

# 4.12

## PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

### 4.12.1 Introduction

This section describes the existing public services and recreation conditions and the applicable public services and recreation regulations. Impacts on public services and recreation from implementation of the General Plan Update and the mitigation measures that would reduce the significance of these impacts are also discussed. Cumulative impacts are discussed near the end of this section.

### 4.12.2 Existing Conditions

#### Fire Protection

The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) provides fire services to the city. The LACFD has 170 stations in 21 battalions and provides fire suppression, emergency medical, rescue, and fire prevention services (LACFD 2009). The LACFD has the equipment and ability to respond to both urban and wildland management emergency conditions.

LACFD's Battalion 4 has two stations serving the Project area:

- Los Angeles County Fire Station No. 19, 1729 Foothill Boulevard, is staffed by five crew members – a captain, firefighter/specialist, and three paramedics. Equipment includes one engine company and one squad vehicle.
- Los Angeles County Fire Station No. 82, 352 Foothill Boulevard, is staffed by 11 full-time crew members – a battalion chief, two captains, three firefighters/specialists, and five firefighters. Equipment includes two engine companies, one truck company, one patrol vehicle, a utility vehicle, and a Battalion Chief Suburban.

Climate, winds, steep terrain, vegetation (e.g., chaparral), subdivision design, and water supply are conditions that often contribute to wildfires. Much of the Project area's vacant land is covered in chaparral grasses on steep slopes with gradients greater than 30%. Chaparral poses unique problems for fire prevention because its components are extremely combustible and genetically predisposed to burn. Because of winter and spring rainfalls and hot, dry summers characteristic of southern California's Mediterranean climate there is an abundance of highly flammable vegetation. These vegetative fuels often directly abut developed property, creating a wildland-urban interface and increased risk to life and property. Santa Ana winds typically occur in summer and fall and fan the fire with high velocity winds and very low relative humidity. The Santa Ana winds, steep topography, and highly flammable vegetation produce optimum conditions for wildfires and debris flows.

For 2008, the average response time for the first arriving unit at an incident in the city was 4 minutes and 53 seconds. The LACFD uses national guidelines of a 5 minute response time for the first arriving unit and for fire and emergency medical services (EMS) responses and 8 minutes for the advanced life support (paramedic) unit in urban areas. National guidelines for suburban areas are 8 minutes for the first arriving unit and 12 minutes for the advanced life support (paramedic) unit. The city is considered to have a mix of urban and suburban areas (Vidales pers. comm.). The current response times for the city adhere to the national guidelines, and current fire services are considered adequate. Currently, there are no plans for additional fire facilities.

## Police Services

The City contracts with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) for law enforcement services. The LASD is divided into ten divisions, each with a Division Chief. LASD has three patrol divisions (Field Operations Regions I, II, and III), Custody Operations Division, Correctional Services Division, Detectives Division, Court Services Division, Technical Services Division, Office of Homeland Security, Administrative Services Division, and Leadership/Training Division. The La Crescenta Valley Station, at 4554 Briggs Avenue, La Crescenta, California, services the La Cañada Flintridge community, as well as the unincorporated areas of Montrose, La Crescenta, and Lopez Canyon, and the mountainous area north of these communities. The city has a very low crime rate relative to the metropolitan regions. The most common crimes are residential burglaries and malicious mischief. The Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station currently maintains 69 sworn personnel, 27 civilian personnel, 26 reserve-sworn personnel, 36 search and rescue personnel, 13 posse, 74 civilian volunteers, and 4 Explorer Scouts. The station serves an area of approximately 275 square miles with approximately 44,000 people. Approximately 22,000 of those people live in the city.

## Schools

La Cañada Unified School District (LCUSD) is a K-12 district with a student enrollment of approximately 4,000. LCUSD operates three elementary schools, a 7-12 high school, and a smaller high school for students with special needs. Paradise Canyon Elementary School is located toward the eastern portion of the Project area and, in 2007-2008, had 620 students enrolled. Palm Crest Elementary School is located toward the western portion of the Project area and, in 2007-2008, had an enrollment of 550 students. La Cañada Elementary School is centrally located just north of Foothill Boulevard and, in 2007-2008, had 676 students enrolled. La Cañada High School is located in the southeastern portion of the Project area and, in 2009, had 1,478 students enrolled in grades 9-12 (LCUSD 2009). Paradise Canyon Elementary School has the capacity to accommodate 670 students, Palm Crest Elementary has the capacity to accommodate 630, La Cañada Elementary has the capacity to accommodate 680, and La Cañada High has the capacity to accommodate 2,840 (Leininger pers. comm.). LCUSD currently leases two unused facilities, Foothill Intermediate School and Oak Grove Elementary School. The revenue generated from leasing the two closed schools assists in supplementing state revenues, which helps pay for programs at the other LCUSD sites. LCUSD utilizes a small portion of the Foothill Intermediate School as its office and maintenance facility (LCUSD 2008a).

