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# COMMENT SUMMARY

**Project Title:** FIRE STATION 4 REPLACEMENT: Site Selection Public Input

**Date Prepared:** 9/25/2024

**Date Revised:** 10/9/2024

COMMENT SUMMARY				
DATE	NAME	POSITION ROLE	COMMENT SUMMARY	RESPONSE
9/16/2024	John Joyce	Public present at meeting 9/23	Please add me to the update list for 'Fire Station 4 Updates	Yes absolutely. Here is our webpage link for you to find project information: <a href="https://www.losalamosnm.us/County-Projects/Fire-Station-4-Replacement-Site-Selection">https://www.losalamosnm.us/County-Projects/Fire-Station-4-Replacement-Site-Selection</a>
9/17/2024	Bob Griffis	Public	I would like to stay updated on the project and be notified of future meetings. Could you please add me to mailing list at the email shown below?	Yes absolutely. Here is our webpage link for you to find project information: <a href="https://www.losalamosnm.us/County-Projects/Fire-Station-4-Replacement-Site-Selection">https://www.losalamosnm.us/County-Projects/Fire-Station-4-Replacement-Site-Selection</a>
9/19/2024	Michael Smith	Public	Hello, I am a Los Alamos resident and I wanted to provide my comments on the Fire Station 4 replacement project. Having been inside FS4 a few times, I can see why it needs replacement, that is pretty obvious. However I am also an avid user of our trails and open space and would thus much prefer site #1 for the new fire station. Sites 2 and 3 both negatively impact existing trails and open space. I don't see a need to do that if we can use site 1 for the new fire station.	Thank you for your input regarding your site preference for site #1. We will keep your concerns in mind regarding the other two sites during our site selection process.
9/19/2024	Charlotte Sartor	Public	I understand fire station 4 is scheduled to be replaced Of the 3 options. #1 if preferable because it results in the least disturbance to existing open space	Thank you for your input regarding your site preference for site #1. We will keep your concerns in mind during our site selection process.
9/19/2024	Laura Bohn	Public	Please count our vote for keeping the fire station at site one. Both of the other sites are valued open spaces for the community including a bike route and other recreational activities. Modifying the current site would cause the least impact and disturbance (although it would be great if the adjacent mountain bike trail were unimpaired).	Thank you for your input and expressed interest in site preference for the existing location. As we evaluate each site and the related criteria, the project team's intent is to prioritize Open Space and existing trails.
9/19/2024	Esta Lee Albright	Public	I urge the decision to be made to use location 1  With good planning it would be a good structure and at the most useful location.	Thank you for your input and expressed interest in site preference for the existing location. As the project team prepares and evaluates each site and the related criteria, we will keep this in mind.

9/19/2024	Georgia Strickfaden	Public	<p>I understand that there will be some public meetings about site selection for the new FS#4, but I would like to comment right away in case I can't make it to any of the scheduled public meetings. I have looked at the project on the LAC website.</p> <p>Among Council goals: Quality of Life: Health, Wellbeing, Open Space, and Parks.</p> <p>I think that options 2 and 3 invade open spaces, whereas option 1 would be in pretty much the same already disturbed location. Therefore, I think that option 1 should be the site.</p> <p>In the options list, Options 3 is actually referred to as "vacant land". I see that land as both open space and park. I find it annoying that just because a space seems "vacant" there seems to be an attitude that it is just there waiting for development. I found that same annoyance at the stable area when, a number of years ago, the contractor for the new pipeline down the mesa was allowed to put up his staging yard on the open space right outside the stable area fence. That yard remained there for a much longer time than it took to build the pipeline. Then, contractors were told, by LAC, to dump piles of dirt, broken asphalt, and concrete debris there; that allowance wound up extending way beyond the original allowed staging yard. After a ruckus raised by Stable Owners, especially when people were starting to use the debris piles as a shooting and archery range, and in general, as a dump, that that piece of open space was cleaned up—some.</p> <p>We must value Los Alamos' open spaces for healthier people and a healthier environment. FS#4 is already a good site for that fire station.</p>	<p>Thank you for your input. As we evaluate each site and the related criteria, the project team's intent is to prioritize the Council's Strategic Goals of "Quality of life: Health, Wellbeing, Open Space, and Parks". Public input will be solicited on the quantitative and qualitative evaluation criteria prepared between now and mid-October.</p> <p>Here is our webpage link for you to find project information in case you can't make it to future meetings: <a href="https://www.losalamosnm.us/County-Projects/Fire-Station-4-Replacement-Site-Selection">https://www.losalamosnm.us/County-Projects/Fire-Station-4-Replacement-Site-Selection</a></p>
9/20/2024	Cindy Little	Public	<p>I am offering my thoughts on the site choice for the new station. It seems obvious that the best solution is the current location, option #1. It is clearly the best location for a fire station, plus it would hopefully minimize the destruction from building a new building. I'm sure the County can find a way to maximize the damage no matter what, but this is the best choice.</p>	<p>Thank you for your input regarding your site preference for site #1. The design team will keep your concerns in mind during the site selection process and evaluation criteria.</p>

