

5.12 Public Services and Recreation



5.12 PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

Public services addressed in this section include: fire protection; police protection; schools; and parks and recreation. This section discusses the existing conditions, which provide the necessary baseline information. Criteria by which an impact may be considered potentially significant are provided, along with a discussion of impacts pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. Mitigation measures are identified to avoid or lessen potential impacts, where necessary.

This section is based upon information from public service and utility agencies; refer to Appendix 11.2, *NOP Comment Letters* and Appendix 11.13, *Public Services/Utility Correspondence*. Additional references include the *City of Whittier General Plan* (General Plan), and the *Whittier Municipal Code* (WMC).

5.12.1 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

FIRE PROTECTION

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department (LACFD) provides fire protection services to the City and proposed Project site, including fire, emergency medical, and life safety services. Battalion 8 provides two stations that serve the Project site including:¹

- *Fire Station No. 17*. The fire station is located at 12006 Hadley Street, approximately 0.16 miles from the Project site. The fire station is the jurisdictional station for the area and first to respond to the Project site. The station is equipped with one 4-person engine company and staffed with one fire captain, one fire fighter specialist and two fire fighters.
- *Fire Station No. 28*. The fire station is located at 7733 Greenleaf Avenue, approximately 0.66 miles from the Project site. The fire station is the Battalion Headquarters for the area and second to respond to the Project site. The station is equipped with one 3-person engine company (one fire captain, one fire fighter specialist, and one fire fighter), a 2-Person paramedic squad (two fire fighter paramedics) and a 4-Person quint (one fire captain, one fire fighter specialist, and two fire fighters).

The LACFD has additional resources in the surrounding communities to provide fire protection support on an as-needed basis. There are mutual aid agreements with other fire departments if the need for additional personnel or equipment arises. Automatic aid is a routine exchange of services across jurisdictional boundaries under pre-defined conditions. The LACFD maintains an automatic aid agreement with City of Santa Fe Springs that would include the Project area. Automatic aid agreements are reciprocal and balanced in nature and are limited in scope as they are provided to specific areas.²

The LACFD utilizes national guidelines of a 5-minute response time for the 1st-arriving unit for fire and emergency medical services responses and eight minutes for the advanced life support (paramedic) unit in urban areas. Based on the distance to the Project site, Fire Station 17 would have an estimated response time of less than one minute and Fire Station 28 would have an estimated response time of three minutes.³

¹ Written Correspondence, Planning Division, Los Angeles County Fire Department, March 11, 2014.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.



POLICE PROTECTION

The Whittier Police Department (WPD) provides police protection services to the City and Project site. The WPD resides on the west side of City Hall at 13200 Penn Street, which is located approximately 0.8 miles east of the Project site. The City jail is located within the basement area of police headquarters in City Hall. The WPD also provides services to the City of Santa Fe Springs under contract at the Police Services Center located at 11576 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, which is approximately 2.65 miles southwest of the Project site. The Police Department is comprised of 128 sworn police officers and 54 civilian staff.⁴ Currently, over 70 officers are assigned to the patrol division, the largest detail in the department. There are six patrol teams, working three 12½ hour shifts with one additional ten hour shift every 28 days.

The WPD developed a geographical policing structure involving a set team of police officers, managed by a sergeant or a lieutenant working to resolve community safety issues and crime problems. This structure provides continued police protection service as there is an emphasis that one member of the geographical team will always be working. Additionally, the structure allows officers to develop a greater understanding of the community safety issues in their assigned areas. The geographical policing teams are divided into four geographic areas in Whittier and three geographic areas in Santa Fe Springs. The Project site is located within Whittier's Public Service Area 2.⁵ Based on the City's January 2014 population of 86,538 persons and 128 sworn personnel, the department operates at a ratio of one sworn police officer per 676 persons.⁶ The WPD has recently improved and expanded their headquarters to accommodate enhanced police services for the City and there are no future plans for an additional expansion to existing police facilities.

The WPD has not established a targeted response time to the Project site. However, the WPD tracks response times on a monthly and yearly basis to help identify potential trends and ways to ensure more effective and efficient police services. The Department of Justice reports that their best response time is four minutes, while their worst response time is over one hour. While response times may vary based on call priority, available resources, call location, distance traveled to call location, etc., the WPD averages a response time nearest to the best response time (approximately four minutes) identified by the Department of Justice.⁷ The most effective way for the WPD to detect, prevent, and deter criminal activity is through discretionary patrol time, which is the time left for proactive patrol aside from taking service calls and completing administrative tasks.

