

1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the Draft EIR discusses police protection within the project area. Sources of information used in the preparation of this section include: coordination with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the LAPD website, and the Safety element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan.

2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

a. Available Service

Los Angeles Police Department

The LAPD provides police protection within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Los Angeles, including the project sites. The LAPD is divided into four bureaus: Central, West, Valley and South. These four bureaus are subsequently sub-divided into 18 areas or divisions. The Herald Examiner project is located in the Central Bureau in the Central Area, in Reporting District (RD) 185. The Central Area covers 4.89 square miles and the station located closest to the project sites is located at 251 East 6th Street, approximately 2 miles from the project sites.

The service boundaries of Central Area are as follows: Lilac Terrace, Lookout Drive and Pasadena Freeway (110) to the north; Washington Boulevard, San Pedro Street, Maple Street and 7th Street to the south; Sunset Boulevard and the Harbor Freeway (110) to the west; and the Los Angeles City boundary to the east. The boundaries for the RD 185 are as follows: 9th Street to the north, Hill Street to the west, Pico Boulevard to the south and Maple Street to the east.¹

The current staffing level at Central Station is two Captains, five Lieutenants, 38 Sergeants, 32 Detectives, 282 Police Officers, 31 Civilians, and six Reserve Officers.²

The Central Division station is a full-service police facility with 24 hour service, 7 days a week, which includes an Information Desk, Patrol Units, Bike Units, Vice Detail, Narcotic Detail and Detective Section. This station is staffed with the LAPD standard equipment, black and white patrol vehicles, bikes, hand-

¹ Written correspondence from Fred Booker, Lieutenant, Officer in Charge, Community Relations Section, Office of the Chief of Staff, September 7, 2005.

² Written Correspondence from Jodi Wakefield, Captain, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol Division, October 7, 2005.

held radios and computers within vehicles. In 2003/2004 the station went through a major upgrade in painting, new carpet, new telephones and flooring.³

In the last quarter, ending August 31, 2005, Central Area received 1,339 Code 3/2 calls for service. Code 3 calls are emergency calls for service and Code 2 calls are urgent or emergency calls for service.⁴ Central's response time to emergency calls averaged 5.3 to 6.0 minutes.⁵ In the same quarter, Central Area received 2,671 non-priority calls for service. Average response time for non-priority calls ranged from 20 to 35 minutes.⁶ The Citywide response time average for all stations within the City during 2005 was 6 minutes.⁷

The crime rate represents the number of crimes reported in an area over a given period of time and, thus, affects the anticipated needs, projection for staff and equipment for the LAPD. Generally, the crime rate in a given area will increase as the level of activity or population intensifies. However, due to other factors, such as police presence, crime prevention measures, and on-going legislation/funding, potential for an increase in crime rate is not directly proportional to the increase in land use activity.

The predominant crimes in Central Area are aggravated assault, other types of theft, and burglary from vehicles.⁸ In the past two years the crime in Central Area has decreased over 24 percent due to the high quality of service provided by the officers serving the Central Area.⁹ Predominant crimes Citywide are burglary/theft, personal/other theft and grand theft auto. The City of Los Angeles has decreased its crime by 23 percent in two years. Below, **Table IV.I.1-1** lists crime statistics for the Central City Area and the whole City of Los Angeles/Citywide. The statistics are year-to-date (YTD) through November 19, 2005.

³ Ibid.

⁴ www.lapdonline.org, November 28, 2002.

⁵ Written Correspondence from Jodi Wakefield, Captian, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol Division, October 7, 2005.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Written correspondence from Fred Booker, Lietunenat, Officer in Charge, Community Relations Section, Office of the Chief of Staff, September 7, 2005.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Written Correspondence from Jodi Wakefield, Captian, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol Division, October 7, 2005. www.lapdonline.org, Central Area Crime Statistics 10/23/05-11/19/05, November 28, 2005.

**Table IV.I.1-1
The Central City Area and Citywide Crime Statistics Profile
(YTD is November 19)**

| Types of Crimes | Central City YTD 2005 | L.A. Citywide YTD 2005 | Central City YTD 2003 | L.A. Citywide YTD 2003 | Central City % Change | L.A. Citywide % Change |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Homicide | 11 | 439 | 15 | 458 | -27% | -4% |
| Rape | 23 | 828 | 48 | 1,053 | -52% | -21% |
| Robbery | 729 | 11,823 | 976 | 14,753 | -25% | -20% |
| Aggravated Assault | 623 | 13,874 | 1,034 | 27,364 | -40% | -49% |
| Burglary | 478 | 18,921 | 568 | 21,977 | -16% | -14% |
| Grand Theft Auto | 539 | 23,501 | 575 | 28,556 | -6% | -18% |
| Burglary/Theft from Vehicle | 1,181 | 28,834 | 1,554 | 36,534 | -24% | -21% |
| Personnel/Other Theft | 1,542 | 26,344 | 2,010 | 31,084 | -23% | -15% |
| Total Crimes | 5,126 | 124,564 | 6,780 | 161,779 | -24% | -23% |

Source: *www.lapdonline.org, crime statistics, Citywide and Central Division, 10/23/05-11/19/05, November 28, 2005.*

Other Protective Services

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provides police protection services for unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, and provides contract services to various cities. Although the Sheriff's Department does not police the area, police protection services from the Sheriff's Department are available to assist the LAPD with police protection when requested.

b. Adequacy Assessment Criteria

Adequacy of police protection services for a given area is based on a combination of assessment factors, including officer to population ratio, type of land uses, response time, available equipment and the overall crime rate.

