

WILDFIRE

SUMMARY

The proposed project would not substantially impair an emergency response plan or adopted emergency evacuation plan.

The proposed project would not exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.

The proposed project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.

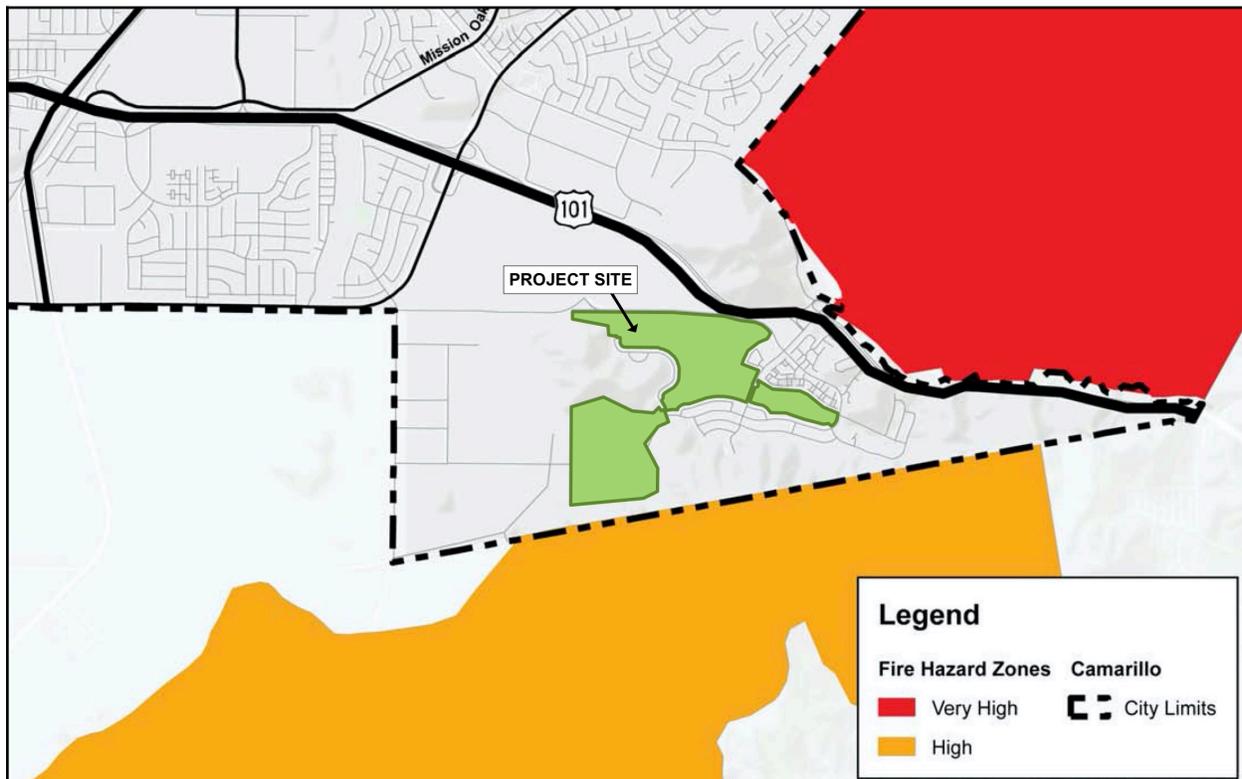
The proposed project would not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

A wildland fire is an uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels that may expose or consume structures. Although not located in a wilderness area, the threat of a wildland fire in or near Camarillo is high due to the wildland urban areas in and around the City, where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with wildland or vegetative fuels. The threat of wildfire is particularly significant during dry summer months and when there are strong Santa Ana winds. The fire season typically extends approximately five to six months, from late spring through fall. The aftermath of wildland fire produces new areas of potential landslide as burned and defoliated soils are exposed to winter rains.

The undeveloped hillside areas in and adjacent to the City of Camarillo present a potentially serious hazard due to the high potential for large-scale wildland fires. These areas are shown in Exhibit 11-7 of the City of Camarillo Safety Element 2013. The hills along the northern and eastern boundaries of the City are notorious for their threat of wildland fires that move quickly through the area. According to the Ventura County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Cal Fire, these areas are within the "Very High" Fire Severity Zone. Other portions of land to the north and east are within the "Moderate" Fire Severity Zone. The relationship of the Camarillo Springs Golf Course to the nearby fire hazard zones is illustrated in Figure 5.16-1.

FIGURE 5.16-1 - FIRE HAZARD ZONES



THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

In accordance with Appendix G to the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a potentially significant impact due to wildfire if it is located in or near State responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones and would:

- Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.
- Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.
- Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Emergency Evacuation

Threshold: Would the proposed project substantially impair an emergency response plan or adopted emergency evacuation plan?