SCHOOLS

The Project site is located within the Los Nietos School District (LNSD) (grades K to eight) and the Whittier Union High School District (WUHSD) (grades nine to 12) boundaries.

⁴ City of Whittier, Whittier Police Department official website, <http://www.cityofwhittier.org/depts/police/default.asp>, Accessed December 4, 2013.

⁵ City of Whittier, Whittier Police Department Website, *Whittier Public Service Areas Map*, <http://www.cityofwhittier.org/depts/police/geo/wpsamap.asp>, Accessed December 4, 2013.

⁶ State of California, Department of Finance, *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, January 1, 2011- 2014*. Sacramento, California, May 2014.

⁷ Written Correspondence, Davis, Michael, Patrol Division Commander, Whittier Police Department, February 11, 2014.



Los Nietos School District

The LNSD is the oldest operating school district in California. The LNSD serves the communities of Whittier, Los Nietos, and Santa Fe Springs. There are three (grades K to six) elementary schools (Ada S. Nelson; Aeolian; and Rancho Santa Gertrudes), and one (grades seven to eight) middle school (Los Nietos Middle School).⁸

The Project site is located in the vicinity of three LNSD schools; refer to Table 5.12-1, *Los Nietos School District Facilities that Serve the Project Site*. Table 5.12-1 indicates the name, location, current enrollment, capacity and approximate distance from the Project site for the schools currently serving the Project area.

**Table 5.12-1
Los Nietos School District Facilities that Serve the Project Site**

School	Address	Distance from Project Site (miles)	Capacity	Enrollment 2013-2014 School Year
Aeolian Elementary	11600 Aeolian Street, Whittier	2.7	675	540
Ada S. Nelson Elementary	8140 South Vicki Drive, Whittier	3	658	460
Los Nietos Middle	11425 East Rivera Road, Whittier	3.4	650	390

Source: Written Correspondence, McMasters, Doug, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Los Nietos School District, February 14, 2014.

Currently, the developer fees for new development are as follows: residential at \$1.23 per square foot; and commercial at \$0.20 per square foot. The LNSD is in the process of preparing a developer fee study that may result in a modification to developer fees in the future.⁹

Whittier Union High School District

The Project site is within the boundaries of the WUHSD, which services the City of Whittier. The WUHSD partners with the following partner elementary districts: East Whittier; Little Lake; Los Nietos; South Whittier; and Whittier City. There are five comprehensive high schools (California, Frontier, La Serna, Pioneer, Santa Fe, and Whittier), one continuation school (Frontier Continuation High School), one alternative studies program (Sierra Vista Alternative High School), and one adult school (Whittier Adult School) in the WUHSD. The Sierra Education Center is home to the WUHSD District Offices, Frontier Continuation High School, Sierra Vista Independent School, and the Whittier Adult School.¹⁰ The Project site is served by one of WUHSD's schools, Whittier High School. Whittier High School is located at 12417 East Philadelphia Street, approximately 0.21 miles east of the Project site. Whittier High School is operating near enrollment capacity with current enrollment numbers of 2,312 students with a capacity of 2,500 students.¹¹ No new school facilities are planned within the WUHSD.

⁸ Los Nietos School District Website, http://www.losnietos.k12.ca.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=238513&type=d&pREC_ID=551044, Accessed December 31, 2013.

⁹ Telephone Conversation, Estrada, Monica, Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Los Nietos School District, March 11, 2014.

¹⁰ Whittier Union High School District Website, <http://www.wuhd.org/domain/3>, December 31, 2013.

¹¹ Written Correspondence, Muschetto, Paul, Associate Superintendent of Business Services, Whittier Union High School, February 18, 2014.



The WUHSD charges developer fees for new development, as follows: residential at \$0.61 per square foot; and commercial at \$0.10 per square foot.¹²

PARKS AND RECREATION

Recreation Programs

The City of Whittier offers a variety of recreation programs for all ages, including: youth and adult sports leagues; aquatics, swim and tennis lessons; parks and recreational facilities; community services; family theatre and senior activities. Program offerings are year-round and seasonal.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Whittier's parks include four large community parks, 15 neighborhood parks, two wilderness parks and sports fields as well as the Greenway Trail, the hiking/biking trail that stretches from the 605 Freeway to the corner of Lambert Road and Mills Avenue.¹³ Palm Park, located at 5706 El Rancho Drive, approximately 0.75 miles northwest of the Project site, is the nearest park for use by residents within the area.¹⁴ It is directly adjacent to the Greenway Trail.