The officer to population ratio is important from both a response and a prevention perspective. A greater officer to population ratio means that there are more officers available to respond to calls as needed, thereby resulting in a decreased response time. Conversely, if the officer-to-population ratio is reduced, it could mean that the average response time to emergency calls would increase. A high number of officers, visibly serving and patrolling in the field, may also act as a deterrent to crime because of greater police presence. In the Central Los Angeles area, the officer-to-population ratio is 7.7:1,000.¹⁰ Although

¹⁰ LAPD Statistical Digest, 2004.

LAPD does not hold an internal officer to population standard, many cities strive to maintain a minimum of 2.0:1,000. The LAPD is well beyond the 2.0:1,000 officer to population ratio in the Central Area by approximately 285 percent.

Response time is defined as the total time from when a call requesting assistance is made until the time that a unit responds to the scene. Calls for police assistance are prioritized based on the nature of the call. For example, a crime in progress may receive a higher priority than a call that is reporting a crime already committed. Also, the potential for harm to citizens is considered when a call is received. Unlike fire protection services, police units are often in a mobile state. As a result, actual distance between a headquarters facility and the project sites is of little relevance. Instead, the number of officers out on the street is more directly related to the realized response time. If the LAPD does not employ a sufficient number of officers, then the response time may increase.

Equipment availability and training skills are also important factors in determining the adequacy of police protection services. Equipment and training skills impact the LAPD's ability to handle a situation efficiently. Inadequate equipment and training may result in longer response times or inefficient service. Additional police officers do not ensure adequate service if they do not have adequate training and equipment. As stated above, the Central Area station is equipped with standard police equipment. The LAPD offers thorough training, including In-Service and specialized Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) certified schools, Roll Call Training, Divisional Training Days and Management Development Advisory Board, including Supervisory Leadership Institute (Sergeants), FBI National Academy (Lieutenants), Command College (Captains and above), Hughes Advanced Leadership, Cristando House and West Point Leadership.

3. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

As stated in the City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework Element primary police law enforcement services are provided by the LAPD and supplemental services are provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff, the California Highway Patrol, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

All law enforcement agencies within the State of California are organized and operate in accordance with the applicable provisions of the California Penal Code. This code sets forth the authority, rules of conduct and training for peace officers. Under state law, all sworn municipal and County officers are State Peace Officers.

The County of Los Angeles is required by state law to organize a formal mutual aid agreement between all police departments within its jurisdiction. This agreement is set forth in the Mutual Aid Operations

Plan for Los Angeles County. The Mutual Aid Operations Plan provides a structure of response should an emergency in the City of Los Angeles arise that requires immediate response by more law enforcement personnel than would be available to the City of Los Angeles Police Department using all available resources.

In the LAPD's Programs, Resources, Services and Strategies of the LAPD, Reducing Crime in the City of Los Angeles in 2005 report a list of programs resources services and strategies set forth by the LAPD to prevent and reduce crime in the City of Los Angeles.

There are goals and policies set forth by the City of Los Angeles in the General Plan Central City Community Element that relates to police protection services. A description of applicable goals and policies is provided in **Section IV.A, Land Use and Planning**.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

a. Significance Criteria

The *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* indicates that the determination of a project's significance to police protection shall be made on a case by case basis, considering:

- The population increase resulting from the proposed project, based on the net increase of residential units or square footage of non-residential floor area;
- The demand for police services anticipated at the time of project build out compared to the expected level of service available. Consider, as applicable, scheduled improvements to LAPD services, (facilities, equipment, and officers) and the project's proportional contribution to the demand; and
- Whether the project includes security and/or design features that would reduce the demand for police services.

Methodology

Potential project impacts were evaluated based on consultation with the LAPD to determine the adequacy of existing and anticipated staffing, equipment and facilities to meet the additional demand for police protection services resulting from development of the proposed project. Effects on the officer to population ratio and the net increase in reported incidents and calls for service were taken into consideration when determining the impact of the project on police protection services.

b. Project Impacts

Construction

- *Impacts related to police are considered significant if the demand for police services anticipated at the time of project build out compared to the expected level of service available. Consider, as applicable, scheduled improvements to LAPD services, (facilities, equipment, and officers) and the project's proportional contribution to the demand.*

During construction of the proposed project, a potential increase in the frequency of calls for equipment theft, trespassing, vandalism and traffic congestion could result in an increased demand on police services. This is considered to be a short-term significant impact without mitigation on police services in the area and would necessitate providing on-site security measures during construction. The area where the project is being built is a business district with very limited parking facilities. If the construction workers were forced to park on the street this would cause an increase in the problem of motor vehicle burglary in the area. This could result in a potentially significant impact; however, through the implementation of mitigation measures discussed below this impact could be reduced to a less than significant level.

