Appendix I-1

Los Angeles County Fire Department Request for Information Letter

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401
www.fire.lacounty.gov

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July 7, 2021

Brian Allee, Managing Associate
ESA
Planning Department
2121 Alton Parkway
Irvine, CA 92606

Dear Mr. Allee:

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, "TRAILS AT LYONS CANYON PROJECT," INCLUDES THE DEVELOPMENT OF 517 RESIDENTIAL UNITS WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, A DESIGNATED LOT FOR A FUTURE STATION, FOUR LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT LOTS, AND APPROXIMATELY 177 ACRES OF NATURAL AND IMPROVED OPEN SPACE WITHIN THE APPROXIMATE 233-ACRE PROJECT SITE, SANTA CLARITA, FFER 2021006382

The Request for Information Regarding Fire Protection Services has been reviewed by the Planning Division, Land Development Unit, Forestry Division, and Health Hazardous Materials Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department.

The following are their comments:

PLANNING DIVISION:

1. According to the City's website, the LACFD has 176 fire stations. Please confirm. The nearest station, LACFD Fire Station 73, located at 24875 Railroad Avenue, Santa Clarita, CA 91321, is approximately 2 miles northeast of the Project Site. Please confirm.

   Correct. LACFD has a total of 176 fire stations. However, LACFD Fire Station 124, not Fire Station 73, is the nearest station located at 25870 Hemingway

Avenue, Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381, approximately 2.6 miles northwest of the Project Site.

2. Fire Station 73 would provide primary service to the Project Site. Please confirm. Which fire station(s) would provide back-up services?

   Fire Station 124 is the jurisdictional station that would provide primary service to the Project Site. Fire Station 73 is the 2nd- due station that would provide back-up services. Fire Station 73 is located at 25870 Hemingway Avenue, Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381, approximately 3.4 miles northeast of the Project Site.

3. Please provide the following information for each fire station serving the Project Site:

   a. Existing fire station service boundaries and service area population, if known. If applicable, please note any anticipated future changes;

      Fire Station 124 has a service boundary of 33.61 square miles with the service area population of 25,947. Whereas, Fire Station 73 has a service boundary of 18.70 square miles with the service area population of 14,161.

      LACFD anticipates no unusual future changes.

   b. Equipment and staffing for existing stations (i.e., number of engines, trucks, squads, total full-time and part-time staff, firefighters on 24-hour duty, paramedic staff and services, etc.).

      Fire Station 124 is staffed during a 24-hour shift with a 3-person engine company (1-Captain, 1-Fire Fighter Specialist, and 1-Fire Fighter) and a 2-person paramedic squad (2-Fire Fighter/Paramedics).

      Fire Station 73 is staffed during a 24-hour shift with a 4-person engine company (1-Captain, 1-Fire Fighter Specialist, 1-Fire Fighter/Paramedic and 1-Fire Fighter) and a 2-person paramedic squad (2-Fire Fighter/Paramedics).

   c. Most recent data on associated response times for each fire station/facility serving the Project Site and the overall LACFD, if known; and

      Based on the distance to the Project Site, Engine 124 and Squad 124 (1st due units) are estimated to have an emergency response time of 8:36 minutes. Engine 73 and Squad 73 (2nd due units) are estimated to have an emergency response time of 11:20 minutes.

      Overall response time for LACFD is currently not available.

   d. Most recent data on yearly emergency incidents for each fire station/facility serving the Project Site and overall LACFD, if known.

In 2020, Fire Station 124 had a total of 2,057 incidents and Fire Station 73 had a total of 2,401 incidents.

Yearly overall number of incidents for LACFD is currently not available.

4. Please provide any applicable information regarding impediments to emergency response near the Project Site, including whether there has been a history of bottlenecks or street blockages during fire emergencies.

Currently, staffing levels and facilities are adequate in the Project Site with no major bottlenecks or street blockages during fire emergencies.

5. Please describe any planned changes to fire staffing and operations to serve anticipated future development of the Project. Also, describe any planned improvements to the fire protection facilities in the service area of the Project Site (i.e., new or expanded facilities, new equipment. additional staffing, etc.).

The development of the Project Site may require additional staffing, equipment, new or expanded facilities. However, any planned changes to fire staffing and operations would depend on additional information as well as the pace of development in the Project Site.

6. Beyond any planned improvements or changes in operations discussed under Response 5, would Project implementation require the provision of new or physically altered fire station(s) or the need for new or physically altered fire station(s) servicing the Project Site? If yes, please describe any new or expanded fire facilities directly resulting from Project implementation.

The information currently provided on the Project Site is insufficient to determine the impact this project would have on LACFD services. Additional information will be needed to fully evaluate the impact of the Project Site.

7. What would the anticipated LACFD response time for fire incidents at the Project Site with or without the Project? What would the response time goal to the Project Site with the Project? Please provide any relevant information regarding response time goals, as applicable to the Project or otherwise.

The Project Site is located in a suburban area. LACFD uses national guidelines of an 8-minute response time for the 1st- arriving unit, and 12 minutes for a paramedic unit in suburban areas. The anticipated response time for fire incidents with or without the Project is near our response time goal of an 8-minute response time for the 1st- arriving unit, and 12 minutes for a paramedic unit.

8. Please provide a general overview of the LACFD's emergency response system (i.e., emergency response plans, standard operation protocols and procedures, new technology or programs underway to improve response times, etc.).