The city also has 10 private schools, ranging from grades K-12: Crestview Preparatory (7-12), La Cañada Preparatory Academy (4-8), The Learning Castle (K-3), St. Bede the Venerable School (K-8), Flintridge Preparatory (7-12), Hillside School & Learning Center (K-12), Pinewood Academy (K-12), Renaissance Academy (K-12), Sacred Heart Academy (9-12, girls), and St. Francis High School (9-12, boys). In addition there are 11 private preschools: Child Educational Center, Crescenta-Cañada Co-op Nursery School, Flintridge Montessori School, Foothill Progressive Montessori Preschool, Hogg's Hollow Preschool, La Cañada Community Center Preschool, La Cañada Preschool, Lighted Window Preschool, Parents & Children's Nursery School, St. George's Preschool, and Toddler University (City 2006).

According to the LCUSD First Interim Financial Report for 2008-2009, LCUSD has been experiencing a decline in student enrollment. There are more students graduating than enrolling, and, considering the budget scenario, it is estimated there will be a decline of 172 students in 2009-2010, 178 in 2010-2011, and 166 in 2011-2012 (LCUSD 2008b).

## Parks and Recreational Facilities

### Parks

Approximately 19% of the city's land is devoted to public and private open space uses such as conservation easements, trails, and other naturally preserved areas. The City's existing land use designations for parks and open space consist of 50.16 acres of Recreational, 686.9 acres of Open Space – Public, and 169.22 acres of Open Space – Private land uses that total 906.28 acres.

The city owns five municipal parks, including Memorial, Glenola, Glenhaven, Olberz, and Mayors' Discovery Parks. Together, these parks encompass approximately 4.4 acres within the city (City 2006). In addition, the City has an agreement with SCE to maintain a 1.69-acre portion of its right-of-way west of Indiana Avenue as park land.

The City maximizes its active recreation facilities through a Joint Use Agreement with the LCUSD. Sports fields, tennis courts, and a skate park are all located on LCUSD-owned property, but are operated and maintained by the City so that the public can use these facilities during non-school hours (see Tables 4.12-1 and 4.12-2). Other private/community recreational facilities include the Flintridge Riding Club, La Cañada Flintridge Country Club, La Cañada Golf Course, La Cañada Youth House, and Crescenta-Cañada YMCA.

### Recreational Facilities

The City of La Cañada Flintridge has worked to maximize its recreation facilities through a joint-use agreement with the La Cañada Unified School District. Sports fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and a skate park are all located on school district-owned property, but are operated and maintained by the City to allow public use during non-school hours. Organized recreation is offered through non-City affiliated organizations, such as the Rodger Barkley Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge and the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA.

Other recreational facilities include the Flintridge Riding Club, the La Cañada Flintridge Country Club, and the Flint Canyon Tennis Club.

**Table 4.12-1. Joint-Use Field Facilities**

<b>Field Facilities</b>	<b>Approximate Acreage</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amenities</b>
Foothill Intermediate School (FIS) Upper Field	0.74	4490 Cornishon Avenue	Multi-purpose: school use, soccer, softball
Foothill Intermediate School (FIS) Lower Field	2.66	4490 Cornishon Avenue	Multi-purpose: school use, soccer, softball, track
Foothill Intermediate School (FIS) Cornishon	1.40	4490 Cornishon Avenue	Multi-purpose: school use, soccer, baseball, softball, football
La Cañada Elementary	0.61	4540 Encinas Drive	Little league baseball diamond
Paradise Canyon Elementary	1.16	471 Knight Way	Multi-purpose: school use, baseball
Palm Crest Elementary	0.56	5025 Palm Drive	Little league baseball diamond
La Cañada High School (LCHS) Varsity Field	2.19	4463 Oak Grove Drive	Multi-purpose: school use, baseball, soccer, football
La Cañada High School (LCHS)—Junior Varsity Field	3.28	4463 Oak Grove Drive	Multi-purpose: school use, baseball, soccer, football
La Cañada High School (LCHS)—Oak Grove Field	6.5	Foothill Boulevard and Oak Grove Drive	Multi-purpose: school use, two softball diamonds, soccer
Church of Latter Day Saints	1.02	1830 Foothill Boulevard	Ball field
Skate Park	0.13	4491 Cornishon Avenue	Half-pipe, various quarter pipes, ramps, and grinding rails
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.12</b>		

