



## 5.10 FIRE PROTECTION

This section analyzes of the provision of fire protection services based on information provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD). The LACFD maintains ultimate review and approval authority over aspects of the proposed project that relate to fire protection and may identify further recommendations and/or requirements.

### 5.10.1 REGULATORY SETTING

#### FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) created Fire Hazard Severity Zones using a computer model that factor in the fire history, existing and potential fuel (natural vegetation), flame length, blowing embers, terrain, and typical weather for an area. The severity of the hazard is based on the likelihood that an area will burn over a 30- to 50-year period without fuel-reduction efforts. Given the results of the modeling, the State identifies an area as a “moderate,” “high,” or “very high” fire hazard severity zone.

#### WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE AREA BUILDING STANDARDS

Title 24, Part 2 of *California Code of Regulations (CCR)*, also known as the *California Building Standards Code (CBSC)*, addresses building standards for new structures constructed in or near a designated fire hazard severity zone. New buildings located in any fire hazard severity zone must comply with all sections of the current *CBSC*. Specifically, minimum standards are established for materials and to provide a reasonable level of protection from wildfire exposure for buildings in Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Areas. Ignition-resistant materials and design are required to reduce the risk from flame or burning embers projected by a vegetation fire.

#### CALIFORNIA FIRE PLAN

CAL FIRE and the State Board of Forestry (Board) regulate wildland fire protection in California through their annual *Strategic Plan (Fire Plan)* (CAL FIRE 2019). The mission of the Board is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, socially sustainable forest and rangeland management, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state. In concert with the mission of the Board, the mission of CAL FIRE is to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property and resources of California. The central goals of the Fire Plan that are critical to reducing and preventing the impacts of fire revolve around both suppression efforts and fire prevention efforts.

#### DUARTE FIRE CODE

*Duarte Municipal Code* Chapter 15.04, Fire Prevention Code, adopts as its Fire Code the fire code adopted by Title 32 of the County of Los Angeles municipal code, which in turn adopts the “*California Fire Code*.”



## 5.10.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

### FIRE PROTECTION

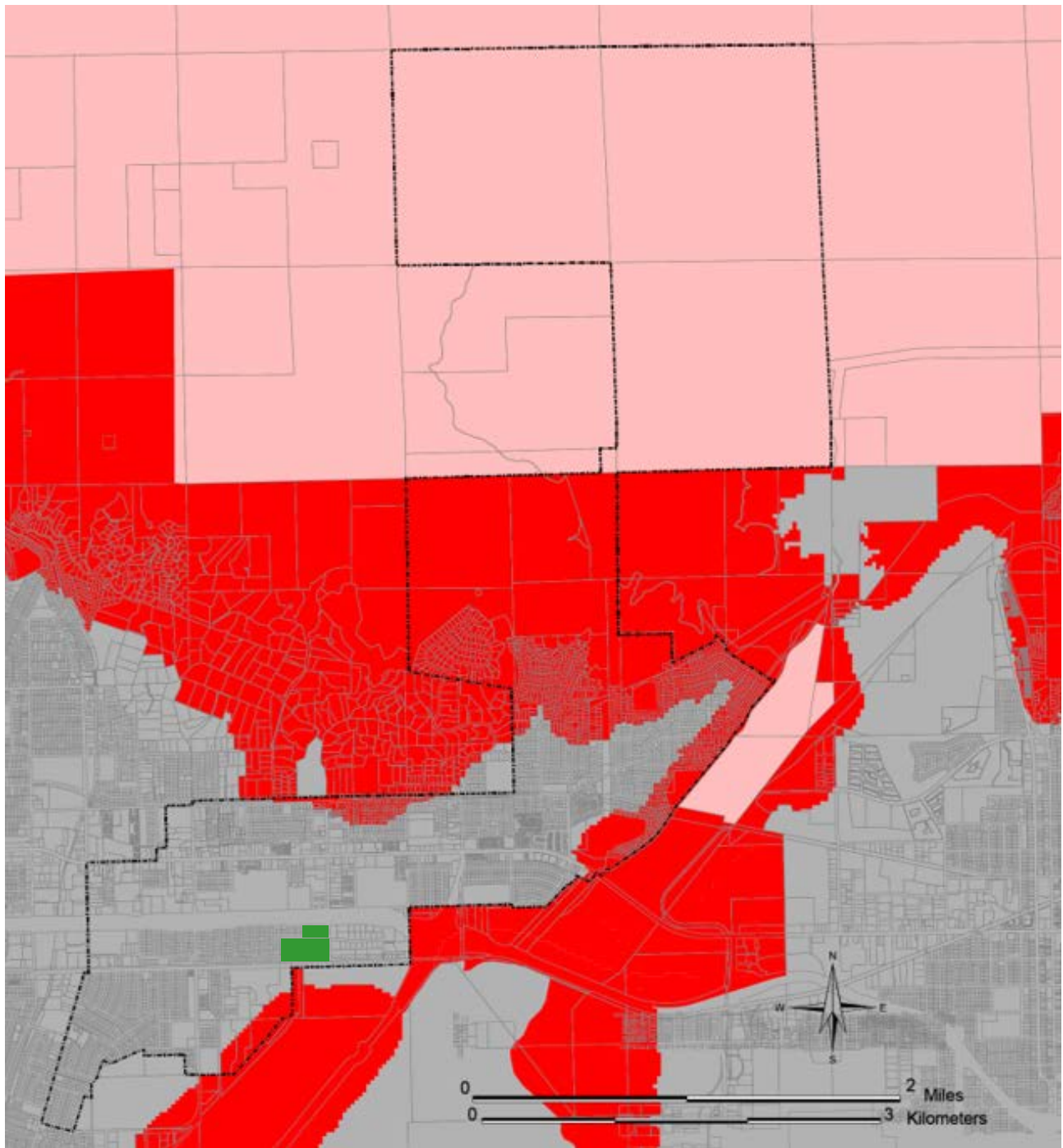
Fire protection and emergency medical services in the City of Duarte are provided by the LACFD. The primary response station for the City is Fire Station 44, Battalion 16, located at 1105 S. Highland Avenue. Fire Station 44 is located less than one-half mile from the project area.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) collects and analyzes information on a community's public fire protection and assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents the best public protection, and Class 10 indicates no recognized protection. The ratings are based on a variety of factors, including water supply, which are not within the authority of LACFD to regulate. Duarte's current published ISO rating is 3.

