

**5.13 PUBLIC SERVICES**

**5.13.1 METHODOLOGY**

This section describes existing public services for the proposed project area and addresses potential project impacts related to the public services listed below. Information provided in this section regarding these public services is based on written and/or telephone correspondence with the respective public service providers. Responses to service inquiries are provided in Appendix G of this EIR. The public services and the corresponding service providers are listed below:

Public Service	Service Provider
Fire protection and emergency medical services	Los Angeles County Fire Department
Police protection and law enforcement	Los Angeles County Sherriff's Department
School services	Not applicable
Library services	Los Angeles County Public Library System
Parks	Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation and City of Pico Rivera (addressed in Section 5.14, Parks and Recreation)

**5.13.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS**

**Regulatory Setting**

**State**

**Fire Hazard Mapping**

The *California Public Resources Code* Sections 4201 to 4204 and *California Government Code* Sections 51175 to 51189 direct the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to map areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors. The maps identify areas with Very High Fire Hazard where CAL FIRE defines the application of various mitigation strategies to reduce risk associated with wildland fires. There are no designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) within the WNDBRA. The parcel owned by a private developer within the City of South El Monte and the parcel formerly leased to WB Core are designated as a Moderate to High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2007).

**County**

**Los Angeles County Fire Code**

Title 32, Fire Code, of the *Los Angeles County Code*, adopts the California Fire Code and International Fire Code by reference. New construction, rehabilitation, alteration, or expansion is required to comply with Title 32; the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) has authority to inspect buildings and premises for compliance and to correct conditions which may cause fire or contribute to its spread. Requirements include construction materials and methods, fire protection systems, emergency access requirements, water supplies, and other fire safety issues. It also addresses construction in fire hazard areas; the storage, use, handling, and transportation of hazardous materials; and the use of equipment and activities involving fire.

## Los Angeles County Code

Title 13 of the *Los Angeles County Code* contains the County's regulations for protecting the public peace, morals, and welfare. These regulations address offenses by or against public officers and government, offenses against public decency, offenses against public peace, consumer protection, offenses by or against minors, weapons, discrimination against persons with AIDS, and counterfeit goods nuisance abatement. Title 15 of the County Code includes regulations for vehicles and traffic on roads, crosswalks, bicycle lanes, railroad crossings, parking lots, and other traffic-related conditions. These regulations are enforced by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), along with other regulations regarding public safety and police protection. Title 17, Parks, Beaches and other Public Areas, of the *Los Angeles County Code* contains rules and regulations for County parks. The regulations include restrictions on operating hours, parking, property and vegetation removal, camping vehicles, overnight camping, animals, grazing, disturbances, alcoholic beverages, soliciting, rubbish, nudity, concessions, swimming, boating, fishing, firecrackers, explosives, smoking, riding and hiking, and other activities.

## **Environmental Setting**

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

Fire protection services in the project area are provided by the LACFD. The nearest and first-due fire station to the WND BRA is the Fire Station 90 at 10115 East Rush Street in South El Monte. This station is staffed with a three-person engine company and a two-person paramedic squad. Other nearby stations include Fire Station 4 at 2633 N. San Gabriel Boulevard in Rosemead, which is the second-due fire station for the northern section of the WND BRA and is staffed with a four-person assessment engine company and a four-person quint, and Fire Station 87 at 140 S. Second Avenue in Industry, which is the second-due fire station for the southeastern section of the WND BRA and is staffed with a four-person engine company (LACFD 2010).

The LACFD states that it uses national guidelines of a five-minute or less response time for the first arriving unit for fire and emergency medical service response and an eight-minute or less response time for advanced life support (paramedic) unit. Existing fire protection services in the project area are considered adequate by the LACFD (LACFD 2010).

Aside from fire protection and life safety services, the LACFD conducts public information programs on personal and public safety, special programs (such as the Junior Lifeguards, Rescue Youth, and the Junior Fire Chiefs), the Safe Surrender and Safehouse programs, and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program (LACFD 2009).

The Forestry Division of the LACFD is also responsible for erosion control, watershed management, Rare and Endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification for VHFHSZs or Fire Zone 4, archaeological and cultural resources, and the County's Oak Tree Ordinance. Cultural and biological resources are addressed in other sections of this EIR.

