

3.4 FIRE PROTECTION

This section provides a discussion of the existing fire conditions and fire protection facilities and services and an analysis of potential impacts from implementation of the proposed project. The following information is based on correspondence related to fire protections services provided by the Los Angeles county Fire Department (LACFD). This correspondence is provided in Appendix A of this Draft Master EIR.

3.4.1 Environmental Setting

3.4.1.1 Regional

The proposed project site is located within the service boundaries of the LACFD. The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) provides fire protection, fire prevention, and emergency services within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and to over 50 incorporated jurisdictions in Los Angeles County. The County of Los Angeles Fire Code, the General Plan Safety Element, and the codes and General Plans of the various adjacent jurisdictions establish the standards, policies, and goals for the construction, design, and distribution of fire protections facilities and services in the vicinity of the project site. These policies ensure that such criteria as fire flow, maximum distance to fire stations, public and private fire hydrants and access provisions for fire fighting equipment are adhered to by new developments taking place in within these jurisdictions.

3.4.1.2 Project Specific

Fire response services are provided to the project site by a number of fire stations in the area. Table 3.4.1.2, *Fire Stations*, below provides details of these response units, their distances, approximate response time, and staffing:

Table 3.4.1.2-1 Fire Stations

EQUIPMENT	DISTANCE*/MILES	TIME*/MINUTES	STAFFING
Engine 87	5.2	9.1	4
Engine 40	4.3	9.2	3
Squad 40	-	-	2
Engine 90	3.6	9.2	3
Squad 90	-	-	2
Truck 118	8.6	14.0	4

*To New Student Services Building

Source: County of Los Angeles Fire Department, March 2005

The LACFD utilizes resources from all fire stations within its territory, as needed.

3.4.2 Significance Thresholds

A significant impact related to fire hazards and fire protection services would occur if the proposed project is determined to:

- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death due to location in a high fire hazard area;
- Interfere with emergency access or emergency response to the project site; or
- Require additional emergency response personnel, equipment, and/or facilities to serve the proposed development.

3.4.3 Environmental Impact Analysis

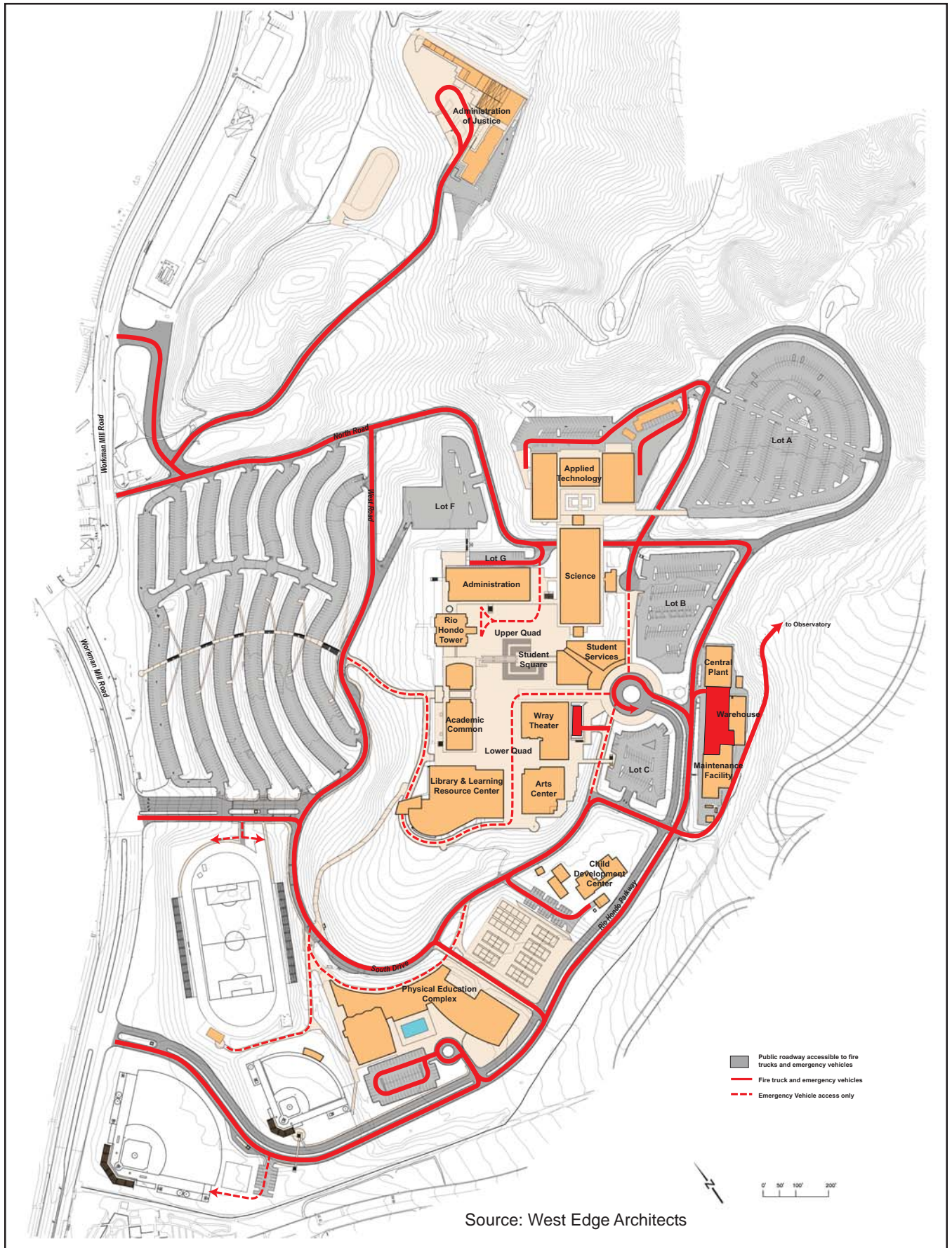
3.4.3.1 Project Specific

Construction

During construction of the proposed project fire protections services would be required, however, these services are not expected to be substantially different than those required during operation. Thus, the proposed project’s impacts on the fire protection services during construction will similar to those during operation discussed below.