9/23/2024	Lynne Johnson	Public within 300 feet of proposed site.	<p>I received the letter today from the County dated September 14, 2024, requesting public input on the site selection for Fire Station 4. I am not in Los Alamos right now and will not be able to attend this evening.</p> <p>My property is located at 2197 Loma Linda Drive and will be adversely impacted by the selection of either the Loma Linda Play Lot or the Golf Course Maintenance yard. It was brought to my attention in 2023 that the County was considering reappropriating the Loma Linda park to a maintenance facility and I responded to that inquiry with an impact statement. I was surprised and disappointed to receive this letter and to be informed of the November deadline for the County to make a decision.</p> <p>Replacing one of our already limited parks with a Fire Station, when there is already a functioning Fire Station within approximately one mile, is not in the Community's best interest.</p> <p>Placing a Fire Station literally in Loma Linda resident's backyards is not in our subdivisions best interest. This will negatively impact our property value. Zoning maps and park locations matter when you consider where you are buying.</p> <p>We hear every emergency vehicle that leaves the current station location when they respond with sirens. That occurs all times of the day and night. The building usage you are proposing moving directly adjacent to a residential neighborhood, has both noise and traffic impacts that you cannot ignore.</p> <p>As a commercial Architect, I know the issues with renovating a facility while it is occupied and functioning. It is possible, however, and not an obstacle that should stand in the way of keeping the current location and improving the current facility. I would be willing to volunteer my time to meet with any County group to discuss how that transition can be achieved. I have done many work in place projects throughout my career</p>	<p>Thank you for your input regarding noise, proximity, and open space. As we evaluate each site and the related criteria, the project team's intent is to prioritize the Council's Strategic Goals of "Quality of life: Health, Wellbeing, Open Space, and Parks". Further public input will be solicited on the quantitative and qualitative evaluation criteria prepared between now and mid-October.</p> <p>Here is our webpage link for you to find project information in case you can't make it to future meetings: <a href="https://www.losalamosnm.us/County-Projects/Fire-Station-4-Replacement-Site-Selection">https://www.losalamosnm.us/County-Projects/Fire-Station-4-Replacement-Site-Selection</a></p>
9/23/2024	Coleen Meyer	Public present at meeting 9/23	I am requesting FS4 be upgraded on the existing site (A). This has the safest + fastest access + causes the least disruption to nature, trails, traffic or other constrains like noise. All sites have cons. Any added expense because of grading is worth the cost. Additionally, if site B or C is selected we want ti know the plans for site A before the project moves forward.	
9/23/2024	Barbara Calef	Public present at meeting 9/23	I prefer site A. It will be the least disruptive to traffic. It will not require cutting as many trees as site B. It will not have a major impact on hikers, cyclists, children, or animals.	
9/23/2024	Marv Alme	Public within 300 feet of proposed site, present at meeting 9/23	The steep road from the sound-about to the top of the mesa location where the Loma Linda site would be, presents a significant safety concern even in good weather. In the winter the road is in a shadow - ice and snow are persistent.	

