

Draft Environmental Assessment
Northwest Fire Station
City of Santa Maria Fire Department
EMW-2009-FC-01734
September 2010



FEMA

**U.S. Department of Homeland
Security**
Federal Emergency Management
Agency – Region IX
1111 Broadway - Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

**Draft Environmental Assessment
Northwest Fire Station
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EMW-2009-FC-01734**

For submittal to:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region IX
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**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED NORTHWEST FIRE STATION, SANTA MARIA, CA**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARFF	Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting
bgs	below ground surface
BMPs	Best management practices
Cal-IPC	California Invasive Plant Council
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFDA	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH ₄	Methane
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
City	City of Santa Maria
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DFG	California Department of Fish and Game
EA	Environmental Assessment
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency
GHG	greenhouse gases
HFCs	hydrofluorocarbons
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
msl	mean sea level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESHAP	National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOT	Notice of Termination
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS (CONTINUED)

O ₃	ozone
OHP	State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter
SBCAPCD	Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SO ₂	Sulphur dioxide
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TACs	Toxic Air Contaminants
tpy	tons per year
URS	URS Corporation
U.S.C.	United States Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VOC	volatile organic compound

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**SECTION 1.0
INTRODUCTION**

The City of Santa Maria (City) has applied to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Federal financial assistance (Federal action) to implement the Northwest Fire Station Project (proposed action) in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County, California (Figures 1, 2, and 3). The assistance would be provided to the City (as the grantee-) through the Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grant Program. The grantee's proposal consists of constructing a new fire station (i.e., the Northwest Fire Station) to improve response times and service in the northwest area of the City. The location of the new fire station would be 2305 North Preisker Lane.

The Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grant Program (CFDA 97-115) is authorized by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) to fund the construction and modification of fire stations. The program is administered by the Assistance to Firefighters Program Office under FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate. The grants under this program are awarded directly to fire departments on a competitive basis.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project and the identified alternatives of the proposed project. The EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–4327 [2008]), the associated Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500–1508 [2008]), and FEMA's implementing regulations (44 CFR § 10 [2008]). The EA process provides steps and procedures to evaluate the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of a proposed project and alternatives on the quality of the human environment. The potential impacts are evaluated according to their context and intensity, as defined in the CEQ regulations. The EA process also includes procedures for giving Federal, state, and local agencies and the public opportunities to provide input on the proposed project and alternatives. FEMA will use the findings in this EA to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact.

Throughout this document, the project is called the Northwest Fire Station, to avoid possible confusion from using Fire Station numbers. The City's intent is to relocate its existing Fire Station No. 3 to the project site. In some earlier planning documents and correspondence, however, the site was referenced as the location for Fire Station No. 5.

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**SECTION 2.0
PURPOSE AND NEED**

The proposed Northwest Fire Station would be located at 2305 North Preisker Lane, in the southeastern corner of Preisker Park in the City of Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County, California (Figures 1 and 2). The project site encompasses approximately 1.2 acres of the 38.9-acre Preisker Park. The site is bound by Preisker Lane to the east, the Preisker Gardens residential development to the south, and Preisker Park to the north and west.

The northwest area of the City is currently serviced by Fire Station No. 3, which is located at 1527 North College Drive, in a 70-year-old home that was converted to a fire station in 1980. The station is small and crews must walk outside to reach the apparatus stalls. The station also lacks fire sprinklers, proper insulation, and air conditioning, and has an antiquated paging system. Fire Station No. 3 is located on a residential street directly across from the Rice Elementary School. The narrow street and proximity to the school create hazardous conditions for children, parents, and emergency response crews during drop-off or pick-up periods.

The Santa Maria Fire Department conducted studies in 1998 and 2000 and determined that the City needs six fire stations to meet response time goals and service calls (City of Santa Maria 2000). There are currently five fire stations in the department. Four of the stations provide general fire suppression duties and the fifth station is restricted under contract to Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) at the Santa Maria Public Airport. From 2000 to 2006 the City's population increased 9.4 percent (Census Bureau) and total calls for the Santa Maria Fire Department increased 59 percent (City of Santa Maria 2010). From 2006 to 2009, total calls increased 23 percent. Total call increase from 2000 to 2009 was 96 percent (City of Santa Maria 2010).

The Santa Maria Fire Department strategic plan is to relocate crews and equipment from the current Fire Station No. 3 to the Northwest Fire Station; in addition, the City plans to establish an additional fire station in the northeast area. The Northwest Fire Station will improve response times in the northwest area of the City. When both stations are completed they would greatly enhance the City's ability to meet response time goals and service calls. The goal of the Santa Maria Fire Department and the standard outlined in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 is to respond to 90 percent of calls for service within five minutes. Currently, only 78 percent of the City is within the five minute response time (Santa Maria Fire Department, Standards of Cover 2000). The City has submitted a grant application for the Northeast Fire Station and a Draft Environmental Assessment for that project is under development. Once the proposed Northwest and Northeast Fire Stations are operational, 91 percent of the City would be within the five minute response time.

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The Northwest Fire Station would also improve the City's ability to provide mutual aid to areas within unincorporated Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, and the Los Padres National Forest. The proposed location is strategically located to improve services to these jurisdictions; the proposed site's proximity to U.S. Route 101 would improve response times to these areas by over two minutes.

In summary, the new Northwest Fire Station is being proposed to:

- Reduce reliance on existing fire station facilities
- Improve response times in the northwest area of the City
- Support other fire stations in the City and provide mutual aid to Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, and the Los Padres National Forest

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**SECTION 3.0
ALTERNATIVES**

NEPA requires the investigation and evaluation of reasonable project alternatives as part of the planning process. This EA addresses two alternatives: the proposed alternative and no-action alternative. The City considered the No Action Alternative, Alternatives Considered and Dismissed, and Proposed Action Alternative.

3.1 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The No Action Alternative would result in no construction of a new fire station in the northwest area of the City, and the continued use of Fire Station No. 3. This action would have no immediate impact to emergency response time in the City's northwest area; however, response times are likely to increase with further population growth and development.

In 2009 the City changed the General Plan land use designation and zoning at the project site from open space to community facility. If the Northwest Fire Station were not developed at this location, the land might be used for some other community facility purpose or might be used for some other park-related use.

3.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND DISMISSED

Alternative sites were considered by the City of Santa Maria Fire Department. They were based on the City's established criteria of response times, main-artery road and highway access, and population density. The alternative site locations were at the intersection of North Broadway and Taylor Street, and along Donovan Road. Both sites were developed commercial properties, and neither became available for purchase by the City. Because of the unavailability of the private land, the alternate locations were determined to be unreasonable and eliminated from further consideration.

3.3 PROPOSED ACTION

The grantee's proposal (Proposed Project) consists of building a new fire station that complies with NFPA and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. Completion of the Proposed Project would be expected to take approximately 15 months. The proposed fire station would be constructed at 2305 North Preisker Lane. This location is located near east/west and north/south oriented roads. In addition, the location would provide ready access to U.S. Route 101, which would allow the proposed fire station to support other fire stations in the City and provide mutual aid to Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, and the Los Padres National Forest.

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The site plan for the Proposed Project is shown on Figure 3. Photographs of the project area are included as Photographs 1 through 4 (Appendix B).

The components of the Proposed Project are as follows:

- The proposed fire station would be approximately 6,579 square feet, including 3,079 square feet of living space and 3,500 square feet of apparatus space, including a work area and storage space.
- The fire station would initially accommodate three personnel but could accommodate four personnel. The living space would include four bedrooms, a kitchen, a day room, two offices, a public area, and a storage area for personal protective equipment. The living space would also accommodate an area for physical exercise, training, and equipment storage.
- The apparatus area would be two bays wide and two and a quarter bays deep, providing room for up to four apparatus. Initially, it would house a fire engine, a state mutual aid engine, and a brush engine.
- Backup power would be provided from a stationary emergency generator fueled by diesel.
- The fire station would have a 1,000 gallon diesel aboveground storage tank to fuel equipment. It would be located behind the fire station on typical slab on grade foundation and secured with fencing.
- The lot has been configured to support traffic flow to and from the fire station for emergency and non-emergency uses in a manner that would not add congestion to Preisker Park. The lot and facility would be configured to provide parking for staff and visitor vehicles and some level of security and privacy from the park.
- NFPA and OSHA-compliant fire-suppression sprinkler system and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors would be installed.
- Landscaping would be installed in compliance with the City's development codes and master drainage plan.

**SECTION 4.0
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

The analysis presented in this chapter focuses on the areas where some level of impact may result from the implementation of the alternatives, including geology and soils, air quality, water resources, coastal resources, biological resources, historic properties, environmental justice, noise, traffic, services and utilities, health and safety, and hazardous materials. Based on communication with Federal agencies, State of California agencies, and review of the Initial Study and Negative Declaration and staff reports prepared by the City of Santa Maria, no other areas have been identified that would require further evaluation pursuant to NEPA.

4.1 PHYSICAL RESOURCES

4.1.1 Geology and Soils

The project site is located in the Santa Maria Valley in Santa Maria, California. The Santa Maria Valley comprises an area bounded by the Temetatte Range of the Sierra Madre Mountains to the east, the Orcutt upland to the south, the Nipomo Mesa to the north, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. From the origin of the Santa Maria River, at the confluence of the Cuyama and Sisquoc Rivers, the valley trends from southeast to northwest. At the intersection of the Santa Maria River and Nipomo Creek, the Santa Maria River alters its course to the west towards the Pacific Ocean.

The Santa Maria Valley is a geologic basin formed by right-lateral, strike-slip transtensional faulting and concurrent deposition of marine sediments. Continued faulting, with a change in tectonic regime, resulted in compression of the basin and formed large-scale folding such as the Santa Maria syncline. The Santa Maria Valley geologic basin is comprised of Holocene age unconsolidated alluvial deposits and recent and older dunes resting on consolidated sediments of the Paso Robles formation. The unconsolidated alluvial deposits are up to 200 feet thick, while the dune deposits are approximately 100 feet thick (Woodring and Bramlette 1950). The non-marine Paso Robles Formation (Pliocene-Pleistocene age) is comprised of alluvial basin fill deposits and ranges in thickness from 100 to 200 feet. The Paso Robles formation overlies the Careaga Sand (Pliocene age), which is comprised of loose-consolidated medium to fine grained sand that is of marine origin. The Careaga Sand overlies the following sequence of marine units: Foxen Mudstone (Tertiary age), Sisquoc Formation, and Monterey Shale, which overlie the Franciscan Formation (Jurassic/Cretaceous age) (Woodring and Bramlette 1950).

Before Preisker Park was created, a burn dump and landfill operated at the location from the early 1920s to 1950s (Anthrosphere Inc. 1988). The dump area is located generally to the northwest of the project site, and the entire dump area was covered with imported fill in the 1960s to form the flat areas and mounds that comprise Preisker Park. As discussed in Section

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4.6.6 in this report, previous work and a limited site assessment indicate that the burn dump does not appear to extend to the footprint of the proposed fire station building. The proximity of the covered burn dump itself does not pose a significant impact or constraint for the proposed fire station, but California regulations require appropriate design, review, and other measures to insure that possible landfill gas migration does not adversely affect the proposed structure since it is within 1,000 feet of the burn dump (27 CCR 21190).

4.1.1.1 Executive Order 12699: Seismic Safety

Executive Order (EO) 12699, Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated New Building Construction, requires newly constructed buildings to meet standards for seismic safety set by the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program.

The Santa Maria Valley is considered to be a potentially seismically active area. The Santa Maria Valley is within a structural fold, (i.e., rock layers that are arched or bent) and a thrust fault area. The axes of most of the structural elements in the region run northwest-southeast, parallel to the valley. The Santa Maria Valley has been subject to uplift during the last 2 to 5 million years.

