Section 5.12:

Fire Protection

SECTION 5.12
FIRE PROTECTION

5.12.1 PURPOSE

This section identifies fire protection services within the City of Fullerton and provides an analysis of potential impacts associated with the buildout of The Fullerton Plan (proposed General Plan Update). Information in this section is based on information in the Public Safety and Natural Hazards Chapters of The Fullerton Plan, and correspondence with the Fullerton Fire Department.

5.12.2 EXISTING REGULATORY SETTING

FULLERTON MUNICIPAL CODE

The City of Fullerton has adopted by reference the 2010 Edition of the California Fire Code, incorporating by reference the 2009 International Fire Code with California Amendments, as codified within Part 9, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, also known as the California Building Standards Code, with amendments, as identified in Chapter 13.20 of the Fullerton Municipal Code (2010 Fullerton Fire Code).

5.12.3 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Fullerton Fire Department provides a variety of programs designed to protect the lives and property in the City of Fullerton from the adverse effects of fires, sudden medical emergencies, or exposure to dangerous conditions. The department is composed of three sections: Administration, Operations/Training, and the Fire Prevention Division:[1]

- ***Administration.*** Administration is responsible for the overall coordination and direction of the department. Additionally, this section oversees the City's disaster preparedness plan.

- ***Operations/Training.*** Operations/Training is responsible for providing continuous service for fire control and suppression, rescue, and medical aid, and the Paramedic Subscription Program. This section also provides emergency response for controlling Hazardous Materials Incidents. Operations/Training is responsible for providing: state and federally mandated training, ongoing continuing education related to hazardous materials, paramedic recertification, and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Additionally, the training function includes updating personnel in new technologies and methodologies to ensure preparedness for the broad range of situations to which the Fire Department responds.

[1] City of Fullerton official website, Fire Department, http://www.ci.fullerton.ca.us/depts/fire/default.asp, accessed May 2011.

- ***Fire Prevention Division.*** The Fire Prevention Division conducts ongoing inspections for the purpose of life safety, reduction in property loss, enforcement of federal, state, and local fire regulations, and weed and rubbish abatement. This division is also responsible for determining fire cause and investigating suspicious fires. The Fire Prevention Division conducts inspections related to hazardous materials and underground storage tank regulations. The division is also active in the Water Watchers program and periodically offers drowning prevention classes.

Table 5.12-1, *Fullerton Fire Stations*, summarizes the location and equipment/personnel for the six fire stations currently serving the City.

Table 5.12-1
Fullerton Fire Stations

Location	Equipment/Personnel
Station 1 (Headquarters) (312 E. Commonwealth Avenue)	1 ALS Engine (4 person crew) 1 BLS Truck Company (4 person crew) 1 Battalion Chief
Station 2 (1732 W. Valencia Drive)	1 ALS Engine (4 person crew)
Station 3 (700 S. Acacia Avenue)	1 BLS Engine (3 person crew)
Station 4 (3251 N. Harbor Boulevard)	1 ALS (4 person crew)
Station 5 (2555 E. Yorba Linda Boulevard)	1 ALS (4 person crew)
Station 6 (2691 Rosecrans Avenue)	1 BLS (3 person crew)
Notes: ALS = Advanced Life Support (paramedic); BLS = Basic Life Support.	
City of Fullerton official website, Fire Stations, http://www.ci.fullerton.ca.us/depts/fire/our_department/fire_stations.asp, accessed May 2011. Email and telephone correspondence with Julie Kunze, Division Chief/Fire Marshall, City of Fullerton, dated July 30, 2009.	

The Fullerton Fire Department's goal is to reach all medical aids and all fires within five minutes. The Fire Department is currently meeting or exceeding that goal.[2] Fullerton is part of a mutual aid agreement with all Orange County fire agencies. If a Fullerton engine is busy on a call and a second call comes in, dispatch automatically finds the closest available engine. In many cases, it is closer to have an engine respond from a bordering jurisdiction.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) rates fire department staffing and equipment, communications centers and water systems using a Fire Suppression Rating Schedule and then assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. The numeral classification rating is utilized to establish the community's commercial and industrial insurance rates. For every decrease in one rating point, insurance costs decrease by approximately 10 percent. The ISO rating for Fullerton is 2.[3]

[2] Email and telephone correspondence with Julie Kunze, Division Chief/Fire Marshall, City of Fullerton, dated July 30, 2009.

[3] Ibid.

