

## 5. Environmental Analysis

### 5.13 PUBLIC SERVICES

This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) addresses impacts of implementation of the proposed La Puerta School Site Specific Plan (Specific Plan) to public services providing fire protection and emergency services, police protection, school services, and library services. Park services are addressed in Chapter 8, *Impacts Found Not to be Significant*. Public and private utilities and service systems, including water, wastewater, and solid waste services and systems, are addressed in Section 5.16, *Utilities and Service Systems*.

#### 5.13.1 Fire Protection and Emergency Services

##### 5.13.1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

###### Regulatory Background

State and local laws, regulations, plans, or guidelines that are related to fire protection and emergency services and applicable to the Specific Plan are summarized below.

###### *State*

###### *Occupational Safety and Health Administration*

The California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) enforces the provisions of the State Occupational Safety and Health Act, which requires implementation of safety and health regulations under Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). Examples of general requirements related to fire protection and prevention include maintaining fire suppression equipment specific to a project site; providing a temporary or permanent water supply of sufficient volume, duration, and pressure; properly operating on-site fire-fighting equipment (e.g., sprinklers); and keeping sites free from the accumulation of unnecessary combustible materials.

###### *California Office of Emergency Services*

The California Emergency Management Agency was incorporated into the Governor's Office on January 1, 2009, by Assembly Bill (AB) 38 (Nava), and merged the duties, powers, purposes, and responsibilities of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) with those of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. The California OES (Cal OES) is responsible for the coordination of overall state agency response to major disasters in support of local government. The agency is responsible for ensuring the state's readiness to respond to and recover from all hazards—natural, man-made, emergencies, and disasters—and for assisting local governments in their emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and hazard mitigation efforts. The Cal OES Fire and Rescue Division coordinates statewide response of fire and rescue mutual aid resources to all types of emergencies, including hazardous materials incidents. The Operations Section under the Fire and Rescue Division coordinates the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System and coordinated response through the Mutual Aid System includes responses to major fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, hazardous materials, and other disasters.

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#### *California Building Code*

The California Building Code (CBC), in Part 2 of Title 24 of the CCR identifies building design standards, including those for fire safety. The CBC is based on the International Building Code but has been amended for California conditions. The CBC is updated every three years, and the current 2022 CBC, which is codified by reference in Chapter 15.054 f Building Code, of the Claremont Municipal Code, went into effect on January 1, 2023. It is effective statewide, but a local jurisdiction may adopt more restrictive standards based on local conditions under specific amendment rules prescribed by the State Building Standards Commission. Commercial and residential buildings are plan-checked by local city and county building officials for compliance with the CBC. Typical fire safety requirements of the CBC include the installation of fire sprinklers in all new residential, high-rise, and hazardous materials buildings; the establishment of fire resistance standards for fire doors, building materials, and particular types of construction; and clearance of debris and vegetation within a prescribed distance from occupied structures in wildfire hazard areas.

#### *California Fire Code*

The California Fire Code (CFC), contained in Part 9 of Title 24 of the CCR, incorporates by adoption the International Fire Code of the International Code Council, with California amendments. The CFC is updated every three years, and the current 2019 CFC, which is codified by reference in Chapter 15.65, California Fire Code, of the Claremont Municipal Code, went into effect on January 1, 2020. It is effective statewide, but a local jurisdiction may adopt more restrictive standards based on local conditions under specific amendment rules prescribed by the State Building Standards Commission. The CFC regulates building standards in the CBC, fire department access, fire protection systems and devices, fire and explosion hazards safety, hazardous materials storage and use, and standards for building inspection.

#### *Local*

##### *City of Claremont General Plan*

The provision of fire protection and emergency services in the City is guided by the goals, objectives, and policies of the Claremont General Plan Public Safety and Noise Element. The goals and policies applicable to fire protection and emergency services are listed below:

**Goal 6-7:** Minimize the risks associated with urban and wildland fires.

- **Policy 6-7.1.** Work with the Fire Department to establish minimum standards for water supply and access for fire-fighting equipment.
- **Policy 6-7.3.** Enforce building fire codes and ordinances and continue to research and adopt best practices pertaining to fire management and fire hazards.
- **Policy 6-7.4.** Work with the Fire Department to establish an aggressive fire inspection and code enforcement program.

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- **Policy 6-7.5.** Continue to disseminate information relating to fire prevention measures and resident response to emergency situations. with the understanding that an informed public can greatly aid in the reduction of fire loss.

**Goal 6-10:** Strive to maintain the highest level of emergency preparedness for natural and human-caused disasters and threats.

