

## 4.11.1 Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

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### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### Existing Conditions

The Glendale Fire Department provides comprehensive emergency services for the City of Glendale, including fire, rescue, and emergency medical (paramedic) services, as well as fire prevention and code enforcement functions. The Fire Department is a Certified Unified Program Agency, meaning the department is responsible for regulation and inspection of all phases of hazardous materials and wastes.

The Glendale Fire Department Operations Section consists of 9 fire stations housing 9 engine companies; 3 truck companies; 4 rescue ambulances; and various specialty response vehicles.<sup>1</sup> The Fire Department has 2 specialty response teams utilizing on-duty personnel, a Hazardous Materials Unit and an Urban Search and Rescue Team. A daily contingent of approximately 57 firefighter personnel is on duty at all times with a combined staff of 220 personnel, including administrative, fire prevention, and support personnel.<sup>2</sup> Based on the 2003 population estimate for Glendale of 202,700 residents, provided by the State Department of Finance, the ratio of firefighters to residents in the City presently stands at approximately one firefighter per 3,560 residents.

The Glendale Fire Department and the City of Glendale are both designated Class 1 (highest) by the Insurance Service Organization.<sup>3</sup> In 2002, the Fire Department responded to 1,791 fire incidents, which equates to approximately 8.9 incidents per 1,000 residents.<sup>4</sup>

On March 1, 2000, the Glendale Fire Department officially began providing emergency paramedic and transport services in the City of Glendale. Previously, private companies contracted by the City of Glendale provided emergency transport and paramedic services. In 2002, the Fire Department responded to 11,224 calls for emergency medical services, which equates to approximately 56.1 incidents per 1,000 residents.<sup>5</sup> The Glendale Town Center is located within the response district for Rescue Ambulance 21, which currently averages 330 calls a month, or 3,960 calls per year.

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<sup>1</sup> Verdugo Fire Communications Center, *Verdugo Fire Communications Center 2002 Annual Report*, 2003, pg. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Written correspondence from Chief Michael Haney, City of Glendale Fire Department, to Mark Berry, Project Manager, Glendale Redevelopment Agency, July 2003.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., November 2003.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

The Glendale Fire Department has 4 fire stations that have primary responsibility for providing fire protection services to the project site. The equipment and personnel at each of these facilities, Station Nos. 21, 26, 22, and 25, is summarized in **Table 4.11.1-1**, and the location of these stations in relation to the project site is shown in **Figure 4.11.1-1**. Typical response times from these stations range from 3 to 6 minutes.<sup>6</sup> Combined, these 4 fire stations responded to 1,150 fire incidents and 8,096 medical incidents combined in 2002, or approximately 3 fire incidents and 22 medical incidents per day.<sup>7</sup>

Other Glendale Fire Department stations in the City of Glendale, as well as stations in the Cities of Burbank and Pasadena, provide secondary response to the site through the “Verdugo Fire” system. Under the Verdugo Fire system, units from the Cities of Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena are dispatched by a common dispatch center and respond to incidents at any location in the three cities. Similarly, the Fire Department has mutual aid agreements with the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles.

**Table 4.11.1-1**  
**Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Service Staffing and Equipment**

Station Number	Location	Distance From Site	Equipment/Staff
21	421 Oak Street	0.55 mile	1 Engine with 4 firefighters 1 Rescue ambulance with 2 firefighters/paramedics 1 Truck with 4 firefighters
26	1145 N. Brand Boulevard	1.25 miles	1 Engine with 4 firefighters 1 Rescue ambulance with 2 firefighters/paramedics 1 Truck with 4 firefighters
22	1201 S. Glendale Avenue	1.15 miles	1 Engine with 4 firefighters
25	353 N. Chevy Chase Drive	1.45 miles	1 Engine with 4 firefighters 1 Rescue ambulance with 2 firefighters/paramedics

*Source: Glendale Fire Department, July 2003.*

<sup>6</sup> Written correspondence from Chief Michael Haney, City of Glendale Fire Department, to Mark Berry, Project Manager, Glendale Redevelopment Agency, July 2003.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, November 2003.

