

3.10 PUBLIC SERVICES

The purpose of this section is to:

- ❖ Describe the existing public services that would serve the proposed project,
- ❖ Identify potential impacts related to public services that could occur with the construction and operation of the proposed project, and
- ❖ Identify corresponding mitigation measures to avoid, minimize or reduce potentially significant impacts.

This section contains analysis based on consultation with affected public service providers. These providers include the City of Lodi Police Department and Fire Department. These public agencies and departments provided relevant information through telephone communications. Other resources, references, and documents used to prepare this section of the EIR are identified both within this section and Section 10.0, References Cited and Personal Communications.

During the Initial Study and NOP scoping process, it was determined that several public service agencies and departments would not be affected by the proposed project. These agencies and department include school districts, parks and recreation departments, and other related public service agencies. Section 1.4, Effects Not Found to be Significant, describes the reasons why these public services would not be significantly impacted by the proposed project.

3.10.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

Lodi Fire Department

The Lodi Fire Department provides fire protection, basic emergency medical services, and related public safety services for the City of Lodi. The Lodi Fire Department consists of a staff of 52 persons. The staff includes a fire chief, two division chiefs, four battalion chiefs, a fire marshal, 2 support personnel, one inspector, and 41 fire fighters/engineers (including captains).

The Lodi Fire Department has developed the following teams to provide specialized services to the City of Lodi:

- ❖ Hazardous Materials Team
- ❖ Fire Investigations Team
- ❖ Technical Rescue Team
- ❖ Apparatus Technician Team

Each team has a Chief Officer Liaison, a Team Leader, and number of team members. Members of each team receive advanced training in their area of expertise. The teams also train other members of the Fire Department in their area of expertise.

Fire Department Stations

The Lodi Fire Department operates four fire stations. The location, 24-hour staffing, and equipment of each fire station is described in detail below:

Station 1 is located at 210 West Elm Street. At any given time, Station 1 is staffed with a captain, a fire engineer and two fire fighters. Station 1 is equipped with a 1990 Emergency One 75-foot ladder truck (Truck 2051), and a 2000 Ford S/D chasis (Squad-2071). The Fire Administration and Fire Prevention offices are located near Station 1, at 217 West Elm Street. Fire Administration houses the Fire Chief, the Fire Division Chief of Resource Administration, the Fire Division Chief of Administrative Services, the Battalion Chief of Physical Resources, and the Department Secretary. Fire Prevention houses the Fire Marshal, the Fire Inspector, and an Administrative Clerk.



View of Fire Station 1



View of Truck 2051



View of Truck 2071

Station 2 is located at 705 East Lodi Avenue. At any given time, Station 2 is staffed with a captain, a fire engineer, and a fire fighter. Station 2 is equipped with a 1997 Hi-Tech Fire Engine (Engine 2032), a 1995 GMC Hazardous Material Unit, and a reserve 1981 Van Pelt Fire Engine (Engine 2036).



View of Fire Station 2



View of Engine 2032

Station 3 is located at 2141 South Ham Lane. At any given time, Station 3 is staffed with a captain, a fire engineer, and a fire fighter. Station 3 is equipped with a 1997 Hi-Tech Fire Engine (Engine 2033), and a reserve 1972 Van Pelt Fire Engine (Engine 2035).



View of Station 3



View of Engine 2035

Station 4 is located at 180 North Lower Sacramento Road. At any given time, Station 4 is staffed with a captain, a fire engineer, and a fire fighter. Station 4 is equipped with a 1994 Hi-Tech Fire Engine (Engine 2034).



View of Station 4



View of Engine 2034

Fire Emergency Calls

In 2001, the Lodi Fire Department responded to 4,240 emergency calls. The majority of the calls (approximately 64 percent) were for medical emergencies. Only two percent of the calls were for structural and non-structural fires.

Response Time Goals

The Lodi Fire Department has the goal to respond to all emergency calls within four minutes of receiving the call and within three minutes of travel time. According to Fire Chief Michael Pretz, the Lodi Fire Department does not have current response time statistics.

ISO Rating

The City of Lodi has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of Class 3. A Class 3 ISO rating indicates that the Fire Department is strategically placed throughout the City, and has more than adequate personnel, equipment, and expertise to serve the current population.

