

3.14 COMMUNITY SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community services include seniors and youth services, cultural amenities (offers a variety of events and activities for all ages), and homeless and emergency shelter services. The rest of the population would be served by Cultural Amenities, which are described below. Implementation of the proposed Area Plan will permit development that could potentially impact community services. This section examines the effects of the build out of the proposed Area Plan on community services in the County's Planning Area. The County's Planning Area consists of unincorporated land outside of the City's boundaries and adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI) but within the One Valley One Vision (OVOV) Planning Area boundaries. The City's Planning Area consists of its incorporated boundaries and adopted SOI. Both the City and County Planning Areas comprise the OVOV Planning Area.

Seniors and Youth

The impacts analysis section on senior and youth services includes an analysis of the number of existing affordable senior housing units found within the County's Planning Area (150 units). The 2008 senior population (age 65 and over) consisted of 7,800 residents, or 10.4 percent of the 2008 population.¹ As the population of the County's Planning Area reaches buildout, the number of senior citizens would be expected to increase as the existing population ages.

The impact analysis section also describes the amount of childcare facilities and youth programs. The 2007 youth (ages 18 and younger) population was 22,058. The County would need to work with childcare facilities and providers to provide adequate services as the County's Planning Area reaches buildout. Greater utilization of park resources would need to meet the future demands of youth programs and youth sports. Impacts on senior and youth services were found to be less than significant with the implementation of the Area Plan policies.

Cultural Amenities

This cultural amenities subsection describes the various social, cultural, and arts resources available within the County's Planning Area. Cultural amenities in the County's Planning Area include theatres, auditoriums, and recreational facilities. Cultural organizations range from arts organizations to faith-

¹ 2008 population derived from the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, Draft Land Use Element, 2009. The percentage of the population is derived from the US Census Bureau Los Angeles County information.

based organizations. Cultural programs include arts programs run by the County's Department of Parks and Recreation, the County's Department of Community and Senior Services, and those sponsored by private organizations. As the buildout of the County's Planning Area increases, the demand on different cultural amenities will increase. This increase will require more meeting space to accommodate the increase in population. Impacts on cultural amenities would be less than significant with implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies.

Homeless and Emergency Shelter Services

This section describes the homeless and emergency shelter services and programs provided within the County's Planning Area. It includes data from two recent reports on homelessness in the Santa Clarita Valley. The discussion in the section pertains to homelessness in the County's Planning Area based on data obtained from the County of Los Angeles and the City of Santa Clarita. The OVOV Planning Area offers a temporary homeless shelter during the winter months from December 1 to March 15 of each year. The County Zoning Ordinance allows homeless shelters in certain zones with a Director's Review or Conditional Use Permit. Impacts would be less than significant with implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies.

SENIORS AND YOUTH

Summary

The senior and youth subsection describes the services oriented to the needs of the youth and the senior populations in the County's Planning Area, such as children, senior citizens, and disabled persons. The Santa Clarita Committee on Aging, a charitable non-profit 501(c)3 organization that does business as the "Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center," serves over 35,000 seniors.² The Senior Center is the only comprehensive service provider in the OVOV Planning Area, and is responsible for all senior programming. A wide variety of childcare and teen programs are available throughout the Santa Clarita Valley. Over the last decade, the OVOV Planning Area has developed into a major hub for youth sports and activities.

² City of Santa Clarita, "Our Mission," <http://scvsc.org/about.php>, 2009.

Existing Conditions

The number of senior residents within the County's Planning Area in 2008 totaled 7,800; there were 22,058 residents that were ages 18 and under.³ The senior and youth populations for the County's Planning Area are based on the available data for Los Angeles County obtained from the US Census Bureau. Available senior housing consists of 150 units within the County's Planning Area and a total of 957 affordable units within the OVOV Planning Area.⁴ There is one senior center serving a third of the senior population. The County's Planning Area 2008 population was 75,000. As such, persons age 18 and under comprised about 26.1 percent of the total population,⁵ or approximately 19,575 people, and persons age 65 and older comprised about 10.4 percent of the population,⁶ or approximately 7,800 people. Together, the large number and unique needs of residents in these age groups suggests the need for specialized services. If current trends continue, and as the adult population ages, there will likely be an increase in the youth and senior populations as well as the demand for services for those age groups.

Seniors

Numbering approximately 7,800 people, seniors, those age 65 or older, comprise 10.4 percent of the County's population and have the greatest need for specialized resources, such as transportation, medical, and assisted living.