- **Policy 6-10.1.** Educate residents of hazards and threats addressed in the Claremont Emergency Plan/ SEMS Multi-hazard Functional Plan and the Natural Hazard Mitigation. Basic Plan, and use these plans as a guide to II prevention and mitigation of natural and human- caused hazards.
- **Policy 6-10.2.** Educate City staff to follow established procedures and responsibilities stated in the Emergency Plan/ SEMS Multi-hazard functional Plan and the Natural Hazard Mitigation Basic Plan in the event of an emergency.
- **Policy 6-10.3.** Complete implementation of a reverse 911 system to facilitate evacuation in case of an emergency.
- **Policy 6- 10.4.** Respond to emergency calls for service within an average of less than four minutes.
- **Policy 6- 10.5.** Work to ensure the adequacy of disaster response and coordination of all segments and populations in the community.
- **Policy 6-10.6.** Continue to have a paramedic squad assigned within Claremont boundaries.

### *City of Claremont Municipal Code*

Chapter 15.20, Fire Prevention, of the Claremont Municipal Code discusses the City's procedures for fire prevention and protection, which includes Section 15.20.10, Adoption of Fire Code for the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County, which adopts the 2020 Fire Code for the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County, amending the 2019 California Fire Code and incorporating the 2018 International Fire Code published by the International Code Council.

Chapter 16.203, Fire Protection Facilities and Services, requires that new development mitigate its impact on fire protection facilities and services in the City. As stated in Section 16.203.000, Purpose, on the basis of its "Fire Protection Facilities Impact Fee Analysis," the City has determined that developer fees are necessary to finance new fire protection facilities required to meet the fire protection service needs of new development and to maintain adequate fire service levels within the City. The fee will pay for new development's fair share of the costs of constructing and equipping new fire protection facilities. Section 16.203.010, Imposition of and Payment of a Fire Facilities Impact Fee, states that as a condition to the issuance of a building permit for any improvement on a lot or parcel of property within the City, the applicant shall pay a fire facilities impact fee as set forth in a separate ordinance and as amended from time to time to fund the cost of constructing and equipping fire protection facilities as identified in the "Fire Facilities Impact Fee Analysis." This fee is currently \$.20 per square foot of building area required prior to issuance of building permits (Claremont Planning Division 2022).

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#### *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*

The City of Claremont updated its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) in 2021 to guide hazard mitigation planning to better protect the people and property of the City from the effects of natural disasters and hazard events. The LHMP demonstrates the community's commitment to reducing risks from hazards and serves as a tool to help decision makers direct mitigation activities and resources. With the LHMP, the City may be eligible for certain federal disaster assistance, specifically, the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance program (City of Claremont 2022f).

#### **Existing Conditions**

##### *Fire Protection*

In the City of Claremont, the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) is responsible for the protection of life and property from losses due to fire, explosion, and other disasters. The City receives wildland fire protection from LACoFD's County Forester and Fire Warden. The City is home to three LACoFD fire stations at various locations. Fire Station 62 located at 3701 North Mills Avenue is nearest the Project Area at 1.03 miles and has an average overall response time of 4 minutes or less in accordance with Policy 6-10.4 of the Claremont General Plan Public Safety and Noise Element. Station 101 at 606 West Bonita Avenue is approximately 2.4 miles from the Project Area and Station 102 at 2040 North Sumner Avenue is approximately 1.5 miles away. Since LACoFD serves emergency cases within the county regardless of city boundaries, services from stations in Pomona, San Dimas, or Glendora can be dispatched depending on availability and distance. Station 101 also houses a paramedic squad that handles medical emergencies along with the crews on the engines (City of Claremont 2022a).

##### *Fire Hazards*

A majority of the City is built out and urbanized. Urbanized areas are susceptible to structure fires, which can spread depending on building construction, density, and winds. Open and undeveloped areas within the City could be susceptible to wildland fires. The San Gabriel Mountains and surrounding areas are identified as having very high fire hazard severity potential. This includes areas on the north and east borders of the City. While no area of the Project Area is in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) as defined by CAL FIRE's Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps, a small portion of the northwestern border of the Project Area is directly adjacent to the VHFHSZ in a local responsibility area. The La Puerta Sports Park, directly west of the Project Area, is bordered by this fire zone on the entirety of its northern and western borders (CALFIRE 2022) (see Figure 5.17-1, *Fire Hazards Severity Zones*, in Section 7.17, *Wildfire*).

##### *Emergency Services*

Claremont has adopted the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) for responding to any large-scale disaster requiring a multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional response. The City prepared a SEMS Multi-hazard Functional Plan that will allow the City to take advantage of regional, state, and federal resources following any large-scale disaster. The duties of each function are coordinated through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

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The City maintains an EOC at City Hall. An alternate EOC located at the Community Service facility can be utilized if the primary EOC is damaged in a disaster. In addition to these EOC facilities, the Claremont Police Department maintains a Mobile Command Post that is capable of establishing a field EOC.

