

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

July 6, 2022

TO: Vincent Bertoni, AICP, Director of Planning
Department of City Planning
Attn: Alan Como

FROM: Los Angeles Fire Department

SUBJECT: Notice of Completion

CASE NO.: ENV-2021-4071-EIR
PROJECT NAME: Fourth and Central Project
PROJECT APPLICANT: ESA Environmental Science Associates
PROJECT ADDRESS: 400 S Central Los Angeles CA 90013

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Project would demolish the existing surface parking and cold storage facility uses on the West and South Sites, and intends to adaptively reuse, if feasible, a portion of a six story cold storage building on the North Site, while demolishing the remaining warehouse uses. The Project would include a mix of residential, office, restaurant/retail, and hotel uses within 10 distinct buildings over the three Sites totaling approximately 2,318,534 sf, for a floor area ratio (FAR) of 6.95:1. The Project would include: 1,521 residential units, including affordable housing units, totaling approximately 1,731,849 sf; approximately 411,113 sf of office uses; approximately 101,088 sf of restaurant/retail uses; and, 68 hotel rooms (74,484 sf of hotel floor area). The Project's 1,521 residential units would result in new residential population of 3,423 persons.¹ The Project is estimated to generate 2,108 employees. Accounting for the 69 employees in the existing uses, the net total increase in employment is 2,039 employees. The Project would include approximately 163,325 sf of Code required private open space. The Project would include approximately 90,113 sf of publicly accessible open space, including paseos passing between Central Avenue and Alameda Street, plazas, and pocket parks within the North and South Sites. The proposed buildings would range in height from 2 to 44 stories, with a maximum height of approximately 497 feet. The Project would provide 2,475 vehicle parking spaces within subterranean parking (up to 4 levels) and podium parking.

¹ Based on the Population Per Unit Factor for multi-family units within the City of Los Angeles VMT Calculator Documentation, which assumes an average household size of 2.25 population.

Each of the Project uses are shown by building within the three areas of the Project Site (e.g., North Site, South Site, and West Site) in Table 1, *Project Use and Floor Area Summary*. Building heights and uses are further summarized in Table 2, *Building Stories, Heights, and Uses*.

Figure 3, *Proposed Program Diagram* (attached), provides a three-dimensional rendering and overall configuration of the Project's ten buildings. Figure 4, *Conceptual Site Plan* (attached), illustrates the location of the proposed buildings and the Project Site from a "bird's eye" view. Figure 5, *Ground Level Plan* (attached), shows the overall Project Site and uses located at ground level, including the surface parking area within the West Site and driveway access. Figure 6, *Site Dimensions and Building Heights* (attached), illustrates the number of stories and general dimensions for driveways, sidewalks, lot areas, and building footprints.

The Project is requesting a General Plan Amendment to change the Project Site's land use designation from Light Industrial to Regional Commercial, and a corresponding Vesting Zone and Height District Change to C2-2.

Four streets, including 4th Street, Central Avenue, Alameda Street, and Gladys Avenue, are located adjacent to the Project Site. Central Avenue and Alameda Street are designated as Avenue I in the City of Los Angeles 2035 Mobility Plan (Mobility Plan). 4th Street is designated as Avenue II, and Gladys Avenue is designated as a Local Street under the Mobility Plan. The Mobility Plan requires a right-of-way of 100 feet and a roadway width of 70 feet for the Avenue I designation; a right-of-way of 86 feet and a roadway width of 56 feet for the Avenue II designation, and a right-of-way of 60 feet and a roadway of 36 feet for local streets. In order to meet the requirements of the Mobility Plan, the Project anticipates that additional street dedications, including 6 feet along the south side of 4th Street adjacent to the Project Site and 10 feet along the west side of Alameda Street would be required. No additional dedications would be required along Central Avenue or Gladys Avenue.

The following comments are furnished in response to your request for this Department to review the proposed development:

FIRE FLOW:

The adequacy of fire protection for a given area is based on required fire-flow, response distance from existing fire stations, and this Department's judgment for needs in the area. In general, the required fire-flow is closely related to land use. The quantity of water necessary for fire protection varies with the type of development, life hazard, occupancy, and the degree of fire hazard.

Fire-flow requirements vary from 2,000 gallons per minute (G.P.M.) in low density residential areas to 12,000 G.P.M. in high-density commercial or industrial areas. A minimum residual water pressure of 20 pounds per square inch (P.S.I.) is to remain in the water system, with the required gallons per minute flowing. The required fire-flow for this project has been set at **12,000 G.P.M. available to any block (where local conditions indicate that consideration must be given to simultaneous fires, and additional 2,000 to 8,000 G.P.M. will be required).**

Improvements to the water system in this area may be required to provide 12,000 G.P.M. fire flow. The cost of improving the water system may be charged to the developer. For more detailed information regarding water main improvements, the developer shall contact the Water Services Section of the Department of Water and Power.

RESPONSE DISTANCE:

Based on a required fire-flow of 12,000 G.P.M., the first-due Engine Company should be within 3/4 mile(s), the first-due Truck Company within 1 mile(s).