The proposed Northwest Fire Station site would likely be subject to ground shaking from seismic events. While this represents a potential impact, or constraint to development, the risk is not unique to the site and the applicable building code are established to specify appropriate measures to be used in foundation and structural design to minimize the hazards from ground-shaking.

EO 12699 and the FEMA policy implementing it provide for the use of concurrent standards prepared by other agencies or groups for purposes of federal agency review to ensure that buildings will be built in a manner that protects occupants from seismic risks. One of these acceptable standards is the American Society of Civil Engineers (ACSE) Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures, ASCE 7-03 and 7-05.

4.1.1.2 Liquefaction

Liquefaction is the process by which relatively soft, watery sediments may liquefy (lose their solidity) during moderate to intense ground-shaking caused by an earthquake. The potential for liquefaction to occur is greatest in areas with loose, granular, low-density soils, where the water table is within 40 to 50 feet of the ground surface.

Luhdorff and Scalmanini (2000) report the groundwater elevation decreases from approximately 280 feet mean sea level (msl) at the eastern portion of the valley to approximately 40 feet msl at the City of Guadalupe, west of the City of Santa Maria. According to Ludorff and Scalmanini, the approximate depth to first encountered

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groundwater at the site is approximately 170 feet below ground surface (bgs) with a corresponding groundwater elevation of approximately 57 feet above msl.

Therefore, the potential for liquefaction at the project site is relatively low.

4.1.1.3 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to geology or soil, seismicity, or liquefaction because no construction or other activities would occur in the immediate future. If any other improvements were to be pursued in the future, consistent with the public facility designation and zoning on the property, then potential effects and measures to avoid or minimize those effects would be similar to those described for the project, and would be evaluated as part of the review for any such future improvements.

4.1.1.4 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

Under the Proposed Project, ground-disturbing activities would consist of grading and excavation for the new fire station, trenching and installation of utilities, and landscaping around the fire station. Because the entire site is on artificial fill material, the existing soil would have to be excavated, backfilled and compacted as necessary to support the new building foundation and parking and driveway areas. Any excess soil material would be disposed of in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local regulations. Areas outside of the building and parking areas would be regraded to conform with the topography of the adjacent area after construction was complete. Because of the previous ground disturbance at the site, the proposed excavation, grading, and trenching would not have an adverse effect on any geologic resources in the project area.

The construction of the fire station would result in minor short-term direct and indirect effects on soils. The project could cause soil erosion during construction from surface runoff along exposed dirt areas. As described in Section 4.2.1.2, the City will be responsible for using silt fences, covering spoil piles, staging equipment along existing roads, and watering areas of exposed soil as necessary to minimize soil loss from surface runoff and wind erosion. With these measures, the short-term ground disturbance associated with this alternative would be expected to be minimal and temporary.

The fire station would be designed to meet all building code requirements. Specifically, the fire station is designed to meet the ASCE standards 7-03 and 7-05 or better and would comply with all applicable seismic safety standards.

The Proposed Project Alternative would result in minimal short term effects on soils.

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4.1.2 Air Quality

The Clean Air Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§ 7401–7661 [2008]) is a comprehensive Federal law that regulates air emissions from area, stationary, and mobile sources. The act authorized the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and the environment. The NAAQS include standards for the following criteria pollutants: nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM₁₀), and particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM_{2.5}). Areas where the monitored concentration of a pollutant exceeds the NAAQS are classified as being in nonattainment for that pollutant. If the monitored concentration is below the standard, the area is classified as in attainment. After monitoring documents that a nonattainment area meets air quality standards, and if there is a 10-year plan for continuing to meet and maintain such standards, EPA re-designates the area as a maintenance area.

The proposed project is located within the jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD). According to the SBCAPCD (2009), the City is in attainment for all federal standards; however, the air basin is not in attainment for the state 8-hour ozone standard and the state PM₁₀ annual and 24 hour standards.

4.1.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to air quality because no construction or other activities resulting in air emissions or affecting attainment status would occur in the immediate future. Existing informal recreational use may continue on the property with no effects on air quality. In the event that some other use or improvement on the property is proposed by the City, consistent with its public facility designation and zoning, potential construction-related air emissions would be similar to those described for the project in the next paragraph.

4.1.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

Construction activities associated with the building of the fire station would result in short-term emissions of vehicle exhaust from construction equipment and surface disturbance that would temporarily increase the amount of dust in the area. To minimize the effects to air quality, the City will use well-maintained and properly tuned construction equipment and vehicles, minimize the idling time of construction vehicles, and use dust-control measures, such as watering disturbed areas and covering spoil piles, as necessary.

Since the project is intended to accommodate the relocation of Fire Station No. 3 staff and equipment from its present location to the project site, there would be minimal long term effects on air quality.

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The Proposed Project Alternative would result in minimal short and long term effects on air quality.

4.1.3 Climate Change

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) play a critical role in the earth's radiation budget by trapping infrared radiation emitted from the earth's surface, which could have otherwise escaped to space. Prominent GHGs contributing to this process include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane (CH₄), ozone (O₃), and certain hydro- and fluorocarbons (HFCs). This phenomenon, known as the "greenhouse effect," keeps the earth's atmosphere near the surface warmer than it would be otherwise and allows for successful habitation by humans and other forms of life. Increases in these gases lead to more absorption of radiation and warm the lower atmosphere further, thereby increasing evaporation rates and temperatures near the surface. Emissions of GHGs in excess of natural ambient concentrations are thought to be responsible for the enhancement of the greenhouse effect and to contribute to what is termed "global warming," a trend of unnatural warming of the earth's natural climate. Climate change is a global issue, and GHGs are global pollutants, unlike criteria air pollutants such as ozone precursors and Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs), which are pollutants of regional and local concern.

Some GHGs such as CO₂ occur naturally, released by respiration from living organisms. CO₂ can also form from anthropogenic, or man-made, sources. Other GHGs are emitted solely from human activities, such as fluorinated gases. CO₂ is the most common of the six targeted GHGs, caused anthropogenically by the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation. CH₄ is produced anthropogenically through the anaerobic decomposition of waste in landfills, animal digestion, decomposition of animal wastes, production and distribution of natural gas and petroleum, coal production, and incomplete fossil fuel combustion. N₂O is anthropogenically generated as a result of soil cultivation practices, particularly the use of commercial and organic fertilizers, fossil fuel combustion, nitric acid production, and biomass burning. HFCs are primarily used as refrigerants, consisting of gas molecules containing hydrogen, fluorine, and carbon atoms. Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) consist of a class of gases containing carbon and fluorine originally introduced as alternatives to ozone-depleting substances and typically emitted as by-products of industrial and manufacturing processes.

Recognition of the problem of GHGs and their contribution to global climate change, and the response to this problem, is occurring at all levels of government. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been established by the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme to assess scientific, technical and socioeconomic information relevant for the understanding of climate change, its potential impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation. The U.S. EPA is developing regulations to limit CO₂ emissions from motor vehicles.

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4.1.3.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to climate change because no construction or other activities resulting in air emissions or affecting attainment status would occur.

4.1.3.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

Construction activities associated with the building of the fire station would result in minimal short-term emissions of vehicle exhaust from construction equipment and minimal long-term emissions from fire department vehicles. To minimize the effects to climate change, the City will ensure the use of well-maintained and properly tuned construction equipment and vehicles, and minimize the idling time of construction vehicles.

Since the project is intended to accommodate the relocation of Fire Station No. 3 staff and equipment from its present location to the project site, there would be minimal long term effects on climate change.

The Proposed Project Alternative would result in minimal short and long term effects on climate change.

4.2 WATER RESOURCES

4.2.1 Water Quality

The Proposed Project site is located south of the Santa Maria River (Figure 1). The Santa Maria River drainage basin covers 1,880 square miles. The river is formed by the confluence of the Cuyama and Sisquoc Rivers, approximately 20 miles from the coast and upstream from the City; it then flows westward to the Pacific Ocean. The river defines part of the border between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. The region is characterized by a brief rainy season in the winter months and a long dry season the remainder of the year, though annual precipitation can fluctuate wildly. During much of the year, the Santa Maria River has very little water, but it can swell greatly during a winter storm. There are no natural surface water features on the proposed site location. There is an artificial water feature in Preisker Park but it does not support fish.

The City provides water using two sources of supply: imported State water and local groundwater. Although the City has more local groundwater than it needs to meet water demand in the City, imported State water is used to improve the quality of the water delivered. The City's Utilities Department would provide water and sewer services to the fire station, which are currently available in Preisker Road in front of the proposed fire station.

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4.2.1.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to existing water quality or hydrology because no construction or other activities would occur. Any minor leaks or releases of petroleum products from the operation of vehicles at the existing fire station site would continue, but these are typical of vehicle traffic in urban areas and do not represent a significant impact. Existing uses at the project site involve informal recreation associated with the adjacent park, and do not adversely affect water quality. If the City undertakes any future public facility improvements at the site, then potential construction related effects on water quality would be similar to those described for the project in the next subsection.

4.2.1.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

Because one or more acres of land would be disturbed, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would be required. In California, a Statewide General Permit has been issued (Construction General Permit, 99-08-DWQ issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) that applies to all dischargers and provides the conditions and specifications to fulfill this requirement. The City will prepare a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered by the Statewide General Permit, and prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prior to construction. The SWPPP would identify the pollution control measures that would be implemented to reduce soil erosion, while containing and minimizing the construction pollutants (including oils, gasoline, and other chemicals released by construction equipment and vehicles) that may be released to surface waters through runoff during a storm event. The City will submit the NOI and the Notice of Termination (NOT) to the State Water Resources Control Board. Compliance with the SWPPP and other requirements of the General Permit would ensure that there would be no adverse effects to the environment.

To minimize potential effects to water quality as a result of sedimentation from construction, the City will follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as using silt fences, covering spoil piles, watering areas of disturbed soil, staging equipment along existing roads, and keeping equipment properly maintained. The City will dispose of excess spoils resulting from drilling, grading, or trenching in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local regulations.

Although the increased number of vehicles entering and exiting the fire station may result in increased amounts of fluids (e.g., petroleum) that could run off, either on-site or off-site, this effect is expected to be minor. Since the project is intended to accommodate the relocation of staff and equipment of Fire Station No. 3 from its present location to the project site, there would be no increase in such potential pollution at the existing fire station site. Within the larger drainage basin, no change would occur in the overall potential for the release of these pollutants associated with motor vehicle operation.

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Based on the above discussion, the Proposed Project would have minor direct water quality effects during construction that would be minimized through measures required in the permitting process. The long-term effects on water quality and hydrology would be minor, and no different from those associated with operations at the existing fire station, which are not significant.

4.2.2 Wetlands

4.2.2.1 Executive Order 11990: Protection of Wetlands

EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands, requires Federal agencies to take action to minimize the destruction or modification of wetlands by considering both direct and indirect impacts to wetlands. Furthermore, EO 11990 requires that Federal agencies proposing to fund a project that could adversely affect wetlands consider alternatives to avoid such effects. FEMA's regulations implementing EO 11990 are codified in 44 CFR Part 9. Based upon site reconnaissance of the project area and review of the National Wetland Inventory maps, no evidence of wetlands was found in the project area (Figure 4).

4.2.2.2 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to wetlands because no construction or other activities would occur, and no wetlands occur in the project area. If any future public facility improvements are developed on the site, they would not be expected to affect wetlands since none exist at the project location.