Impact: The proposed project would not substantially impair an emergency response plan or adopted emergency evacuation plan.

Impact Analysis

According to the City of Camarillo Safety Element 2013, evacuation routes in Camarillo are dependent upon the event and need for evacuation. During a breach of the Bard Reservoir, the only required evacuation route would be the movement onto high ground out of the flood plain, which is generally north of Ponderosa Road, westerly of Ponderosa and Las Posas Roads and easterly of Calleguas Creek northerly of the Ventura Freeway (U.S. 101). In the event of a major chemical spill or other significant disaster, the City would be evacuated using U.S. 101 for east and westerly traffic or Lewis Road for evacuating the residents to the north or south. The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) under the Sheriff's Department is responsible for evacuations in Ventura County. Neither the City nor the County have adopted emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans that are specific to wildfires in the Camarillo area.

As discussed in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section of this EIR, the City of Camarillo requested an evaluation of an emergency evacuation of the Camarillo Springs community assuming a major catastrophe (fire, flood, earthquake, etc.) in order to evaluate the time required for 100% evacuation of the community. Access to the Camarillo Springs community is limited to two primary routes: 1) the U.S. Highway 101/Camarillo Springs Road interchange and 2) the Ridge View Street-Adohr Lane connection to Pancho Road. Emergency evacuation times were evaluated assuming three evacuation scenarios: 1) assuming that the connection to U.S. Highway 101 is blocked, 2) assuming that the Ridge View Street-Adohr Lane connection is blocked, and 3) assuming that both connections are open.

The analysis presented in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section of this EIR concludes that the Camarillo Springs community could be evacuated in under an hour (approximately 45 minutes) when either the U.S. Highway 101 access is blocked or when the Ridge View Street-Adohr Lane access is blocked and in less than 1/2 hour when no access is blocked. There are no official standards for evacuation times. The OES only requires that there be multiple ingress/egress routes to allow for evacuations. As demonstrated in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials analysis, the multiple existing routes allow for evacuation of the Camarillo Springs Community. The proposed project would not change the existing roadways surrounding the site and would not eliminate any existing evacuation routes.

Therefore, proposed project would not substantially impair an emergency response plan or adopted emergency evacuation plan. The impact of the project would be less than significant.

Exacerbate Wildfire Risks

Threshold: Would the proposed project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

Impact: The proposed project would not exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.

Impact Analysis

The proposed new residential uses and redeveloped golf course would occur within the existing boundaries of the Camarillo Springs Golf Course. As illustrated in Figure 5.16-1, neither the golf course nor the surrounding residential areas are located within the nearby fire hazard zones. The proposed residential uses would also be located further from the nearby fire hazard zones than other residential uses within the Camarillo Springs area. As such, the project would not exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. The impact of the project would be less than significant.

Infrastructure Wildfire Risks

Threshold: Would the proposed project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

Impact: The proposed project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.

Impact Analysis

The proposed new residential uses and redeveloped golf course would occur within the existing boundaries of the Camarillo Springs Golf Course. The project would not require special features such as firebreaks or fuel modification setbacks to protect the proposed uses from wildfires.

The proposed residential development would connect to the existing 12-inch water main is located within Ridge View Street for potable water use. The golf course would continue to be irrigated by private water from existing wells. Electrical power to the project site would continue to be provided by Southern California Edison via the existing underground infrastructure located within Camarillo Springs Road and Ridgeview Street. Natural Gas would be continuously provided to the project site by the Southern

California Gas Company via an existing six-inch gas line infrastructure in the local vicinity. As such, the project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. The impact of the project would be less than significant.

Post-Wildfire Risks

Threshold: Would the proposed project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

Impact: The proposed project would not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

Impact Analysis

Areas within the Camarillo Springs community are exposed to risks of flooding and landslides as a result of runoff and instability after wildfires within the adjacent hills. However, the proposed residential area is separated from the nearest hills by the existing mobile home community and the proposed golf course/lake area, and this area of the project site is not subject to any landslides. (Reference the Geology and Soils section of this EIR.) Flooding at the golf course is a result of overflows from Conejo Creek during large storm events and is not a result of post-fire runoff from the nearby hills. The project's design is proposed to preserve the amount of existing floodplain storage along Conejo Creek, to maintain or reduce base flood elevations through the area, and to remove the 154 existing mobile homes from the current FEMA 100-year floodplain. These drainage changes would not affect the adjacent hillsides. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

At the present time, the only other related project within the Camarillo Springs area is the request to modify the conditional of approval for the Village Greens Market located at 795 Camarillo Springs Road. No other new development project is proposed or approved in the Camarillo Springs area. As such, no significant cumulative impacts associated with wildfire in the Camarillo Springs area are expected.

UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project would not create any unavoidable significant wildfire impacts.

This page intentionally left blank.