**Table 4.12-2. Tennis Courts**

<b>Tennis Courts</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amenities</b>
Foothill Intermediate School (FIS) Cornishon	1.2	4490 Cornishon Avenue	4 upper, 4 lower; joint use
Glen Haven Park	0.15	1918 Parkdale Place	1 court (no lights); municipal owned
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.35</b>		

## Trails

Trails have existed within the community of La Cañada Flintridge since it was settled. Trails have been, and continue to be, an asset to the community. The city has been distinguished as one of the top ten trail towns in the U.S. and was given the honor of being named “Trail Town, USA” by the American Hiking Society, based in Washington D.C. The City Council has placed a priority on increasing the trail system and its vital links. In March of 2006 the City adopted a Trails Master Plan that provides a detailed guide for enhancements to the existing trail system and the creation of new trails. According to the Trails Master Plan’s trails inventory, the city has 18.18 miles of existing hiking and riding trails. Table 4.12-3 shows the active and proposed trails in La Cañada Flintridge.

**Table 4.12-3.** Trails Inventory

Trail	Length/Miles	Ownership	Status	Proposed Improvements
Cerro Negro	1.16	City	Existing	Rain damage to be repaired; maintenance on easternmost section
Cherry Canyon Fire/Utility Roads	3.05	Multiple (see Master Plan Appendix 6, p. 11 for details)	Existing	None
Conservancy	0.47	City	Existing	Increased water runoff maintenance
Cross Town	3.13	Multiple (see Master Plan Appendix 6, p. 8 for details)	Existing	A Multiple switchback area on the western portion of trail to be reinforced to prevent landslides
Flint Canyon	2.03	Multiple (see Master Plan Appendix 6, p. 11 for details)	Existing	Erosion repair; Berkshire Place bridge to be repaired; final leg of trail requires major restoration; trail extensions are desirable
Georgian Spur	0.18	Private ownership	Existing	Incorporation into Los Angeles County official trail network and deeded to the City
Gould Canyon	2.16	Multiple (see Master Plan Appendix 6, p. 11 for details)	Existing	Repair trail so available to equestrian use; solution to water runoff from Angeles Crest Highway; consider improving existing easement north

Trail	Length/Miles	Ownership	Status	Proposed Improvements
Hall Beckley Canyon/Earl Canyon Motorway	3.61	Multiple (see Master Plan Appendix 6, p. 11 for details)	Existing	None
Horse Lane	0.56	Owned in Fee by Los Angeles County	Existing	None
Liz's Loop	0.38	City	Existing	Increased water runoff maintenance
Loop Trail Phase I	0.2	Caltrans	Existing	None
Lukens Connection	0.72	City/private	Existing	Incorporation into Los Angeles County official trail network
Owl Trail	0.53	City	Existing	Upper portion of trail requires repair/reconfiguration; portion between Cerro Negro Trail and Alpha fire road needs rebuilt/reconfiguration
Ultimate Destination	0.62	City	Existing	Ultimate Destination Pocket Part to be built alongside trail
Rockridge Terrace	Not yet Determined	City	Proposed	Construction of trail
Gateway Link	Not yet determined	City	Proposed	Construction of trail
Loop Trail Phase II	Will be approx. 0.3	Edison owned; City licensed	Proposed	Construction of trail
Loop Trail Phase III	Will be approx. 0.5	County of Los Angeles	Proposed	Construction of trail

## Libraries

The city is part of the Los Angeles County Public Library System. Residents utilize the La Cañada Flintridge Public Library located at 4545 N. Oakwood Avenue. The library has 16,791 square feet of area, with approximately 122,000 books. Residents also have access to the Information Resource Center (IRC) on the campus of La Cañada High School.