LACFD operates under a regional concept in its approach to providing fire protection and emergency medical services, wherein emergency response units are dispatched as needed to an incident anywhere in the LACFD's service territory based on distance and availability, without regard to jurisdictional or municipal boundaries. So, while the stations mentioned above are the two closest stations to the project site, resources may be responded from other adjacent fire stations if needed.

9. Please confirm the locations and total number of existing fire hydrants, if any, that would serve future development of the Project. Please provide the existing fire flow parameters, such as fire flow (gallons per minute), of these existing fire hydrants.

   To be answered by Land Development Unit.

10. What is the estimated fire flow for future development of the Project Site? Would the existing water infrastructure system and fire hydrants have adequate capacity to meet the estimated fire flow demand for future development of the Project?

    To be answered by Land Development Unit.

11. Any information or concerns for fire access during construction or operation of future development of the Project (including site ingress/egress, minimum turning radii, driveway width, grading, etc.)?

    To be answered by Land Development Unit.

12. Any other design features, special fire protection devices or equipment (i.e., sprinklers, alarms), fire hydrants and spacing, fire flow, or mitigation required for future development of the Project?

    To be answered by Land Development Unit.

For any questions regarding this response, please contact Kien Chin, Planning Analyst, at (323) 881-2404 or Kien.Chin@fire.lacounty.gov.

LAND DEVELOPMENT UNIT:

1. Fire Apparatus Access Roads must be installed and maintained in a serviceable manner prior to and during the time of construction. Fire Code 501.4.

2. All fire lanes shall be clear of all encroachments and shall be maintained in accordance with the Title 32, County of Los Angeles Fire Code.

3. The required 20-foot wide driving surface shall be increased to 26 feet when fire hydrants are required. The 26-foot width shall be maintained for a minimum of 25 linear feet on each side of the hydrant location.

4. Provide a minimum unobstructed width of 28 feet, exclusive of shoulders and an unobstructed vertical clearance "clear to sky" Fire Department vehicular access to within 150 feet of all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of the building, as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building when the height of the building above the lowest level of the Fire Apparatus Access Road is more than 30 feet high, or the building is more than three stories. The access roadway shall be located a minimum of 15 feet and a maximum of 30 feet from the building and shall be positioned parallel to one entire side of the building. The side of the building on which the aerial Fire Apparatus Access Road is positioned shall be approved by the fire code official. Fire Code 503.1.1 and 503.2.2.

5. Provide approved signs or other approved notices or markings that include the words "NO PARKING - FIRE LANE." Signs shall have a minimum dimension of 12 inches wide by 18 inches high and have red letters on a white reflective background. Signs shall be provided for fire apparatus access roads to clearly indicate the entrance to such road, or prohibit the obstruction thereof and at intervals, as required by the Fire Inspector. Fire Code 503.3.

6. The dimensions of the approved Fire Apparatus Access Roads shall be maintained as originally approved by the fire code official. Fire Code 503.2.2.1.

7. Fire Apparatus Access Roads shall be provided with a 32-foot centerline turning radius. (Fire Code 503.2.4) Indicate the centerline, inside and outside turning radii for each change in direction on the site plan.

8. Dead-end Fire Apparatus Access Roads in excess of 150 feet in-length shall be provided with an approved Fire Department turnaround. Fire Code 503.2.5.

9. Fire Apparatus Access Roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including by the parking of vehicles, or the use of traffic calming devices, including but not limited to, speed bumps or speed humps. The minimum widths and clearances established in Section 503.2.1 shall be maintained at all times. Fire Code 503.4.

10. Traffic Calming Devices, including but not limited to, speed bumps and speed humps, shall be prohibited unless approved by the fire code official. Fire Code 503.4.1.

11. All required PUBLIC fire hydrants shall be installed, tested, and accepted prior to beginning construction. Fire Code 501.4.

12. All private on-site fire hydrants shall be installed, tested, and approved prior to building occupancy. Fire Code 901.5.1.

13. Provide a Form 195/196 signed and completed by the local water purveyor.

14. Show all existing public fire hydrants to within 300' of all property lines.

For any questions regarding the report, please contact Joseph Youman at (323) 890-4243 or Joseph.Youman@fire.lacounty.gov.

FORESTRY DIVISION – OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

The statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Forestry Division include erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, archeological and cultural resources, and the County Oak Tree Ordinance. Potential impacts in these areas should be addressed.

Under the Los Angeles County Oak tree Ordinance, a permit is required to cut, destroy, remove, relocate, inflict damage or encroach into the protected zone of any tree of the Oak genus which is 25 inches or more in circumference (eight inches in diameter), as measured 4 1/2 feet above mean natural grade.

If Oak trees are known to exist in the proposed project area further field studies should be conducted to determine the presence of this species on the project site.

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Forestry Division has no further comments regarding this project.

For any questions regarding this response, please contact Forestry Assistant, Nicholas Alegria at (818) 890-5719.

HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION:

The Health Hazardous Materials Division of the Los Angeles County Fire Department has no comments regarding the letter entitled, "Request for Information Regarding Fire Protection Services and Facilities for the Trails at Lyons Canyon Project, Los Angeles County," dated June 11, 2021, prepared by Environmental Science Associates, pertaining to the project site.

Please contact HHMD senior typist-clerk, Perla Garcia at (323) 890-4035 or Perla.garcia@fire.lacounty.gov if you have any questions.

If you have any additional questions, please contact this office at (323) 890-4330

Very truly yours,

RONALD M. DURBIN, CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION
PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU

RMD:ac