In 2005, the Claremont Police Department partnered with LACoFD to coordinate a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program to teach and involve citizens in disaster identification, mitigation, and relief. In addition to public safety protection offered by the City, public education gives each community member the knowledge and power to respond quickly and wisely to disasters. The goal of the program is to minimize hazards by empowering citizens with the information to identify and detect hazards at an early stage, and to facilitate faster recovery. The program educates residents and City administrators who wish to learn about topics such as disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, disaster medical operations, search and rescue, disaster psychology and organization, and terrorism. Upon completion participants will be able to identify hazards likely to impact their homes, perform steps to prepare for such hazards and utilize basic medical treatments.

### 5.13.1.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if the project would:

FP-1 Result in a substantial adverse physical impact associated with the provisions 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 services.

### 5.13.1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following impact analysis addresses thresholds of significance for which the Notice of Preparation disclosed potentially significant impacts. The applicable thresholds are identified in brackets after the impact statement.

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**Impact 5.13-1: Implementation of the Specific Plan would introduce new structures and residents into the Los Angeles County Fire Department's service boundaries, thereby increasing the requirement for fire protection facilities and personnel. [Threshold FP-1]**

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*Impact Analysis:* New or physically altered governmental facilities, including fire stations, are usually required when the population in a localized area increases substantially such that existing facilities and services cannot meet the increase in demand. Following is a discussion of the potential impacts to fire protection and emergency services as a result of construction and operation phases of development accommodated by the Specific Plan.

#### Construction

The Specific Plan would accommodate the development of single-family detached homes within the boundary of the Project Area, along with all associated access, circulation, infrastructure, and hardscape/landscape improvements. Construction activities in the Project Area could have the potential to increase fire hazards.

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Construction activities could require flammable construction materials (including wood framing) and the installation of electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems. Although rare, fires do occur at construction sites. However, construction associated with development accommodated by the Specific Plan would be subject to LACoFD codes and inspection by LACoFD personnel. In addition, construction activities would be subject to LACoFD requirements relative to water availability and accessibility to firefighting equipment, as well as comply with City, county, and state fire protection regulations. Construction activities would be temporary and cease upon completion of such activities. Therefore, the potential for fires during construction activities would be very low, and this impact would be less than significant.

### Operation

Implementation of the Specific Plan would accommodate the development of up to 58 single-family detached homes and 10 accessory dwelling units (as analyzed throughout this DEIR) along with all related access, circulation, infrastructure, and hardscape/landscape improvements. The addition of up to 58 residential units and 10 accessory dwelling units is expected to result in approximately 204 new residents in the City (see Section 5.12, *Population and Housing*). Due to the increase in residential units and population, it is anticipated that the demands for fire protection and emergency services would increase above current levels. Although implementation of the Specific Plan could result in additional calls for fire and emergency service, the increase in population associated with the Specific Plan would have a nominal effect on the fire and emergency services and it is not expected that new or physically altered fire protection facilities would be necessary to serve the Project Area.

Considering the existing firefighting resources available in and near the City, as discussed above, impacts on fire protection and emergency services are not expected to occur. The Project Area is surrounded by residential development and the La Puerta Sports Park, which are already served by LACoFD; therefore, implementation of the Specific Plan would not result in a need for an expansion of LACoFD's service area. Also, in the event of an emergency at the Project Area that requires more resources than Station 62 (the closest station to the Project Area) could provide, LACoFD would direct resources to the Project Area from other LACoFD stations nearby, including Stations 101 and 102, and, if needed, would request assistance from other nearby fire departments.

Project implementation is also not anticipated to impede or increase LACoFD's response times to either the Project Area or the surrounding vicinity. Travel time to the Project Area from Station 62 is approximately three minutes. Therefore, LACoFD's response time for the closest fire station to the Project Area would be within the City's desired average response time of four minutes (per Policy 6-10.4 of the Claremont General Plan Public Safety and Noise Element).

Also, as discussed in Section 5.13.1.1, a small portion of the northwestern border of the Project Area partially abuts a VHFHSZ in a local responsibility area. To reduce the impact of the potential fire hazard, design features would be incorporated into the structural design and layout of the residential development accommodated by the Specific Plan, which would help keep fire protection and service demand increases to a minimum. For example, future residential development would be constructed in accordance with the most current adopted fire codes, building codes, and nationally recognized fire and life safety standards of the City and LACoFD.