4.2.2.3 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

The Proposed Project Alternative would have no effect on wetlands. Based upon site reconnaissance of the project area and review of the National Wetland Inventory maps, no evidence of wetlands was found in the project area (Figure 4). Therefore, this alternative complies with EO 11990.

4.2.3 Floodplains

4.2.3.1 Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management

EO 11988, Floodplain Management, requires Federal agencies to take action to minimize occupancy and modification of floodplains. EO 11988 also requires that Federal agencies proposing to fund a project sited in a 100-year floodplain consider alternatives to avoid adverse effects and incompatible development in the floodplain. Also under this order, an applicant is prohibited from receiving Federal funding for construction of critical facilities within the 500-year floodplain unless there are no practical alternatives. FEMA's regulations implementing EO 1988 are codified in 44 CFR Part 9 (2008).

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According to FEMA’s Flood Insurance Rate Map for Santa Barbara County, California, the project area is in a moderate- to low-risk flood area (Figure 5). The proposed fire station is located outside the 500-year floodplain in Zone X, designated “Other Areas; Areas determined to be outside the 0.2 percent annual chance floodplain” (FEMA 2005). The current Fire Station No. 3 is also located in Zone X.

4.2.3.2 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to the existing floodplain because no construction or other activities would occur. If any future public facility improvements are developed on the site, they would also be located outside of the 500-year floodplain.

4.2.3.3 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

The Proposed Project Alternative would be located outside the 100-year and 500-year floodplain according to FEMA’s Flood Insurance Rate Map for Santa Barbara County (FEMA 2005) (see Figure 5); therefore, this alternative would not result in modifications to, occupation of, or other effects to the floodplain. The Proposed Project Alternative would have no short- or long-term effect on floodplain management and complies with EO 11988 and 44 CFR Part 9.

4.3 COASTAL RESOURCES

The Coastal Zone Management Act enables coastal states to designate state coastal boundaries and develop coastal management programs to improve protection of sensitive shoreline resources and guide sustainable use of coastal areas. According to the California Coastal Commission Local Coastal Program Central Coast Area Status Map (California Coastal Commission 2009), the City of Santa Maria is not located within a coastal resource boundary. The nearest point in the Coastal Zone is across Highway 1 in Guadalupe, approximately eight miles to the west of the project site.

4.3.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to coastal resources because no construction or other activities would occur, and the entire site is outside of the Coastal Zone. Continuation of the existing recreation uses or development of any future public facility improvements would also be well outside of the Coastal Zone and would not affect coastal resources

4.3.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

The Proposed Project would have no effect on coastal resources because it is not located in the Coastal Zone boundary.

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4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The project site is adjacent to Preisker Park, a landscaped recreational area surrounded by suburban development. Vegetation within the proposed project area is a mix of native and exotic trees such as goldenrain tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*), Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), London Plane Tree (*Platanus orientalis*), and Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*), herbs, and grass.

Prior to conducting the field survey, a query of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was conducted and the California Native Plant Society website was examined for information on federally and/or state listed, sensitive and rare plants (Table 1). A site visit of the project area was completed on May 14, 2010.

4.4.1 Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. § 1536 [2008]) requires federal agencies to determine whether projects that they propose to undertake or fund have any potential to affect species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered or their designated critical habitat. To determine the potential for federally listed endangered, threatened, or proposed species or designated critical habitat to occur in the project area, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) list of federally listed species for Santa Barbara County, California was reviewed. The species list contains eighteen endangered, threatened, and candidate species.

During the site visit, no federally listed species, species proposed for Federal listing, or areas of suitable habitat for these species were observed. For all eighteen species, the project area is either clearly outside the known geographic or elevation range of the species and/or does not contain habitat characteristics known to support the species. The project area was checked for critical habitat using on-line USFWS critical habitat maps and none was found. The Santa Maria River is about one mile north of the site, and the north side of the river is designated as critical habitat for steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Additionally, southern vernal pool habitat has been documented in the region but none of this sensitive habitat is within the action area and none would be affected by the proposed project.

A letter dated May 4, 2010 from USFWS to FEMA (Appendix C) states, “based on our review of the proposed projects and locations, we do not believe that either site could support any listed, proposed, or candidate species. Also, neither site falls within listed or proposed critical habitat.”

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**TABLE 1
POTENTIAL SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITHIN THE ACTION AREA**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ¹
Wildlife		
California tiger salamander	<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	FT, CE, SSC
Western spadefoot toad	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	SSC
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT, SSC
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	SSC
American badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	SSC
Western pond turtle	<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	SSC
Coast horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma coronatum</i>	SSC
Plants		
Blochman's leafy daisy	<i>Erigeron blochmaniae</i>	1B.2
Gaviota tarplant	<i>Deinandra increscens</i> ssp. <i>vilosa</i>	FE, SE, 1B.1
Sand mesa manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos rudis</i>	1B.2
Dune larkspur	<i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i>	1B.2

Source: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/mapsanddata.asp>.

¹ Legal Status Definitions:

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Federal)

FE = Federally endangered

FT = Federally threatened

California Department of Fish and Game (State)

CE = Candidate endangered

SE = State Endangered

SSC = California specie of special concern

California Native Plant Society

1B = Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

.1 = Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat)

.2 = Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat)

4.4.1.2 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to listed, proposed, or candidate species because no construction or other activities would occur, and no such listed species or their habitat are found at the project site. Continuation of the existing recreation use at the site, or its use for other public facility purposes, would also have no effect on listed, proposed, or candidate species.

4.4.1.3 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

Because the project area lacks suitable habitat for any federally protected species, the Proposed Project would not affect any threatened or endangered species, species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, or designated critical habitat. No federal or state

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threatened, endangered or rare species, species of special concern, or sensitive plant or wildlife species have been documented or were observed within the project area. In addition, no sensitive habitats or critical habitat were found within the action area. Therefore, the Proposed Project Alternative would have no effect on federal or state listed plant or wildlife species or critical habitat.

4.4.2 Wildlife and Fish

In a letter from the California DFG dated September 10, 2009 (Appendix C), the agency expressed concerns regarding the disturbance and/or removal of the existing trees and the impacts of such removal to migratory birds and birds of prey protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (50 C.F.R. Section 10.13). Impacts to migratory birds or birds of prey would be avoided by timing construction activities to occur outside of the breeding bird season. If project construction cannot avoid the avian breeding season, pre-project nest surveys will be conducted. Any active nests would be avoided and exclusion zones would be established.

There are no water bodies in the project area that are habitat for fish.

4.4.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no major effect to general wildlife in the vicinity of the project area because no construction or other activities would occur. Existing informal recreation uses would continue with their minimal effects on birds and wildlife in the vicinity. Any future improvements at the site, consistent with its public facility designation and zoning, would involve potential disturbances similar to those described for the project below. Similar avoidance and minimization techniques, also as described below, would be required.

4.4.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

The Proposed Project could potentially disturb wildlife in the vicinity of the project though the area is currently developed with access drives and informal recreational uses, which provide only minor habitat value for birds and wildlife. Small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects could suffer injury or mortality from construction equipment, vehicle traffic, and all species in the vicinity would experience disturbance from noise and dust and short-term habitat loss from construction activities around the proposed fire station. Grading and construction would result in associated disturbance to vegetation. However, these effects would be minimal, short term and limited to the construction period, which is expected to be 15 months, and during routine maintenance activities.

Six Monterey pine, four Eucalyptus, two goldenrain trees, and two London Plane trees would be removed as part of the Proposed Project. Though the Monterey pine is native to

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California, the pine trees within the project area are not native to Santa Maria. The goldenrain and London Plane trees are not native to Santa Maria but non-invasive per the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC; Cal-IPC, 2010). Other vegetation in the area that would be removed includes exotic herbs and grass. The removal of the trees would take place outside of the breeding bird season (February 1 through August 30) to avoid take of birds and their active nests in conformance with the protections provided under MBTA. If the proposed project activities cannot avoid the breeding bird season, the City will conduct pre-project nest surveys, avoid identified active nests, and provide minimum buffers as determined by a biological monitor.

Long term direct and indirect impacts from use and maintenance are not expected to be different from the current levels of vehicle traffic, noise, or lighting.

Therefore the Proposed Project Alternative would have minor short-term direct and indirect effects on general wildlife and vegetation and no long-term direct or indirect impacts.

4.4.2.3 Executive Order 13112: Invasive Species

Executive Order 13112 requires Federal agencies to prevent the introduction of invasive species, provide for their control, and minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause. Specifically, EO 13112 requires that Federal agencies not authorize, fund, or implement actions that are likely to introduce or spread invasive species unless the agency has determined that the benefits outweigh the potential harm caused by invasive species and that all feasible and prudent measures to minimize harm have been implemented.

According to the Cal-IPC, the Monterey pine and some species of Eucalyptus are classified as non-native invasive species (Cal-IPC, 2010). These species are typical of central California parks and managed open space.

4.4.2.4 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to invasive species because no construction or other activities would occur. The existing paved areas, and existing vegetation consisting of trees and lawn, would remain on the project site. These might be modified or replaced in the future with some other public improvement, but any such changes involving landscaping would be subject to the same requirements as the Proposed Project, described below, to control the spread of invasive species.

4.4.2.5 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

The removal of six Monterey pines and four Eucalyptuses would reduce the number of invasive species in the project area. The Proposed Project has limited potential to contribute

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to the spread of invasive species in the project area. Any disruption of soils and existing vegetation would either be stabilized (e.g., paved) or reseeded. City Code requires review of landscaping plans by the Community Development Department, and contains specific requirements for landscaping design including the use of weed-free erosion control and revegetation materials. Therefore, the potential for the Proposed Project to contribute to the spread of invasive species is minimal, and the Proposed Project would comply with EO 13112.

The Proposed Project Alternative would have negligible short-term direct and indirect effects to invasive species.

4.5 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

4.5.1 Historic Properties

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. § 470f [2008]) requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings prior to the approval of the expenditure of federal funds. On May 14, 2010, a URS archaeologist under contract with the City conducted an archaeological site record and literature search at the California Historical Resources Information System located at the Central Coast Information Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The search indicated that the area of potential effect has not been previously surveyed and that no sites have been recorded within a 1-mile radius of the site.

On May 19, 2010, a URS archaeologist conducted a pedestrian survey of the project area. During the survey, the ground was examined for signs of historic or prehistoric structures, features, or artifacts. Historic period materials including ceramic fragments, glass, and marine shell were noted around tree roots and near the main road. In addition, a URS geologist conducting a separate subsurface site assessment in the area with direct push soil borings recovered a fragmented teacup and marine shell approximately 2 to 5 feet below the surface. These materials may be associated with the historic period burn dump (Anthrosphere 1988) if they were moved by rodent activity, or are part of the artificial fill used to cover the dump in the 1960s. The resolution of historic aerial photographs from that time period is too poor to delineate the exact edges of the dump, and a subsurface site assessment of the proposed fire station encountered only reworked fill material (URS 2010) that was brought in to cover the burn dump and level the property during creation of the park. The historic debris noted during the archaeological survey therefore lacks integrity and does not represent an intact historic deposit.

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4.5.1.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to historic properties because no construction or other activities would occur.

4.5.1.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

On April 19, 2010, FEMA informed the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) of its determination that the Proposed Project would not affect historic properties (Appendices C and D). On May 17, 2010 the OHP wrote a letter to FEMA indicating that they concurred with FEMA's assessment.

The Proposed Project Alternative would have no effect on historic properties because none are located in the project area.

