



5.12 SCHOOLS

This section evaluates impacts of the proposed project on schools within the Duarte Unified School District (DUSD), which serves the Duarte Station Specific Plan area. Information in this section is based upon information provided by DUSD.

5.12.1 REGULATORY SETTING

ASSEMBLY BILL 2926

The State of California has traditionally been responsible for the funding of public schools. To assist in providing facilities to serve students generated by new development projects, the State passed Assembly Bill 2926 (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.

5.12.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Students residing within the City attend schools within the DUSD. *Table 5.12-1, School Information*, indicates the name, location, and distance from the project site for the schools currently serving the project area.

**Table 5.12-1
School Information**

School	Location	Distance From Project Site (miles)
Andres Duarte Arts Academy	1433 Crestfield Drive	0.75
Duarte High School	1565 E Central Avenue	0.35

Source: Duarte Unified School District, Schoolsite Locator, accessed June 24, 2019.

Table 5.12-2, School Capacity and Enrollment (2016-2017), identifies the capacities and enrollment for the schools that serve the project area.

**Table 5.12-2
School Capacity and Enrollment (2016-2017)**

School	School Capacity	Current Enrollment	Excess Capacity
Andres Duarte Arts Academy	550	410	140
Duarte High School	1,200	948	252

Source: California Department of Education, School Accountability Report Card: Andres Duarte Arts Academy, 2019; California Department of Education, School Accountability Report Card: Duarte High School, 2019; Peter Castillon, Duarte High School, phone correspondence, June 26, 2019.



As indicated in *Table 5.12-2*, the schools serving the project area currently have excess capacity. The DUSD's master plan includes the modernization and construction of new facilities at existing schools; however, there are no plans to construct new facilities at this time.

5.12.3 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:

- 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 school services.

Based on this standard, 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.

5.12.4 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

SCHOOLS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT COULD RESULT IN IMPACTS TO EXISTING SCHOOL FACILITIES WITHIN THE DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Impact Analysis: Development associated with implementation of the proposed project would allow for up to 1,400 new multi-family residential units. The development of these new residential units could result in an associated increase in students attending schools within the DUSD. Generation rates are the most common method used by a school district to project future enrollment.

The 2018 U.S. Census Bureau Community Survey of the City of Duarte estimates that 15.9% of the population of Duarte is between the ages of five and 18 (roughly the ages of the K-12 population; U.S. Census Bureau 2019). The project is estimated to house 4,242 new residents. Using this as an assumption, 15.9% of this population increase would be school-age children, or 674 youth. *Table 5.12-3, Estimated Student Generation*, also provides the estimated number of students that could potentially be generated as a result of the proposed project using a student generation rate of 0.55 students per dwelling unit assumed in the General Plan. For the purposes of this analysis, the proposed project is assumed to potentially add 770 students to DUSD facilities.



**Table 5.12-3
Estimated Student Generation**

Dwelling Unit Type	Student Generation Factor ¹	Residential Units	Students Generated
Multiple-Family	0.55	1,400	770

¹ Duarte General Plan Final EIR, August 2007.

As indicated in *Table 5.12-3*, the proposed project could add 770 new students to the DUSD. As indicated in *Table 5.12-2*, the baseline conditions of DUSD's capacity to serve additional students within the project area has decreased since the adoption of the original EIR for the original Specific Plan, resulting in inadequate existing capacity to serve the proposed project. Additionally, development of the Specific Plan Area is anticipated to occur in phases over multiple years, based on market demand; thus, any increase in demand for school services would occur gradually as additional development is added to the area.

To generate adequate classroom seating and facilities standards, individual development projects would be required to pay statutory fees in place at the time to DUSD in order to compensate for the impacts of development on school capacities.

Payment of fees to school districts is considered full mitigation for project impacts, including impacts related to 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, or other performance objectives for schools. Therefore, project applicants would be required to pay the statutory fees following mitigation measure SCH-1, so that space can be constructed, if necessary, at the nearest sites to accommodate the impact of project-generated students, reducing impacts to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

SCH-1 Individual project applicants shall pay all applicable Development Impact Fees to the Duarte Unified School District prior to issuance of building permits. Proof of fee payment shall be provided to the City of Duarte.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

5.12.5 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 SCHOOL FACILITIES WITHIN THE DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Impact Analysis: DUSD serves students residing within the cities of Duarte and Bradbury, as well as the Los Angeles County area known as South Monrovia Island. As indicated in *Table 4-1, Cumulative Projects*, new residential development is anticipated within Duarte. Development of the proposed project and related cumulative projects served by DUSD would potentially generate new students attending DUSD schools. However, individual development projects would be required to pay school impact fees based on the type and size of development proposed. Payment of fees to DUSD is considered full mitigation for project impacts, including



impacts related to 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, or other performance objectives for schools. Therefore, individual project applicants would be required to pay the statutory fees following mitigation measure SCH-1, so that space can be constructed, if necessary, at the nearest sites to accommodate the impact of project-generated students. Development associated with implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant cumulative impacts on school services and facilities.

Mitigation Measures: Refer to Mitigation Measure SCH-1. No additional mitigation measures are required.

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

5.12.6 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Implementation of the proposed project would result in less than significant project and cumulative impacts related to school services and facilities during both construction and operation with adherence to the identified mitigation measure. As such, no significant unavoidable impacts would result from implementation of the Duarte Station Specific Plan.

5.12.7 SOURCES CITED

California Department of Education. School Accountability Report Card: Andres Duarte Arts Academy, 2019.

_____. School Accountability Report Card: Duarte High School, 2019.

Davis Demographics. School Site Locator: Duarte Unified School District. Accessed June 24, 2019 at <http://apps.schoolsitelocator.com/?districtcode=00099>.

Duarte General Plan Final EIR. August 2007.

Duarte Unified School District. Official Statement. Election of 2010 General Obligation Bonds, Series E. May 2018.

Peter Castillon. Duarte High School, phone correspondence. June 26, 2019.

United States Census Bureau (U.S. Census Bureau) 2018 Quick Facts. Duarte City. American Community Survey on July 1, 2018. Accessed July 2019. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/duartecitycalifornia/PST045218>