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Development would be required for example to comply with the most current CBC, which requires all new structures to incorporate construction techniques and materials such as roofs, eaves, exterior walls, vents, appendages, windows, and doors resistant to and/or to perform at high levels against ignition during the exposure to fires. For example, pursuant to the CBC, fire sprinklers would be incorporated into the residential building designs to further reduce fire risk and service demand.

Residential development would be required to incorporate adequate emergency water flow, evacuation routes, and to identify and mitigate any fire hazards during the City's and LACoFD's development review process. The CFC also contains specific requirements such as construction standards in new structures and remodels, road widths and configurations designed to accommodate the passage of fire trucks and engines, and requirements for minimum fire flow rates for water mains. The City involves LACoFD in the development review process in order to ensure that all necessary fire prevention and emergency response features are incorporated into development projects. Development accommodated by the Specific Plan would incorporate such design features to minimize the potential demand placed on LACoFD. Refer to Section 5.17, *Wildfire*, for further information and discussion regarding the proximity of the Project Area to a VHFHSZ in a local responsibility area, including potential impacts to evacuation routes and plans.

During the City's development review process, the project applicant would be required to comply with the requirements in effect at the time building permits are issued, including the provision of adequate fire flow, number and location of hydrants, building clearances, and street and driveway/aisle turning radii for access, as well as payment of the Fire Facilities Impact Fee outlined in Section 16.203.010, Imposition and Payment of a Fire Facilities Impact Fee, of the Claremont Municipal Code.

Water service to the Project Area for domestic use and fire flows would be provided by the Golden State Water Company (GSWC). The local water main system is a combined domestic and fire protection water grid system that provides adequate water pressure and volume to the area in and surrounding the Project Area for purposes of fire suppression and domestic water use. A fire flow test must be conducted by GSWC in conjunction with the City and project applicant prior to operation of any development accommodated by the Specific Plan. All development plans would be required to be reviewed by LACoFD prior to construction to ensure that adequate fire flows are maintained and that an adequate number of fire hydrants are provided in the appropriate locations in compliance with the CFC. GSWC issued a statement of water service to the project applicant (see Appendix J2) stating that their water supply system, for both domestic and fire flows, would be adequate to serve development accommodated by the Specific Plan.

Based on the preceding, implementation of the Specific Plan would not generate demand for new or physically altered fire protection and emergency response facilities or need for new or physically altered facilities. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

#### 5.13.1.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The methodology used for the cumulative impact analysis is described in Chapter 4.0, *Environmental Setting*, of this DEIR. Planning for new or physically altered LACoFD stations is based on an assessment of the cumulative need for new facilities. The incremental contribution to demand for increased LACoFD protection services from implementation of the Specific Plan in addition to cumulative development projects would be offset by

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payment of the Fire Facilities Impact Fee outlined in Section 16.203.010, Imposition and Payment of a Fire Facilities Impact Fee, of the Claremont Municipal Code. Further, as with the Specific Plan, cumulative development projects would be required to go through the City's and LACoFD's development review process, as well as ensure that adequate fire flows are available from GSCW to serve fire suppression needs. As a result, impacts would not be cumulatively significant.

#### 5.13.1.5 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION

Upon implementation of regulatory requirements, the following impact would be less than significant: 5.13-1.

#### 5.13.1.6 MITIGATION MEASURES

No significant adverse impacts related to fire protection and emergency services were identified and no mitigation measures are necessary.

#### 5.13.1.7 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

No significant adverse impacts related to energy were identified.

### 5.13.2 Police Protection

#### 5.13.2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

##### Regulatory Background

State and local laws, regulations, plans, or guidelines that are related to police protection and applicable to the Specific Plan are summarized below.

##### *Local Regulations*

##### *City of Claremont General Plan*

The provision of police protection services in the City is guided by the goals, objectives, and policies of the Claremont General Plan Public Safety and Noise Element. The goals and policies applicable to police protection are listed below:

**Goal 6-9:** Provide effective and comprehensive policing services and enforce laws in an equitable way.

- **Policy 6-9.1.** Provide a state-of-the-art police station an up-to-date emergency communications technology for the Claremont Police Department.
- **Policy 6-9.3.** Provide timely responses to emergency and non-emergency calls for service 24 hours a day
- **Policy 6-9.6.** Continue to develop and implement community oriented policing projects to foster accountability, mutual trust, and respect between the community and the Police Department.