Operation

- *The population increase resulting from the proposed project, based on the net increase of residential units or square footage of non-residential floor area.*

Implementation of the proposed project would result in the construction of 575 residential units and, as discussed in **Section IV.B, Population and Housing**, these units would result in a population increase of approximately 1,087 residents, and the addition of approximately 260 employees at the project sites. Currently, the Central Division station services a total population of approximately 40,000 individuals.¹¹ With the introduction of 1,087 new residents and 260 employees at the project sites, this would represent a 3.4 percent increase in population over existing conditions. However, given that the Central Community police station reviewed the project and determined that this 3.4 percent increase in population would not be a significant impact to police services, the proposed project will not result in a potentially significant impact to the Central Community police services. Impacts related to police are considered significant if the demand for police services anticipated at the time of project buildout compared to the expected level of service available. Consider, as applicable, scheduled improvements to LAPD services, (facilities, equipment, and officers) and the project's proportional contribution to the demand.

¹¹ Los Angeles Police Department, Central Community Police Station home page. Retrieved from http://www.lapdonline.org/community/ocb/central/central_home_main.htm on December 2, 2005.

The 3.4 percent increase in population and intensity of activity at the site would likely result in an increase in calls for police service associated with the site. Calls for police service as a result of project implementation are anticipated to be typical of residential and commercial incidents and emergencies. Residential areas typically experience a larger percentage of burglaries and domestic disputes, while office/commercial areas experience a greater percentage of car-related thefts and larcenies. Examples of crimes in a commercial area include purse snatching, pick-pocketing, automated teller hold-ups, truck popping and auto thefts. With respect to the proposed project, the LAPD has stated that “After review of the proposed project, it was determined that the project would not have a significant impact on police services in Central Area.”¹² Therefore, implementation of the proposed project is not expected to result in a potentially significant impact on police services.

- *Impacts related to police are considered significant based on whether the project includes security and/or design features that would reduce the demand for police services.*

The project would be designed to provide security features that ensure a secure environment for project residents and employees. A secured entry and exit points, security fencing, security lighting, and other essential features would be introduced in the project. Additionally, as recommended through the mitigation measures below, prior to the issuance of building permits, the applicant would coordinate with the LAPD’s Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) to incorporate necessary security measures for the purpose of incorporating “defensible space” and other crime prevention features into the project. Additionally, in order to help the Central Area commanding officers during responses to emergencies the applicant would provide a diagram demonstrating access routes to each portion of the project sites. Therefore, through implementation of mitigation, the project would not result in potentially significant impacts.

c. Cumulative Impacts

The proposed project would result in an increase in both residential and commercial land uses within the Downtown Los Angeles area. As discussed in **Section III, Environmental Setting**, additional related projects are proposed and/or planned within the project vicinity. Both the project and other planned and approved developments throughout the City could cumulatively increase the need for services from the LAPD. This demand would be met by increases in law enforcement staffing and equipment as needed, which would be funded by increased revenues from the increased tax base and motor vehicle registration fees paid by project residents. Moreover, each project is subject to review by the LAPD to ensure that adequate access, visibility, and security is provided. Therefore, the project would not contribute to any significant cumulative impacts to police services.

¹² Written correspondence from Fred Booker, Lieutenant, Officer in Charge, Community Relations Section, Office of the Chief of Staff, September 7, 2005.

d. Mitigation Measures

- MM-PP-1. A construction traffic routing plan shall be prepared per Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) requirements that would facilitate the movement of construction vehicles. In addition, access on to the project sites shall remain clear and unobstructed; proposed roadway modifications shall assure adequate access to the proposed project sites and adjacent areas; security features shall be incorporated on the construction site, such as fencing and locked entrances; and construction equipment, tools and material shall be secured by locking or placing them within sheds and/or other inaccessible areas while not in use.
- MM-PP-2. The project applicant shall contact LAPD'S CPU to incorporate appropriate crime prevention features into the project design. Examples of crime prevention design features include:¹³
- Housing units can be designed so as to allow neighbors to "self-patrol" their environments.
 - Lighting and landscaping may be enhanced in parking lots to improve visibility.
 - Fences around housing developments can be designed in ways that avoid creating hiding places for criminals.
 - Signs can be removed from storefront windows to allow clear views in and out of the store.
 - Vines or planted coverings may be placed on walls to deter graffiti.
- MM-PP-3. Upon completion of the project a diagram of each portion of the property, including access routes and any additional information that might facilitate police response, shall be submitted to the Central Area commanding officer.
- MM-PP-4. During project construction, a designated parking area with a security officer shall be provided for the construction workers.

e. Adverse Effects

With implementation of the mitigation measures listed above, there would be no adverse effects resulting from the proposed project.

¹³ Los Angeles Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit. Crime Prevention Tips – Design Out Crime. Retrieved from http://www.lapdonline.org/bldg_safer_comms/design_out_crime.htm#1 on December 2, 2005.