Service Providers

The Santa Clarita Committee on Aging, a charitable non-profit 501(c)3 organization that does business as the "Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center" (Senior Center), serves over 35,000 seniors. The Senior Center is the only comprehensive service provider in the OVOV Planning Area, and is responsible for all senior programming. The Senior Center hosts most of their programs, nutritional, supportive, and handyworker services, exercise programs, and arts and crafts classes on site at 22900 Market Street in Newhall. While there are few facilities especially designed for senior activities, the County strives to accommodate the needs of seniors through programs and services provided by the County libraries located within the OVOV Planning Area, and all City facilities are open and accessible to seniors. Transportation to activities throughout the Valley is provided by both Dial-a-Ride and by the Senior Center.

³ US Census Bureau, "State and County Quick Facts," <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06037.html>, 2009.

⁴ City of Santa Clarita, "Affordable Housing and Services," <http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/cd/housing/housing5.asp>, 2009

⁵ City of Santa Clarita, "Affordable Housing and Services."

⁶ City of Santa Clarita, "Affordable Housing and Services."

There are a few additional organizations in the Valley that also serve the senior population. The Santa Clarita Adult Day Health Care provides caregiver support to Alzheimer patients, as well as recreation and social activities for those in poor health. The Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry, with which the Senior Center works, provides nutrition for low-income seniors. This is done through three services:

- congregate meals, which are hot, nutritionally balanced meals for all senior citizens;
- home delivered meals (HDM) program which is designed to serve those seniors and others who by virtue of frailty or other chronic health conditions, cannot meet their own nutritional needs. The HDM program delivers hot, nutritional meals to participants' homes between the hours of 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM Monday through Friday; and
- the effective nutritional health assessments and networks of care for the elderly (ENHANCE) program which provides for a licensed nutritionist to provide in-home nutritional evaluation for those who are at high risk and have specific nutritional needs that must be addressed.

The single most important issue facing this population is the lack of nursing care/assisted living facilities in the County's Planning Area. There is currently only one nursing home in the OVOV Planning Area, Santa Clarita Convalescent Home, run by a for profit corporation,⁷ and as the adult population continues to age, more facilities will be needed.⁸ The Santa Clarita Convalescent Home is located in the City's Planning Area. There are currently three private assisted living facilities within the City's Planning Area; Sunrise At Sterling Canyon; Capri-Retirement Villa; and Summerhill Villa.

In order to better serve the senior population, the Senior Center has developed affordable senior housing facilities throughout the Santa Clarita Valley, which include:

- Castaic Lake Senior Village
- Bouquet Canyon Seniors
- Canterbury Village Senior Apartments
- Canyon Country Senior Apartments
- Fountain Glen Apartments

⁷ US Government Medicare, "US Government Site for People with Medicare, Nursing Home Compare" <http://www.medicare.gov/NHCompare/Include/DataSection/Questions/HomeSelect.asp>, 2009.

⁸ City of Santa Clarita, Economic Development, "Age Demographics," http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/cd/ed/community_profile/2007demographics/population.asp#age. 2008.

- Orchard Arms
- Valencia Villas
- Whispering Oaks Apartments

The Castaic Lake Senior Village contains 150 units within the County's Planning Area and has facilitated access to the Center's recreational facilities and services. These facilities make up a total of 957 affordable units.

Programs

The Senior Center offers a wide range of services, programs, and classes. Programs range from home delivered meals for homebound seniors, to counseling programs, transportation, and the development of affordable housing facilities in Northern Los Angeles County. The Senior Center also provides a range of recreational and educational opportunities, including excursions, dance classes, computer training, arts and crafts, and fitness. In addition, there are supportive service programs that allow seniors to maintain independence for as long as possible, with programs that provide nutritional evaluation, in-home functional assistance for the disabled, and support for the visually impaired.

The Senior Center participated in the first-ever Los Angeles County Strategic Plan for Long Term Care for the Aged and Disabled, an all-encompassing plan completed with the input of 100 service providers, including 18 County departments that provide long-term care. The Board of Supervisors approved the Strategic Long-Term Care Plan on January 21, 2003.

Disabled Senior Adults

Disabled senior citizens within the County's Planning Area have access to various services offered by both national and local organizations. Programs are offered by numerous groups such as: American Association of Retired Persons; Alzheimer's National Association; a Retirement Living Referral Agency; the Senior Center's Community Meal Site for Seniors; the County's Elder Abuse Hotline; Elder Care Locator; Los Angeles County Health Services/Nursing Home; UCLA Geriatric Psychiatry Services; Medic Alert Foundation; Santa Clarita Adult Day Health Care Center; Santa Clarita Food Pantry; and Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center.