Bicycle Paths

The Whittier Bicycle Transportation Plan maintains a system of bikeways that consists of approximately 40 miles of Class I, II, and III bikeways within residential and non-residential areas of the City. The existing network allows for comprehensive travel to all areas of the City and connection to adjacent cities and Los Angeles County. The Whittier Bicycle Transportation Plan, adopted on February 26, 2013, proposes an additional 12 miles of Class I, II and III routes, totaling approximately 49 miles of existing and proposed bikeways within Whittier.

Greenway Trail

The Whittier Greenway Trail is a 4.5-mile recreational and commuter bikeway and pedestrian path. The Whittier Greenway Trail is included in the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) Southeast Area Bicycle Master Plan. The trail begins on the western boundary of the City, near Los Angeles County's San Gabriel River Bike Trail and ends along Pioneer Boulevard. The Trail passes through residential, commercial, industrial and institutional land uses in Whittier, connecting these various elements of the community and allowing residents and visitors to hike or bike through town. Further, it connects with the local and regional bus systems, including Foothill Transit, Metro, Montebello Bus Lines and Norwalk Transit. The Whittier City Council approved \$2.4 million to purchase 2.3 miles of perpetual railroad easement to extend the Whittier Greenway Trail along Lambert Road from Mills Avenue to First Avenue, which will extend the Trail nearly to the eastern boundary of the City. An

¹² Telephone Communication, Estrada, Monica, Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Los Nietos School District, March 11, 2014.

¹³ City of Whittier Website, Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department, <http://www.cityofwhittier.org/depts/prcs/parks/default.asp> Accessed March 10, 2014.

¹⁴ Written Correspondence: Montoya, Michael, Park Manager, City of Whittier, February 14, 2014.



optional purchase for the remaining half-mile within City limits was also approved for the trail extension from First Avenue to the City of La Habra border.¹⁵

Parks and Recreation Demand

The City has an established parkland-to-population requirement of 4.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons. The City's current (2014) population is 86,538 persons.¹⁶ In order to meet the City's parkland-to-population ratio, the City would need 415.38 acres of parkland. The City currently has a total of 414 acres that is comprised of 82 acres of park and 332 acres of wilderness.¹⁷ Thus, the City currently has a minor deficiency of 1.38 acres (0.3 percent) under its established parkland-to-population ratio.

5.12.2 EXISTING REGULATORY SETTING

FIRE PROTECTION

City of Whittier General Plan

City policies pertaining to fire protection services are contained in the General Plan's Public Safety Element. These policies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Policy 3.1: Coordinate fire protection services with the County Fire Department.
- Policy 3.3: Assist the police and fire departments in monitoring the safety of all developments in the City.
- Policy 3.4: Provide adequate fire and police services for new developments in the planning area.

The General Plan Safety Element's Public Safety Plan specifies the following regarding fireflow standards and response times:

Fireflow Standards. The water system must be capable of supplying adequate quantities of water for firefighting purposes. For Whittier, required fireflow is approximately 8,200 gallons per minute for at least ten hours, or emergency reservoir capacity of five million gallons.

Response Times. To minimize the injury and damage that may be caused by accidents and disasters, the City of Whittier has established the following standards for response times:

- Emergency calls should have a response time of three minutes or less in urban areas; and
- Non-emergency calls should have a response time of 5 to 30 minutes.

City of Whittier Municipal Code

¹⁵ City of Whittier Website, Greenway Trail Extension, http://www.cityofwhittier.org/depts/prcs/parks/greenway_trail_extension.asp Accessed March 10, 2014.

¹⁶ State of California Department of Finance, *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, January 2011-2014*. Sacramento, California, May 2014.

¹⁷ Written Correspondence: Montoya, Michael, Park Manager, City of Whittier, February 14, 2014.



Pursuant to WMC Chapter 15.12, *Fire Code* and Chapter 15.04, *Building Codes*, the City has adopted the 2013 California Fire Code, the 2013 California Building Code, and the 2012 International Fire Code. All development within the City must comply with these standards for the purpose of regulating and governing the safeguarding of life and property from fire and explosion hazards, hazardous materials arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life or property in the occupancy of buildings and premises within the city. In addition, the City's building codes ensure the regulation of the erection, construction, enlargement, alteration, repair, moving, removal, demolition, conversion, occupancy, equipment, use, height, area and maintenance of all buildings and/or structures in the city.

