
V. GENERAL IMPACT CATEGORIES

SUMMARY OF UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Section 15126.2(b) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR describe any significant impacts that cannot be avoided. Specifically, Section 15126.2(b) states the following:

Describe any significant impacts, including those which can be mitigated but not reduced to a level of insignificance. Where there are impacts that cannot be alleviated without imposing an alternative design, their implications and the reasons why the project is being proposed, notwithstanding their effect, should be described.

Based on the analysis contained in Section IV of this Draft EIR, implementation of the Project would result in significant unavoidable impacts related to the following:

- Historical Resources (discussed in detail in Section IV.E, Cultural Resources)

GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires a discussion of the ways in which a project could induce growth. This includes ways in which a project would foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines states the following:

Discuss the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Included in this are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth (a major expansion of a waste water treatment plan might, for example, allow for more construction in service areas). Increases in the population may tax existing community service facilities, requiring construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental effects. Also discuss the characteristic of some projects which may encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively. It must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

The Project does not include development of any new housing and because the Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy (FSHA) is an existing school, the Project would not directly induce population growth. The Project does not include an increase in student enrollment or an increase in the number of faculty. The Project would include upgrades to the existing water delivery system to improve water service and pressure for fire-flow requirements at the FSHA campus and an approximately 4,000-foot extension of an

existing 16-kV distribution line from Oak Grove Drive to the FSHA campus to service the water system upgrade. The upgrades to the water and electrical infrastructure are required to serve the proposed building area expansion and ensure compliance with current City Building and Fire Codes. The upgrades would benefit the FSHA campus, as well as the existing residential neighborhood surrounding the campus. Because the surrounding area is largely developed with an existing low-density single-family residential neighborhood, there is not the potential for substantial population growth based on the infrastructure upgrade. Therefore, the Project would not induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly or indirectly.

SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE CHANGES TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines states that significant irreversible environmental changes associated with a project shall be discussed, including the following:

- Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project that may be irreversible because a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely;
- Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvement that provides access to a previously inaccessible area), which generally commit future generations to similar uses; and
- Irreversible damage that could result from environmental accidents associated with the project.

Construction of the Project would require the use of nonrenewable resources (i.e., wood, metals, sand, gravel, fossil fuels) for building materials and to fuel construction vehicles and equipment. Subsequent use and maintenance of the Project would also require the long-term consumption of these non-renewable resources at reduced levels. Recently, shortages of water, steel, and concrete ingredients have been issues of concern. The commitment of resources required for the construction and operation of the Project would limit the availability of such resources for future generations or for other uses during the life of the Project. However, continued use of such resources is consistent with the anticipated growth and planned changes on the Project site and in the City. Although these resource commitments and environmental changes would occur gradually, their combined loss can be considered significant and irreversible.

As discussed previously, the Project would include upgrades to the existing water delivery system to improve water service and pressure for fire-flow requirements at the FSHA campus and an approximately 4,000-foot extension of an existing 16-kV distribution line from Oak Grove Drive to the FSHA campus to service the water system upgrade. The upgrades to the water and electrical infrastructure are required to serve the proposed building area expansion and ensure compliance with current City Building and Fire Codes. The upgrades would benefit the FSHA campus, as well as the existing residential neighborhood surrounding the campus. Because the surrounding area is largely developed with an existing low-density

single-family residential neighborhood, there is not the potential for substantial population growth based on the infrastructure upgrade.

The Project would allow for the expansion of the existing Arts Center and High School Buildings, development of a new parking structure, development of a new athletic area, and other landscaping improvements. Under buildout of the Specific Plan, the FSHA would continue to operate as a school. As stated previously, for landscaping, building maintenance and cleaning, and for science classes, the school utilizes small amounts of petroleum products (gas and oil); typical cleaning supplies; and acids, solvents, batteries, and thermometers. All of these materials are stored, used, and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations. The types and amounts of hazardous materials that are currently used, stored, and disposed of as part school operations would not change as a result of the Specific Plan. School operations under the Specific Plan would not expose students/faculty to acute risks associated with exposure of hazardous materials. Therefore, Project impacts related to risk of upset and hazardous materials emission in proximity to a school during operation would be less than significant.