Delta and Woodbridge Fire Protection Districts

The City of Lodi Fire Department has mutual aid agreements with the Delta Fire Protection District and the Woodbridge Fire Protection District. During major emergencies, the Woodbridge and Delta Fire Protection Districts would provide assistance to the City of Lodi Fire Department at their request.

Emergency Medical Services

All City of Lodi firefighters and engineers are licensed Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). EMTs are trained to provide basic emergency medical services, such as Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), dressing wounds, and applying splints. Paramedic services in the City are provided by a private agency called American Medical Response (AMR). Medical emergencies are treated at either Lodi Memorial Hospital or San Joaquin County General Hospital. Lodi Memorial Hospital is located at 975 South Fairmont Avenue, approximately 1 mile east of the proposed project site. San Joaquin County General Hospital is located in the City of Stockton.

Police Protection Services

Lodi Police Department

The City of Lodi Police Department provides police protection services for the City of Lodi. The Lodi Police Department consists of two divisions: Support Services and Operations. Support Services includes the Dispatch, Jail, and Records Unit; the Special Investigations Unit; and the General Detectives Unit. The Operations Division is divided into five police districts that are in charge of patrolling certain areas of the City. A total of 78 sworn police officers and 17 dispatchers serve in the Lodi-Police Department.

Police Station

The Lodi Police Department operates one central police station. The Police Station is located at 230 West Elm Street. In September of 2002, the City of Lodi began the construction of a new police station. The new police station site is located across from the existing station West Elm Street. The 59,000-square foot facility will include offices for police and jail services, a state-of-the-art jail facility, and approximately 8,000 square feet of space that will be available for lease. The new police station is scheduled to be complete by December 2003.



Police Districts

The Lodi Police Department is divided into five Police Districts. Officers and supervisors are assigned to a specific district in order to stay abreast on specific problems that are unique to the area. The proposed project site is located in the Southwest Police District. One to two patrol cars are assigned to the Southwest Police District 24 hours per day and seven days per week.

Response Time Goals

According to the Lodi General Plan, the Lodi Police Department has the goal to respond to all emergency calls within three minutes, and all non-emergency calls within 40 minutes.

California Highway Patrol

The goal of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is to ensure safety and provide law enforcement services to the public as they use California's highway transportation system. The CHP assists local government during emergencies when requested. The CHP provides law enforcement and traffic safety services on State Highway 12 (Kettleman Lane), which is located south and adjacent to the proposed project site.

San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department

The San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services to the rural and unincorporated areas of the County. The Sheriff's Department would assist the Lodi Police Department during major emergencies when requested.

Relevant General Plan Policies

For the purposes of this project, the following goals and policies from the City of Lodi General Plan Health and Safety Element establish the thresholds of significance for determining impacts related to police and fire services:

- ❖ Goal C, Policy 6: The City shall endeavor to at least maintain the existing overall fire insurance (ISO) rating of three.
- ❖ Goal C, Policy 7: The City shall endeavor through adequate staffing and station locations to maintain the minimum feasible response time for fire and emergency calls. The goal for travel time by the fire department in responding to an emergency shall be three minutes. As areas are developed beyond the 3-minute standard, additional fire stations, capital equipment, and personnel shall be provided or alternative fire protection measures shall be required.
- ❖ Goal C, Policy 8: The City shall endeavor to maintain a firefighting staff level consistent with the provision of three-person companies and a three-minute emergency travel time. The City shall translate this ration to land use equivalents to correspond to the City's fee ordinance.
- ❖ Goal D, Policy 5: The City shall endeavor through adequate staffing and patrol arrangements to maintain the minimum feasible response times for police calls. The goal for average response time for an emergency call shall be three minutes and no longer than 40 minutes for non-emergency calls.
- ❖ Goal D, Policy 5: The City shall endeavor through adequate staffing and patrol arrangements to maintain the minimum feasible police response time for police calls. The goal for average response time for emergency calls shall be 3 minutes and no longer than 40 minutes for nonemergency calls.
- ❖ Goal D, Policy 6: The City shall endeavor to maintain the existing staff ratio of 1.3 officers per 1,000 population. The City shall translate this ratio to dwelling unit equivalents to correspond to the City's fee ordinance.

3.10.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Thresholds of Significance

According to the City of Lodi Environmental Checklist Form, a police and fire impact would be considered significant if the project would have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services related to fire and police protection. A public service impact is generally considered significant if it has an adverse affect on a public service agency's response time or its ratio of personnel to city population. Impacts can also be considered significant if the project conflicts with an adopted goal or standard for services.