### FIRE HAZARDS

The City of Duarte *General Plan* includes a Safety Element, which identifies potential safety hazards, including fires, and establishes goals, objectives, and policies to protect life and property from these hazards. The element provides recommendations to minimize the risk to lives and property due to fire hazards and ensures that adequate emergency response can be provided when needed.

Duarte's location at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains creates an urban/wildland interface that makes Duarte more susceptible to wildfires. The project site is not located adjacent to the San Gabriel Mountains or wildland areas. The project site is not located within an area mapped by CAL FIRE or the City as a High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ), nor is it in an area of state or federal area of responsibility, however, a very small area mapped as a VHFHSZ is located immediately adjacent to the southwest corner of the property (Figure 5.10-1).



Source: CAL FIRE

### Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Local Responsibility Area

- VHFHSZ
- Non-VHFHSZ

State or Federal Responsibility Areas

- VHFHSZ
- Non-VHFHSZ

City Boundary

Parcels

Project Site

**Figure 5.10-1** Duarte Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map

*Duarte Station Specific Plan Subsequent EIR*



## FIRE PREVENTION

Development within the City is subject to compliance with all relevant LACFD requirements, which include ingress and egress access for emergency response, access, and fire and life safety requirements during construction, water mains, fire flows and hydrants, access roadways to fire department apparatus and maintenance of access roads and fire sprinkler systems. Specific fire and life safety requirements for construction are addressed at building fire plan check.

### 5.10.3 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD CRITERIA

The issues presented in the Initial Study Environmental Checklist (*CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G) have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this section. Accordingly, a project may create a significant environmental impact if it causes one or more of the following to occur:

- 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 fire protection services

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, if a project causes one or more of the following to occur:

- Substantially impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan
- Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire
- Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment
- Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes

Based on these standards, the effects of the proposed project have been categorized as either a “less than significant impact” or a “potentially significant impact.” Mitigation measures are recommended for potentially significant impacts. If a potentially significant impact cannot be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of mitigation, it is categorized as a significant unavoidable impact.



## 5.10.4 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

### FIRE SERVICES

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT COULD RESULT IN IMPACTS TO FIRE SERVICES.

