

## 2.3 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

### 2.3.1 Introduction

As defined in the *CEQR Technical Manual*, community facilities are public or publicly funded schools, libraries, child care centers, health care facilities and fire and police protection. Certain community facilities, such as facilities relating to the City's management of its solid waste, are separately assessed in other chapters.

The CEQR analysis for community facilities looks at a project's potential effect on the services provided by these facilities. A project can affect facility services when it physically displaces or alters a community facility or causes a change in population that may affect the services delivered by a community facility, as might happen if a facility is already over-utilized, or if a project is large enough to create a demand that could not be met by the existing facility. The CEQR analysis examines potential impacts on existing facilities and generally focuses in detail on those services that the City is obligated to provide to any member of the community. These services also have precisely defined measures of utilization (e.g., enrollment/available seats for public education). As noted in the *CEQR Technical Manual*, the analysis is not a needs assessment for new or additional services. Service providers like schools or libraries conduct their own needs assessments on a continuing basis.

The community facilities (or resources) that are addressed in environmental assessments include the following:

- **POLICE PROTECTION.** The ability of the police to provide public safety for a new project usually does not warrant a detailed assessment under CEQR. The New York City Police Department ("NYPD") independently reviews its staffing levels against a precinct's population, area coverage, crime levels, and other local factors. A detailed assessment of service delivery is usually only conducted if a proposed project would affect the physical operations of, or access to and from, a precinct house or where a proposed project would create a sizeable new neighborhood where none existed before.
- **FIRE PROTECTION.** Fire protection services include fire stations that house engine, ladder and rescue companies. Units responding to a fire are not limited to those closest to it. Normally, more than one engine company and ladder company respond to each call and rescue companies also respond to fires or emergencies in high-rise buildings. The New York City Fire Department ("FDNY") does not allocate resources based on proposed or projected developments, but continually evaluates the need for changes in personnel, equipment or locations of fire stations and makes any adjustments necessary. Generally, a detailed assessment of fire protection service delivery is conducted only if a proposed project would affect the physical operations of, or access to and from, a station house or where a proposed project would create a sizeable new neighborhood where none existed before.
- **HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.** Health care facilities include public, proprietary and non-profit facilities that accept public funds (usually in the form of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements) and that are available to any member of the community. Generally, a detailed assessment of service delivery is conducted only if a proposed project would affect the physical operations of, or access to and from, a hospital or a public health clinic, or where a proposed project would create a sizeable new neighborhood where none existed before.
- **LIBRARIES.** Public libraries as analyzed under CEQR are branch libraries operated by the New York Public Library, the Queens Borough Public Library, and the Brooklyn Public Library systems. The primary purpose of libraries is to provide information services, including written documents and computer resources, reference materials, audio and visual references, and educational

services. The analysis of libraries generally focuses on the resources available to the population within the service area(s) of the library or libraries nearest to the proposed project.

- **PUBLIC SCHOOLS.** CEQR analyzes potential impacts only on public schools operated and funded by the New York City Department of Education (“NYCDOE”). This analysis generally relates only to public elementary and intermediate schools, which serve a local population, and rarely to high schools, which have a borough-wide or citywide population base. Schools are analyzed based on the potential for the project to cause overcrowding (*i.e.*, a shortage of seats for an age group within the district).
- **CHILD CARE CENTERS.** Publicly financed child care centers, under the auspices of the Administration for Children’s Services (“NYCACS’s”) Division of Child Care and Head Start, provide care for the children of income-eligible households. A space for one child in a child care center is called a “slot.” These slots may be in contracted group child care or Head Start centers. Slots may also be in private homes licensed to provide child care services to small numbers of unrelated children. Two types of these services exist: “group family child care,” which serves six to 12 children; and “family child care,” which serves three to six children. Projects that would create a large number of subsidized residential units are examined for potential impacts on the number of slots available at contracted group child care and Head Start centers in the vicinity of the project (*i.e.* the study area). In certain instances, vouchers may be provided that allow an eligible child to access care from private providers. However, because the specific locations of family day care and voucher slots cannot be identified, they are not suitable for a study area analysis.
- **OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES.** Other community facilities, such as homeless shelters, jails, community centers, colleges and universities, or religious and cultural facilities are analyzed only if the facility itself is the subject of the proposed project or would be physically displaced or altered by the project. Assessments for direct effects for these kinds of facilities should be developed in consultation with the lead agency and the appropriate city agencies. City-owned recreation centers are considered within the analysis of open space due to their location on parkland.

A community facilities analysis is needed if there would be potential direct or indirect effects on a facility. The *CEQR Technical Manual* notes that detailed community facilities analyses are most commonly associated with residential projects because demand for community services generally results from the introduction of new residents to an area. The community facilities analysis assesses the ability of community facilities to provide services both with and without the proposed project. Whether the project would have a potential impact is based on the likelihood that the project would create demand for services greater than the ability of existing facilities to provide those services. This can result from displacement of an existing facility, thereby increasing service demand at another facility, or by an increase in population.