FIRE STATIONS:

The Fire Department has existing fire stations at the following locations for initial response into the area of the proposed development: **400 S Central LA CA 90013**

DISTANCE	Fire Station No. 9 430 E 7 th St LA CA 90014	SERVICES & EQUIPMENT	STAFF
.8		2 Assessment Engines, BLS Truck and 2 Paramedic Rescue Ambulances, BLS Rescue Ambulance	19
1	Fire Station No. 4 450 E Temple LA CA 90012	Assessment Engine, Battalion Chief, BLS Rescue Ambulance, ALS Rescue Ambulance, EMS Battalion Captain	11
1.6	Fire Station No. 3 108 N Fremont Ave LA CA 90012	Task Force, Paramedic Rescue Ambulance, BLS Rescue Ambulance, Emergency Lighting Unit, Command Post Vehicle, Medical Supply Trailer and Back-up US&R Apparatus	16

1.7	Fire Station No. 17 1601 S Santa Fe LA CA 90021	Assessment Engine, Paramedic Rescue Ambulance, Foam Tender, Haz-Mat Tender and Arson Investigation Unit	11
2.2	Fire Station No. 10 1335 S Olive St LA CA 90015	Paramedic Rescue Ambulance, BLS Rescue Ambulance and Assessment Light Force	14

Based on these criteria (response distance from existing fire stations), fire protection would be considered **Inadequate**.

At present, there are no immediate plans to increase Fire Department staffing or resources in those areas, which will serve the proposed project.

FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL & APPARATUS ACCESS:

Access for Fire Department apparatus and personnel to and into all structures shall be required.

Address identification. New and existing buildings shall have approved building identification placed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property.

One or more Knox Boxes will be required to be installed for LAFD access to project.
Location and number to be determined by LAFD Field Inspector. (Refer to FPB Req # 75).

The entrance or exit of all ground dwelling units shall not be more than 150 feet from the edge of a roadway of an improved street, access road, or designated fire lane.

Fire Lane Requirements:

- 1) Fire lane width shall not be less than 20 feet. When a fire lane must accommodate the operation of Fire Department aerial ladder apparatus or where fire hydrants are installed, those portions shall not be less than 28 feet in width.
- 2) The width of private roadways for general access use and fire lanes shall not be less than 20 feet, and the fire lane must be clear to the sky.
- 3) Fire lanes, where required and dead ending streets shall terminate in a cul-de-sac or other approved turning area. No dead ending street or fire lane shall be greater than 700 feet in length or secondary access shall be required.

- 4) Submit plot plans indicating access road and turning area for Fire Department approval.
- 5) All parking restrictions for fire lanes shall be posted and/or painted prior to any Temporary Certificate of Occupancy being issued.
- 6) Plans showing areas to be posted and/or painted, "FIRE LANE NO PARKING" shall be submitted and approved by the Fire Department prior to building permit application sign-off.
- 7) Electric Gates approved by the Fire Department shall be tested by the Fire Department prior to Building and Safety granting a Certificate of Occupancy.
- 8) All public street and fire lane cul-de-sacs shall have the curbs painted red and/or be posted "No Parking at Any Time" prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for any structures adjacent to the cul-de-sac.
- 9) No framing shall be allowed until the roadway is installed to the satisfaction of the Fire Department.

Construction of public or private roadway in the proposed development shall not exceed 10 percent in grade.

Where above ground floors are used for residential purposes, the access requirement shall be interpreted as being the horizontal travel distance from the street, driveway, alley, or designated fire lane to the main entrance of individual units.

No building or portion of a building shall be constructed more than 150 feet from the edge of a roadway of an improved street, access road, or designated fire lane.

The Fire Department may require additional vehicular access where buildings exceed 28 feet in height.

The entrance to a Residential lobby must be within 50 feet of the desired street address curb face.

The following recommendations of the Fire Department relative to fire safety shall be incorporated into the building plans, which includes the submittal of a plot plan for approval by the Fire Department either prior to the recordation of a final map or the approval of a building permit. The plot plan shall include the following minimum design features: fire lanes, where required, shall be a minimum of 20 feet in width; all structures must be within 300 feet of an approved fire hydrant, and entrances to any dwelling unit or guest room shall not be more than 150 feet in distance in horizontal travel from the edge of the roadway of an improved street or approved fire lane.

2014 CITY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE CODE, SECTION 503.1.4 (EXCEPTION)

- a. When this exception is applied to a fully fire sprinklered residential building equipped with a wet standpipe outlet inside an exit stairway with at least a 2 hour rating the distance from the wet standpipe outlet in the stairway to the entry door of any dwelling unit or guest room shall not exceed 150 feet of horizontal travel AND the distance from the edge of the

roadway of an improved street or approved fire lane to the door into the same exit stairway directly from outside the building shall not exceed 150 feet of horizontal travel.

- b. It is the intent of this policy that in no case will the maximum travel distance exceed 150 feet inside the structure and 150 feet outside the structure. The term “horizontal travel” refers to the actual path of travel to be taken by a person responding to an emergency in the building.
- c. This policy does not apply to single-family dwellings or to non-residential buildings.

Site plans shall include all overhead utility lines adjacent to the site.