## Natural Gas Facilities

The city receives its natural gas services from the Southern California Gas Company. The city is currently served by a 40 pound-force per square inch gauge (psig), medium pressure gas system. This medium pressure system is fed by a 260 psig high pressure backbone supply system, which is an 8-, 10-, and 12-inch steel pipeline that currently is aligned along Foothill Boulevard. The high pressure supply system feeds the medium pressure distribution system through several regulator stations along Foothill Boulevard. There are no expansions or new facilities planned that would improve capacity and delivery of natural gas services to the city. The current backbone high pressure supply pipeline is a fairly robust system that adequately serves the current population (Carroll pers. comm.).

## Electrical Facilities

The city receives its electrical services from Southern California Edison (SCE), a subsidiary of Edison International. The service provider has an environmental screening process that is incorporated into the planning of all new projects as well as the operations and maintenance of all projects with potential environmental impacts. The service provider has a Biological and Archaeological Resources Group that assesses and works with methods and measures to reduce potential impacts on biological and archaeological resources (SCE 2010). The service provider requires, on a case-by-case basis, that development proposals request a “will-serve” letter for specific developments.

## Lanterman Auditorium

Lanterman Auditorium is a full-service facility located at 4491 Cornishon Avenue. The auditorium seats 812 people and has one rehearsal room and multiple dressing rooms with adjoining restrooms. The facility is owned by the La Cañada Unified School District and is operated by the City under a Joint-Use Agreement.

## Churches

The city has a total of ten churches located within its boundaries: Calvary Chapel of the Foothills, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Church of the Lighted Window, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Foothills, First Church of Christ Scientist LCF, La Cañada Korean Church, La Cañada Presbyterian Church, La Cañada United Methodist Church, St. Bede the Venerable Catholic Church, and St. George’s Episcopal Church.

## Hospitals/Medical Facilities

The City of La Cañada Flintridge has no major medical facilities or hospitals within city boundaries. The nearest facilities are Verdugo Hills Hospital (on the city's southwestern border – Glendale), Glendale Adventist Medical Center (approximately 4 miles – Glendale), Huntington Memorial Hospital (approximately 5 miles – Pasadena), Glendale Memorial Hospital & Health Center (approximately 7 miles – Glendale), and Columbia Las Encinas Hospital (approximately 9 miles – Pasadena)

### 4.12.3 Regulatory Setting

#### State

#### **1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477)**

The Quimby Act of 1975 authorizes cities and counties in the State of California to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements as a condition of approving proposed subdivisions of land. Originally, the goal of the Quimby Act was to require developers to help mitigate the impacts of property improvements, and it was designed to ensure “adequate” open-space acreage in jurisdictions adopting Quimby Act standards (i.e., 2.5 to 5 acres for every 1,000 residents). In 1982, the act was amended to provide, among other regulations, detailed acreage/population standards. The Quimby Act gives local government agencies the authority to pass land dedication and/or “in-lieu of” fee ordinances for park uses.

#### **Senate Bill 50 (Greene)**

SB 50 established a maximum fee that could be imposed on a development project for impacts on schools; payment of school fees under SB 50 is considered full mitigation under CEQA (California Government Code 65996). Furthermore, SB 50 strictly prohibits a local agency from denying a project on the basis that school facilities are inadequate to serve a development project.

## Local

### City of La Cañada Flintridge Municipal Code

The La Cañada Flintridge Municipal Code adopts the 2008 Edition of Title 32 of the Los Angeles County Code, and also adopts and incorporates the 2008 Edition of the California Fire Code published by the California Building Standards Commission.

### La Canada Unified School District

The LCUSD assesses development fees as permitted under SB 50 to provide new and expanded school facilities to house additional students generated by new development.

## 4.12.4 Impact Analysis

This section describes the impact analysis relating to public services and recreation. It describes the methods used to determine the impacts of the General Plan Update and lists the thresholds used to conclude whether an impact would be significant. Measures to mitigate (i.e., avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, eliminate, or compensate for) significant impacts accompany each impact discussion.

## Methodology

In addition to using the research conducted to establish the existing conditions, public service providers were contacted to obtain specific information about the provider's ability to meet the future demand of the Project. A summary of the responses are discussed in the respective thresholds below.