The LACFD has an automatic aid agreement with the City of Montebello, but this agreement does not provide City response to the WND BRA (LACFD 2010).

## **Police Protection**

Police protection and law enforcement services in the project area are provided by the LASD. The Temple Sheriff's Station, located at 8838 Las Tunas Drive in Temple City, is contracted to provide police services to the Cities of Bradbury, Duarte, Rosemead, South El Monte and Temple City, along with the unincorporated County areas of Monrovia/Arcadia/Duarte, North San Gabriel/East Pasadena, and South San Gabriel. This station also provides law enforcement services for the Chantry Flats area located in the Angeles National Forest (LASD 2009a).

The Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station is located at 6631 Passons Boulevard in Pico Rivera and serves the southern and southeastern edges of the WNDBRA, which are located within the City of Pico Rivera (LASD 2009b). The Industry Sheriff's Station is located at 150 North Hudson Avenue in the City of Industry and serves the eastern edge of the WNDBRA. This station provides police protection services to the Cities of Industry, La Puente and La Habra Heights, and the unincorporated County communities of East and West Valinda, Valinda, Bassett/North Whittier, and Hacienda Heights (LACSD 2009c).

As outlined in Chapter 2.97 of the County Code, the Office of Public Safety provides security services to all County departments and facilities as may be ordered by the Board of Supervisors or requested by the County departments. The Los Angeles County Office of Public Safety is responsible for security at more than 450 County facilities, including 127 regional parks, nature centers, lakes, natural areas, golf courses, neighborhood parks, and nature trails. There are 579 sworn officers and 140 non-sworn personnel budgeted at the Office of Public Safety, but only 76 percent or 546 positions are filled. The Office of Public Safety merged with the LASD in June 30, 2010, with the Parks Bureau created to continue to provide police services to County parks, which would include the County park facilities within the WNDBRA. The Parks Bureau of the Sheriff's Department is responsible for enforcing Title 17 of the County Code, which includes laws and regulations for parks, beaches, and other public areas in the County.

## **School Services**

The WNDBRA is located within the service boundaries of several school districts, but there is no resident population in the WNDBRA. Thus, there is no demand for school services from the WNDBRA.

## **Library**

Library services in the project area are provided by three local libraries within the County of Los Angeles Public Library System (County of Los Angeles Public Library 2010):

- **Montebello Library:** 1550 W. Beverly Boulevard Montebello, CA 90640
- **South El Monte Library:** 1430 N. Central Avenue, South El Monte, CA 91733
- **Pico Rivera Library:** 9001 Mines Avenue, Pico Rivera, CA 90660

### **5.13.3 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The following significance criteria are derived from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. A project would result in a significant adverse impact related to public services if it would:

**Threshold 5.13.1:** *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 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,*
- *Schools, or*
- *Libraries.*

#### **5.13.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

##### **Project Design Features**

There are no project design features that specifically relate to public services.

##### **Standard Conditions**

There are existing County regulations that would reduce demands for fire protection and police protection services. Compliance with these regulations would be required for proposed facilities and improvements in the WND BRA. These include:

**SC 5.13.1** All proposed facilities shall comply with the *Los Angeles County Fire Code* and regulations of the LACFD, which include standards for building construction, emergency access, fire flow, water mains, and fire hydrants, that are verified by the LACFD's review and approval of building plans and regular inspections for compliance with fire safety regulations.

**SC 5.13.2** Activities at the WND BRA shall comply with the *Los Angeles County Code* Titles 13, 15, and 17 and other pertinent regulations of the LASD.