POLICE PROTECTION

City of Whittier General Plan

City policies pertaining to police protection services are contained in the Public Safety Element of the General Plan. These policies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Policy 3.4: Provide adequate fire and police services for new developments in the planning area.
- Policy 5.1: Regularly review police services to determine the adequacy and quality of service.
- Policy 5.2: Continue to provide programs that deter crime and violence in Whittier and the surrounding area.
- Policy 5.4: Develop programs for discouraging crime and gang violence in the city.

According to the General Plan Safety Element's Public Safety Plan, the City of Whittier has established the following standards for response times, in order to minimize the injury and damage that may be caused by accidents and disasters:

- Emergency calls should have a response time of three minutes or less in urban areas; and
- Non-emergency calls should have a response time of 5 to 30 minutes.

SCHOOLS

California's system for financing school facilities can be generally described as a cooperative effort between the state and local school districts. The state provides districts with financial support for new school construction and modernization projects through the School Facility Program (SFP). It funds the SFP through statewide, voter-approved bonds. Local school districts finance their share of school construction and modernization project costs primarily with revenue raised through local General Obligation (GO) bond elections.



Assembly Bill 2926

The State of California has traditionally been responsible for the funding of local public schools. To assist in providing facilities to serve students generated by new development projects, the State passed Assembly Bill (AB) 2926 in 1986. This bill allowed school districts to collect impact fees from developers of new residential and commercial/industrial building space. Development impact fees were also referenced in the 1987 Leroy Greene Lease-Purchase Act, which required school districts to contribute a matching share of project costs for construction, modernization, or reconstruction.

Senate Bill 50 and Proposition 1A

Senate Bill (SB) 50 and Proposition 1A, both of which passed in 1998, provided a comprehensive school facilities financing and reform program, in part by authorizing a \$9.2 billion school facilities bond issue, school construction cost containment provisions, and an eight-year suspension of the Mira, Hart, and Murrieta court cases. Specifically, the bond funds are to provide \$2.9 billion for new construction and \$2.1 billion for reconstruction/modernization needs.

The provisions of SB 50 prohibit local agencies from denying either legislative or adjudicative land use approvals on the basis that school facilities are inadequate, and reinstates the school facility fee cap for legislative actions (e.g., General Plan amendments, specific plan adoption, zoning plan amendments) as was allowed under the Mira, Hart, and Murrieta court cases. The statutes state that these fees are the exclusive means of considering as well as mitigating school impacts caused by new development. Accordingly, these fees limit the scope of impact review in an EIR, the mitigation that can be imposed, and the findings a lead agency must make in justifying its approval of a Project (Government Code Sections 65995-65996). According to Government Code Section 65996, the development fees authorized by SB 50 are deemed to be "full and complete school facilities mitigation." These provisions remain in place as long as subsequent State bonds are approved and available.

SB 50 also establishes three levels of Developer Fees that may be imposed upon new development by the governing board of a school district depending upon certain conditions within a district. Level One Fees are the statutory fees, which can be adjusted for inflation every two years. Level Two Fees allow school districts to impose fees beyond the base statutory cap, under specific circumstances. Level Three Fees come into effect if the State runs out of bond funds after 2006, which would allow school districts to impose 100 percent of the cost of the school facility or mitigation minus any local dedicated school monies. The school fee amounts provided for in Government Code §§ 65995, 65995.5, and 65995.7 would constitute full and complete mitigation for school facilities.

In order to accommodate students from new development projects, school districts may alternatively finance new schools through special school construction funding resolutions and/or agreements between developers, the affected school districts, and occasionally, other local governmental agencies. These special resolutions and agreements often allow school districts to realize school mitigation funds in excess of the developer fees allowed under SB 50.

The passage of Proposition 1A in 1998 created the SFP, in order to streamline the process districts go through to obtain state funding. Pursuant to the SFP, funding for new construction and modernization is provided by the State in the form of per-pupil grants. Generally, projects also require local matching funds. The SFP also implemented numerous reforms intended to



streamline the application process, simplify the state facilities program, and create a more transparent and equitable funding mechanism.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Quimby Act

The Quimby Act, or California Government Code § 66477, states that the legislative body of a city or county may, by ordinance, require the dedication of land or impose a requirement of the payment of fees in lieu thereof, or a combination of both, for park or recreational purposes as a condition to the approval of a tentative map or parcel map, provided certain requirements are met. This Section further states that “the dedication of land, or the payment of fees, or both, shall not exceed the proportionate amount necessary to provide three (3.0) acres of park area per 1,000 persons residing within a subdivision subject to this section.”