## Thresholds of Significance

For this analysis, an impact pertaining to public services and recreation was considered significant under CEQA if it would result in any of the following environmental effects, which are based on professional practice and State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G (14 CCR 15000 et seq.). An impact related to public services and recreation is considered significant if it would result in any of the following:

- PUB-1:** 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 of the following public services:
- a. Fire Protection
  - b. Police Protection
  - c. Schools
  - d. Parks
  - e. Libraries
- PUB-2:** increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or
- PUB-3:** include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

## Impacts and Mitigation Measures

*Threshold PUB-1: Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or the 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 of the following public services:*

### *PUB-1a. Fire Protection?*

The Project area currently receives adequate fire protection services per LACFD response time policies. New development in the city could increase multifamily units in the mixed-use designation by approximately 440 units, and development would be focused along existing roadways such as Foothill and Verdugo Boulevards. Some development could occur on vacant lots within the Estate Residential and Hillside Residential land use designations. However, development would be relatively modest, with a total of approximately 50 units. City-wide residential units could increase by a total of approximately 814 units. Consequently, because the great majority of new development would be along

major roadways (i.e., Foothill and Verdugo Boulevards) and existing infrastructure is in place to support fire protection, the proposed Project would have a less-than-significant impact on response times, and any impact created by future projects would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The proposed Project also would not result in the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts (Vidales pers. comm.).

Moreover, the Project would contain several policies that are designed to ensure adequate emergency and fire response. Applicable policies include:

**SE Goal 1:** Mitigate damage to life, property, infrastructure, and the environment, and economic and social displacement from natural and human-made hazards.

**SE Objective 1.4:** Develop and implement policies and programs that reduce the risk to the community from fires and fire-related hazards.

**SE Policy 1.4.1:** Ensure that the City's contractual arrangement with LACoFD provides an adequate level of fire protection to provide reasonable security of persons and property throughout the community.

**SE Policy 1.4.2:** Work with Los Angeles County to review and update its building and/or fire codes to address construction in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), including requirements of the California Building Commission's adopted WUI codes.

**SE Policy 1.4.3:** Work with CAL-FIRE regarding updates to the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in Local Responsibility Areas.

**SE Policy 1.4.4:** Encourage implementation of wildfire mitigation activities in a manner consistent with the goal of promoting sustainable ecological management.

**SE Policy 1.4.5:** Require property owners to create and maintain defensible space around their buildings and structures.

**SE Policy 1.4.6:** Require the use of fire-retardant roofing material for all new construction and major remodels involving roof additions. Encourage property owners with shake shingle roofs to upgrade to fire-retardant materials.

**SE Policy 1.4.7:** Continue to enforce the brush clearance/weed abatement program.

**SE Policy 1.4.8:** Encourage water companies to meet required fire flows.

**SE Policy 1.4.9:** Coordinate with LACoFD to operate an education program regarding fire hazards and strategies to minimize risk for residential, commercial, and institutional uses.

**SE Policy 1.4.10:** Increase communication, coordination, and collaboration between WUI property owners, the City, and fire prevention crews and officials to address risks and implement mitigation measures.

**SE Goal 3:** Ensure that the community is prepared for and able to respond to natural and human-made emergencies and disasters, such as earthquakes, wildfires, landslides, release of hazardous materials, civil disturbances, national security emergencies, technological incidents, and health-related epidemics or pandemics.

**SE Objective 3.1:** Develop plans and programs to prepare for and provide rapid and effective response to disasters and threats of danger to life and property.

**SE Policy 3.1.1:** Continue to implement the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and integrate the goals and action items into regulatory documents and programs, where appropriate.

**SE Policy 3.1.2:** Maintain and periodically update the City's Hazard Inventory.

**SE Policy 3.1.3:** Coordinate with appropriate public and private agencies and organizations, citizens, and businesses to implement the City's HMP.

**SE Policy 3.1.4:** Evaluate the City's roadways regarding access, alignments, two routes for egress, etc., to facilitate fire, police, and ambulance access and resident egress in case of an emergency.

**SE Policy 3.1.5:** Continue to utilize and support the City's Public Safety Commission and Public Safety Coordinator, and the La Cañada Flintridge Volunteer Emergency Response Team.

**SE Policy 3.1.6:** Establish a formal role for the City's Hazards Mitigation Committee to develop a sustainable process for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating city-wide mitigation activities.

**SE Policy 3.1.7:** Continue to participate in Disaster Management Area C through a Joint Powers Agreement with Los Angeles County.

**SE Policy 3.1.8:** Maintain compliance with the federal National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the state Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).

**SE Policy 3.1.9:** Develop and implement education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated with natural and human-made hazards, and to assist the public in being prepared for emergencies or disasters. Involve all sectors of the community, including the real estate and insurance industries, schools, public and private sector organizations, the business community, and residents.