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- **Policy 6-9.7.** Assign personnel and resources, such that east police patrol unit can maintain 30 to 35 percent “free patrol” time to provide preventative crime patrol, proactive traffic enforcement and regulation, and community oriented public safety service.
- **Policy 6-9.9.** Provide additional cost-effective public safety services through the utilization of volunteers in our Police Reserve Officer, Community Patrol Volunteer Program, Explorer Program, Traumatic Intervention Service, Chaplain Volunteer Program, and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Policy
- **Policy 6-9.10.** Participate in school liaison activities such as Healthy Start Collaborative Program (School Resource Officer), on-campus probation officer, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), Adopt-a-Cop, Red Ribbon Week, School Attendance Review Board (SARB), and other joint police/school district projects that may be developed in the future.

### Existing Conditions

#### *Stations and Staffing*

The City of Claremont Police Department (CPD) responds to emergency situations in the City and patrols neighborhoods to promote a safe environment. CPD also utilizes reserve police officers who perform similar duties as regular police officers and enhance police services to the community. CPD has 38 sworn police officers, 3 sworn reserve police officers, 23 full-time professional employees, 8 part-time employees, and over 30 volunteers (City of Claremont 2022b).

CPD operates from a single station at 570 West Bonita Avenue, approximately 2.4 miles (driving distance) south of the Project Area. The police station was evaluated as part of a comprehensive needs assessment study in 2016 that looked at the needs of CPD, the condition of the existing station, the feasibility of retrofitting the existing station, and logistics of constructing a new facility at the current site. In 2017, an Ad Hoc Committee evaluated the finding of the study and determined the existing station is no longer able to serve the needs of CPD (City of Claremont 2022d). Claremont voters, however, have defeated two ballot measures that would have provided funding to replace the police headquarters (Marquez 2019), with the result that the station remains in operation as the only CPD location.

#### *Performance Standards*

CPD’s response time is the time between receipt of a service call and the on-scene arrival of a patrol officer and varies depending on the urgency of the call. CPD reported an average emergency response time of 4:22 for 2020 in their 2020 Annual Report (CPD 2020). CPD reported that response time for critical calls is a maximum of three minutes in their 2018 Annual Report (CPD 2018).

#### *Funding*

In 2007 the Claremont City Council authorized the collection of fees from users of certain non-essential police services that are not directly related with the protection of life and property. The fees are designed to provide

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cost recovery for these non-emergency services. Fees are based on formulas approved by the City Council, and are adjusted every July, or when there is a significant change in a cost factor (City of Claremont 2022c).

The City monitors staffing levels to ensure that adequate police protection and response times continue to be provided as individual development projects are proposed and on an annual basis as part of the City Council budgeting process. Funding for additional police personnel or facilities commensurate with the increased demand for services in Claremont are provided from additional property tax assessments, sales taxes, citations, and Transient Occupancy Taxes expected to result from the new development; funds from these sources are put into the City's General Fund.

#### 5.13.2.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if the project would:

- PP-1 Result in a substantial adverse physical impact associated with the provisions 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 services.

#### 5.13.2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following impact analysis addresses thresholds of significance for which the Notice of Preparation disclosed potentially significant impacts. The applicable thresholds are identified in brackets after the impact statement.

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**Impact 5.13-2: Implementation of the Specific Plan would introduce new structures and residents into the Claremont Police Department service boundaries, thereby increasing the requirement for police protection facilities and personnel. [Threshold PP-1]**

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**Impact Analysis:** Development accommodated by the Specific Plan would result in an increase in demand for police protection services in the Project Area and its surroundings. The introduction of new residential structures and residents in the Project Area would result in additional calls for law enforcement services, which could increase needs for CPD staffing, facilities, and equipment. Although development accommodated by the Specific Plan could result in additional calls for service, the increase in population associated with the Specific Plan would have a nominal effect on the police services and it is not expected that new or physically altered police protection facilities would be necessary to serve the Project Area.

Considering the existing police resources that serve the Project Area and its surroundings, as discussed above, project impacts on police protection services (including response times) are not expected to occur—even though implementation of the Specific Plan would increase the number of calls for service, the total demand would be within the capacity of the CPD to respond to. It is anticipated that CPD's staffing and equipment levels could absorb the additional calls and responses that could be generated by development that would be

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accommodated by the Specific Plan. Also, although unlikely, in the event of an emergency in the Project Area that requires more resources than CPD could provide from its police station, CPD would request assistance from other police departments.

The Project Area is also surrounded by residential development and the La Puerta Sports Park, which are already served by CPD; therefore, implementation of the Specific Plan would not result in a need for an expansion of CPD's service area. CPD would also respond to any public safety incidents in the Project Area within the expected range of response times, which is an average response time of 4:22 minutes for emergency calls and 3 minutes for critical calls (CPD 2020 and 2018).

The City involves CPD in the development review process in order to ensure that the necessary police protection features are incorporated into development projects. All site and building improvements proposed under the Specific Plan would be subject to review and approval by CPD. For example, development accommodated by the Specific Plan would be designed in accordance with the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, which include natural surveillance, natural access control, territorial reinforcements and maintenance and management.