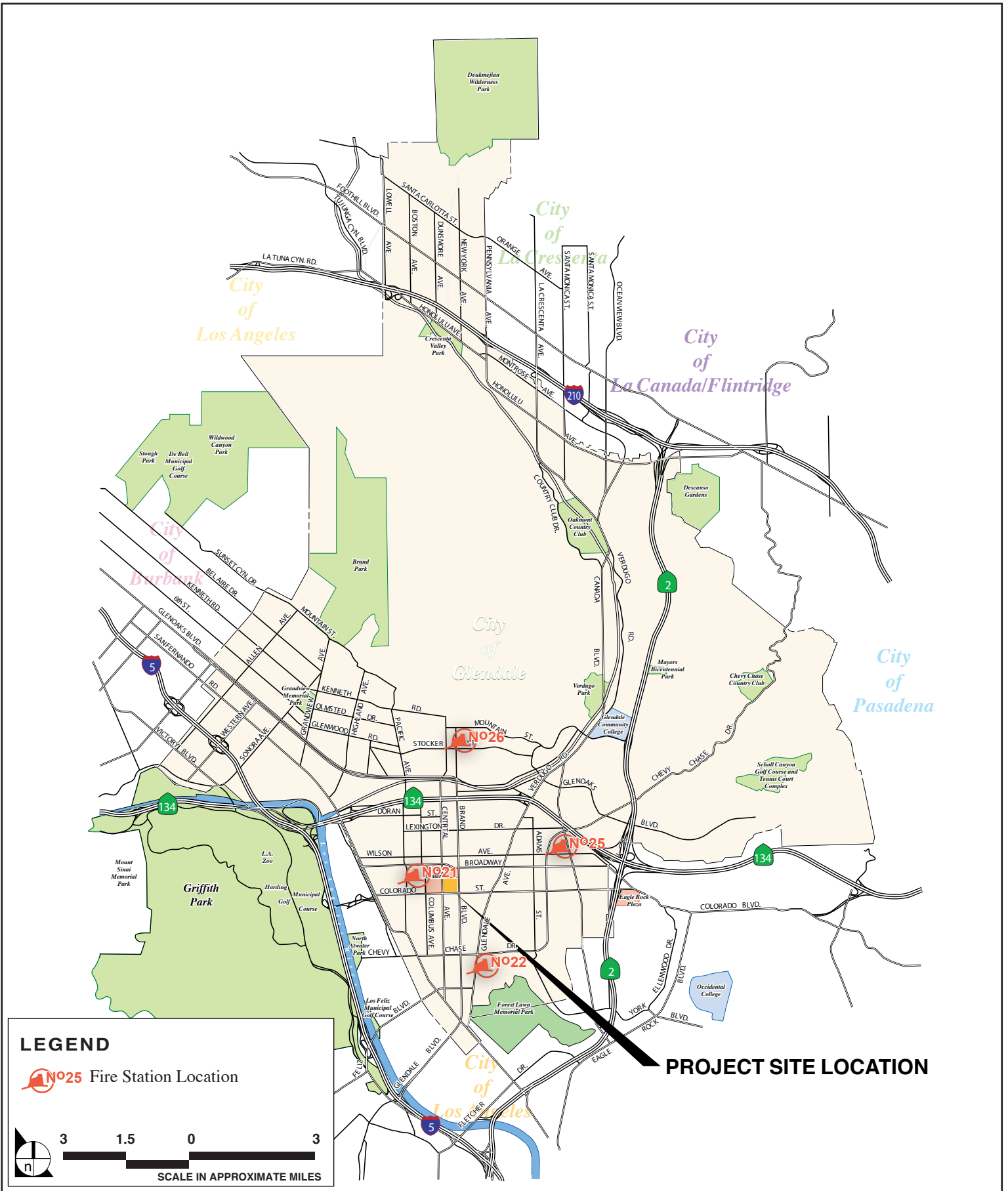


FIGURE 4.11.1-1

Fire Stations Responding to Project Site

In addition to equipment, personnel, and workload, fire flow is an important factor in fire suppression activities. Fire flow is defined as the quantity of water available for fire protection in a given area and is normally measured in gallons per minute. The Glendale Fire Department requires the provision of fire flows to serve individual developments in accordance with the Uniform Fire Code. While the Uniform Fire Code allows up to a 75 percent reduction in required fire flows for buildings constructed with an approved sprinkler system, the City of Glendale only allows up to a 50 percent reduction in fire flows for a building with sprinklers. Depending on the type of building construction and square footage, fire flow requirements range from 1,500 gallons per minute for two hours to 8,000 gallons per minute for four hours. For sprinklered buildings, the City of Glendale's fire flow requirements are at least 1,500 gallons per minute to as much as 4,000 gallons per minute, depending on the type of building.