**SE Policy 3.1.10:** Identify and pursue funding opportunities to develop and implement mitigation activities.

**SE Policy 3.1.11:** Encourage critical City facilities to purchase and/or test back-up power facilities for use during a power failure.

**SE Policy 3.1.12:** Redefine the existing warning system to alert residents of potential hazards as well as provide post-disaster information.

**SE Policy 3.1.13:** Mobilize a core group of volunteer professionals to render prompt structural evaluation of sites potentially used for emergency mass shelters; ensure adequate seismic performance of emergency shelter facilities.

## Impact Determination

Because of the modest amount of overall development, no additional facilities are expected to be needed; therefore the proposed Project would not result in significant adverse impacts associated with fire services. Furthermore, the Project would provide several policies that would seek to ensure that adequate emergency response, including fire response, is maintained. Impacts related to Threshold PUB-1a would be less than significant.

## Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

## Residual Impacts

Impacts related to Threshold PUB-1a would be less than significant.

### ***PUB-1b. Police Protection?***

The Project area currently receives adequate law enforcement services as per LASD's response time policies. As discussed above, new development in the city could increase multifamily units in the mixed-use designation by approximately 440 units, and development would be focused along existing roadways such as Foothill and Verdugo Boulevards. Some development could occur on vacant lots

within the Estate Residential and Hillside Residential land use designations. However, development would be relatively modest, with a total of approximately 50 units. City-wide residential units could increase by a total of approximately 800 units. Consequently, because the great majority of new development would be along major roadways (i.e., Foothill and Verdugo Boulevards) and existing infrastructure is in place to support police protection, the LASD projects that response times would not be substantially affected by this Project; however, these response times are routinely monitored. LASD currently provides adequate services under the existing law enforcement service level contract and will continue to monitor response times and review the law enforcement service level contract on at least an annual basis. LASD does not foresee the Project resulting in the need for new or physically altered law enforcement facilities resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts (Tse pers. comm.).

In addition, the Project would contain several policies that are designed to ensure adequate emergency and police response. In addition to the policies listed under the discussion of Threshold PUB-1a, applicable policies include:

**SE Goal 2:** Provide a safe and secure community that minimizes impact on citizens and property from criminal activity.

**SE Objective 2.1:** Undertake programs and policies to reduce crime and protect persons and property from criminal activity.

**SE Policy 2.1.1:** Ensure that the City's contractual arrangement with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provides an adequate level of police services to provide reasonable security of persons and property throughout the community.

**SE Policy 2.1.2:** Provide education and assistance to citizens for the purpose of preventing crimes against persons and property.

**SE Policy 2.1.3:** Encourage and support programs that increase the quality and quantity of communications between law enforcement officers and the community's youth, improve youth recreational and leisure time opportunities, improve youth employment opportunities, and strengthen the family unit.

## Impact Determination

Because of the modest amount of overall development and the addition of policies designed to ensure that police service is maintained, the proposed Project would not result in significant adverse impacts associated with police services. Impacts related to Threshold PUB-1b would be less than significant.

## Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

## Residual Impacts

Impacts related to Threshold PUB-1b would be less than significant.

### *PUB-1c. Schools?*

LCUSD has indicated that the existing facilities adequately serve the population and that the schools' capacities would be adequate to serve the projected increase in population. The schools' existing enrollment and capacities are:

- Paradise Canyon Elementary: Existing = 620; Capacity = 670
- Palm Crest Elementary: Existing = 550; Capacity = 630
- La Cañada Elementary: Existing = 676; Capacity = 680
- La Cañada High: Existing = 1,478; Capacity = 2,840

Population is expected to be 23,779 residents by 2030, an increase of 2,523. LCUSD does not have student generation rates; however, according to La Cañada Unified School District's 2006–2007 revised budget, the La Cañada Unified School District is facing declining enrollment (City 2007b). The current budget scenarios forecast a decline of approximately 90 students per year. Furthermore, limited growth at the school age demographic is anticipated within the city. Indeed, much of the mixed-use housing proposed is targeted to accommodate an aging population. The declining student population, coupled with limited growth in the city's school age population, limits the need for additional school services and new school buildings. LCUSD would have the capacity to serve the projected increase in student population under the proposed Project because the increased number of students would be consistent with and not exceed the capacity of school facilities (Leininger pers. comm.).