Youth

In 2008, approximately 22,058 residents of the County's Planning Area were youth 18 years of age or younger, and comprised approximately 26.9 percent of the County's Planning Area population. A wide variety of childcare and teen programs are available throughout the Santa Clarita Valley. Programs include preschool, cooperative, full-day care, school-age childcare, year-round care, infant (six weeks to two years) care, parent-toddler programs, kindergarten, youth intervention, after school programs, sports, and special education.

Service Providers

Childcare support services in the OVOV Planning Area include the Child Care Resource Center (CCRC), the Family Day Care Association of the Santa Clarita Valley, and the Santa Clarita Child and Family Center, formerly known as the Santa Clarita Child and Family Programs.⁹ The CCRC, which is based in Northridge, provides a referral service for special education and day care for the Santa Clarita Valley. The CCRC, which receives public funding, works with County and City agencies to administer CalWorks, a program that provides temporary financial assistance and employment focused services to families with minor children who have income and property below state maximum limits for their family size.

Childcare

There are six licensed childcare centers in the County's Planning Area and they are licensed through the childcare licensing division of the State Department of Social Services. The total licensed capacity for the 6 licensed facilities is 318.¹⁰ The OVOV Planning Area includes 75 licensed facilities for a total capacity of 5,458. Although these providers serve multiple age groups from infant through 12 years old, they are limited to serving a maximum of three infants between the ages of six weeks and two years. Therefore, most requests for childcare referrals in the County's Planning Area are for infants. As is the case Countywide, infants are the most underserved population in the Valley.

⁹ City of Santa Clarita, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, 2000

¹⁰ California Community Care Licensing Division, http://www.cclld.ca.gov/docs/cclld_search/cclld_search.aspx, 2008. For child care facilities, however, it will only search for state licensed Large Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers. It will not search for Small Family Child Care Homes or county licensed Family Child Care Homes.

Funding

While the CCRC does not operate direct service programs, it subsidizes payment to family childcare providers and community childcare centers for eligible families in the County's Planning Area.¹¹ In addition, the Child and Family Center, a private, nonprofit organization, has a state-subsidized, full-day program that serves preschool-age children.

Programs

Disabled Youth

There are programs offered in and around the County's Planning Area for disabled youth. Local organizations that benefit disabled youth include Carousel Ranch and Heads-up Therapy with Horses, which both offer equestrian therapy; Santa Clarita Valley Special Olympics; the Assistance League of Santa Clarita; and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.¹² The Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), is comprised of representatives from private sector businesses, organized labor, community-based organizations, local government agencies, and local education agencies, Youth Council's mission is "to establish a comprehensive youth development system serving as a gateway of opportunities for youth to acquire the necessary life skills, education, work exposure and experiences that will enable them to have productive careers and become responsible adults."¹³

Some of the diverse organizations that provide youth programs are the Boy and Girl Scouts of Santa Clarita Valley, the Betty Ferguson Foundation, the California Youth Chess League, Canyon Theatre Guild, Hart District Regional Occupational Program, Santa Clarita Valley YMCA, Santa Clarita Repertory Theatre, Santa Clarita Valley School and Business Alliance, and Santa Clarita Valley Youth Orchestra.¹⁴ The programs vary from music education to sports, and from job training to acting lessons. Many are open to the public at minimal or no cost.

¹¹ Child Care Resource Center, "Help paying for child care," <http://www.ccrcla.org/home/index.asp?page=142>, 2008.

¹² Child Care Resource Center, "Help paying for child care."

¹³ Los Angeles County, Workforce Investment Board Youth Council, 2008.

¹⁴ City of Santa Clarita, "Arts organizations directory," <http://www.santa-clarita.com/arts/artsservices/organizations/index.asp>, 2008.

Young Adults

Within the County’s Planning Area, there are a variety of community service programs designed for the specific needs of pre-teens, teenagers, their parents, and families. These programs include parent and teen support groups, parent education, youth and family character building, family violence prevention education, gang prevention education, youth intervention, drug education, graffiti abatement, after school programs, and sports activities.

The Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program provides increased flexibility for state and local officials to establish broad-based labor market systems using federal job training funds for adults, dislocated workers, and youth. The law mandates coordination among a range of federal job training programs, including the Employment Service, adult education and literacy programs, welfare-to-work, vocational education and vocational rehabilitation. WIA’s goal is to provide workforce development services to employers and workers through a universally accessible, information-driven, one-stop career center system. The Youth Program emphasizes the long-term development of high-priority youth—low-income young people ages 14 to 21 who are either foster/emancipated, pregnant/parenting, ex-offender, disabled, deficient in basic skills, a school dropout, homeless, run away, or have other barriers to employment—by helping them connect successfully to the labor market via a network of service providers made up of local educators, businesses and other youth organizations.¹⁵ The Youth Program focuses on offering eligible participants access to 10 basic elements:

- Tutoring and study skills
- Alternate secondary school services
- Summer employment
- Paid and unpaid experience
- Occupational skills training
- Support services
- Guidance counseling
- Leadership development
- Adult mentoring
- Twelve-month post-program follow-up

¹⁵ County of Los Angeles, Community and Senior Services, <http://css.lacounty.gov/Wia/Youth.html#pagetop>, 2008.

In addition, youth employment has become a major focus of programs for young adults. Pre-employment training and employment services for youth are offered through the County, City, and through nonprofits. There are an increasing number of programs offered to young adults with an emphasis on creating future job opportunities. These programs include Hart District Regional Occupational Program, Santa Clarita Valley School and Business Alliance, and Santa Clarita Scholarship Foundation. The ACTION (which runs parent and teen support groups to resolve conflicts), and the Santa Clarita Valley Youth Project all provide job-training programs as well.¹⁶

The Santa Clarita Valley Youth Project is a nonprofit organization that works with high-risk and runaway youth. The organization aims to decrease the involvement of youth in high-risk activities, and to provide them access to reliable, objective information. Through a combination of on-site services, a comprehensive website and community outreach, the Santa Clarita Youth Project provides workshops and resources on topics including alcohol and substance abuse, sex and love, depression, suicide, parenting skills, and health and wellness.

Over the last decade, the OVOV Planning Area has developed into a major hub for youth sports and activities. In 2006, more than 569,571 participants ranging from ages five and under to adult played on City sponsored recreation classes or events. The highest participation level is in programs for youth (grades K–5) and teens (grades 6–12), especially in youth sports and aquatics. There is also a high level of participation in child development programs for children under five years old.¹⁷ In summary, the City of Santa Clarita provides the majority of recreational opportunities for the OVOV Planning Area.

Though facilitated by the City's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, programs are available to all residents of the County's Planning Area. Program types include basketball, flag football, tee ball, softball, volleyball, and aquatics. Children between the ages of four and eight years old enter instructional clinic-style leagues that introduce the fundamentals of the sport and place emphasis on skill development.

¹⁶ City of Santa Clarita, "City of Santa Clarita Anti-Gang Task Force," <http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/parks/gang.asp>, 2008.

¹⁷ City of Santa Clarita, *Santa Clarita Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*, Section 4: Recreation Programs, 2008.

Regulatory Context

Federal Regulations

Workforce Investment Act¹⁸

This federal regulation establishes a local youth council, youth programs and youth services. The youth council provides expertise in youth policy and assists the Local Board in the development of youth employment and training.

State Regulations

Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act

California Welfare and Institutions Code,¹⁹ the Older Californians Act establishes, for the California Department of Aging, volunteer opportunities, programs, funds, and partnerships with health service providers for the elderly.

California Health and Safety Code

Section 115725 requires that a safety inspection program be conducted on all playgrounds by a National Playground Safety Institute Certified Playground Safety Inspector. Section 115730 of the Code also requires that agencies upgrade playgrounds by replacement or improvement to meet current regulations. County staff reviews equipment for safety as part of normal maintenance operations.

The California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights

The Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights,²⁰ offered by the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, lists fundamental experiences every child would benefit from experiencing before entering high school. The recommendations address recent concerns about youth detachment from outdoor activities, lack of physical exercise, and increased health risks. The State of California and the County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation and the City of Santa Clarita are among the agencies and organizations that have endorsed or adopted the document where every child should have the opportunity to:

- Discover California’s Past

18 Code of Federal Regulations. Title 20 Section 664. “Youth Activities.”

19 California Code of Regulations. Section 9000 et. seq. “Older Californians Act.”

20 California State Parks. “Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights.” http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24952. 2008

- Splash in the water
- Play in a safe place
- Camp under the stars
- Explore nature
- Learn to swim
- Play on a team
- Follow a trail
- Catch a fish
- Celebrate their heritage

In the County's Planning Area or in close proximity, there are many opportunities to experience the activities on the list and the County continues to explore new options for furthering its commitment. In particular, the Pico No. 4 Oil Well site, Bower's Cave, and the Walker Canyon could become more effective historic resources and interpretive opportunities in the future.