Where access for a given development requires accommodation of Fire Department apparatus, overhead clearance shall not be less than 14 feet.

No proposed development utilizing cluster, group, or condominium design of one or two family dwellings shall be more than 150 feet from the edge of the roadway of an improved street, access road, or designated fire lane.

On small lot subdivisions, any lots used for access purposes shall be recorded on the final map as a “Fire Lane”.

Construction of public or private roadway in the proposed development shall not exceed 10 percent in grade.

Private development shall conform to the standard street dimensions shown on Department of Public Works Standard Plan S-470-0.

Standard cut-corners will be used on all turns.

The proposed project shall comply with all applicable State and local codes and ordinances, and the guidelines found in the Safety Plan, which is an element of the General Plan of the City of Los Angeles

Recently, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) modified Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) Requirement 10. Helicopter landing facilities are still required on all High-Rise buildings in the City. However, FPB’s Requirement 10 has been revised to provide two new alternatives to a full FAA-approved helicopter landing facilities.

Each standpipe in a new high-rise building shall be provided with two remotely located FDC’s for each zone in compliance with NFPA 14-2013, Section 7.12.2.

During demolition, the Fire Department access will remain clear and unobstructed.

The Fire Department has no objection to the Airspace Vacation.

FPB #105

5101.1 Emergency responder radio coverage in new buildings. All new buildings shall have approved radio coverage for emergency responders within the building based upon the existing coverage levels of the public safety communication systems of the jurisdiction at the exterior of the building. This section shall not require improvement of the existing public safety communication systems.

That in order to provide assurance that the proposed common fire lane and fire protection facilities, for the project, not maintained by the City, are properly and adequately maintained, the sub-divider shall record with the County Recorder, prior to the recordation of the final map, a covenant and agreement (Planning Department General Form CP-6770) to assure the following:

A. The establishment of a property owners association, which shall cause a yearly inspection to be, made by a registered civil engineer of all common fire lanes and fire protection facilities. The association will undertake any necessary maintenance and corrective measures. Each future property owner shall automatically become a member of the association or organization required above and is automatically subject to a proportionate share of the cost.

B. The future owners of affected lots with common fire lanes and fire protection facilities shall be informed of their responsibility for the maintenance of the devices on their lots. The future owner and all successors will be presented with a copy of the maintenance program for their lot. Any amendment or modification that would defeat the obligation of said association as the Advisory Agency must approve required hereinabove in writing after consultation with the Fire Department.

C. In the event that the property owners association fails to maintain the common property and easements as required by the CC and R's, the individual property owners shall be responsible for their proportional share of the maintenance.

D. Prior to any building permits being issued, the applicant shall improve, to the satisfaction of the Fire Department, all common fire lanes and install all private fire hydrants to be required.

E. That the Common Fire Lanes and Fire Protection facilities be shown on the Final Map.

The plot plans shall be approved by the Fire Department showing fire hydrants and access for each phase of the project prior to the recording of the final map for that phase. Each phase shall comply independently with code requirements.

Any roof elevation changes in excess of 3 feet may require the installation of ships ladders.

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Provide Fire Department pathway front to rear with access to each roof deck via gate or pony wall less than 36 inches.

Building designs for multi-storied residential buildings shall incorporate at least one access stairwell off the main lobby of the building; But, in no case greater than 150ft horizontal travel distance from the edge of the public street, Private Street or Fire Lane. This stairwell shall extend onto the roof.

Entrance to the main lobby shall be located off the address side of the building.

Any required Fire Annunciator panel or Fire Control Room shall be located within 20ft visual line of site of the main entrance stairwell or to the satisfaction of the Fire Department.

Where rescue window access is required, provide conditions and improvements necessary to meet accessibility standards as determined by the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Adequate off-site public and on-site private fire hydrants may be required. Their number and location to be determined after the Fire Department's review of the plot plan.

Any required fire hydrants to be installed shall be fully operational and accepted by the Fire Department prior to any building construction.

Plans showing areas to be posted and/or painted, "FIRE LANE NO PARKING" shall be submitted and approved by the Fire Department prior to building permit application sign-off.

Electric Gates approved by the Fire Department shall be tested by the Fire Department prior to Building and Safety granting a Certificate of Occupancy.

The inclusion of the above listed recommendations, along with any additional recommendations made during later reviews of the proposed project will reduce the impacts to an acceptable level.

Definitive plans and specifications shall be submitted to this Department and requirements for necessary permits satisfied prior to commencement of any portion of this project.

The Los Angeles Fire Department continually evaluates fire station placement and overall Department services for the entire City, as well as specific areas. The development of this proposed project, along with other approved and planned projects in the immediate area, may result in the need for the following:

1. Increased staffing for existing facilities. (I.E., Paramedic Rescue Ambulance and EMT Rescue Ambulance resources.)
2. Additional fire protection facilities.

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3. Relocation of present fire protection facilities.

For additional information, please contact the Fire Development Services Section, Hydrants & Access Unit at **(213) 482-6543** or email **lafdhydrants@lacity.org**

Very truly yours,

Orin Saunders
Fire Marshal

OS:MRC:mrc