Bicycle Transportation Plan

The Whittier Bicycle Transportation Plan, adopted in February 26, 2013 involves comprehensive goals and objectives for the City’s bikeway system, particularly warranting special focus on the Whittier Greenway Trail on enhancing existing and potential connections to the abandoned rail line as well as its impact to the overall network. Additionally, it provides the opportunity to consider changes in adjacent land uses within close proximity to the Whittier Greenway Trail to improve local business and advocate mixed use developments with lower parking requirements. Section 3.0, *Project Description*, describes the proposed Freedom Trail, a Class I multi-purpose path that navigates through the community connecting parks, land uses, and the adjacent hospital. According to the Bicycle Transportation Plan, bicyclists and pedestrians are most likely to use Class I routes as the paths are designed as routes separate from vehicular traffic.

City of Whittier Municipal Code

WMC Chapter 17.16, *Park Land and Fees Dedication*, addresses the dedication of land and/or payment of fees for open space, park, and recreational facilities. A subdivider would be required to dedicate land for a local park sufficient in size and topography that bears a reasonable relationship to serve the present and future needs of the subdivision’s residents. As a condition of approval of a final subdivision map or parcel map, the subdivider would be required to dedicate land, pay a fee in-lieu thereof, or both at the City’s option, for neighborhood and community park or recreational purposes at the time and according to the standards and formulas contained in WMC Chapter 17.16 (or 4.8 acres per 1,000 persons, as specified above); see WMC Section 17.16.020. In addition, pursuant to WMC Chapter 3.48, *Development Impact Fees*, the subdivider would pay the City fees to minimize, to the greatest extent practicable, the impact that new development, including attached and multifamily housing, has on the City’s public services and facilities. Toward that end, the City intends that applicants for such development projects pay their fair share of the costs of providing such public services and facilities.

5.12.3 IMPACT THRESHOLDS AND SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* contains the Initial Study Environmental Checklist form used during preparation of the Project Initial Study, which is contained in Appendix 11.1 of this



EIR. The Initial Study includes questions relating to public services and recreation. The issues presented in the Initial Study Checklist have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this section. Accordingly, a project may create a significant environmental impact if one or more of the following occurs with respect to each category:

PUBLIC SERVICES

- Would the Project 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:
 - Fire Protection;
 - Police Protection;
 - Schools;
 - Parks; and/or
 - Other Public Facilities (Libraries); refer to Section 8.0, *Effects Found Not to be Significant*.

RECREATION

- Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated;
- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

5.12.4 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

- **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WOULD NOT CREATE A DEMAND FOR FIRE PROTECTION FACILITIES THAT COULD CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.**

Impact Analysis: The Project does not propose new or physically altered fire protection facilities. However, Project implementation would allow for increased development within the project area, including residential and commercial uses. The increased development would result in an increased demand for fire protection services to the Project area. While an increased demand for services is anticipated, the LACFD has confirmed that there would be no need for physical additions to existing stations or construction of new fire stations, as a result of the Project.¹⁸ Therefore, the Project would not result in significant environmental impacts in this regard.

¹⁸ Written Correspondence: Planning Division, Los Angeles County Fire Department, March 11, 2014.



The LACFD confirmed that current staffing levels and facilities are adequate to serve the Project site. Although LACFD recommends that traffic signal control devices with responding emergency override units be implemented throughout the City, any such improvements would be considered by the City as a separate project, and are not required to minimize Project impacts to a level below significance.¹⁹

Additionally, all future development within the Specific Plan area would be subject to compliance with the existing regulations specified in the 2013 California Fire Code, 2013 California Building Code, 2012 International Fire Code, WMC Chapters 15.02 and 15.04, and specific fire and life safety requirements addressed at building fire plan check. Adherence to these existing regulations would ensure Project impacts are less than significant. Refer to Section 5.13, Utilities and Service Systems, for a discussion of the Project's fireflow requirements and potential impacts to the City's fireflow system.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES

- **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WOULD NOT CREATE A DEMAND FOR POLICE PROTECTION FACILITIES THAT COULD CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.**

Impact Analysis: Project implementation would allow for increased development within the Project area, including residential, and commercial uses. The increased development may result in an increased demand for police protection services to the Project area. The WPD concluded that although the Project may increase the calls for service to the area, no physical additions to police protection facilities would be needed. The WPD has recently improved and expanded their headquarters to accommodate improved police services for the City and there are no future plans for an additional expansion to current police facilities. Further, the Project does not propose or warrant construction of new or physically altered police protection facilities. Therefore, the Project would not result in significant environmental impacts in this regard.