The entire Development Area is vacant, undeveloped, and covered with vegetation. As such, no community facilities would be directly displaced by the Proposed Project. The assessment for each type of community facility therefore focuses on the potential for indirect effects.

Component developments of the Proposed Action are expected to be completed over several years. The first phase includes the construction of Retail Site “A” and Fairview Park, which are expected to be completed by the year 2015. Construction of remainder of the Project Area is expected to be completed by the year 2020, including the developments of Retail Site “B”, the school, the senior housing, and the Englewood Avenue and other road constructions. However, each type of community facility above is discussed in its own separate section within the following sections of this chapter, rather than being organized by analysis years.

### 2.3.2 Police and Fire Services

The preliminary screening threshold for a police and fire services assessment is met if the proposed project would lead to a direct effect on police and fire services, which is generally considered to be a project that affects the physical operation of, or access to and from, a police or fire facility. The Proposed Project would not have a direct effect on local police and fire services in the area. The NYPD routinely reviews staffing levels at each precinct to meet operational requirements and maintain adequate coverage. The Project Area is situated in the 123<sup>rd</sup> Police Precinct, approximately one and a half miles southwest of the project area.

The FDNY similarly evaluates the need for changes in personnel, equipment or locations of fire stations and makes those changes independent of particular proposed projects. The Project Area is served by Battalion 23, Division 8, and Company 76L, with the firehouse of Engine 151, Ladder 76 located at 7219 Amboy Road, approximately one and a half miles south of the project area. Additionally, the firehouse of Engine 164, Ladder 84 is located at 1560 Drumgoole Road, approximately one and three-quarter miles east of the project area.

The Proposed Project would not directly affect physical operations of any local police or fire facility, and it would not result in a significantly large residential population that would affect emergency services in the area. In addition, any new structures developed as part of the Proposed Project would be subject to the requirements of the City's Fire and Building Codes, and would not add to the Fire Department's workload. Therefore, significant adverse impacts are not expected to police or fire services as a result of the Proposed Project by either the year 2015 or 2020, and further analysis of police and fire services is not warranted.

### 2.3.3 Health Care

Health care facilities include public, proprietary and non-profit facilities that accept public funds (usually in the form of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements) and that are available to any member of the community. Generally, a detailed assessment of service delivery is conducted only if a proposed project would affect the physical operations of, or access to and from, a hospital or a public health clinic, or where a proposed project would create a sizeable new neighborhood where none existed before.

The closest hospital to the project area is the south campus of the Staten Island University Hospital at 375 Seguine Avenue, approximately two and a quarter miles to the southeast. The Proposed Project would not have a direct effect on any health care facility and would not result in a significantly large residential population that would affect health care facilities in the area. Therefore, significant adverse impacts are not expected to health care as a result of the Proposed Project by either the years 2015 or 2020, and further analysis of health care services is not warranted.

### 2.3.4 Libraries

According to the *CEQR Technical Manual*, potential impacts on libraries may result from the displacement or alteration of an existing library or a large increase in user/resident population. According to Table 6-1 of the *CEQR Technical Manual*, the threshold for further library impact analysis is a greater than five percent increase in the ratio of residential units to libraries borough-wide, or 653 residential units in the Borough of Staten Island. By the year 2015, the components of the Project Area that would be developed include the proposed park and retail stores on Retail Site "A". By the year 2020, the Proposed Project would generate only 162 new residential units as part of the senior housing complex, which is less than the 653 unit threshold. As such, no further analysis is warranted and the Proposed Project would not result in any significant adverse library impacts.

### 2.3.5 Educational Facilities and Child Care

By the year 2015, the components of the Project Area that would be developed include the proposed park and retail stores on Retail Site "A". By the year 2020, the Proposed Project would generate 162 new residential units as part of the senior housing complex.

The following are the CEQR preliminary thresholds to determine if public school and/or child care center assessments are warranted to assess the potential for indirect effects to occur as a result of a proposed project:

- For elementary/middle schools: if the project results in a net increase of 50 or more elementary/middle school-aged students or a net increase of 165 residential units in Staten Island.
- For high schools: if the project results in a net increase of 150 high school-aged students or a net increase of 1,068 residential units in Staten Island
- For group child care/Head Start centers in the study area: if the project results in a net increase of 217 residential units.

The proposed residential component of the project will be targeted to seniors and, as such, would not introduce or induce school-age children or potential day care eligible populations. The Proposed Project would not displace any existing schools or day care facilities in the study area. Of note, the Proposed Project includes development of a new public elementary/middle school, to be built by the year 2020. However, further analysis is not warranted as the residential components of the Proposed Project would not generate any children, and significant adverse impacts to public schools and child care centers are not expected.