The City monitors staffing levels to ensure that adequate police protection and response times continue to be provided as individual development projects are proposed and on an annual basis as part of the Claremont City Council budgeting process. Funding for additional police personnel or facilities commensurate with the increased demand for services in Claremont would be provided from additional property tax assessments, sales taxes, citations, and Transient Occupancy Taxes expected to result from the new development; funds from these sources are put into the City's General Fund. Development accommodated by the Specific Plan would result in a direct increase in revenue to the City's General Fund in the form of property taxes, which would ensure that adequate police personnel or facilities continue to be provided.

Finally, the Claremont City Council authorized the collection of fees from users of certain non-essential police services (i.e., provision of neighbor watch signs) that are not directly related to the protection of life and property. The fees are designated to provide cost recovery and support police services. Future residents of the Project Area would be required to pay fees for these non-essential police services, which would support police services throughout the City.

Based on the preceding, implementation of the Specific Plan would not generate demand for new or physically altered police protection facilities or need for new or physically altered facilities. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

#### 5.13.2.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The methodology used for the cumulative impact analysis is described in Chapter 4.0, *Environmental Setting*, of this DEIR. Planning for new or physically altered CPD stations is based on an assessment of the cumulative need for new facilities. The contribution to demand for increased CPD protection services from development accommodated by the Specific Plan and cumulative development projects would be offset by payment of proportionate property taxes, sales taxes, citations, and Transient Occupancy Taxes to the City by developers and the addition of new residents, workers, and visitors. Funds from taxes and citations go into the City's

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General Fund, which support the City's budget for police protection services. The Claremont City Council authorized the collection of fees from users of certain non-essential police services that are not directly related with the protection of life and property. The fees are designated to provide cost recovery and support police services. As with future residents of the Specific Plan, workers or residents of the cumulative development projects would be required to pay fees for non-essential police services requested, which would support police services throughout the City. Further, as with the Specific Plan, cumulative development projects would be required to go through the City's and CPD's development review process. Therefore, the Specific Plan in combination with cumulative development projects would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact on police facilities.

#### 5.13.2.5 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION

Upon implementation of regulatory requirements, the following impact would be less than significant: 5.13-2.

#### 5.13.2.6 MITIGATION MEASURES

No significant adverse impacts related to police protection were identified and no mitigation measures are necessary.

#### 5.13.2.7 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

No significant adverse impacts related to energy were identified.

### 5.13.3 School Services

#### 5.13.3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

##### Regulatory Background

State and local laws, regulations, plans, or guidelines that are related to schools and applicable to the Specific Plan are summarized below.

##### *State Regulations*

##### *California State Assembly Bill 2926: School Facilities Act of 1986*

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 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. The provisions of AB 2926 have since been expanded and revised by AB 1600.

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### *California Assembly Bill 1600*

AB 1600, which created Sections 66000, et seq., of the Government Code, was enacted by the State in 1987. AB 1600 requires that all public agencies satisfy the following requirements when establishing, increasing, or imposing a fee as a condition of approval for a development project. AB 1600 limits the ability of a school district to levy School Fees unless (i) there is a need for the School Fee revenues generated and (ii) there is a nexus or relationship between the need for School Fee revenues and the type of development project on which the School Fee is imposed.

### *California Senate Bill 50 and Proposition 1A*

Title 5 (Education Code) of the California Code of Regulations governs all aspects of education within the State. Senate Bill (SB) 50 and Proposition 1A, both of which passed in 1998, provided a comprehensive school facility financing and reform program, in part by authorizing a \$9.2 billion school facilities bond issue, and school construction cost containment provisions. Specifically, the bond funds are to provide \$2.9 billion for new construction and \$2.1 billion for reconstruction/modernization needs statewide. 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 reinstate the school facility fee cap for legislative actions (e.g., General Plan amendments, specific plan adoption, zoning plan amendments). According to Government Code Section 65996, the development fees authorized by SB 50 are deemed to be “full and complete school facilities mitigation.”

SB 50 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 less any local dedicated school funding.

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.

### *Local Regulations*

#### *City of Claremont General Plan*

The provision of school services in the City is guided by the goals, objectives, and policies of the Claremont General Plan Human Services, Recreational Programs and Community Facilities Element. The goals and policies applicable to school services are listed below:

**Goal 7-10:** Improve access of all Claremont residents to high quality education and lifelong learning opportunities that satisfy each individual’s needs, desires, and potential.