Local Regulations

County of Los Angeles WIA Local Plan

In accordance with state and federal requirements under the WIA of 1998, the Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board (LACWIB) submitted its initial Five-Year Strategic Local Plan to the state in 2000. Information contained within the LACWIB's 2008–2009 WIA Local Plan Modification reflects key areas of planning and operations for which changes have occurred since the initial modification was approved in 2005. The Plan includes a number of changes derived from requirements in Senate Bill 293, which include strategies to deliver services to businesses and job seekers in accordance with LACWIB priorities. The Plan includes descriptions of projects aimed at identifying and targeting growth industry clusters within the County's local workforce investment area, a business outreach and job development initiative, and information regarding recent and planned procurement processes to select service providers for the WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth and Rapid Response programs.²¹

²¹ County of Los Angeles, *Workforce Investment Act Local Plan Modification*, 2008.

Thresholds of Significance

In order to assist in determining whether a project will have a significant effect on the environment, the *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines*, Appendix G identify criteria for conditions that may be deemed to constitute a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in physical conditions.

- There will be a significant impact to the current senior assisted living housing and the need for medical services,
- There will also be a significant impact to the availability of future childcare programs and programs for the youth.

Impact Analysis

This impact analysis section evaluates the potential effects of the proposed Area Plan policies on senior and youth services within the County's Planning Area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

Impact 3.14-1 There will be a potentially significant impact to the current senior assisted living housing and the need for medical services.

There are currently 150 units of affordable senior housing within the County's Planning Area and a total of 957 units of affordable senior housing within the OVOV Planning Area. In 2008 the number of senior residents totaled 7,800, or 10.4 percent of the population in the County's Planning Area. The existing ratio of senior housing units to the current population of seniors is 1 for every 52 seniors for the County's Planning Area and 1 for every 9 seniors for the OVOV Planning Area. The County does not currently have a housing ratio, so the actual threshold or goal for the amount of affordable housing cannot be determined. With an expected increase in the senior population in the County's Planning Area as the existing population ages, an increase in the amount of affordable senior housing will be necessary. The potential for an increase in medical needs for senior citizens is also addressed in **Section 3.15, Public Services**, of this environmental impact report (EIR). The proposed Area Plan policies would require senior housing to meet the needs of the County's Planning Area. The Land Use Map designates the appropriate zones to allow for a mix of housing opportunities for all segments of the population (**Policy LU 3.1.1**). The growth of the County's Planning Area would also increase the potential need for extra development of housing suitable to residents with special needs (**Policy LU 3.1.6**). The buildout of the County's Planning Area would be coordinated with local agencies to provide adequate housing and

facilities for the potential growth in the senior population (**Policy LU 8.1.10**). Please refer to the **Population and Housing** section of this EIR for a review of housing programs.

Proposed Area Plan Policies

- Policy LU 3.1.1:** On the Land Use Map, designate adequate land for residential use at various densities to provide a mix of housing opportunities for all segments of the population, including attached, detached, senior, and mixed use housing types, which are consistent with community character and meet the region's housing goals.
- Policy LU 3.1.6:** Promote development of housing suitable to residents with special needs, including but not limited to senior citizens and persons with disabilities.
- Policy LU 8.1.10:** Coordinate with agencies that provide services to seniors and the elderly to expand senior facilities, which may include a new senior center.

Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies

The implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies would provide the County the opportunity to adequately designate areas for senior housing and facilities. The location of the senior housing and facilities should also consider accessibility of public transit. Implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies would reduce the potential adverse impacts on senior housing and/or activities to less than significant.

Plan to Plan Analysis

Both the existing and proposed Area Plans contain policies intended to minimize impacts to seniors and medical facilities. Impacts would be similar under both Plans.

Impact 3.14-2 There will be a potentially significant impact to the availability of future childcare programs and programs for the youth.

As the population increases with the buildout of the County's Area Plan, demands on childcare programs and programs for youth will increase. Presently, the most requests for childcare referrals in the County's Planning Area are for infants; infants are the most underserved population in the Valley. The proposed Area Plan includes equitable and convenient access to social, cultural, educational, civic, medical, and recreational facilities and opportunities for all residents. As the population of the County's Planning Area

increases, the County will need to work with its service providers to plan for adequate community facilities and services to meet the needs of present and future residents, including those programs and services for childcare (**Policy 8.1.10**).