As previously noted, the WPD confirmed that it consistently averages response times that are nearest to the best response time (approximately four minutes) identified by the Department of Justice. According to the WPD, the proposed development has the potential to increase calls for service and investigations of domestic violence incidents, disturbances, burglaries, assaults, frauds, thefts, and other crimes. An increase in these incidents on current staffing levels would increase time spent on handling service calls and associated report writing while reducing available discretionary time aimed at crime reduction. Further, an increase in service calls may also result in increased response times and increased wait for police services.²⁰ While an increased demand for police services may occur, the WPD has no immediate plans for additional expansion to the current police facility or staffing. The WPD has recently expanded and improved its headquarters to accommodate improved services within the City.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Written Correspondence: Davis, Michael, Whittier Patrol Division Commander, Whittier Police Department, February 11, 2014.



As indicated in the Lincoln Specific Plan, the proposed land uses shall comply with WPD's security and public safety requirements, which include reviewing robbery and burglary alarm systems, and installation of a surveillance camera system, which monitors the front of the development as well as the parking lot for select commercial/retail establishments.²¹ The WPD's review would ensure adequate design features are included to minimize any potential increase in demand for police protection services. Future development associated with the Project would occur in two phases over several years; thus, any increase in demand for police protection services would occur gradually, as additional development occurs within the area. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

SCHOOLS

- **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WOULD NOT INCREASE THE LOCAL STUDENT POPULATION, CREATING A DEMAND FOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES THAT COULD CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.**

Impact Analysis: The Project site is situated within the LNSD (grades K to eight) and WUHSD (grades nine to 12), as discussed above. The Project does not propose new or physically altered school facilities. However, Project implementation would increase the onsite development including residential and commercial uses, which would increase LNSD's and WUHSD's student population.

Los Nietos School District

The LNSD was contacted to obtain student generation rates that could be used to forecast the student population growth resulting from Project implementation. The LNSD has confirmed that they do not have student generation rates available as they have not done a generation rate study. LNSD has also confirmed that they do not base their attendance on student generation rates. Because there has been minimal development within LNSD's boundaries, enrollment has not increased. LNSD enrollment is forecast through roll up projections, where the current year's enrollment is moved to the next year's enrollment for all grade levels. In addition, meetings with school site secretaries are conducted and they provide information regarding families moving in and out of the area.²² These roll up projections are then adjusted based on the given information. The development of new residential units would increase the students attending LNSD schools. Therefore, while the Project would generate an increase in the LNSD's student population, LNSD has confirmed that current facilities are equipped to handle an increase in enrollment growth.²³ Further, LNSD is exploring additional funding opportunities to continue facility improvements including funding to purchase additional portable classrooms if necessary.²⁴ Therefore, impacts in this regard would be less than significant.

²¹ Daniellan Associates, *Lincoln Specific Plan*, August 22, 2014.

²² Written Correspondence, McMasters, Doug, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Los Nietos School District, March 11, 2014.

²³ Written Correspondence, McMasters, Doug, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Los Nietos School District, February 14, 2014.

²⁴ Written Correspondence, McMasters, Doug, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Los Nietos School District, March 11, 2014.



Whittier Union High School District

Project implementation would allow for up to 750 single- and multi-family residential units. The development of these new residential units would increase students attending schools within WUHSD. The WUHSD was contacted to obtain student generation rates that could be used to forecast the student population growth resulting from Project implementation. Table 5.12-2, *Estimated Student Generation*, provides the estimated number of students that could potentially be generated as a result of the project.

**Table 5.12-2
Estimated Student Generation**

Development Type	Student Generation Factor ¹	Residential Units	Students Generated
Residential	0.22	750	165

¹ Written Correspondence, Muschetto, Paul, Associate Superintendent of Business Services, Whittier Union High School, February 18, 2014.

As indicated in Table 5.12-2, the Project could add 165 new students to the WUHSD. As indicated above, WUHSD has adequate capacity to serve additional students within the Project area. Additionally, development of the Specific Plan area is anticipated to occur in two phases over several years; thus, any increase in demand for school services would occur gradually as additional development is added to the area.