**Impact Analysis:** Implementation of the proposed project would allow for increased development within the plan area, including office, retail, restaurant, and residential uses. The increased development could result in an increased demand for fire protection services to the project area. While an increased demand for services may occur, it is not anticipated that project implementation would not result in the need for new or physically altered fire facilities in order to serve the proposed project.<sup>1</sup> It is anticipated that property tax revenue generated by the proposed project would mitigate any impact the proposed project may have on fire department services. Additionally, future development associated with the proposed project would occur in phases over multiple years, based on market demand; thus, any increase in demand for fire protection services would occur gradually as additional development occurs within the area.

The far southwest corner of the proposed project site is located adjacent to a VHFHSZ, however, proposed development would not interfere with emergency response activities in this area. In addition, the Specific Plan area is an infill site surrounded by development with ornamental landscaping; natural fuels are absent for the areas immediately surrounding the Specific Plan area. Therefore, the proposed project would not exacerbate wildland fire risk to residents and employees in the area.

Future development associated with the proposed project would be reviewed on a project-by-project basis and would be required to comply with *Duarte Municipal Code* Chapter 15.04, Fire Prevention Code and fire department requirements such as emergency response access and water requirements. Adherence to the mitigation measures FP-1 through FP-11 representing LACFD development standards, and compliance with the other requirements of the City's *Municipal Code*, would ensure that project implementation would result in a less than significant impact to fire protection services.

Refer to Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, for a discussion of potential hazardous materials.

#### Mitigation Measures

- FP-1 Adequate access to all buildings on the project site shall be provided and properly maintained for emergency vehicles during the building construction process to the satisfaction of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.
- FP-2 Adequate water availability shall be provided to service construction activities.
- FP-3 Prior to issuance of building permits, a will-serve letter from the California American Water Company shall be obtained by the project applicant, which states that the Water Company can adequately meet water flow requirements.

<sup>1</sup> County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Frank Vidales, Acting Chief, Forestry Division, Prevention Services Bureau, June 12, 2013.



- FP-4 The Los Angeles County Fire Department shall review and comment on each individual site plan submitted, prior to approval by the City of Duarte. Any conditions required by the Los Angeles County Fire Department shall be complied with by the project applicant.
- FP5 Prior to the issuance of building permits, the project applicant shall provide verification that the project complies with all fire prevention provisions required by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.
- FS-6 All new structures shall have automatic fire sprinkler systems.
- FS-7 A supervised fire alarm system that meets requirements of the California Fire Code shall be placed in an accessible location with an annunciator.
- FS-8 Access to and around structures shall meet Los Angeles County Fire Department and California Fire Code requirements.
- FS-9 A water supply system shall be in place to supply fire hydrants and automatic fire sprinkler systems.
- FS-10 All traffic signals on public access ways shall include the installation of optical preemption devices.
- FS-11 All electric gates within the project shall install emergency opening devices approved by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

**Level of Significance:** Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.

### 5.10.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

**DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND OTHER RELATED CUMULATIVE PROJECTS COULD RESULT IN CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE IMPACTS TO FIRE SERVICES.**

**Impact Analysis:** Adjacent cities of Irwindale and Azusa also receive fire protection services from the LACFD. Implementation of the proposed project and related cumulative projects could increase demand on fire protection services provided by the LACFD. Individual cities have standards for reviewing new development projects to ensure that adequate fire protection services would be available and that fire codes and requirements are met. Each cumulative project would be reviewed on a project-by-project basis for compliance with minimum standards and if necessary, would be required to mitigate to the extent feasible potential impacts to fire protection services associated with the proposed development. As stated, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to fire protection services with implementation LACFD development standards. Therefore, development of the proposed project would not result in significant cumulative impacts on fire protection services.

**Mitigation Measures:** Refer to Mitigation Measures FP-1 through FP-11. No additional mitigation measures are required.



**Level of Significance:** Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.

### **5.10.6 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS**

Implementation of the proposed project would result in less than significant project and cumulative impacts related to fire protection services and facilities during both construction and operation with adherence to the identified mitigation measures and compliance with the City's Municipal Code and LACFD conditions of approval for individual development projects. As such, no significant unavoidable impacts would result from implementation of the Duarte Station Specific Plan.

### **5.10.7 SOURCES CITED**

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), 2019 Strategic Plan. January.

City of Duarte, *City of Duarte Comprehensive General Plan 2005-2020*, August 14, 2007.

County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Frank Vidales, Acting Chief, Forestry Division, Prevention Services Bureau, written correspondence, June 12, 2013.



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