IMPACT 3.10-A. Fire: The proposed project would increase the demand for fire and first-response emergency medical services. However, the proposed project would not have an adverse effect on the Fire Department's ability to serve the project site and other area of the City because the fire stations are distributed strategically throughout the City and the Fire Department has adequate equipment, experience and number of personnel to serve the project site. The project would not result in a need for new or altered services or facilities related to fire services. (Less Than Significant Impact).

The proposed project would indirectly increase the demand for fire and first-response emergency medical services. The increase in demand would be generated by future automobile accidents in the vicinity of the site, health related problems at the project site, potential structural fires, and other emergencies that could occur at the site.

The proposed shopping center would be constructed in accordance with the fire standards, policies, and requirements of the Uniform Building Code and the City of Lodi Fire Code (Chapter 15.20 of the City of Lodi Municipal Code). Compliance with these building codes would require that the proposed shopping center is designed and built with adequate fire protection measures, including fire alarms, sprinklers, extinguishers, hydrants, adequate water supply, fire walls, and other related fire protection measures. These fire protection measures would reduce the potential for fire emergencies at the proposed project site.

Fire Stations 3 and 4 would primarily serve the proposed project site. Fire Station 4 would provide first response services to the site. According to Fire Chief Michael Pretz, Station 4 currently has adequate staff and equipment to serve the proposed project.

Fire Station 4 is located approximately 0.8 miles north of the proposed project site. Based on its close location to the proposed shopping center, Station 4 would be able to respond to emergency calls at the site within the three-minute travel time goal of the Department (Chief Pretz). In addition, the proposed project would not compromise the Department's ability to provide adequate services to other areas of the City within the travel time goal of three minutes (Chief Pretz).

According to Fire Chief Pretz, the City of Lodi Fire Department would be able to adequately serve the proposed project without compromising its service to existing homes and businesses in the City. Therefore, the project would not cause the City's ISO rating of Class 3 to decrease to Class 4.

As indicated above, the proposed project would not have an adverse effect on the Fire Department's ability to serve the City of Lodi and would not result in a need for new or altered services or facilities. Therefore, less than significant impacts related to fire services would occur as a result of the proposed project.

Mitigation 3.10-A. Fire: The project would result in less than significant impacts related to fire emergency services. Therefore, mitigation measures are not required. (Less Than Significant Impact).

IMPACT 3.10-B. Police: The proposed project would increase the demand for police protection services. However, the proposed project would not have an adverse effect on the Police Department's ability to serve the project site and other area of the City since the Police Department has adequate staff and equipment to respond to emergency calls at the site. The project would not result in a need for new or altered services or facilities related to police protection services. (Less Than Significant Impact).

The proposed project would indirectly increase the demand for police protection services. The increase in demand would be generated by potential crimes and misdemeanors that could occur at the site, including traffic violations, thefts, vandalism, loitering, and assaults.

The proposed project would be located in the Southwest Police District. According to Captain David Main of the Lodi Police Department, the Lodi Police Department and the Southwest Police District have adequate staff and equipment to respond to emergency calls at the site. In addition, the proposed project would not compromise the Police Department's ability to respond to emergency calls in other parts of the City. According to Captain Main, the proposed project would not have a negative adverse impact on the Police Department's ability to serve the City or the site.

The proposed project would not involve the construction of new residential units and would not result in substantial changes to the City's population. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a negative affect on the ratio of Police Department staff to City Population.

The Lodi Police Department participates in the development review process to ensure that crime prevention measures are incorporated into the design of new development projects. Crime prevention measures may include security alarms, surveillance equipment, security guards, adequate lighting for parking lots and walkways, and landscaping and building design requirements to eliminate potential crime area. These measures (if required by the Police Department) would help mitigate the proposed project's impact on the police protection services. In addition, the City assesses development impact fees on all new commercial development projects to fund capitol improvements and equipment required to provide police protection services. The crime prevention measures required by the Department and the payment of development impact fees would reduce potential impacts caused by the proposed project to less than significant levels.

Mitigation 3.10-A: Police: The project would result in less than significant impacts related to police protection services. Therefore, mitigation measures are not required. (Less Than Significant Impact).