The City of Fullerton offers the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, basic search and rescue, disaster medical operations, and fire safety. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhoods or workplaces following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members are also encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects within their community.[4]

The City is a partner in "AlertOC", a citywide mass notification system. The system has the capacity to send notifications of emergency conditions to registered participants within minutes via phone, cell phone, email, and text. The primary use of the system is to disseminate messages pertaining to the health or safety of a community, and can include situations such as major fires, flooding, road closures, and missing persons. "AlertOC" can also be used to alert City employees such as police, fire, and maintenance crews to report to work to assist with emergency recovery activities.[5]

FIRE HAZARDS

A majority of the City and surrounding jurisdictions are developed and urbanized, providing increased opportunities for structural fires within the City. Building density, building construction, and wind contribute to the spread of fire in an urban environment. In recent years wildfires have occurred in the densely vegetated areas in the vicinity of the City. The *City of Fullerton Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* (August 2010) identifies the risk of wildfires within the City. The West Coyote Hills and surrounding areas are identified as having very high, high, and moderate fire hazard severity potential. The area generally located between Harbor Boulevard and Brea Boulevard, north and south of Bastanchury Road is identified as having High and Moderate fire severity potential. The East Coyote Hills Area is identified as having moderate fire severity potential. Given the fuels, terrain, and weather conditions, along with the wildand urban interface that occurs, it is highly likely that a wildland fire would occur in areas surrounding the City. However, a damaging wildland fire within the City of Fullerton is unlikely.[6] Refer to Section 5.9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, for a discussion of potential impacts pertaining to wildland fires.

5.12.4 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS AND CRITERIA

Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* contains the Initial Study Environmental Checklist, which was included with the Notice of Preparation to show the areas being analyzed within the EIR; refer to Appendix 13.1 of this EIR. The Initial Study includes questions relating to fire protection services. The issues presented in the Initial Study Checklist have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this Section. Accordingly, a project would typically have a significant impact on fire protection services if the project would result in any of the following:

[4] City of Fullerton official website, Community Emergency Response Team, http://www.ci.fullerton.ca.us/depts/fire/cert/, accessed May 2011.

[5] City of Fullerton official website, AlertOC, http://www.ci.fullerton.ca.us/depts/fire/emergency_preparedness/alertoc, accessed May 2011.

[6] *City of Fullerton Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*, August 2010.

- Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which may cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives.

5.12.5 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FULLERTON PLAN COULD AVERSELY IMPACT FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY.

Impact Analysis: Buildout of The Fullerton Plan would result in additional demands on existing fire services, as individual projects are developed and associated increases in population are realized. According to the Fullerton Fire Department, it is anticipated that future development associated with implementation of The Fullerton Plan may result in the need for physical additions to the agency (i.e., new fire stations).[7] The Fire Department does not currently impose an assessment fee for new developments and it is unknown whether required fees and taxes would adequately address the expected increase in fire and emergency medical service demand potentially resulting from new development associated with implementation of The Fullerton Plan.[8] However, it is not anticipated that buildout of The Fullerton Plan would change the City's current ISO rating.[9]

Buildout of The Fullerton Plan would occur over several years; thus, any increase in demand for fire protection services would occur gradually as additional development and associated population growth is added to the City. The City and the Fullerton Fire Department would continue to regularly monitor fire department resources to ensure that adequate facilities, staffing, and equipment are available to serve existing and future development and population increases.

New developments associated with the buildout of The Fullerton Plan would be required to comply with all applicable fire code and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire flows, and hydrants. Individual projects would be reviewed by the Fullerton Fire Department to determine the specific fire requirements applicable to the specific development and to ensure compliance with these requirements.

Additionally, The Fullerton Plan includes policies and actions to ensure adequate resources are available to respond to health, fire, and police emergencies (Policy 13.2) and that the Fire Department is actively involved in the review of development projects to ensure the development would comply with fire management policies (Action 24.2). The Fullerton Plan also supports coordination with public safety agencies (Policy 13.1) to ensure that adequate fire

[7] Julie A. Kunze, Division Chief/Fire Marshal, Fullerton Fire Department, email correspondence, June 20, 2011.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

protection is provided to the Fullerton community. This would ensure that new developments would not reduce the staffing, response times, or service levels within the City. Therefore, implementation of The Fullerton Plan would result in a less than significant impact in this regard.

Proposed General Plan Update Policies and Actions:

P13.1 ***Inter-City Coordination***
Support regional and subregional efforts to: coordinate as appropriate Continuity of Operations Plan, plans and procedures for Emergency Operations Centers, and emergency response training systems; maintain inter-agency and public communications systems that will provide mutual aid and be reliable during and following an emergency; and, formulate definitive plans and procedures for evacuation of hazard-prone areas and high risk uses.