4.5.2 American Indian/Native Hawaiian/Native Alaskan Cultural/Religious Sites

Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires consultation with any Indian Tribe that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties. On April 19, 2010 FEMA informed the Chumash Indians (Santa Ynez Band) of the project and requested input regarding the proposal. FEMA did not receive any correspondence from the Chumash Indians regarding the project (Appendix C). In addition, on May 17, 2010, letters were sent to other local Native American representatives identified by the Native American Heritage Commission. The letters described the project and requested data to identify any concerns or information about cultural resources in the project area. A URS archaeologist received a telephone call from one recipient of the letter to obtain further details but the individual expressed no concerns and provided no information.

4.5.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to Native American culturally sensitive areas because no construction or other activities would occur, and there are no historic properties, Native American material or other culturally significant resources present. Any future improvements at the site, consistent with its public facility designation and zoning, would also not affect cultural resources.

4.5.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

The Proposed Project Alternative would have no effect on Native American culturally sensitive areas because there are none in the project area.

4.6 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES

4.6.1 Environmental Justice

Title VI, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., was enacted as part of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

EO 12898, Environmental Justice, requires Federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations that result from their programs, policies, or activities. EO 12898 also tasks Federal agencies with ensuring that public notifications regarding environmental issues are concise, understandable, and readily accessible.

According to the US Census Bureau (2010), in 2008 the City had a total population of 87,000. The median age was 28.9 years, with 33 percent of the population reported less than 18 years and 10 percent reported at 65 years and older. For people reporting one race alone, 78 percent were White; 2 percent were Black or African American; less than 0.5 percent were American Indian and Alaska Native; 5 percent were Asian; less than 0.5 percent were Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 11 percent were some other race. Three percent reported two or more races. Sixty-seven percent of the people in the City were Hispanic. Twenty-six percent of the people in Santa Maria City were White, non-Hispanic. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

According to the US Census Bureau, the median income of households in Santa Maria City was \$48,631 in 2008. Eighteen percent of people were in poverty. Twenty-two percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 8 percent of people 65 years old and over. Fifteen percent of all families and 32 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

The proposed project site is located in an area that is primarily occupied by low and moderate income individuals, and which is typical of the neighborhoods in the northern part of the City.

4.6.1.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to minority or low-income populations because no construction or other activities would occur. Existing informal public use of the property would continue. Any future modifications or development of public improvements at the site, consistent with its public facility designation and zoning, would not be expected to effect minority or low-income populations in a disproportionate manner.

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4.6.1.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

The construction of the Proposed Project is beneficial to all residents in the project vicinity. The new fire station would improve capacity and emergency response times.

The Proposed Project Alternative would not result in disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations and would therefore comply with Title VI and EO 12898.

4.6.2 Noise

Noise-sensitive receptors are located in areas associated with indoor and outdoor activities that may be subject to substantial interference from noise. These areas often include residential dwellings, hotels, hospitals, nursing homes, educational facilities, libraries, and offices. The noise-sensitive land uses in or near the proposed project area include Preisker Park and adjacent residential dwellings. Also, hikers or bikers in Preisker Park could be sensitive to noise emanating from the project area during construction. The noise-sensitive land uses in or near the current Fire Station No. 3 include Rice Elementary School and adjacent residential dwellings.

The City of Santa Maria Noise Ordinance is in Chapter 5-5 of the City Code. While these regulations do not apply to the activities of federal, state, or local governments (Section 5-5.11) they do provide local guidance regarding acceptable noise levels and activities.

4.6.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no immediate effect to noise levels because no construction or other activities would occur. Existing informal recreation uses would continue at the project site. Any future development of the site consistent with its public facility designation and zoning would involve short-term construction noise similar to that described for the Proposed Project below. Similar measures to avoid or to minimize potential construction noise would also be required. Long-term noise levels from any public facility use would be expected to be similar to those in any suburban neighborhood, but would have to be evaluated in accordance with City procedures at the time a specific use is proposed.

4.6.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

The Proposed Project would result in temporary increases in noise levels, which would be limited to the duration of construction activities, and would include the use of heavy machinery and backup alarms and similar warning devices associated with construction. The residents in the immediate vicinity of the project area and any hikers, bikers, or members of the public engaging in recreational activities in the area could be adversely affected by noise.

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The City will be responsible for implementing the following measures to reduce these short-term effects from noise levels to the extent practicable:

- The City will post public notices that would provide advanced notification of construction on-site and on its Web site before construction.
- All mobile or fixed noise-producing construction equipment that is regulated for noise output by a Federal, State, or local agency will comply with such regulation.
- Noise-producing signals, including horns, whistles, alarms, and bells, will be used for safety purposes only.
- Consistent with the regulations in the City Noise Ordinance, construction will be limited to weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekends.

In the long term, noise levels could increase in the project vicinity due to the presence of emergency vehicles housed at the fire station. The noise sources would include exhaust and mechanical noise from large vehicles and periodic use of emergency sirens. The increase in noise levels would be periodic and localized and would involve sounds that are typical and expected in urban and suburban areas. The proposed project is not expected to substantially increase average noise levels in the vicinity, which are dominated by traffic on local roadways.

The Proposed Project Alternative would therefore result in moderate short-term noise effects that can be reduced by following the City's regulations regarding construction noise, and minimal long-term periodic increases in noise levels.

4.6.3 Traffic

The proposed fire station site is bound by Preisker Lane to the east, Meadowgate Drive development to the south, and Preisker Park to the north and west.

The current Fire Station No. 3 is located on a residential street directly across from Rice Elementary School. The narrow street and proximity to the school creates hazardous conditions for children, parents, and emergency response crews during drop-off or pick-up periods.

4.6.3.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect on traffic because no construction or other activities would occur. The current Fire Station No. 3 would remain across the street from Rice Elementary school and hazardous conditions would remain for children, parents, and emergency response crews during drop-off or pick-up periods. Existing uses generate little or

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no traffic at the site, and any anticipated future public facility use developed there would not be expected to generate a significant traffic volume.

4.6.3.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

The mobilization of construction vehicles and equipment to the proposed fire station site could temporarily slow traffic along Preisker Lane; however, detours on this road are not anticipated to be needed. The City would provide advanced notification, signs, flagpersons, and other measures as applicable to minimize disruption to residents or motorists traversing the area during construction. Traffic levels along Preisker Lane could increase during emergencies.

The Proposed Project Alternative would have negligible short-term effects on traffic. Preisker Lane is capable of handling the minor long-term increase of traffic from employees and emergency vehicles represented by the project, and will provide improved access from the fire station to service areas when compared with that from the current Fire Station No. 3.

4.6.4 Public Service and Utilities

The project site is located within an area zoned for residential and commercial use, with the recreation and open space uses of Preisker Park to the northwest. All of the surrounding land is currently developed. All utilities (electric, telephone, water, natural gas, and sewer) run along Preisker Lane and are available to the proposed fire station. A limited amount of trenching and installation would be required.

4.6.4.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to public service and utilities because no construction or other activities would occur. Response times in the northwest area of the City are likely to increase with further population growth and development. Continuation of the existing informal recreation use on the site, or development of a different public facility use at the site, would not adversely affect public services.

4.6.4.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

All necessary public services and utilities are located in the immediate project area.

The Proposed Project Alternative would have no effect to public service and utilities.

4.6.5 Public Health and Safety

Safety and security issues considered include the health and safety of the area residents and the public at large and the protection of personnel involved in activities related to the

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proposed construction of the new fire station. See Section 4.6.3 for traffic issues associated with construction and Section 4.6.6 for a discussion of hazardous materials.

4.6.5.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect to public health and safety because no construction or other activities would occur. Existing informal recreation uses or other public facility improvements at the site would not adversely affect public health and safety.

However, only 78 percent of the City would be within the five minute standard response time outlined in NFPA 1710. In addition, Fire Station No. 3 would continue to operate on a residential street directly across from an elementary school. The narrow street and proximity of the school creates a hazardous condition for emergency response crews, parents, and children as they are dropped off or picked up. Many times, response is delayed due to school traffic blocking access from the station.

4.6.5.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

The Santa Maria Fire Department's strategic plan to relocate the current Fire Station No. 3 as the Northwest Fire Station and create an additional fire station in the northeast area would enhance the City's ability to meet response time goals and calls for service. When the proposed Northwest and Northeast Fire Stations are operational, 91 percent of the City would be within the five minute response time.

The Fire Station No. 3 relocation would improve the City's ability to provide mutual aid to unincorporated Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, and the Los Padres National Forest. The proposed location is strategically located to improve services into these jurisdictions. The proximity to Highway 101 would improve response times to these areas by over two minutes.

The Proposed Project Alternative would have a positive effect on public health and safety.

4.6.6 Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials are defined by any solid, liquid, contained gaseous or semi-solid waste, or any combination of wastes that pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment. Hazardous materials are primarily generated by industries, hospitals, research facilities, and the government. Improper management and disposal of hazardous substances can lead to pollution of ground water or other drinking water supplies and the contamination of surface water and soil. The primary federal regulations on the management and disposal of hazardous substances are the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). These federal regulations are implemented by a variety of state laws

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and regulations in California. For the proposed Northwest Fire Station site, potential hazards may be in the form of physical or chemical remains associated with the burn dump (noted in Section 4.1.1 above) or with other past activities in the area or with materials used during construction.

As described in Section 4.1.1 above, the project site is at the southeast corner of Preisker Park, which is the site of a burn dump and disposal area that was closed and covered with fill material in the 1960s. As part of the air Solid Waste Assessment Test, Anthrosphere (1988: Figure 2) installed five temporary gas wells in Preisker Park, and found no evidence of methane or vinyl chloride typically associated with landfills. None of the five temporary gas wells were near the location of the proposed Northwest Fire Station, however, and Anthrosphere (1988) did not provide any information regarding subsurface conditions or material.

GSI Inc. (2008) drilled 14 soil borings at the proposed Northwest Fire Station location as part of their geotechnical investigation for the project. The associated boring logs indicate the presence of debris (glass and/or metal) that is likely associated with the covered dump, in the north and northwest parts of the project site at depths of approximately 7 to 10 feet below the ground surface (GSI Inc. 2008: Borings B-8, B-9, and B-10). Other borings beneath the footprint of the proposed fire station (GSI Inc 2008: Borings B-1, B-2, and B-14) did not encounter any material indicative of the burn dump down to depths of 16, 20, and 50 feet. The exact outer perimeter of the burn dump cannot be determined from these boring logs, but it appears that any substantial deposits are located to the northwest of the proposed fire station site.

In May 2010, URS conducted a limited site assessment on the proposed Northwest Fire Station site, which included placement of borings to collect soil gas samples and soil samples at three locations (six borings total). One location was at the far northwestern corner of the project site (URS boring GP-1a) approximately 50 feet further northwest (i.e., towards the burn dump) than the GSI Inc. borings in this vicinity (GSI borings B8 and B9). Two other locations (URS borings GP-2a and GP-3a) were within the proposed building footprint for the fire station.

The boring log for GP-1a identifies a zone of artificial fill extending from just below the surface to a depth of approximately 4.75 feet. The zone contains isolated shards of glass or shell and is underlain by a thin (approximately 2-inch) layer containing slightly more wood, glass, and shell. Based on evaluation of all of the borings logs from the GSI and URS investigations, this 2-inch layer does not appear to be laterally continuous the site. Below the 2-inch artificial fill layer, another zone of artificial fill material extends to a depth of approximately 11 feet, where a thin layer of broken glass (1/2 inch) was observed. Native sand was observed below the artificial fill to a depth of approximately 20 feet, where the boring was terminated.

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Beneath the proposed building site, the logs indicate similar artificial fill at depths of approximately 2 to 3 feet above native material extending to the bottom of the borings at approximately 20 feet. In terms of the physical materials present, these boring logs are generally consistent with those from the previous GSI geotechnical investigation. Again, the exact location or “edge” of the burn dump deposit cannot be determined from this information, but it appears that the burn dump remains are generally to the northwest of the proposed building location. Given the lack of regulation and the informal nature of many burn dumps that operated decades ago, it is common to find isolated small deposits of waste material associated with these closed and covered facilities.