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- **Policy 7-10.1.** Promote and support the quality K-12 public education system by working closely with the Claremont Unified School District to determine and meet community needs for public education and related activities.
- **Policy 7-10.2.** Maintain life-long learning opportunities through the City's special interest programs offered at the City and Claremont Adult School.
- **Policy 7-10.5.** Strive to provide equal access to educational and informational resources.

#### *City of Claremont Municipal Code*

Section 17.156.020, Permanent School Facilities, of the Claremont Municipal Code states that the Claremont Unified School District may impose fees on new residential development to pay for permanent school facilities.

### Existing Conditions

#### *School Services and Facilities*

Claremont Unified School District (CUSD or District) provides elementary, middle, and high school education services to students living in the City. The district includes eight elementary schools, one middle school, and two high schools. In addition, the District maintains one adult school (CUSD 2022a).

According to the Claremont Unified School District 2022 Approved Map, the Project Area is within the Condit Elementary School attendance area (CUSD 2022b). Condit Elementary School is approximately 1.6 miles south of the Project Area. Other existing CUSD schools that could serve future residents of the Project Area include Chaparral Elementary School, approximately 1.4 miles to the south; Roble Intermediate School, approximately 2.5 miles to the south; and Claremont High School, approximately 1 mile to the south.

Enrollment in the District has primarily decreased between the 2014-2015 and 2021-2022 school years. In the 2014-2015 school year, enrollment in the district was 7,046 students; it has since decreased to 6,616 students in the 2021-2022 school year (CDE 2022).

#### *Funding*

Pursuant to SB 50, CUSD has the authority to charge developers with development impact fees. Revenue generated from these impact fees is used to accommodate the student population generated from new development projects by expanding and improving school facilities.

### 5.13.3.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if the project would:

- SS-1            Result in a substantial adverse physical impact associated with the provisions of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the

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construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for school services.

#### 5.13.3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following impact analysis addresses thresholds of significance for which the Notice of Preparation disclosed potentially significant impacts. The applicable thresholds are identified in brackets after the impact statement.

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**Impact 5.13-3: Residential development accommodated by the Specific Plan would generate new students that could impact the school enrollment capacities of Claremont Unified School District schools. [Threshold SS-1]**

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*Impact Analysis:* As outlined in Chapter 5.12, *Population and Housing*, implementation of the Specific Plan would accommodate approximately 204 new residents to the City as the result of development of up to 58 single family detached homes and 10 accessory dwelling units (as analyzed throughout this DEIR). According to the Claremont General Plan EIR, CUSD's student generation rate is 0.4 students per household. Based on this student generation rate, the 58 single-family residential units are anticipated to generate approximately 23 students. The 10 accessory dwelling units are not anticipated to generate new students as these housing unit types although attached to the main house, would be designed for and accommodate one or two individuals at the most; they would not accommodate a traditional family with one child or multiple children. Therefore, for purposes of the analysis in this section, the student generation was only calculated for the 58 single-family detached units.

As reported in the 2022 City of Claremont Housing Element Update EIR, CUSD is currently experiencing low levels of registration of local students. To make up for lower numbers of local students, the District has been accepting a large number of inter-district transfer (IDT) students (students from nearby cities). This allows the District to keep all of its local schools open and maintain a higher level of classes and extracurricular programs. It also provides the District with a buffer to admit more local students, should the number of local students increase. As local student enrollment increases, fewer IDT students will be admitted (City of Claremont 2022e). Therefore, students from the proposed project can be accommodated in existing district schools; no new school construction would be necessary.

The project applicant would be required to pay school impact fees, which pursuant to Section 65995 (3) (h) of the California Government Code (Senate Bill 50, chaptered August 27, 1998), are "deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property, or any change in governmental organization or reorganization." Payment of these fees fulfills the project's responsibility for addressing increased demand for educational services.

Therefore, impacts to school facilities would be less than significant.

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#### 5.13.3.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The methodology used for the cumulative impact analysis is described in Chapter 4.0, *Environmental Setting*, of this DEIR. Development accommodated by the Specific Plan combined with cumulative development projects in the City would generate new students and could exceed the capacity of the existing CUSD schools, which could result in a cumulative impact on the District. However, as with implementation of the Specific Plan, each related project would be required to pay the appropriate school impact fees, which would mitigate potential impacts on schools. Also, as noted above, as local student enrollment increases, fewer IDT students will be admitted (City of Claremont 2022e). Therefore, implementation of the Specific Plan in combination with cumulative development projects would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact on school facilities.

#### 5.13.3.5 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION

Upon implementation of regulatory requirements, the following impact would be less than significant: 5.13-3.

#### 5.13.3.6 MITIGATION MEASURES

No significant adverse impacts related to schools were identified and no mitigation measures are necessary.