P13.2 ***Adequate Resources for Emergencies***
Support policies and programs that ensure adequate resources are available in all areas of the City to respond to health, fire, and police emergencies.

P13.3 ***Disaster Hazard Reduction***
Support policies, projects, programs and regulations that reduce structural and non-structural hazards to life safety, minimize property damage and resulting social, cultural and economic dislocations resulting from future disasters.

P13.4 ***Disaster Risk Reduction***
Support programs that promote greater public awareness of disaster risks, personal and business risk reduction, and personal and neighborhood emergency response.

P13.5 ***Community Emergency Preparedness***
Support policies, programs and regulations that ensure the City, its residents, businesses, and services are prepared for effective response and recovery in the event of emergencies or disasters, including the provision of information about the current nature and extent of local safety hazards and emergency plans, including evacuation plans and procedures to accommodate special needs populations (information should be provided in multiple languages to maximize understanding by community members).

P13.6 ***Inter-Department Coordination***
Support policies and programs that improve the coordination of disaster-related programs within City departments.

P13.7 ***New Technologies for Fire and Police Services***
Support policies, programs, and regulations which are based on research and evaluation and that implement new technologies and methods to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fire and police services.

P24.12 ***Environmental Impact of Support Facilities***
Support projects, programs, policies and regulations to limit the construction of facilities in open space areas and to design necessary improvements such as fire roads, access roads, and parking facilities, to minimize environmental impacts and maintain the visual qualities of the open space.

P26.5 ***Hazard Specific Development Regulations***
Support projects, programs, policies and regulations to utilize hazard specific development regulations to mitigate risks associated with identified potential natural hazards, including flooding, wildland fires, liquefaction, and landslides when development does occur.

A24.2 ***Interdepartmental Coordination and Collaboration***
Establish an interdepartmental coordination process to regularly address planning, design, and other matters (e.g. encroachments; updates to habitat, conservation and fire management policies; conditions of development applications; etc.) pertaining to open space.

A26.4 ***Wildland Fires***
For projects within Wildfire Threat Areas (see Exhibit 17), require landscape and building plans to incorporate defensible space between natural vegetation and buildings, on-site fire detection and automatic sprinkler systems, non-combustible roofing materials (tile or concrete), and other appropriate mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures: No further mitigation is required beyond compliance with the proposed General Plan Update Policies and Actions.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Less Than Significant Impact.

5.12.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FULLERTON PLAN COULD RESULT IN CUMULATIVE IMPACTS TO FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES.**

Impact Analysis: Development associated with implementation of The Fullerton Plan would result in additional demands on existing fire services and equipment. New developments would be required to comply with all applicable fire code and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire flows, and hydrants. Individual projects would be reviewed by the Fullerton Fire Department to determine the specific fire requirements applicable to the specific development and to ensure compliance with these requirements. The Fullerton Plan includes policies and actions to ensure adequate resources are available to respond to health, fire, and police emergencies (Policy 13.2) and that the Fire Department is actively involved in the review of development projects (Action 24.2).

The City would continue to consider impacts to fire services and facilities as part of the long-term planning process, and has done that with The Fullerton Plan, which serves as a long-term planning document and anticipates future growth. The City reviews budgets on an annual basis and would plan for fire demands associated with future growth. Funding for fire services and facilities would be paid in part by developer fees and general funds. This would ensure that new developments would not reduce the staffing, response times, or existing service levels within the City. Therefore, implementation of The Fullerton Plan would result in less than significant impacts to fire protection and emergency services. As such, implementation of The Fullerton Plan would not result in cumulatively considerable fire protection impacts.

Proposed General Plan Update Policies and Actions: Refer to the Policies and Actions cited above.

Mitigation Measures: No further mitigation is required beyond compliance with the proposed General Plan Update Policies and Actions.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Less Than Significant Impact.

5.12.7 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Fire protection impacts associated with implementation of The Fullerton Plan would be less than significant by adherence to and/or compliance with policies and actions in The Fullerton Plan. No significant unavoidable fire protection impacts would occur as a result of buildout of The Fullerton Plan.

5.12.8 SOURCES CITED

City of Fullerton Hazard Mitigation Plan, August 2009.

City of Fullerton Official Website, www.ci.fullerton.ca.us.

Julie Kunze, Division Chief/Fire Marshall, Fullerton Fire Department, electronic mail and telephone correspondence, July 30, 2009 and June 20, 2011.

RBF Consulting, *The Fullerton Plan Draft*, August 2011.

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