With respect to chemical content, as noted above the Solid Waste Assessment Test results for landfill gas in the interior of Preisker Park were all negative (Anthrosphere 1988). As part of the URS 2010 work, soil samples and soil gas samples were collected and analyzed for concentrations of various compounds commonly associated with solid waste deposits or other contaminated soils. Analytical results were compared to various regulatory criteria in order to assess in a preliminary fashion the degree of hazard present. The criteria include Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) used by the Regional Water Quality Control Board in evaluating soil gas constituents, California Human Health Screening Levels (CHHSL) also for soil gas, Residential Soil Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRG), with California modified values, for other constituents, and other limits used in the evaluation of hazardous waste.

In the URS soil gas samples, one sample (from boring GP-2a at a depth of 15 feet under the proposed building footprint) contained Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon, in the gasoline range, at a concentration of 12,888 micrograms/liter, which is above the ESL for this constituent. Considering the age of the former burn dump, the detection of this constituent in soil gas is not likely associated with the burn dump itself. The analyses for soil gas in all other samples identified small detectable concentrations of a variety of volatile organic compounds and petroleum hydrocarbons none of which exceeded ESLs or CHHSLs, as appropriate.

Soil samples in the URS 2010 study were analyzed for a variety of metals and organic compounds. The soil sample in the far northwest portion of the project site (Sample GP-1a), at a depth of 5 feet, showed concentrations of heavy metals (arsenic, chromium, copper, and lead) above natural background levels in soils. Concentrations of arsenic, chromium and lead were above PRG values; and in the case of lead, the concentration of 1,300 mg/kg is above the Total Threshold Limit Concentration used to define hazardous waste in California. This result in the far northwest corner of the project site is consistent with the presence of a burn dump, although no substantial physical debris or ash was noted in the boring log near this sample. In the remaining soil samples, arsenic was detected above PRGs and ESLs but was consistent with naturally occurring background levels in the area. All other metals concentrations in the sampled soils were below regulatory criteria.

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All of the soil samples in the URS 2010 study were analyzed for volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, and all results were below detectable concentrations for these compounds. Sample GP-1a-5, which was from the far northwestern boring at a depth matching the location of some debris and having the high metal concentrations noted above, was also analyzed for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, organochlorine pesticides, and polycyclic biphenyls. Results for these compounds in this sample were below detectable concentrations.

4.6.6.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no effect relative to the potential presence of hazardous materials because no construction or other activities would occur. Existing uses involving informal recreation activities at the site would continue. Any future use of the site of the site consistent with the public facility designation and zoning would be subject to the same potential constraints and the same regulatory requirements to address those constraints as described for the Proposed Project below.

4.6.6.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Project

The proximity of the burn dump to the proposed fire station represents a potential hazard or constraint in the event waste materials or hazardous substances are exposed during construction or if employees at the fire station are exposed to such materials over time. The degree of constraint is not completely defined, but is likely to be relatively low since the identified burn dump deposits are to the northwest of the proposed fire station location, the deposits are located beneath fill material, and are over 50 years old so that any generation of methane or other landfill gas is greatly reduced.

The proposed fire station would still be within 1,000 feet of the old disposal area. The design and construction of the fire station, therefore, must comply with the sections of the Code of California Regulations (27 CCR 21190) that implement federal requirements for municipal solid waste landfills. These require that monitoring and inspections occur during the excavation for the foundation and subgrade. In the event that methane or other landfill gas is detected, additional requirements may be imposed including the installation of permanent monitoring probes, sensors with audible alarm in the building foundation, and periodic monitoring for gas at the surface after construction. In addition, measures to keep stormwater away from the surface over buried waste deposits will be required in the project design.

Although the studies performed to date indicate that the project site is located generally away from any substantial deposits associated with the burn dump, it is possible that ash, other solid waste material, or other contamination may be encountered during excavation for the project. In this event, regulations in California require that the material be characterized and a contingency plan for handling any contaminated soils or material be developed and

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implemented to dispose of the wastes properly. This circumstance is not unique to the project site, and the project will include such a contingency plan.

Like any construction project, grading and building the new fire station will necessarily involve the use of fuels, solvents, and other hazardous materials on-site. During construction, all fuel and other potential hazardous materials will be stored within appropriate containers.

The fire station will have a 1,000 gallon diesel aboveground storage tank to fuel equipment. It will be located behind the fire station on typical slab on grade foundation and secured with fencing. It will be operated under applicable local, state and federal regulations.

Based on the information from studies performed at the site, and given the implementation of applicable regulations for development of structures near closed disposal sites, and for identifying, assessing, and managing any contaminated material that might be encountered, the Proposed Project Alternative would have negligible short- and long-term effects relative to hazardous materials.

4.7 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

CEQ defines a cumulative impact as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions” (40 CFR § 1508.7). Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions were identified based on information obtained from the City, Santa Barbara County, and FEMA.

The Proposed Project includes the construction and maintenance of the Northwest Fire Station and providing emergency services to the City of Santa Maria. Although there are other fire stations throughout the City of Santa Maria, the operations at the proposed Northwest Fire Station site will be a relocation of current activities at the existing Fire Station No. 3. For this reason, the cumulative effects of fire station and emergency services operations will be essentially the same as they are now, with a reduction in response times to the northern neighborhoods of the City. For this reason, the potential effects of the project that might act in combination with similar effects from other projects would be limited to those associated with construction. These include the regional and local constraints presented by geologic, soils, water quality, and air quality conditions and regulations. To the extent any construction related effects would occur relative to these issues, there are regulations or existing programs that serve to avoid and minimize those effects. The effects of minor disruptions during construction that might affect local traffic and noise levels will be minimized through appropriate construction noticing and controls. The minor effects on bird habitat or other biological resources will also be avoided or minimized through a combination of construction scheduling, pre-construction surveys, and the provision of adequate buffer areas to protect nesting birds during construction.

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According to the City of Santa Maria Community Development Department, there are no major development or construction projects planned as of January 2010 within the general vicinity of the project where similar or additive environmental effects might be expected. Thus, significant additional contributions towards the environmental effects described above are not anticipated, and the cumulative effect of the project in combination with other similar projects will remain less than significant.

Under the No Action Alternative, no activities would occur at the project site beyond the existing informal recreational use. For the immediate future, cumulative effects would be completely avoided with this alternative, but the existing fire station would remain inadequate to meet the standard outlined in NFPA 1710 to respond to 90 percent of calls for service within five minutes. Also, the existing fire station would continue to be located on a residential street directly across from an elementary school. The implementation of this alternative would not result in direct or indirect effects to social, cultural, or natural resources. Future use of the site would be limited to those allowed by the public facility designation and zoning, and any improvements or construction associated with this type of use would likely be similar to or less extensive than that proposed with the Northwest Fire Station. The No Action Alternative would therefore not contribute construction-related effects to cumulative impacts on any resources.

The building of the fire station would consist of modern design and materials and would comply with current design requirements. When considered with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, the Proposed Project could decrease emergency response times and provide better emergency services to those in the northwest area of the City, as well as to areas of unincorporated Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, and the Los Padres National Forest.

Implementation of the Proposed Project would provide additional emergency capacity and decreased response times. The reduced risk and damage from fires in the area, when considered together with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, would cumulatively result in increased protection of property, resources, and life from fires.

4.8 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Sections 4.1 through 4.6 above discuss the potential environmental effects of the project and, where appropriate, measures that are anticipated to avoid or minimize these effects such that no significant environmental impacts will occur. Table 2 provides a summary of these discussions and identifies the mitigation measures incorporated into the project.

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4.9 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Implementation the Proposed Project would result in short-term uses of and short- and long-term effects on the environment, as documented in Sections 4.1 to 4.6. In most respects, the effects would not be significant because of the disturbed nature of the site and the fact that it contains few natural resources. For those topics or issues where the fire station construction may have an adverse environmental effect, measures are identified to avoid or minimize those effects or uses of the environment. However, these uses of the environment would be balanced by the improved fire and emergency response capabilities that the Proposed Action would provide. The new facilities would enhance the long-term productivity by preventing loss to life and property. The limited resources on the property include trees that provide bird habitat, and other non-native vegetation. The adjacent Preisker Park provides a much larger area with the same types of resources. Implementation of any of the alternatives would not preclude or alter the range of potential uses of the resources in the project vicinity.

4.10 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

For the purposes of this document, irreversible commitment of resources is interpreted to mean that once resources are committed, the production or use of those resources would be lost for other purposes throughout the life of the alternative being implemented. An irretrievable commitment of resources defines those resources that are used, consumed, destroyed, or degraded during the life of the alternative that could not be retrieved or replaced during or after the life of the alternative.

The No Action Alternative would not directly require the commitment of human or fiscal resources. However, the Santa Maria Fire Department would continue to not meet the standard outlined in NFPA 1710 is to respond to 90 percent of calls for service within five minutes.

The Proposed Action would require the commitment of human and fiscal resources. The additional expenditure of labor required for this alternative would predominately occur during construction. However, ongoing maintenance and associated repairs would continue throughout the life of the alternative. Funding for the Proposed Action would not be available for other uses and would therefore be irretrievable.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would also require the commitment of natural resources. Natural resources that would be committed to the project as a result of this alternative include land, water, and vegetation. The use of the land is consistent with City of Santa Maria General Plan and zoning requirements. The Proposed Action would also require a commitment of water resources for construction purposes and periodic maintenance

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activities. Vegetation disturbed for construction would be restored based on City requirements.

Non-renewable and irretrievable fossil fuels and construction materials (e.g., cement, steel, water, petroleum, energy) would be required. Labor and materials are also irretrievably committed during the fabrication, preparation, and distribution of construction materials and equipment. However, the Proposed Action would require only a small amount of these materials, the materials are abundant, and use would not result in a measurable impact to the availability of these resources.

Although the implementation of the Proposed Action would result in the commitment of a relatively small amount of resources as described above, it would result in a decreased risk of loss to critical and non-critical facilities in the City.

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**TABLE 2
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENT/RESOURCE AREAS
AND EFFECTS FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

Resource Area	Effect	Mitigation/BMPs
Geology and Soils	The proposed project would disturb the shallow soils and surface geology during site preparation work. Effects to geology and soils would be minor and temporary in nature. Exposed soils could be subject to erosion.	Erosion Control and stormwater BMPs will be required during construction.
Air Quality	Air emissions would likely occur during construction of the proposed alternative. Such emissions would likely have minor and temporary effects on air quality in proximity to the site during equipment use (vehicle exhaust) and soil grading activities (fugitive dust).	The contractor will be required to minimize air pollution through proper maintenance of equipment and suppressing dust during construction.
Climate Change	Construction activities associated with the building of the fire station would result in minimal short-term emissions of vehicle exhaust from construction equipment and minimal long-term emissions from fire department vehicles.	The City will ensure the use of well-maintained and properly tuned construction equipment and vehicles, and minimize the idling time of construction vehicles.
Water Quality	The proposed project could cause short-term erosion and sediment releases during construction that could affect water quality.	City of Santa Maria will apply for a general stormwater permit and implement pollution prevention measures during construction.
Wetlands Executive Order 11990: Protection of Wetlands	The proposed project would not impact wetlands.	Not applicable.
Floodplains Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management	The proposed project is located outside the 500 year floodplain.	Not applicable.
Coastal Resources	The proposed project is not located within the coastal boundary.	Not applicable.
Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat	The proposed project would have no effect on threatened and endangered species.	Not applicable.
Wildlife and Fish	The proposed project could potentially disturb wildlife in the vicinity of the project. There are no water bodies in the	Disturbance or removal of the trees on-site will take place outside of the breeding bird season (February 1–August 30) to avoid take of birds and their active nests.