## Impact Determination

The proposed Project would not adversely affect school services because the Project is not anticipated to substantially increase the school age population. Currently, schools would have the capacity to serve the projected increase in population and no new facilities are needed. Furthermore, the proposed project would be required to pay SB 50 fees to the LCUSD prior to the issuance of certificates of occupancy. Under the provisions of SB 50, payment of these fees would be considered full and complete mitigation of impacts on LCUSD schools. Therefore, the Project would not have an adverse impact on the LCUSD's ability to adequately serve the Project area. Impacts related to PUB-1c would be less than significant.

## Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

## Residual Impacts

Impacts related to Threshold PUB-1c would be less than significant.

### *PUB-1d. Parks?*

The proposed Project involves the redesignation and classification of open space and parkland land uses. Most importantly, the proposed Project would remove the Recreational, Open Space – Public, and Open Space – Private land use designations and redesignate them as Parks and Recreation, and Open Space. The updated General Plan proposes 55.16 acres of Parks and Recreation and 927.82 acres of Open Space, which would include both public and private open space areas. Of the 927.82 acres of Open Space, approximately 345.38 acres is publically owned and is available for passive recreation opportunities (e.g., hiking trails). The 55.04 acres of designated Parks and Recreation, combined with the 345.38 acres of Open Space with passive recreation opportunities, would result in 400.54 acres of parkland available within the City of La Canada Flintridge.

The City does not propose a standard for population-based parkland as a part of the proposed Project. Instead, the Open Space and Recreation Element (OSRE) recommends that the City develop a classification system and acreage goals for park by the year 2030 (OSRE Policy 1.1.1). Buildout of the proposed Project is estimated to increase the city's population to 23,779 persons by 2030, which would result in a ratio of about 16.8 acres of designated parkland for every 1,000 residents. Substantial new park construction is unlikely due to the built out condition of the city and limited opportunities to increase existing park areas. However, small neighborhood parks (pocket parks) would be created within existing uses (e.g., strip commercial). Although the City would not have a standard for population-based parks upon implementation of the proposed Project, a significant impact is not expected to occur. The national standard for population-based parks is between 6.25 and 10 acres and, as such, the provision of 16.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 population is not expected to result in the need for new or physically altered facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

## Impact Determination

The Project would provide approximately 16.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and a significant impact is not expected to occur.

## Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

## Residual Impacts

Impacts related to Threshold PUB-1d would be less-than significant.

### *PUB-1e. Libraries?*

The City Library is currently the primary library that serves the Project area and it adequately serves the residents of the Project area. The proposed project's population increase of 2,523 residents by 2030 would place an increased demand on this library facility. The Downtown Village Specific Plan proposes the development of Oak Park, which is located adjacent to the City Library. This planning effort shows plans for park development, and there are no indications that there are inadequate services requiring that the City Library would need to be physically altered or expanded.

There are also other library facilities available to residents of the Project area that are a part of the Los Angeles County Public Library System located in the City Library's cluster. The La Crescenta Library is located approximately 3.5 miles northwest of the City Library. The San Fernando Library is located approximately 15 miles northwest of the City Library. The City Library has Online Public Access Catalogs, a resource that does not require physically visiting the facility, which reduces impacts as well. In addition, the City Library has a large area for parking and the La Crescenta library has ample free parking (County of Los Angeles Public Library 2009). Considering the proposed Project would place a minimal increase in demand on library services and that there are other adequate library resources available as a part of the Los Angeles County Public Library System, the proposed Project would have a less-than-significant impact on library services and would not result in the need for new or physically altered library facilities to meet the need of the existing and future population.

## Impact Determination

The proposed Project would not adversely affect library services. Currently, the projected increase in population would not place a new demand on library facilities such that new or physically altered facilities would need to be developed in order to maintain performance objectives. Therefore, the Project would not have an adverse impact on library services. Impacts related to PUB-1e would be less than significant.

## **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation is required.

## **Residual Impacts**

Impacts related to Threshold PUB-1e would be less than significant.

*Threshold PUB-2: Would the proposed Project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*

Population is projected to increase to 23,779 residents by 2030, an increase of 2,523. Future development would be required to pay Quimby Fees to increase the available parkland available to the city residents, and particularly to accommodate the future residents of proposed development. Thus, impacts on existing parks and recreational facilities would be generally off-set because the existing parks and recreational facilities would not experience a significant increase in use. The land use designation changes would combine certain elements of the former Recreational and Open Space – Private land use designations into one Parks and Recreation designation. This change would not have any adverse effect on intensity of use. The other land use designation change would combine certain elements of the former Open Space – Public and Open Space – Private land use designations into one Open Space designation, allowing low-intensity public recreation uses; this would not lead to the substantial physical deterioration of recreational uses.