To be able to meet the increasing demand for youth programs and youth sports, the County will need to increase the parks and/or facilities available for the growing youth population. The services in highest demand and the most impacted are youth programs and teen programs. These increases will place an even greater priority on the convenient and accessible need for recreation close to home. The accessibility of these programs becomes linked with the amount of space available to be able to implement them. The current existing amount of parkland, within the County's Planning Area, is currently already overused. As noted in **Section 3.16, Parks and Recreation** of this EIR, the Quimby Act:

The dedication of land, or the payment of fees, or both, shall not exceed the proportionate amount necessary to provide three acres of park area per 1,000 persons residing within a subdivision, unless the amount of existing neighborhood and community park area, exceeds that limit, in which case the legislative body may adopt the calculated amount as a higher standard not to exceed five acres per 1,000 persons residing within a subdivision.

This means a county or city must have 3 acres of park space per 1,000 residents.²² In 2008, there were about 22,058 residents, age group 18 and younger, throughout the County's Planning Area. With the current demand of available park space already in a deficit, there would need to be greater utilization of resources to meet the future demands for youth programs and youth sports (**Policy LU 8.1.3**). Other programs, like youth job and skills training, will also be essential to equip youth with the skills necessary to command jobs and to provide for more youth services.

Proposed Area Plan Policies

Policy LU 8.1.3: Implement a master plan for parks, with special focus on provision of additional playfields for youth sports in locations accessible to underserved neighborhoods.

Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies

The implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies would provide the opportunity for youths to be able to participate in activities outside of school.

²² California Government Code, Section 66477.

Plan to Plan Analysis

Impacts on youth and senior services under the current Area Plan would be greater due to the higher demand of services from the larger buildout population projection than under the proposed Area Plan.

Mitigation Framework

No mitigation measures are required.

Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework

Implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies would reduce the potential adverse impacts on seniors and youth programs, facilities, and services to less than significant.

CULTURAL AMENITIES

Summary

This cultural amenities subsection describes the various social, cultural, and arts resources available within the County's Planning Area. Cultural amenities in the OVOV Planning Area include theatres, auditoriums, and recreational facilities. Cultural organizations range from arts organizations, to faith-based organizations. Cultural programs include arts programs run by the County's Arts Commission as well as those sponsored by private organizations.

Existing Conditions

The OVOV Planning Area offers a variety of social and cultural facilities and opportunities for all sectors of the population. There are also numerous community-based organizations and clubs providing cultural opportunities in addition to those offered through educational affiliations such as the public and private schools in the County's Planning Area. Public libraries, movie theaters, recreational facilities (as described in **Section 3.16, Parks and Recreation**), and places of religious worship offer additional cultural and arts-related opportunities.

Santa Clarita Valley's nonprofit arts community includes a broad array of organizations and artists, and a substantial number of arts programs and activities. There is a diverse range of artistic disciplines and a strong focus on programs for children and youth. In recent years, the City of Santa Clarita has become the largest provider of arts programs in the OVOV Planning Area, as measured in terms of program

diversity, budget, audience, and staff. As a whole, the community's institutional development and infrastructure support for arts programming is at an early stage of advancement.

Performing and Visual Arts Facilities

The primary cultural arts facilities are located at California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), Valencia High School, College of the Canyons, Canyon Theatre Guild, Repertory East Playhouse in Newhall, and at temporary stages located in the County's parks. Most of these facilities are located within the City of Santa Clarita. The facilities at CalArts are almost entirely utilized by campus activities at several area high schools. Canyon Theatre Guild uses its own small theatre space virtually year round, and the County's Planning Area temporary stages are erected only for its own programs. There is also a lack of exhibition space for visual artists.

The William S. Hart High School Auditorium, located in Newhall, served as the community's primary performing arts venue until earthquake damage forced its closing in 1994. However, the Hart Performing Arts Theatre was since reconstructed and has been fully operational since 1998.

In addition to the regular collection, the OVOV Planning Area libraries preserve local and regional history. There are three County libraries located within the City's Planning Area (Canyon Country, Newhall, and Valenica), one County library located within the County's Planning Area (Castaic), and a bookmobile that serves the OVOV Planning Area. The collection covers all periods of time and includes photographs, rare books, newspapers, artifacts, and other items that are available for public review. See **Section 3.15, Public Services**, for more information on the libraries in the OVOV Planning Area.