9/30/2024	Judy Posada	Public (comment to Council)	<p>I would like to ask that the Fire Station proposal to be relocated to the current Loma Linda Park not become a reality. It would be a disaster for our small neighborhood and the Los Alamos Community. The park is utilized by many people and it only needs a weather resistant sign by the road to bring in new people to the park. The location of the park is very close to Loma Linda making the sirens of the fire trucks day and night very disruptive and stressful to homes (family's in the neighborhood). With a good architect, the current location of the fire station would be suitable for remodeling with all the necessary changes needed for our community.</p>	
9/30/2024	Joe Cox	Public (comment to Council)	<p>IF a fire station was in the Loma Linda Park area, fast response time for fire trucks would be reduced. The road leading from that park area has a 25 mph speed limit, is downhill and has a sharp curve. Cars coming up the hill might not see a firetruck coming around that bend. A firetruck would also have to slow down going through the roundabout. That hill often gets icy in the winter, making navigation down the hill more precarious and slowing down response time.</p> <p>The current site of Fire Station 4 gives trucks quick access to Diamond Drive, so it seems like the best location. You want the personnel to get the vehicles onto the major thoroughfare (Diamond) as quickly as possible in an emergency.</p> <p>If the current facilities are too small, consider adding a 2nd story to the current building to provide for more crew quarters and prep areas.</p>	

10/1/2024	John and Nancy Ullmann	Public within 300 feet of proposed site, present at meeting 9/23	<p>Thank you for hosting the information session at Fire Station 4 last week – it was very informative. I would like to make several comments on the proposed Loma Linda Park site.</p> <p>We live on Loma Linda Drive, and our house is immediately adjacent to the Loma Linda Park and playlot. Our first concern is with the impact of the 24-hour noise and lights from the fire station. Right now, the Loma Linda neighborhood is quiet and liveable. The daily operation of a fire station adjacent to the neighborhood, with daily checks and maintenance of equipment as well as emergency response, will have a large negative impact on our quality of life. Sound and light mitigation will be required and should be designed into the facility layout.</p> <p>An additional concern is the impact on neighborhood property values of locating a new fire station in the existing park.</p> <p>We note that access to the proposed Loma Linda site is from an approximately 100-yard straight section of North Mesa Road, between two blind curves. This will require visible and reliable warning signals to alert traffic in each direction when emergency response is underway.</p> <p>We also observe that the Loma Linda site is reached by a two-lane road with minimal shoulders that goes up a steep hill ending in a nearly 180-degree curve. This road is adjacent to a north-facing cliff. In winter, our country crews have been very good maintaining this road. Nonetheless, because of the north-facing aspect, the sun does not reach the road and during and immediately after storms driving can become rather dicey.</p> <p>The on-line survey lists the Loma Linda site as "vacant land north of the play lot." This is incorrect; the land is listed as park land on the county zoning map, and a more correct description would have been "northern portion of Loma Linda Park."</p> <p>The current location is the best overall option for the fire station site. Clearly, if this location were not available, others could be considered. However, the current location not only has the least impact on an existing neighborhood, it also has good visibility and easy access to the four-lane Diamond Drive for emergency response.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to give my input.</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing your concerns regarding Loma Linda site during site selection process for FS4, and thank you for your input regarding your site preference for site #1. The design team will keep your concerns in mind during the site selection process and evaluation criteria.</p>
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10/4/2024	Marion and Jerry Fleming	Public within 300 feet of proposed site, present at meeting 9/23	<p>Our names are Marion and Jerry Fleming. We live at 2175 La Tierra Road in the Loma Linda subdivision.</p> <p>We oppose the Loma Linda park as one of the proposed choices for a new fire station.</p> <p>We see no reason why the fire station should be relocated. Presently the entire area is easily accessible from the present location, it is away from residential areas and, as far as we can tell, it bothers no one.</p> <p>We are utterly opposed to moving it to the open area next to our neighborhood. We are concerned about the noise from sirens, both day and night, that we would experience. We are also concerned about the traffic in that area, which features a narrow, steep road with blind curves on both sides of the proposed site. This road is already challenging enough during a snowstorm or when it gets icy. This would simply not be safe. Please don't select this site!</p>	<p>Thank you for your input regarding keeping the fire station on the existing site. We also appreciate you expressing concerns about noise, traffic, and safety concerns at the site adjacent to Loma Linda. As we evaluate each site and the related criteria, the project team's intent is to prioritize the Council's Strategic Goals of "Quality of life: Health, Wellbeing, Open Space, and Parks". We are reviewing all public input and evaluating the quantitative and qualitative data as we prepare for our public input meeting on October 15.</p>
10/5/2024	Lynn and Rick Johnson	Public within 300 feet of proposed site.	<p>Our property is located at 2197 Loma Linda Drive and will be adversely impacted by the selection of either the Loma Linda Play Lot or the Golf Course Maintenance yard as a location for a new fire station.</p> <p>Replacing one of our already limited parks in Los Alamos with a fire station, when there is a functioning fire station within approximately one mile, is not in the Community's best interest.</p> <p>Placing a Fire Station literally in Loma Linda's backyard is not in our subdivision's best interest. Moving the fire station to either the Loma Linda or Golf Course site requires a zoning change. Utilization of the Loma Linda site would require a zoning change from OS-PPO (open Park) to a zoning use involving B, R and S occupancy classifications (commercial/light industrial). You are considering a drastic zoning change directly adjacent to an established SFR-3 zone. This will negatively impact our property values. Zoning and park locations matter when you consider where you are buying.</p> <p>A fire station creates both noise and traffic impacts that you cannot ignore. We hear the emergency vehicles leaving the current station. That occurs all times of the day and night. Moving that noise and traffic within 300 feet of our home will have a considerable negative impact.</p> <p>The highest and best use of the existing fire station site, for the Community, is a fire station. The Community will have the cost of demolishing or reconfiguring the existing facility whether you reuse the building or abandon it.</p>	<p>Thank you again for your input regarding noise, traffic, proximity, and open space for the Loma Linda site. As we evaluate each site and the related criteria, the project team's intent is to prioritize the Council's Strategic Goals of "Quality of life: Health, Wellbeing, Open Space, and Parks". We are reviewing all public input and evaluating the quantitative and qualitative data as we prepare for our public input meeting on October 15.</p> <p>Here is our webpage link for you to find project information in case you can't make it to future meetings, we will be updating this site periodically: <a href="https://www.losalamosnm.us/County-Projects/Fire-Station-4-Replacement-Site-Selection">https://www.losalamosnm.us/County-Projects/Fire-Station-4-Replacement-Site-Selection</a></p>