## **Impact Determination**

Future development would be required to pay Quimby Fees to increase the available parkland available to the city residents, and particularly to accommodate the future residents of proposed development. Thus, impacts on existing parks and recreational facilities would be generally off-set because the existing parks and recreational facilities would not experience a significant increase in use. Therefore, impacts related to PUB-2 would be less than significant.

## **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation is required.

## **Residual Impacts**

Impacts related to Threshold PUB-2 would be less than significant.

***Threshold PUB-3: Would the proposed Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?***

The proposed Project would change some land use designations. The proposed Parks and Recreation designation would include the city's public and private active recreation facilities, and cover 55.04 acres. The current Recreational land use designation covers 50.16 acres. This 4.88-acre increase would be the result of a land use redesignation and would not have direct physical effects on the environment, and any residual impacts would not adversely impact the environment. The new land use designation would not include facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse effect on the environment. However, development planned under the proposed General Plan Update would have to provide additional recreational facilities or pay in lieu fees to accommodate its legal obligations (i.e., Quimby Act). Substantial new park construction and expansion of recreational facilities is unlikely due to the built out condition of the city and limited opportunities to increase existing park areas. Small neighborhood parks would be created in existing developed areas and generally would replace existing uses. Impacts related to replacement of a small intense use (e.g., strip commercial) with a less intense use (pocket park) would be less than significant. Therefore, because of the limited area available for parkland and the nearly built out nature of the Project area, the addition of a pocket or small neighborhood park replacing a more intense use would not be considered significant.

### **Impact Determination**

New construction and expansion of recreational facilities is unlikely due to the built out condition of the city and limited opportunities to increase existing park areas. Small neighborhood parks would be created in existing developed areas and generally would replace existing uses. Impacts related to replacement of a small intense use (e.g., strip commercial) with a less intense use (pocket park) would be less than significant. Therefore, because of the limited area available for parkland and the nearly built out nature of the Project area, the addition of a pocket or small neighborhood park replacing a more intense use would not be considered significant.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation is addressed under specific resource areas such as biological resources, cultural resources, and air quality. No additional mitigation has been identified.

## Residual Impacts

Impacts related to Threshold PUB-3 would be less than significant.

## Cumulative Impacts

The geographic scope for the cumulative public service analysis includes the areas that are covered by the service providers. On a regional level, fire and law enforcement services are provided by LACFD and LASD, respectively, and their service extends to the entire county. Past and present development as well as the future development associated with the proposed Project would be served by LACFD and LASD, and both departments have indicated that the proposed Project would not result in a significant impact on service ratios, response times, or the need for new or physically altered facilities. Impact considerations for future projects would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by LACFD and on at least an annual basis by LACSD. The monitoring and assessment of service impacts would be analyzed on a regional level and would consider future projects' impacts on the County. As a result of these departments' procedures and planning efforts, cumulative impacts associated with police and fire services would be less than cumulatively considerable.

Cumulative analysis for schools, libraries, parks, and recreational uses would consider potential impacts related to future projects in neighboring jurisdictions but that are expected to be, in large part, used by the residents of the city. Implementation of the proposed Project along with its associated regulations would help to ensure that future development is well-planned for and has adequate infrastructure. Also, impacts would be reduced through implementation of OSRE Policy 3.1.5:

The City should cooperate with public agencies, public utilities, and private organizations, including the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the La Cañada Unified School District, and the Southern California Edison Company to promote the use and development of public recreation areas on their land. Such facilities are important to the City's efforts in providing a balanced recreation program.

Given the minimal increase in population, the continuing decline in student enrollment, the Project's emphasis on providing senior housing, and the implementation of SB 50 (schools) and Quimby Act (parks) fees, impacts related to school, library, parks, and recreational uses would be less than cumulatively considerable.

### **Impact Determination**

The Project's incremental contribution to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable cumulative public services and recreation impacts would be less than cumulatively considerable.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation is required.

### **Residual Impacts**

The Project's incremental contribution to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable cumulative public services and recreation impacts would be less than cumulatively considerable.

## **Significant and Unavoidable Adverse Impacts**

Implementation of the General Plan Update would not result in any significant and unavoidable adverse impacts related to public services and recreation.