##### **Impact Analysis**

**Threshold 5.13.1:** **Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for services for fire protection, police protection, schools, or library services?**

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

Proposed facilities and improvements under the MDPI would increase the number of employees and visitors at the WND BRA – roughly estimated to range from 2.0 to 2.6 million visitors, to as much as 7 percent more by 2020. The additional daytime population of the site would increase the potential for fire incidents due to human error, as well as the calls for emergency medical service. At the same time, the introduction of new structures (i.e., amphitheatre, welcome center, and performance pavilions) and site improvements for the development of the proposed

facilities, as well as infrastructure projects, may lead to an increased potential for fire incidents from use of equipment, electrical power, and gas systems. However, most of the proposed improvements (i.e., invasive species removal, native species reintroduction, storm water BMPs, soccer fields,, splash park,, entry signage, Green Streets, river crossings, playground, fitness stations, natural area river parks, fishing areas, and traffic calming measures) would not require fire protection services. Activities involving hazardous materials are also expected to carry the potential for fire. In addition, increased traffic on City streets may increase the potential for accidents requiring emergency response from the LACFD. These would lead to increases in the associated demand on fire protection and emergency service apparatus, equipment, and personnel. Consultation with the LACFD has indicated that once facilities are designed and actual construction is proposed, individual projects shall comply with all current codes and requirements on construction, access, fire flow, water mains, and fire hydrants.

The LACFD indicated that each additional development would create greater demands on existing resources, but no new or expanded facilities are needed. Compliance with the County's Fire Code under Standard Condition (SC) 5.13.1 would prevent the creation of fire hazards from proposed facilities and improvements under the MDPI. Building and structural plans shall be submitted to the LACFD for review and approval as part of the building plan check process. This will ensure that new buildings and infrastructure do not pose fire hazards to future users and ensure that fire alarm systems, emergency access, and adequate fire flows are provided to facilitate LACFD response. The LACFD shall also include the WNDBRA facilities in their regular inspections for County Fire Code compliance. Impacts would be less than significant.

No improvements are proposed on the parcel owned by a private developer within the City of South El Monte or the parcel formerly leased to WB Core, which are designated as a Moderate to High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Also, no improvements are proposed near this parcel, except for Green Streets on Santa Anita Avenue. The construction or use of Green Streets would not require fire protection services. Thus, the MDPI would not increase fire protection demand at or near these parcels.

### ***Police Protection Services***

Proposed facilities and improvements under the MDPI would increase the number of employees and visitors at the site - roughly estimated to range from 2.0 to 2.6 million visitors, to as much as 7 percent more by 2020. This additional daytime population would increase the potential for crime to persons as well as the potential for criminal elements within the WNDBRA. Also, the introduction of new structures, proposed facilities, and improvements (i.e., skate park, amphitheatre, splash park, disc golf areas, mountain bike facility, welcome center, performance pavilions, natural area river parks, and picnic areas) may increase property crime incidence at the site (i.e., vandalism, theft, and arson). Increase in vehicle trips on local roadways would also increase the potential for traffic accidents and violations. These factors would lead to greater demands for police protection and law enforcement services from the LASD. However, it is expected that facilities along the Rio Hondo (i.e., river crossings, natural area river parks, and trails) would provide "good eyes" along the river and make it less hospitable for the homeless.

The Cities of Pico Rivera, South El Monte, Rosemead, and Industry and adjacent unincorporated County areas are also served by the LASD, and increases in demands at the WNDBRA could affect police services at these adjacent Cities. The Cities of Montebello and Whittier have independent police departments that would not be affected by service demands within the WNDBRA. With increased demand for services, additional LASD police personnel and resources may be necessary to maintain existing response times and safety levels in the

project area. Consultation with the County Parks Bureau of the LASD has indicated that no impact on their services would occur with the proposed facilities and improvements in the WNCBRA (Hargraves 2010).

Use of on-site facilities and activities/events at the WNCBRA would need to be made in compliance with existing regulations to maintain public safety (SC 5.13.2). These include Titles 13 and 15 of the Los Angeles County Code, which addresses public peace, morals, and welfare (Title 13) and vehicles and traffic (Title 15), as well as other regulations for police protection and crime prevention. Impacts would be less than significant.

### **School Services**

Approval of the MDPI would not create a demand for school services, and the proposed facilities and improvements would not include housing development that may introduce residents (who would require school services) into the WNCBRA. Thus, no direct impact on school services would occur with the MDPI.

The new recreational facilities proposed in the WNCBRA would increase the number of visitors and employees at the WNCBRA (estimated at 2.0 to 2.6 million visitors, to as much as 7 percent more by 2020), but this is not expected to directly influence an individual's or household's choice of housing location that may lead to an increase in demand for school services near the WNCBRA.