Overall, Project implementation would generate student population growth in the LNSD and WUHSD. However, the Project does not propose and would not warrant construction of new or physically altered school facilities. Therefore, the Project would not result in substantial environmental impacts in this regard. Additionally, Education Code Section 17620, et seq. allows school districts to collect impact fees from developers of new commercial/industrial building space. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65996, school fees imposed through the Education Code are deemed to be full mitigation for new development projects. Developer impact fees would be imposed on future applicants for development within the Specific Plan area. Thus, compliance with the established regulatory framework, which requires payment of developer impact fees, would offset the cost of providing service for any additional students generated by the Project. The impacts on school services would be fully mitigated through existing State regulations and would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- **THE PROJECT WOULD NOT CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS RELATED TO PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES.**



Impact Analysis:

Provision of New Park Facilities

As noted in Section 3.0, the Specific Plan includes a Parks and Open Space Plan that provides community, neighborhood, and open space on a total of 4.6 acres within Planning Areas 3, 4, and 8. All of these parks, open space areas, and trails would be privately owned and would be maintained by the Homeowner's Association. All amenities described below would be available for public use with the exception of Ethos Plunge. The conceptual park locations are shown in Exhibit 3-6, *Parks and Open Space Plan*, and described below.

- *Open Space - Ethos Plunge (Planning Area 3)*. This 0.8-acre recreation area would serve Lincoln Specific Plan residents. Planned facilities include a pool, spa, seating, and barbecue area.
- *Open Spaces - Pocket Parks (Planning Areas 3, and 4)*. Pocket parks (one acre) would be located within neighborhoods to provide additional active and passive recreation opportunities. Amenities may include benches, shade structures, fitness equipment, dog runs, tot lots, and/or open lawn areas.
- *Open Spaces/Parks – Poets Park (Planning Area 3) and Independence Green (Planning Area 8)*. The 0.2-acre Poets Park would be a passive park within Planning Area 3, and may include fitness equipment, shade structures, and benches. Independence Green would occur in Planning Area 8, and would be a 2.6-acre park in the central portion of the site providing active and passive areas including fitness equipment, play fields, and benches.
- *Freedom Trail*. The Freedom Trail concept would include an enhanced walking/biking/running trail that would run adjacent to one side of each of the two main streets connecting the proposed residential area to Whittier Boulevard, Sorensen Avenue, Independence Green, and Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital (PIH). The concept for the Freedom Trail may also include exercise stations, rest areas, and play areas along its route and/or as part of Independence Green.

The environmental impacts resulting from construction of the proposed recreational facilities are analyzed in Sections 5.1 through Sections 5.14 of this EIR. No impacts beyond those identified in Sections 5.1 through 5.14 would occur.

Demand for New Park Facilities

Project implementation would create additional demand on existing parks and recreation facilities within the City. According to the WMC, development of 750 residential dwelling units could result in parkland demand for 1,500 persons.²⁵ Based on the City's adopted ratio of 4.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons (WMC Section 17.16.040), the Project would generate a demand for 7.2 acres of parkland.

Development of the Specific Plan would occur in two phases over several years; thus, any increase in demand for parks and recreation facilities would occur gradually as additional development is added to the area. In addition, the Project would be subject to compliance with

²⁵ Based on 2.0 persons per household per WMC Chapter 17.16.050.



the provisions of WMC Chapter 17.16. The Project proposes 4.6 acres of new recreational area that would in part satisfy the demand for parkland generated by population growth through new residential development. In addition, pursuant to WMC Chapter 3.48, the subdivider would pay the City fees to minimize, to the greatest extent practicable, the impact that new development has on the City's public services and facilities. Toward that end, the City intends that applicants for such development projects pay their fair share of the costs of providing such public services and facilities. Compliance with WMC Chapters 3.48 and 17.16, which require dedication of land, payment of a fee in-lieu thereof (i.e., payment of a development impact fee), or both at the City's option, would further minimize, to the greatest extent practicable, the Project's impact on the City's parks and recreational facilities. Therefore, the Project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the need for new or physically altered park facilities.