According to Fire Department records, fire flow capacity within the Colorado Street, Brand Boulevard and Central Avenue mains is at least 4,000 gallons per minute for a minimum of 4 hours.<sup>8</sup>

## Regulatory Framework

There are a number of goals and policies set forth by the City of Glendale in the General Plan Community Facilities and Safety Elements that relate to fire protection services. A description of applicable goals and policies is provided in **Section 4.1, Land Use and Planning**. As discussed in **Section 4.1**, the project does not conflict with applicable General Plan goals and policies relating to fire protection services.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

### Methodology

Potential project impacts were evaluated based on the ability of the Glendale Fire Department to maintain adequate service ratios, response times or other performance objectives in the City resulting from development of the proposed project.

### Thresholds of Significance

The following threshold for determining the significance of impacts related to fire protection services are contained in the environmental checklist form contained in Appendix G of the most recent update of the California Environmental Quality Act *Guidelines*.

- Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental

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<sup>8</sup> Written correspondence from Jeffery Halpert, Fire Protection Engineer I, Glendale Fire Department, to Mark Berry, Project Manager, Glendale Redevelopment Agency, December 2003.

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 of the public services:

- Fire protection;
- Police protection (issue addressed within **Section 4.11.2, Police Protection Services**);
- Schools (issue is addressed within **Section 4.11.3, Schools**);
- Parks (issue is addressed within **Section 4.13, Recreation**); and
- Other public facilities (issue is addressed within **Section 4.11.4, Library Services**).

## Impact Analysis

The applicable threshold of significance is listed below, followed by analysis of the significance of any potential impacts and identification and discussion of any design features of the project that would lessen or avoid potential impacts. Also listed are other measures identified which would lessen or avoid potential impacts. Finally, the significance of potential impacts after the implementation of all identified mitigation measures is presented.

**Threshold:** **Would the project 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 fire protection services.**

### *Impact Analysis:*

Fire Protection – Implementation of the Glendale Town Center project will result in the direct addition of approximately 946 new residents and 1,756 new employees to the City of Glendale, as indicated in **Section 4.2, Population and Housing**. It is also estimated that up to an additional 1,176 residents could be indirectly generated by employees of the project relocating to the City.

Impacts associated with these additional residents and employees include an increase in fire protection responses, an increase in the number of building plan-check reviews, building inspections, public education activities, participation in community events, and ongoing relations with the homeowners association.<sup>9</sup> However, the Glendale Fire Department has indicated that it has adequate staff and equipment to meet these additional demands. As a result, the impact of the proposed project on fire protection is less than significant.

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<sup>9</sup> Written correspondence from Doug Nickles, Fire Prevention Coordinator, Glendale Fire Department, to Mark Berry, Project Manager, Glendale Redevelopment Agency, December 2003.

Emergency Medical Service – The additional residents and employees associated with the project would also result in an increase in emergency medical responses. The project is located within the response district for Rescue Ambulance 21, which currently averages 330 calls per month. The Glendale Fire Department estimates the number of emergency medical response incidents that would be generated by the proposed project would be 300 to 350 per year or approximately 25 to 30 additional calls per month. The City of Glendale has no formal service ratios or performance objectives for Rescue Ambulance service, but has considered the performance objectives developed by the City of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Fire Department Strategic Plan for Fire Facilities and Resource Deployment recommends a maximum workload of 350 responses per month for a paramedic rescue ambulance. With the additional number of calls from the project, Rescue Ambulance 21 would be responding to approximately 355 to 360 calls per month. Since this number of calls would not be substantially above the recommended workload for a rescue ambulance, the impact of the project on emergency medical services is less than significant.