3.4.3.2 Operations

The proposed project would provide emergency access to the project site via three entrances along Workman Mill Road (see Figure 3.4.3.2-1 *Emergency Access*). A number of fire hydrants already exist on the college campus and new ones would be installed per Fire Department



requirements. There would be no overhead obstructions within the access driveways and fire lanes that would impede access by emergency vehicles to the project site.

The new and remodeled buildings would be equipped with design features and fire suppression equipment including an automatic fire suppression system, fire alarm system, and evacuation life safety system.

Implementation of the proposed project would result in estimated response times to the project site in excess of nine (9) minutes.¹ An additional fire station is planned for this vicinity, which would substantially reduce response times. The LACFD's limited tax revenues have restricted the LACFD's ability to meet new growth needs with their existing resources. Although general plans for upgrading fire protection in this area have been developed, the LACFD cannot implement these plans without specific provisions for the necessary staffing, equipment and facilities. The LACFD has indicated that implementation of the proposed project would result in the need for additional LACFD staffing, equipment, and facilities in order to serve the proposed development. This is considered to be a significant impact unless mitigated.²

3.4.3.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis

Development associated with growth within the service boundaries of the LACFD, including the related projects described in Section 2.0: Project Description, would combine to generate a demand for additional fire protection services. As indicated for the proposed project, limited tax revenues have restricted the LACFD's ability to meet new growth needs. Although plans for upgrading of fire protection services in the project vicinity have been developed, the LACFD cannot implement these plans without specific provisions for the necessary staffing, equipment, and facilities. Therefore, the proposed project, in conjunction with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future projects, would result in a significant cumulative impact related to the provision of fire protection services, unless mitigated.

3.4.4 Mitigation Measures

FP-1 If the LACFD prepares a fee nexus study for fire protection facilities, the Rio Hondo College shall provide prorata funding for an evaluation of then current call loads, response times, and fire station deployment in order to provide an adequate

¹ Written communication from David R. Leininger, Chief, Forestry Division – Prevention Bureau, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, March 15 2005 (see Appendix A: NOP, Initial Study, and Scoping Comments).

² Written communication from David R. Leininger, Chief, Forestry Division – Prevention Bureau, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, March 15 2005 (see Appendix A: NOP, Initial Study, and Scoping Comments).

level of service to the project site at build-out. As determined to be necessary by the fee nexus study, and pursuant to development impact fees adopted by the County of Los Angeles, the College shall pay fees for the proposed project's proportionate share of the required facilities and equipment identified.

FP-2

When developing the infrastructure and when actual construction is proposed, the following requirements shall be incorporated into the project proposal:

1. Development plans will be subject to review and approval according to the building fire plan check.
2. The development of the proposed project must comply with all applicable code and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire flows and fire hydrants.
3. Every building constructed shall be accessible to Fire Department apparatus by way of access roadways, with an all-weather surface of not less than the prescribed width, unobstructed, clear-to-sky, unless approved by the Fire Department. The roadway shall be extended to within 150 feet of all portions of the exterior walls when measured by an unobstructed route around the exterior of the building.
4. Access roads shall be maintained with a minimum of ten (10) feet of brush clearance on each side. Fire access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance clear-to-sky with the exception of protected tree species, unless approved by the Fire Department. Protected tree species overhanging fire access roads shall be maintained to provide a vertical clearance of 13 feet 6 inches.
5. The maximum allowable grade shall not exceed 15% except where topography makes it impractical to keep within such grade; in such cases, and absolute maximum of 20% will be allowed for up to 150 feet in distance. The average maximum allowed grade, including topographical difficulties, shall be no more than 17%. Grade breaks shall not exceed 10% in ten (10) feet.
6. Comply with the Fire Department requirements for access, fire flows and hydrants as outlined in the 2002 County of Los Angeles Fire Code Appendix III-AA. Fire hydrant spacing shall be based on fire flow requirements as outlined in the 2002 County of Los Angeles Fire Code Appendix III-BB. Additional hydrants shall be provided if hydrant spacing exceeds specified distances. Turning radii shall not be less than 32 feet. This measurement shall be determined at the centerline of the road. A fire department approved turning area shall be provided for all driveways exceeding 150 feet in length and at the end of all cul-de-sacs.
7. All on-site driveways/roadways shall provide a minimum unobstructed width of 28 feet, clear-to-sky, unless approved by the Fire Department. The on-site driveway is to be within 150 feet of all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of any building. The centerline of the access

driveway shall be located parallel to, and within 30 feet of an exterior wall on one side of the proposed structure.

- a. Any access way less than 34 feet in width shall be labeled “Fire lane” on the final recording map, and final building plans.
 - b. The entrance to the street/driveway and intermittent spacing distances of 150 feet shall be posted with Fire Department approved signs stating “NO PARKING – FIRE LANE” in three-inch high letters. Driveway labeling is necessary to ensure access for Fire Department use.
8. All access devices and gates shall comply with California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Article 3.05 and Article 3.16.
 9. All proposals for traffic calming measures (speed humps/bumps/cushions, traffic circles, roundabouts, etc.) shall be submitted to the Fire Department for review prior to implementation.

3.4.5 Level of Significance After Mitigation

Application of mitigation measures **FP-1** and **FP-2** would reduce fire protection service impacts to less than significant levels.