Community-Based Organizations and Programs

The following organizations are available to artists and/or arts organizations located within the County's Planning Area that may be looking for additional technical resources:²³

- The Actors' Fund of America
- Alliance for California Traditional Arts
- Artists Meeting Place and Resource Collective
- Arts for LA

²³ The technical resources are meant to indicate resources outside of the OVOV Planning Area that are available to artists or groups located within the County Planning Area.

- California Association of Museums
- California Arts Advocates
- California Lawyers for the Arts
- Latino Arts Network
- Western Arts Alliance (WAA)

Social Organizations

The County's Planning Area is home to organizations that range in interests, including political, professional, senior, veteran, women's, and men's groups; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual (LGBT); hobbies and sports; and youth, parents, health, and social organizations.²⁴

Faith-Based Organizations

- Within the County's Planning Area there are many places of worship for a wide range of beliefs.

Services these groups provide include counseling, homeless shelters, food kitchens, social gatherings, teen programs, senior programs, youth programs, and faith-based activities. While many of the organizations are located throughout the Valley, the majority is concentrated in urban areas.

Most religious facilities occupy their own permanent structures. However, the rapidly increasing cost of land has forced some congregations to explore other locations in which to hold their services. This trend, observed in many places characterized by rapid growth, has resulted in services being held in places such as storefronts and auditoriums within the County's Planning Area.

Local Programs

Arts for All

Every public school student in Los Angeles County will receive a high-quality K-12 education of which the arts are an intrinsic part of the core curriculum. Each County school district will acknowledge that exposure to and participation in the multiple arts disciplines:

- strengthens a child's academic growth and development as an individual;

²⁴ City of Santa Clarita, "City of Santa Clarita Resource Guide," <http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/Parks/resource.asp>, 2009.

- prepares the child to feel a part of and make a positive contribution to the community; and
- ensures a creative and competitive workforce to meet the economic opportunities of the present and future.

Thus, sequential instruction in the multiple arts disciplines will be scheduled into the school day and included in the budget of every County school district.²⁵

Arts for All had its origins in a meeting of Arts for LA, a consortium of leaders of Los Angeles County arts institutions, large and small, that took place in the late 1990s. The objective of the gathering was to identify issues that could be addressed only by the arts community as a whole, rather than by just one or a few organizations, no matter how influential. Arts education was one of the issues identified. The ad hoc Los Angeles Arts Education Task Force convened by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission met for the first time in 1999 and commissioned a study on the state of arts education in County K–12 public schools. *Arts in Focus: Los Angeles Countywide Arts Education Survey*, released in May 2001, was the first comprehensive look at arts education in the nation’s most populous county.

In response to *Arts in Focus*, and seeded by a California Arts Council grant, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission hired arts education staff and formed a Los Angeles County Arts Education Advisory Group to develop the Blueprint’s goals and strategies through an 18-month planning process.

To help guide the development of and garner broad support for the Blueprint, eight community forums were held early in 2002 with 150 policy makers, implementers, and recipients of arts education. The Blueprint proposes that systemic change can occur only through the cooperative participation of all stakeholders and by working to develop supportive policy and action at each level of involvement.

Acquisition and Expansion of Facilities

Because cultural facilities are not usually lucrative ventures, they often require ongoing public and private subsidy. Consequently, in an effort to economize, the shared use of cultural facilities is common throughout the Valley.

Cultural Promotion

The Los Angeles Arts Commission fosters excellence, diversity, vitality, understanding and accessibility of the arts in Los Angeles County. The Commission provides leadership in cultural services for the

²⁵ Los Angeles County, 6th Year Review *Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education*. 2008.

County, including information and resources for the community, artists, educators, arts organizations and municipalities.

There are over 2,800 arts organizations and 150,000 working artists in the County of Los Angeles, creating the largest concentration of arts activity in the United States.

Future Needs

A market study to determine the viability of new cultural attractions within the County's Planning Area concluded that the Planning Area has enormous potential for arts attendance, as it can draw upon both the OVOV Planning Area and the northern San Fernando Valley. As the schools have reported a need for improved cultural performing and instructional facilities, many have current plans for development, including the Hart School District, College of the Canyons, The Masters College, and Newhall Elementary School/Theatre Arts for Children. The Civic Art Policy provides the County with a source of funds for the design and construction of capital projects for civic art.

Regulatory Context

There are currently no applicable federal or state regulations that pertain to cultural amenities within the County Planning Area.