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PROPOSED NORTHWEST FIRE STATION, SANTA MARIA, CA**

**TABLE 2 (CONTINUED)
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENT/RESOURCE AREAS
AND EFFECTS FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

Resource Area	Effect	Mitigation/BMPs
	project area that are habitat for fish.	If the project activities cannot avoid the breeding bird season, the City will conduct pre-project nesting surveys, avoid any identified active nests, and provide minimum buffers as determined by a biological monitor.
Executive Order 13112: Invasive Species	Emergency vehicles and personnel could potentially transport invasive species into the project area or move invasive species seed off-site. However, such transport, would only occur intermittently, if at all, and in emergency situations. The effects would be negligible.	None necessary.
Historic Properties	Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer concluded that the proposed alternative would have no effect on properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.	Not applicable.
American Indian Religious Sites	Coordination with Native American individuals/organizations did not identify any significant resources in the area.	Not applicable.
Environmental Justice	As the new fire station would potentially benefit all citizens equally, the proposed alternative would not have an adverse effect on minority or low-income populations.	Not applicable.
Noise	The proposed project would result in temporary increases in noise levels, which would be limited to the duration of construction activities, the use of heavy machinery, and siren noise.	The City will post public notices that would provide advanced notification of construction on-site and on its website before construction. All mobile or fixed noise-producing construction equipment that is regulated for noise output by a Federal, State, or local agency will comply with such regulation. Construction will be limited to weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and between 8:00 a.m.

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**TABLE 2 (CONTINUED)
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENT/RESOURCE AREAS
AND EFFECTS FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

Resource Area	Effect	Mitigation/BMPs
		and 5:00 p.m. on weekends.
Traffic	<p>The mobilization of construction vehicles and equipment to the fire station could slow traffic along Preisker Lane.</p> <p>Traffic levels along Preisker Lane will increase slightly from employee and emergency vehicles, but will remain well within the capacity of the roadway and will not cause a significant effect.</p>	Appropriate notices and traffic control will be provided during construction.
Public Services	The new fire station would provide additional public safety and protection.	Not applicable.
Hazardous Materials	<p>During construction there is a potential to identify remnants of the old burn dump or other material that could have hazardous constituents.</p> <p>The project will also involve the use of fuels, solvents, and other hazardous materials on-site, primarily during construction.</p> <p>The fire station will have a 1,000 gallon diesel aboveground storage tank to fuel equipment.</p>	<p>A Contingency Plan will be developed and implemented to characterize the material and dispose of properly.</p> <p>All fuel and other potential hazardous materials used on-site will be stored within appropriate containers.</p> <p>The aboveground storage tank to fuel equipment will be located behind the fire station on typical slab on grade foundation and secured with fencing. The aboveground storage tank will be installed and operated under applicable local, state and federal regulations.</p>

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**SECTION 5.0
AGENCY COORDINATION, PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT, AND PERMITS**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the lead Federal agency for conducting the NEPA compliance process for this proposed project. The lead Federal agency is responsible for expediting the preparation and review of NEPA documents in a way that is responsive to the needs of residents while meeting the spirit and intent of NEPA and complying with all NEPA provisions.

On September 16, 2009 the Planning Commission of the City of Santa Maria conducted a public hearing on the Negative Declaration of environmental impact that had been prepared for the proposed project. A Public Notice for the meeting was published in the *Santa Maria Times* on August 12, 2009. In addition, the notice was posted on the Public Bulletin Boards at the Santa Maria City Hall and Santa Maria Public Library. The minutes from that meeting are available on the City of Santa Maria (September 16, 2009) Community Development website. During the public comment period, no one present wished to speak.

On October 6, 2009 the City Council of the City of Santa Maria conducted a public hearing on the Negative Declaration of environmental impact that had been prepared for the proposed project. A Public Notice for the meeting was published in the *Santa Maria Times* on September 21, 2009. In addition, the notice was posted on the Public Bulletin Boards at the Santa Maria City Hall and Santa Maria Public Library. The minutes from that meeting are available on the City of Santa Maria (October 6, 2009) City Clerk website. During the public comment period, no one present wished to speak.

FEMA and the City will circulate the Draft EA for a 15-day public comment period. The public will be notified of the availability of the Draft EA through the FEMA Web site and the publication of a public notice in the *Santa Maria Times*. During the public comment period, FEMA will accept written comments on the Draft EA; written comments should be addressed to the FEMA Region IX Environmental Office, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607 or to fema-rix-ehp-documents@dhs.gov. At the end of the public comment period, FEMA will review the comments and consider them in the decision-making process before notifying the public of its final determination.

**SECTION 6.0
LIST OF PREPARERS**

6.1 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, REGION IX

- Alessandro Amaglio, Environmental Officer
- Donna M. Meyer, Deputy Environmental and Historic Preservation Officer

6.2 CITY OF SANTA MARIA

- David Beas, P.E., Principal Civil Engineer
- Brian R. Smith, AICP, Advance Planner

6.3 URS CORPORATION

- Robert Urban, P.G., C.E.G., Senior Project Manager
- John Larson, Senior Environmental Planner
- David Kisner, Senior Biologist
- Kelly Kephart, Biologist
- Brent Leftwich, Senior Archaeologist
- Brendan Murphy, Senior Scientist
- Andrew Evans, Staff Geologist
- Chris Munson, GIS Specialist

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**SECTION 7.0
REFERENCES**

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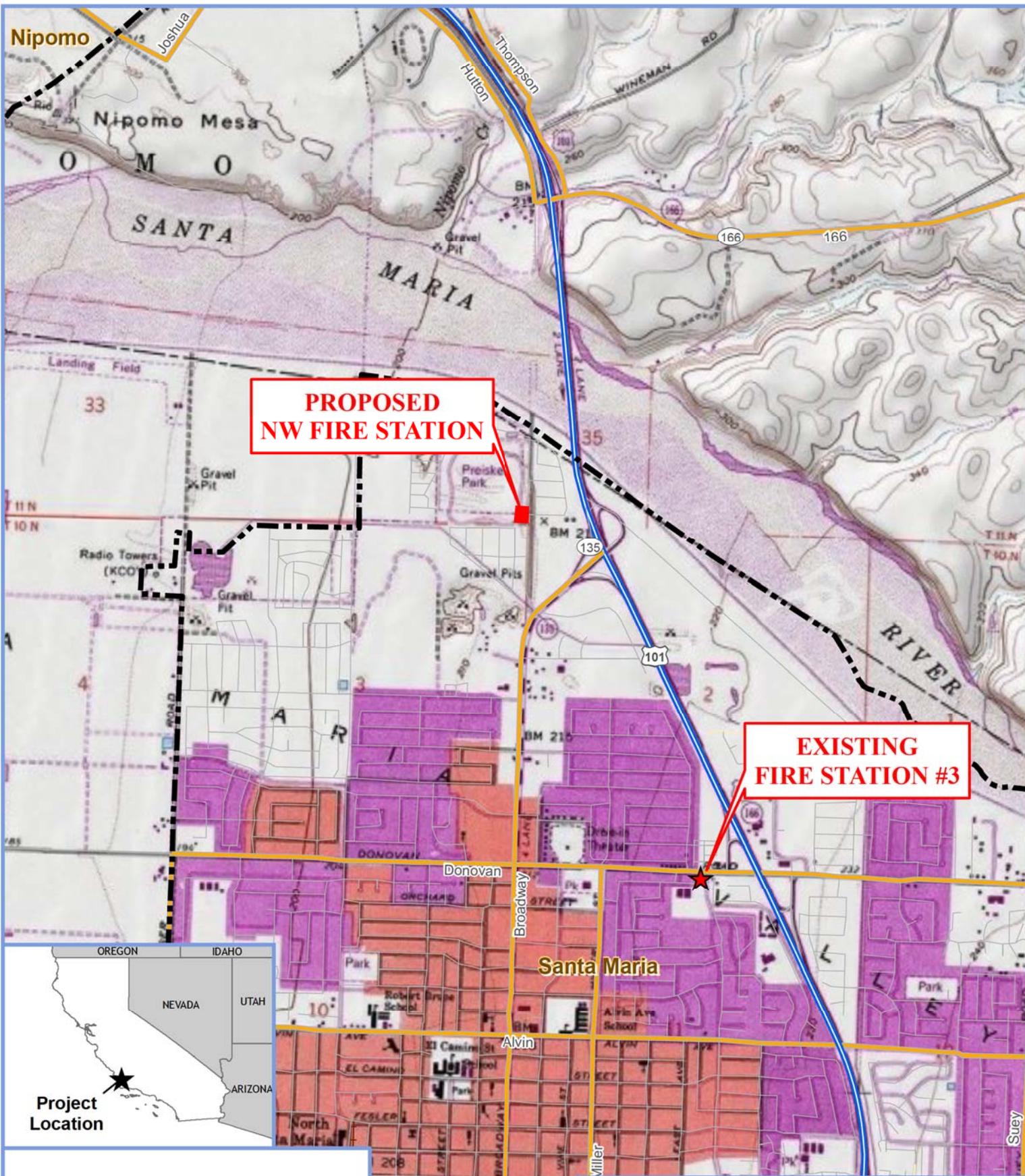
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**APPENDIX A
FIGURES**



