

Appendix N

Additional Separation Buffer

Date: September 27, 2023
To: Kim Avila, AICP ENV SP
Kimley-Horn
From: Isaac D. Martinez, PE, Senior Fire Protection Engineer
RE: LA ART: Additional Separation Buffer

Jensen Hughes is recognized worldwide for our leadership in fire protection engineering. Jensen Hughes has advised on the proposed Project since August 2020.

SCJ Alliance, the proposed Project's gondola systems engineer, has provided Jensen Hughes with the horizontal clearance for the proposed Project. Industry standards for the design and operation of ropeways and cabins are documented in the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard B77.1, which is developed in coordination with manufacturers, consumers, and regulators. ANSI B77.1 regulates vertical and horizontal clearances between the ropeway and cabins to elements such as vehicles, pedestrians, vegetation, buildings, and other structures. ANSI B77.1 provides minimum clearance requirements depending on the nature of the element and whether the clearance is vertical or horizontal. To define the width of the ropeway path which must be clear of elements, the horizontal clearance outside of the cabin paths as required by the ANSI B77.1 safety standard for passenger ropeways was used. ANSI B77.1 includes two criteria, both of which must be met, for horizontal clearance between the cabin and an adjacent element: when hanging vertically, the cabins must be no closer than five feet to any obstruction that is not part of the ropeway system; and when the cabins are tilted within a prescribed range (as from wind), the cabins must not come into contact with anything. In consultation with SCJ Alliance, the proposed Project's gondola systems engineer, for the proposed Project, as determined the five-foot requirement is slightly wider than the swing requirement, so the five-foot requirement controls the design path width. The proposed Project would include five feet on each side of the vertically hanging cabins for a required aerial clearance width of 53 feet 2 inches. For purposes of determining the potential Additional Separation Buffer, Jensen Hughes utilized the required aerial clearance width of 53 feet 2 inches.

Beyond the ANSI-required aerial clearance, we have considered potential adjacent separation that may be included due to fire exposure from adjacent buildings, structures, or uses to the proposed Project's ropeway and cabins. Based on the current design, the Additional Separation Buffer is estimated to be approximately 10 feet on each side of the aerial clearance width based on applicable standards, requirements, building codes, and guidelines. The proposed Project's Additional Separation Buffer would comply with the applicable standards, requirements, building codes, and guidelines as determined by the City of Los Angeles and Metro. The final width of the Additional Separation Buffer would be determined by the appropriate agencies during the permitting process for the proposed Project.

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