project implementation during the short-term construction phase. Impacts related to the long-term operational phase were less than significant before mitigation. With PDF-PS1 and PDF-PS-2 incorporated into the project the less than significant impact to related to fire protection would ensure the below the level of significance. The incorporation of fire sprinklers in the residences and the distances between the structures would increase fire safety.

Police Protection

With the implementation of the recommended Mitigation Measures PS-3 and PS-4, less than significant impacts to the provision of police protection services would result from project

implementation during the short-term construction phase. Less than significant impacts were associated with long-term operations.