Fire Flow – All buildings constructed as part of the Glendale Town Center will be installed with fire sprinkler systems. According to Fire Department records, adequate fire flow of at least 4,000 gallons per minute for a minimum of 4 hours will be available throughout the project site without constraints in the type or size of the building.<sup>10</sup> As a result, all buildings on site will connect to a water supply system capable of meeting Uniform Fire Code requirements for sprinklered buildings. Therefore, the impact of the project on fire flow is less than significant.

**Project Design Features:** The following are project design features that will lessen the impact of the proposed Glendale Town Center on fire protection services:

PDF 4.11.1-1(a) The project will meet minimum Code-mandated fire protection and performance based design, as required by the Glendale Fire Department.

PDF 4.11.1-1(b) The project applicant will develop an emergency manual prepared specifically for the project's occupants to address proper emergency procedures in the event of fire, earthquake, natural and catastrophic disasters, power outage, medical emergency, bomb threat, violence, etc. The emergency manual will be coordinated with and submitted to the Glendale Fire Department for approval to ensure that the appropriate level of on-site emergency planning and preparedness will be provided.

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<sup>10</sup> Written correspondence from Jeffery Halpert, Fire Protection Engineer I, Glendale Fire Department, to Mark Berry, Project Manager, Glendale Redevelopment Agency, December 2003.

PDF 4.11.1-1(c) The project applicant will develop and implement an employee-training program to familiarize employees with emergency plans.

PDF 4.11.1-1(d) In coordination with any programmed street improvement or signalization upgrades, the project applicant will install, or cause to be installed, pre-emption devices at affected traffic signal controlled intersections in accordance with Glendale Fire Department and City Traffic Engineering standards.

PDF 4.11.1-1(e) Approved Glendale Fire Department access to the construction site for emergency vehicles will be provided during construction of the project. On-site access roads will meet Fire Department requirements as listed in the 1998 California Fire Code Articles 9 and 87, as adopted and amended by the City of Glendale.

PDF 4.11.1-1(f) The project applicant will maintain a 24-hour security protection force that will respond to all fire alarms or other emergency services that occur within the project site. The senior security officer on site will handle interface with Glendale Fire Department staff. The Security Watch Supervisor will be responsible for interface with the Fire Department.

PDF 4.11.1-1(g) The project applicant will implement a Crisis Management Plan to handle emergency situations, including fires. Implementation of the Crisis Management Plan will be coordinated with the Fire Department.

*Level of Significance Before Mitigation:* Less than significant.

*Mitigation Measures:* None are required.

*Level of Significance After Mitigation:* Less than significant.

## Cumulative Impacts

The following cumulative analysis evaluates the impact of the proposed project and Citywide Projects on fire protection services in the City of Glendale. The applicable threshold is listed below in bold followed by an analysis of the cumulative impact of the project and Citywide Projects, and their potential significance.

**Threshold:** Would the project 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 fire protection services.**

**Impact Analysis:** As discussed in **Section 4.2, Population and Housing**, the Glendale Town Center and Citywide Projects together would result in the addition of 3,189 residents and 7,471 full-time and part-time employees directly. In addition, employment opportunities associated with these projects could indirectly generate up to 5,000 additional residents in the City.

This increase in population and employment will result in additional calls for fire protection and emergency medical services. The City has enough personnel and equipment to respond to calls for fire protection service generated by cumulative development. The cumulative increase in calls for emergency medical response from additional development projects, when added to those associated with the project, would result in Rescue Ambulance 21 responding to a number of calls that would likely substantially exceed the recommended workload of 350 calls per month for a rescue ambulance. This represents a significant cumulative impact to emergency medical response services in the City and the contribution of the Glendale Town Center to this impact is cumulatively considerable.

The Glendale Town Center and all Citywide Projects will be required to maintain adequate fire flow rates that meet the City of Glendale's fire flow standards. Required improvements will be made on a project-by-project basis. Therefore, the cumulative impact of the proposed project and Citywide Projects on fire flows is less than significant.

**Project Design Features:** None are required.

**Level of Significance before Mitigation:** Significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** The follow mitigation measure is required to reduce cumulative impacts on rescue ambulance service provided by the Glendale Fire Department.

- 4.11.1-1(a) The City of Glendale shall monitor the number of calls for emergency medical service responded to by the City's rescue ambulances and add an additional rescue ambulance and personnel when required.

**Level of Significance After Mitigation:** Less than significant.