Increased Use of Existing Park Facilities

The Project could increase the use of existing recreational facilities as a result of new residential development and the resulting population increase. However, as discussed above, the Project proposes new recreational facilities that would satisfy any demand generated by the increased residential development. Additionally, the Project is subject to compliance with WMC Chapters 3.48 and 17.16, which require dedication of land, payment of a fee in-lieu thereof (i.e., payment of a development impact fee), or both at the City's option. As specified in WMC Chapter 3.48, payment of the City fees are intended to minimize, to the greatest extent practicable, the impact that new development has on the City's public services and facilities. Thus, through compliance with WMC Chapters 3.48 and 17.16, applicants of development projects would pay their fair share of the costs of providing such public services and facilities. Therefore, Project implementation would not increase the use of existing recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration would occur as a result of new residents. A less than significant impact would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

5.12.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- **THE PROJECT, COMBINED WITH IDENTIFIED CUMULATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROJECT AREA, WOULD NOT CREATE INCREASED DEMAND FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES THAT COULD CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.**

Table 4-1, *Cumulative Projects List*, identifies the related projects and other possible development determined as having the potential to interact with the Project to the extent that a significant cumulative effect may occur. For purposes of fire protection, police protection, and parks/recreational services and facilities impact analyses, cumulative impacts are considered for projects located within the City of Whittier. For purposes of school impact analyses, cumulative impacts are considered for projects located in the LNSD and WUHSD jurisdictional boundaries.



FIRE PROTECTION

Impact Analysis: As discussed above, the Project would result in increased demands on the City's fire protection services. However, the Project is subject to compliance with the existing regulations specified in the 2013 California Fire Code, 2013 California Building Code, 2012 International Fire Code, and WMC Chapters 15.02 and 15.04 and specific fire and life safety requirements addressed at building fire plan check. These include general development requirements and access requirements for commercial and high density residential developments. Thus, because the Project is required to comply with the above cited laws, regulations and development codes, the Project's incremental effects to fire protection services are not cumulatively considerable. Although cumulative development would similarly result in increased demands on existing fire protection services and facilities, each cumulative Project would be required to comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, and development codes related to fire protection services. Compliance with the provisions of the California Building Standards Code, International Fire Code, applicable State, City, and County code and ordinance requirements for fire protection, as well as the General Plan Public Safety Element would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

POLICE PROTECTION

Impact Analysis: As concluded above, the Project would result in increased demands on the City's police protection services. However, the Project must comply with WPD's security requirements including lighting, reviewing robbery and burglary alarm systems, and installations of a surveillance camera system for select commercial/retail establishments. Therefore, because WPD's review would ensure adequate design features are included to minimize any potential increase in demand for police protection services, the Project's incremental effects to police protection services are not cumulatively considerable. Although cumulative development would similarly result in increased demands on existing police protection services and facilities, each cumulative Project would be required to comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, and development codes related to police protection services. As service needs increase due to increased population or other factors affecting the community, the WPD would determine whether or not additional police staff is needed. Therefore, cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

SCHOOLS

Impact Analysis: As concluded above, the Project would generate student population growth in the LNSD and WUHSD. However, the Project is subject to compliance with Education Code Section 17620, et seq., which allows school districts to collect impact fees from developers of new commercial/industrial building space. Therefore, because the Project is required to pay developer impacts fees, which are deemed to be full mitigation, the Project's incremental effects



to school facilities are not cumulatively considerable. Further, although cumulative development would similarly generate student population growth in the LNSD and WUHSD, each cumulative Project would be subject to compliance with Education Code Section 17620 and payment of development impact fees to school districts. Therefore, the cumulative impacts to school districts associated with the Project's incremental effects and those of the cumulative projects would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Impact Analysis: As discussed above, the Project would result in greater demands on the City's parks/recreational services and facilities. However, the Project is subject to compliance with WMC Chapters 3.48 and 17.16, which require dedication of land, payment of a fee in-lieu thereof (i.e., payment of a development impact fee), or both at the City's option. Thus, because the Project is required to pay impact fees and dedicate parkland, which are designed to alleviate cumulative impacts to the City, the Project's incremental effects to parks/recreational services and facilities are not cumulatively considerable. Further, although cumulative development would similarly result in increased demands on existing parks/recreational services and facilities, each cumulative Project would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by various City departments for compliance with minimum standards. Individual projects would be required to set forth the payment of fees or dedication of land which would ensure potential impacts associated with parkland demand are less than significant. Thus, the combined cumulative impacts to parks/recreational services and facilities associated with the Project's incremental effects and those of the cumulative projects would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

5.12.6 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

No significant unavoidable impacts related to public services and recreation have been identified.

5.12.7 SOURCES CITED

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