		<p>The Chief has said the Annex can be used as an interim facility, which makes it possible to continue operation during renovation. As a commercial Architect, I know the issues with renovating a critical facility while it is occupied and functioning. These issues can be addressed by your design team and should not eliminate the option of keeping the current location and improving the current facility.</p> <p>The current traffic back up going up the hill, past the Loma Linda Park, to the middle school during school drop off and pick up needs to be understood and experienced by the Council members and design team before making any decisions. Everyone voting on this issue should go and see firsthand what the actual traffic condition is on North Mesa Road at peak load. Maintaining fire department response times was listed as a priority. If there is a call during school drop off, the response time will be impacted.</p> <p>Access for the emergency vehicles from the Loma Linda site and the Golf Course maintenance site is onto and off of a two-lane road as opposed to a four-lane road at the existing site.</p> <p>Loma Linda Park has an abundance of wildlife. The deer travel from the Golf Course, across our property at 2197 Loma Linda, to the park daily. The deer continue across the road and drop into the opposite canyon. The wildlife corridors will be impacted. Coyotes and bears are also frequent visitors.</p> <p>Our property at 2197 Loma Linda Drive will be negatively impacted by the selection of either the Loma Linda or the Golf Course site for a fire station. While we support improving the facilities of our fire fighters and understand we need to take advantage of the funding received, it should not be at the cost of losing a park or the detriment of homeowners when there is a viable option of renovating the existing facility.</p>	
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