The MDPI calls for volunteer programs that may be coordinated with local schools and joint programming of activities at the WNCBRA by local schools. However, the participation of school faculty and students in these programs would not generate or add to the number of school-age children requiring school services nor increase the demand for school services at nearby schools. No impacts on school services would occur.

### **Library Services**

The adoption of the MDPI would not create a demand for library services, and the proposed facilities and improvements would not include housing development that may lead to residents coming into the WNCBRA and generating a demand for library services. Thus, no direct impact on library services would occur with the MDPI.

The new recreational facilities that would be developed in the WNCBRA would increase the number of visitors and employees at the WNCBRA, but this is not expected to directly influence the use of local libraries nor lead to an increased demand for library services near the WNCBRA. No impacts on libraries would occur.

## **5.13.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

The cumulative study area for public services is the service area of the respective providers. Specifically, for the LACFD, the LASD and the County Library System, the cumulative service area would be the County of Los Angeles. For school services, the cumulative service area would be defined by the respective district boundaries of the different school districts serving the site.

The LACFD provides fire protection services to many cities in the County and has automatic aid agreements with other cities. Mutual aid agreements are in place with other counties in Southern California and the U.S. Forest Service. Thus, proposed facilities and improvements in

the WNCBRA, as well as future growth and development in Los Angeles County, would increase the population and introduce structures that would create a demand for fire protection and emergency services in the County. This cumulative demand for fire protection services would require additional personnel and resources at individual agencies to provide the same level of service and maintain existing response times.

Individual developments are required to comply with pertinent provisions of the County Fire Code or the California Fire Code to prevent the creation of fire hazards, to promote fire safety, and to facilitate emergency response. The individual fire departments also regularly review their services and the needed increases in staffing, fire stations, and equipment, as necessary, to keep response times acceptable and adequately serve their service areas. Plan reviews of development projects coming on-line by the individual fire departments would also ensure that no fire safety hazards are created by development; that fire prevention measures are incorporated into these projects; and that fire emergency response is facilitated by provision of adequate access and fire alarm systems. Compliance with these existing regulations would avoid potential significant cumulative adverse impacts on fire protection services.

For police protection and law enforcement services, the LASD is part of a mutual aid arrangement with various cities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties (Region 1) under the California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System. Under this agreement, all law enforcement agencies in the State assist adjacent or neighboring agencies upon request (Cal EMA 2007). The proposed facilities and improvements in the WNCBRA, as well as future growth and development in Los Angeles County, would increase the population and introduce structures that would generate a cumulative demand for police protection and law enforcement services.

Annual evaluation of police protection services by the individual cities and the County would determine the adequacy of police protection and law enforcement services and the needed resources to meet the public safety needs of the individual communities. Individual development projects are also subject to review by the police departments to determine ways to reduce the potential for crime incidence and demand for police protection and law enforcement services. The agency evaluations and project-specific reviews are expected to reduce demand and provide the necessary police services to the area and prevent any significant cumulative adverse impacts on police protection and law enforcement services.

For school services, growth and development in the Valley would lead to increased demands for service from various school districts serving the project area. Future development would have to pay the mandated school impact fees, as required under Section 65995 of the *California Government Code*, to provide funds for facility and service improvements at the affected school districts. Payment of these fees would serve as full mitigation of development impacts. However, the MDPI would have no impact on school services; therefore, it would not contribute to significant cumulative impacts on school services.

For library services, growth and development within the Valley would lead to increased service demands from the Los Angeles County Public Library System. The County charges development fees to fund future library service expansion to meet demand. However, the MDPI would have no impact on library services; therefore, it would not contribute to significant cumulative impacts on library services.

As identified in this section, the adoption of the MDPI and proposed facilities and improvements under the MDPI would not result in significant unavoidable cumulative impacts related to public services.

### **5.13.6 MITIGATION PROGRAM**

No significant adverse impacts to public services have been identified; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

### **5.13.7 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION**

Project impacts related to police and fire protection services would be less than significant with implementation of the SCs. No impacts on school and library services would occur with the MDPI and proposed facilities and improvements in the WNDBRA. No cumulative or unavoidable adverse impacts would occur.

### 5.13.8 REFERENCES

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