**PROPOSED
NW FIRE STATION**

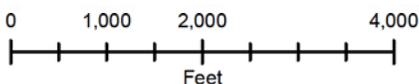
**EXISTING
FIRE STATION #3**



Project Location

Legend

City Limits

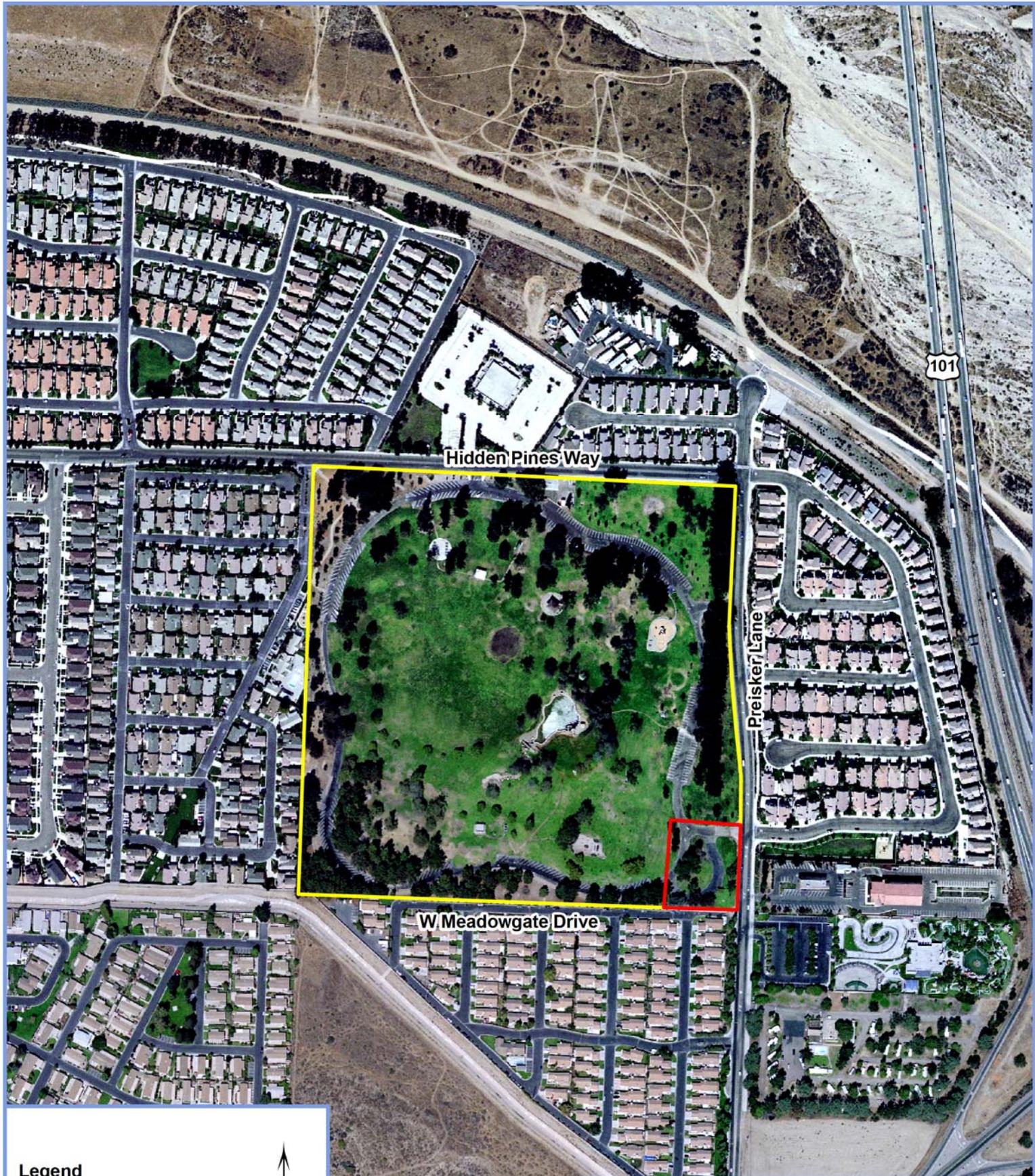


Source: National Geographic Society 2009

Figure 1 **Project Location**



City of Santa Maria
Northwest Fire Station



Legend

-  Project Area
-  Preisker Park

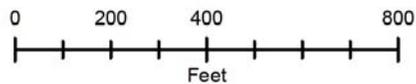
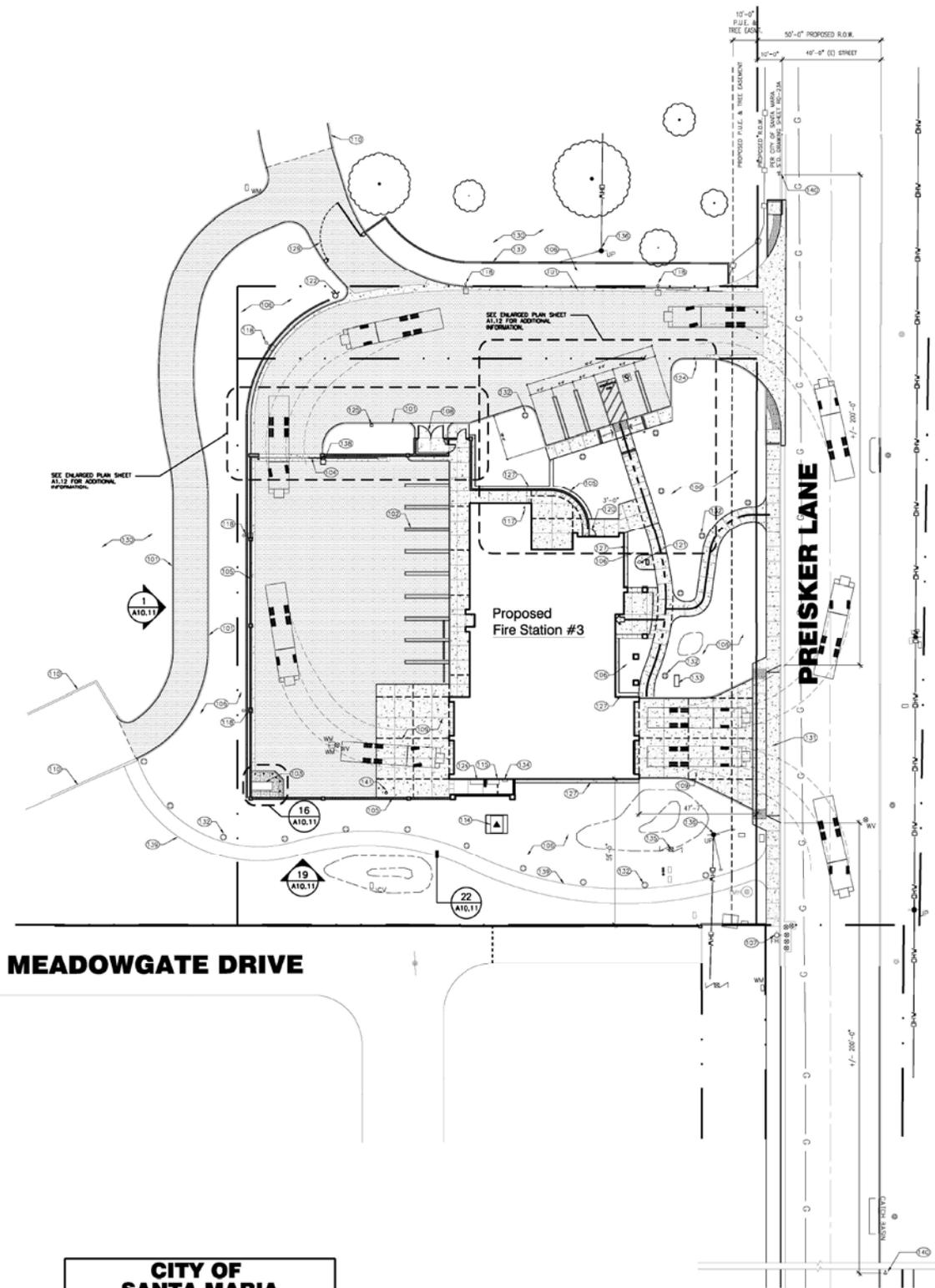


Figure 2	Site Vicinity
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	City of Santa Maria Northwest Fire Station
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MEADOWGATE DRIVE

PREISKER LANE

Proposed
Fire Station #3



Figure 3

Site Plan



*City of Santa Maria
Northwest Fire Station*

Internet Mapping Framework

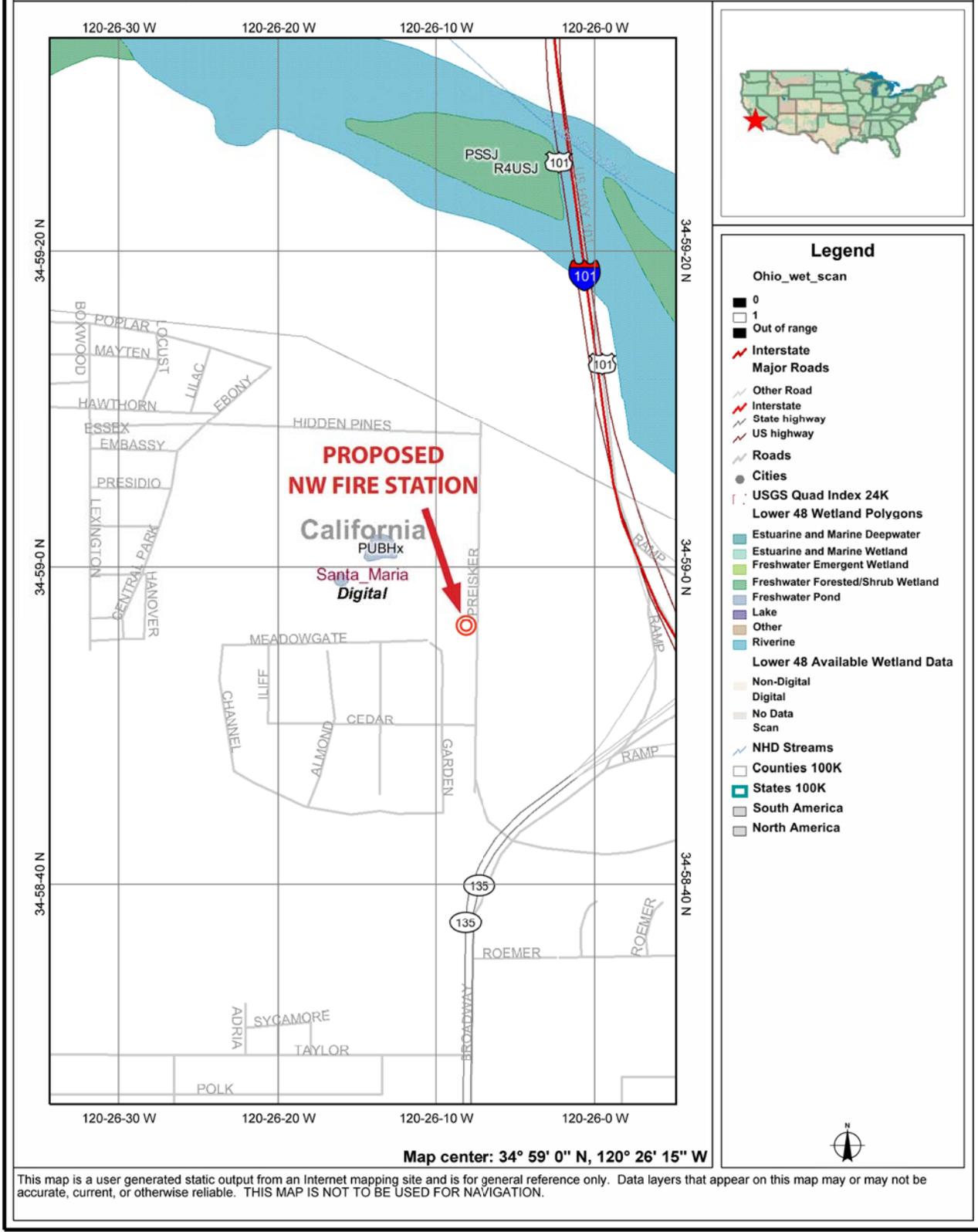


Figure 4

National Wetland Inventory Map



*City of Santa Maria
Northwest Fire Station*

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**APPENDIX B
PHOTOGRAPHS**

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Photograph #1, Viewing Angle: East, Preisker Lane



Photograph #2, Viewing Angle: North, Preisker Park



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Photograph #3, Viewing Angle: West, Preisker Park



Photograph #4, Viewing Angle: South, Preisker Park & Preisker Gardens residential development to the south



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**APPENDIX C
AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE**



FEMA

April 16, 2010

Ms. Diane Noda
Field Supervisor
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Ventura Ecological Field Service Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003

RE: EMW-2009-FC-01734 (Station's 3 & 5)
Santa Maria Fire Department

Dear Ms. Noda:

The Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is considering an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG SCG) application to the Santa Maria Fire Department (Grantee). The department wants to build two new fire stations in their city. Fire station number three (T10N R34W, Section 12) is going to be located at Donovan Road and Suey Crossing Road, Santa Maria, CA 93454. Station number five (T11N R34, Section 34) is going to be located at 2305 N Preisker Lane, Santa Maria, CA 93458. The buildings are going to be identical in style, their footprints will be 6,668 SFT and will have living space, storage space, and fire engine bays. The lots differ in size slightly, station three will have a lot size of 59,241.6 SFT and station five will have a lot size of 52,272 SFT. Both sites are flat and are previously disturbed. Site number three is an unused graded lot with ornamental eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus cinerea*). Site number five is located in Preisker Park and also has ornamental eucalyptus with ornamental grasses as well. The total amount of disturbance by grading will be 88,862.4 SFT. Elevation on site number three is about 220ft and site number five is about 250ft. The Grantee did an initial environmental study (IES) on both sites and determined that neither site was at risk for the take or incidental take of any endangered or threatened species, and would not modify any critical habitats. Further, in viewing the FWS Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species on your website it was determined that there is no risk. There is a steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) critical habitat close to both sites (1/2 to 1 mile away), but there is protection between each site and the habitat, thus no take or modification would occur. In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq. (1973)), FEMA has made a finding that the Grantee's proposed construction of the two fire stations will have no effect on Federally listed endangered or threatened species or modify any critical habitat.