#### 5.13.3.7 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

No significant adverse impacts related to schools were identified.

### 5.13.4 Libraries

#### 5.13.4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

##### Regulatory Background

Local laws, regulations, plans, or guidelines that are related to libraries and applicable to the Specific Plan are summarized below.

##### *City of Claremont General Plan*

The provision of library services in the City is guided by the goals, objectives, and policies of the Claremont General Plan Human Services, Recreational Programs and Community Facilities Element. The goals and policies applicable to library services are listed below:

**Goal 7-11:** Provide high-quality library resources to meet the educational, cultural, civic, business, and life-long learning needs of all residents.

- **Policy 7-11.1.** Continue the innovative partnership with the county library and Friends of the Claremont Library to improve the quality of library services in Claremont.

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- **Policy 7-11.2.** Continue to work closely with the Friends of the Claremont Library and the Claremont Unified School District to connect the Claremont Library to the greater community and to enhance services.
- **Policy 7-11.3.** Encourage Los Angeles County to develop programs and services for adults, children, and new readers that meet future needs.

### Existing Conditions

#### *Library Facilities*

The City of Claremont (including the Project Area) is served by the 22,921-square-foot Claremont Helen Renwick Public Library at 208 Harvard Avenue, which is a branch library primarily funded and operated by the County of Los Angeles Public Library system. The City also provides some funds to the library, as described below. The library also offers a computer lab, study rooms, a conference room, and a variety of educational programs and events. (Los Angeles County 2022). The Claremont Library underwent a \$3-million renovation in 2018 to include a 12-laptop dispenser, LED lighting, three self-check-out machines, ADA-compliant restrooms, and repaving of the parking lot (Marquez 2018).

#### *Funding*

According to the Claremont General Plan EIR, funding to the library by the City is provided through the Friends of the Claremont Library, which was established as a partnership between the City of Claremont and the county library, with the result of increased funding from both the City and the county for expanded library services and hours.

#### **5.13.4.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if the project would:

- LS-1            Result in a substantial adverse physical impact associated with the provisions 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 library services.

#### **5.13.4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

The following impact analysis addresses thresholds of significance for which the Notice of Preparation disclosed potentially significant impacts. The applicable thresholds are identified in brackets after the impact statement.

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**Impact 5.13-4: Residential development accommodated by the Specific Plan would introduce new residents into the Los Angeles County Library service boundaries, thereby increasing the requirement for library facilities. [Threshold LS-1]**

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**Impact Analysis:** As outlined in Chapter 5.12, *Population and Housing*, implementation of the Specific Plan would introduce approximately 204 new residents to the Project Area as a result of the development of up to 58 new single-family homes and 10 accessory dwelling units. The increase in population associated with the Specific Plan would have a nominal effect on the library service ratio, and library service capacity would continue to be met with development of the Specific Plan.

As stated in the Human Services, Recreational Programs, and Community Facilities Element of the City's General Plan, joint efforts among the County of Los Angeles Public Library System, adjacent cities, Claremont City Council Library Task Force, and Friends of the Claremont Library assist in continuing the Claremont Public Library's function as a safe and educational public space with a wealth of information and resources. Funding to the library by the City is provided through the Friends of the Claremont Library, which was established as a partnership between the City of Claremont and the county library, with the result of increased funding from both the City and the county for expanded library services and hours (Claremont 2006).

Although future project residents would be mainly served by the Claremont Public Library, they would have access to all libraries within the County of Los Angeles Public Library system.

Therefore, impacts to library service capacity as a result of development accommodated by the Specific Plan would be less than significant.

#### 5.13.4.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The methodology used for the cumulative impact analysis is described in Chapter 4.0, *Environmental Setting*, of this DEIR. Development accommodated by the Specific Plan and in addition to cumulative development projects in the City would generate new residents and could exceed the capacity of the Claremont Public Library, which could result in a cumulative impact. However, recent renovations of the library's facilities (occurred in 2018) are expected to provide adequate service for all new projects in the short term. As noted above, funding to the library by the City is provided through the Friends of the Claremont Library. Los Angeles County levies a library facilities mitigation fee to fund libraries in the unincorporated county (the fees are levied on developments in the unincorporated county), which can be accessed by residents of the City. Therefore, implementation of the Specific Plan in combination with cumulative development projects would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact on library facilities.

#### 5.13.4.5 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION

Upon implementation of regulatory requirements, the following impact would be less than significant: 5.13-4.

#### 5.13.4.6 MITIGATION MEASURES

No significant adverse impacts related to libraries were identified and no mitigation measures are necessary.

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### 5.13.4.7 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

No significant adverse impacts related to libraries were identified.

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