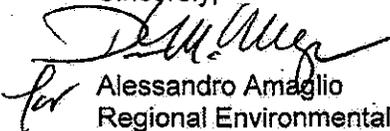
The Grantee is aware of the need to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918. This was presented in the IES for site five because of the necessity to remove 20 eucalyptus trees. The Grantee consulted with the state Department of Fish and Game which concluded that the removal had potential to impact migratory birds (50 C.F.R Section 10.13).

Ms. Diane Noda
April 16, 2010
Page 2

The mitigation measures recommended by Cal DF&G were to cut the trees down outside of raptor breeding season (Feb 1- Aug 30) to avoid take, which would also include disturbances causing nest abandonment. Also, pre-project nest surveys should be conducted and active nests should be avoided by establishing a buffer to be determined by a biological monitor. These mitigation measures were confirmed to be applied in the IES. Site three has a similar issue with 13 eucalyptus trees to be removed. The IES does not mention any mitigation measures to account for the MBTA, but since the projects are the same Grantee and they are aware of the MBTA they have been advised to contact you if there are issues.

We request your concurrence with our finding and anticipate a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter or we will assume concurrence with our findings and approve grant funding. If you need any further information please contact Donna M. Meyer, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer at (510) 627-7728 or donna.meyer@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,


for Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures:

- Google Earth maps of station sites three and five
- Map of the sites from FWS Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species



FEMA

April 19, 2010

Mr. Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296

RE: EMW-2009-FC-01734 (Station 3 & 5)

Dear Mr. Donaldson,

The Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is considering an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG SCG) application to the Santa Maria Fire Department (Grantee). The department wants to build two new fire stations in their city. Fire station number three (T10N, R34W, Section 12) is going to be located at Donovan Road and Suey Crossing Road, Santa Maria, CA 93454. Station number five (T11N, R34, Section 34) is going to be located at 2305 N Preisker Ln, Santa Maria, CA 93458. The buildings are going to be identical in style, their footprints will be 6,668 SFT and will have living space, storage space, and fire engine bays. The lots differ in size slightly, station three will have a lot size of 59,241.6 SFT and station five will have a lot size of 52,272 SFT. They will provide more emergency coverage to the city and allow the department to respond to calls at a quicker interval. In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(a)(1), FEMA has identified the Areas of Potential Effect (APE) to be the building footprints of the buildings on the sites, which are both located on previously disturbed areas (total 13,336 SFT).

FEMA has made a finding that there are no historical properties present on either of the sites according to CFR 36 Part 800.4(d)(1). We have enclosed documentation in support of our finding in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.11(d).

If you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact Donna M. Meyer, Deputy Regional Environmental and Historic Preservation Officer at (510) 627-7728.

Sincerely,



Alexandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures



FEMA

April 19, 2010

Chairman Vincent Armenta
Santa Ynez Band, Chumash Indians
P.O. Box 517
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

RE: EMW-2009-FC-01734

Dear Chairman Armenta:

Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended requires the Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to consult with any Indian Tribe that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by FEMA's undertaking. FEMA is considering an America Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant application to the Santa Maria Fire Department for two fire stations. The locations are specified below:

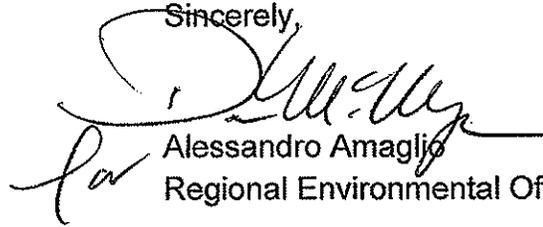
- Fire station number three (T10N, R34W, Section 12) is going to be located at Donovan Road and Suey Crossing Road, Santa Maria, CA 93454.
- Station number five (T11N, R34, Section 34) is going to be located at 2305 N Preisker Ln, Santa Maria, CA 93458.

The buildings are going to be identical in style, their footprints will be 6,668 SFT and will have living space, storage space, and fire engine bays. The lots differ in size slightly, station three will have a lot size of 59,241.6 SFT and station five will have a lot size of 52,272 SFT. The stations will provide further coverage to the community and allow emergency response to occur at a quicker interval.

FEMA has come to the conclusion that there will be no direct impacts on historic properties in the area, however we respectfully request your input regarding the proposals, any comments regarding historic properties, advise us on the identification and evaluation of any historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance, articulate your views of the Grantee's proposal and FEMA's Undertaking of providing grant assistance on such historic properties, and to participate in the resolution of any adverse effects.

If you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact Donna M. Meyer, Deputy Regional Environmental and Historic Preservation Officer at (510) 627-7728, the letterhead address above or donna.meyer@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alessandro Amaglio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures

- Aerial photos of the project sites.



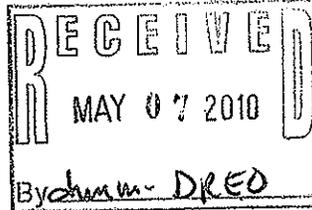
United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003



IN REPLY REFER TO:
81440-2010-TA-0263

May 4, 2010



Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, California 94607-4052

Subject: Construction of Two Fire Stations in the City of Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County, California

Dear Mr. Amaglio:

We are responding to your request, dated April 16, 2010, and received in our office on April 20, 2010, for our concurrence with your determination that the construction of two fire stations in the city of Santa Maria, California, would not affect any species or critical habitat listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (Act). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to fund the construction of two fire stations as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. One fire station would be located at the intersection of Donovan Road and Suey Crossing Road, and the other would be located at 2305 North Preisker Lane. The Donovan Road Station would be constructed on a 59,241 square-foot, graded lot that contains eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus* spp.) and disturbed ground. The Preisker Lane station would be constructed in Preisker Park on a 52,272 square-foot lot that currently contains ornamental grasses, asphalt driveways and parking areas, and eucalyptus trees.

Based upon our review of the proposed projects and locations, we do not believe that either site could support any listed, proposed, or candidate species. Also, neither site falls within listed or proposed critical habitat. The project sites are located in previously disturbed, urban areas that do not support any native habitat in which listed or proposed species are known to occur in Santa Barbara County. In addition, FEMA has notified the applicant of the need to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the applicant will implement measures provided by the California Department of Fish and Game to minimize impacts to migratory birds and nests. Therefore, we concur with your determination that FEMA's funding of the construction of the subject fire stations in Santa Maria, California, will not affect federally listed species or critical habitat and no further consultation pursuant to the Act is required.

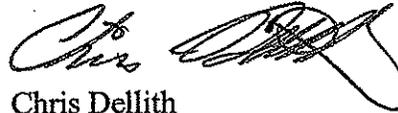
TAKE PRIDE[®]
IN AMERICA 

Alessandro Amaglio

2

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the consultation process in general, please contact David Simmons of our staff at (805) 644-1766, extension 368.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Dellith". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Chris Dellith
Senior Biologist

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

P.O. BOX 942896
SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001
(916) 653-6624 Fax: (916) 653-9824
calshpo@ohp.parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

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MAY 19 2010

BY:

May 17, 2010

Reply In Reference To: FEMA100422C

Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer
U.S Department of Homeland Security
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

RE: Section 106 Consultation for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)-Funded
Fire Station Construction, 2304 N Preisker Lane, Santa Maria, CA

Dear Mr. Amaglio:

Thank you for initiating consultation with me pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, the regulation that implements Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f), as amended, and the *2005 First Amended Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Emergency Management Agency, The California State Historic Preservation Officer, The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation*. Your letter of 19 April 2010 requests that I concur with the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) determination that the implementation of the undertaking will, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1), affect no historic properties.

FEMA is considering an ARRA Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant application to the Santa Maria Fire Department. The Department wants to build a 6,668 square foot station on a 52,272 square foot graded, vacant lot. The lot is surrounded by modern tract housing. In addition to your letter, you have provided photographs of the project area and evidence of Native American Consultation in support of this undertaking.

Having reviewed this information, I have the following comments:

- 1) I concur that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) has been properly determined and documented pursuant to 36 CFR Parts 800.4 (a)(1) and 800.16 (d).
- 2) I further concur that the finding of No Historic Properties Affected is appropriate pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1) and that the documentation supporting this finding has been provided pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.11(d).
- 3) Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as an unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, you may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for considering historic resources during project planning. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Tristan Tozer of my staff at (916) 653-8920, or email at ttozer@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan H Stratton for

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer



South Coast Region
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

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SEP 14 2009

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.
DV. _____

September 10, 2009

Mr. Frank Albro
City of Santa Maria
110 South Pine Street, Suite 101
Santa Maria, CA 93458
Fax #: (805) 928-7565

Subject: Notice of Completion of a Negative Declaration for the Fire Station #5, City of Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County, Project SCH #2009081049

Dear Mr. Albro:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) reviewed the Negative Declaration (ND) for the above mentioned project relative to impacts to biological resources. The proposed project is to construct a new 6,688 square foot fire station within 1.2 acres of the southeast corner Preisker Park.

The project has the potential to impact ornamental landscape trees including pine (*Pinus ssp.*) and Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus ssp.*); and migratory birds. Mitigation for these impacts has not been proposed within the ND.

The Department prepared the following statements and comments pursuant to authority as Trustee Agency with jurisdiction over natural resources affected by the project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Section 15386) and Responsible Agency (Section 15381) over those aspects of the proposed project that come under the purview of the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code Section 2050 et seq) and Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq. regarding impacts to streams and lakes.

Project Description

The ND does not include information on how much ground would be disturbed due to cut and fill; how many trees would need to be removed; nor construction timing of the project. The Department recommends these details be added to the project description, in order to more fully understand the potential for impacts as a result of these project activities.

Impacts to Biological Resources

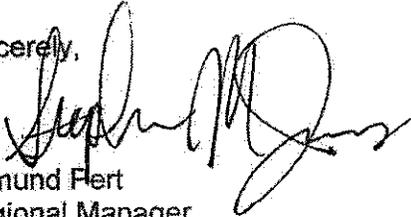
Removal of trees can result in the potential for significant impacts to migratory birds. All migratory nongame native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (50 C.F.R. Section 10.13). Sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibit take of birds and their active nests, including raptors and other migratory nongame birds as listed under the MBTA.

Proposed project activities that include disturbances to, or removal of, trees should therefore take place outside of the breeding bird season (February 1- August 30) to avoid take (including disturbances which would cause abandonment of active nests containing eggs and/or young). If

project activities cannot avoid the breeding bird season, pre-project nest surveys should be conducted and active nests should be avoided and provided with a minimum buffer as determined by a biological monitor (the Department recommends a minimum 500 foot buffer for all active raptor nests).

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment. Please include the above concerns and comments into the final ND for the subject project. Please contact Mr. Sean Carlson, Staff Environmental Scientist at (909) 596-9120 for any questions and further coordination.

Sincerely,



Edmund Fiert
Regional Manager
South Coast Region

FB

Helen Birss, Los Alamitos
Betty Courtney, Newhall
Sean Carlson, LaVerne
Martin Potter, Ojai
Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse, Sacramento