Local Regulations

Civic Art Policy

Civic art contributes significantly to the economic vitality of a region by improving the quality of the environment and fostering a positive community identity. Historically, artists have helped shape the great civic projects of other eras, from the federal monuments of our capital to the community treasures of the Works Projects Administration. The creation of the Los Angeles County Civic Art Program will integrate the skills of artists into capital improvement and major development projects, enhancing Los Angeles County for those who live here now and contributing to the creation of a legacy for generations to come. Beginning with the 2005–06 fiscal year, 1 percent of design and construction costs on new County capital projects has been allocated to a Civic Art Special Fund.

Thresholds of Significance

In order to assist in determining whether a project will have a significant effect on the environment, the *State CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G identifies criteria for conditions that may be deemed to constitute a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in physical conditions.

- A significant impact will occur if the build out of the County Planning Area has an increase in the demand on cultural amenities.

Impact Analysis

This impact analysis section evaluates the potential effects of the proposed Area Plan policies on cultural amenities within the County's Planning Area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

Impact 3.14-3 **Build out of the County's Planning Area will have the potential to have a significant impact on the access for locations of the many different cultural amenities.**

While exact future needs are difficult to predict, given the existing conditions, anticipated growth, and competing land use interests between schools and other public facilities, there is an opportunity to share resources within the County's Planning Area. Examples include mixed-use facilities such as cafeteria-auditorium multi-purpose rooms; library facilities; joint-use of technological resources between schools and the community; and shared recreational facilities between parks and schools. As the build out of the County's Planning Area increases, the demand on different cultural amenities will increase. This increase would require more meeting space to accommodate the increase in population. The update of the Civic Arts Program would help to coordinate the different amenities throughout the County Planning Area (Policy LU 8.1.6).

Proposed Area Plan Policies

Policy LU 8.1.6: Coordinate with the Arts Alliance and other similar entities to promote access to cultural events and facilities for all residents.

Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies

The implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies would enhance the access and potentially allow for the joint use of facilities.

Plan to Plan Analysis

Both the existing Plan and the proposed Plan provide policies directed to preserving cultural amenities. However, as the population increases the need for meeting space will increase and the existing Plan does not have policies to address this increase. Therefore the existing Plan would have greater impacts when compared to the proposed plan with respect to cultural amenities.

Mitigation Framework

No mitigation measures required.

Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework

The implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies would reduce potential impacts on cultural amenities to less than significant.

HOMELESS AND EMERGENCY SHELTER SERVICES

Summary

This section describes the homeless and emergency shelter services and programs provided within the OVOV Planning Area. It includes data from two recent reports on homelessness in the Santa Clarita Valley. The discussion in the section pertains to homelessness in the County's Planning Area based on data obtained from the County and the City of Santa Clarita. The OVOV Planning Area offers a temporary homeless shelter during the winter months from December 1 to March 15 of each year.²⁶

Existing Conditions

Homelessness

Homelessness occurs for a variety of reasons. Homelessness is the condition and social category of people who lack housing, because they cannot afford, or are otherwise unable to maintain, regular, safe, and adequate shelter. A wide variety of factors contribute to homelessness, but they can be thought of as falling into one of two categories: structural problems and individual factors that increase vulnerability. Structural problems include a lack of affordable housing, changes in the industrial economy leading to unemployment, inadequate income supports, and the erosion of family and social support. Added to this

²⁶ Santa Clarita Valley Emergency Winter Shelter, <http://www.santaclaritashelter.com/Pages/Services.html>, 2008.

are factors that increase an individual's vulnerability, such as physical or mental illness, disability, substance abuse, domestic violence, or job loss.

Definitions of “Homeless” and “At-Risk to Homelessness”

Several definitions of homelessness are available. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), defines “homeless persons” as those persons whose nighttime residence is either a temporary shelter or a public or private space not designated for shelter.

There was a report on homelessness commissioned during 2002, which was a collaborative effort of the County of Los Angeles and the City of Santa Clarita. The report offered a different definition of homelessness. According to the report, “Report on Homelessness in the Santa Clarita Valley,” which was prepared by the Los Angeles County’s Santa Clarita Valley Service Center, the “homeless” are those who are currently without permanent housing, and those deemed “at-risk” are those who are unlikely to be able to afford a place to live in the immediate future.

The Santa Clarita Community Development Corporation (SCCDC) operates a cold weather shelter in Santa Clarita during the winter months. Data provided by SCCDC shows that during the winter of 2006-2007, shelter was provided to a total of 196 homeless persons including members of 22 homeless families. **Table 3.14-1, Number of Homeless Clients in 2006–2007 Winter Shelter**, provides data on the client type, and age of the people who used the winter shelter and its daytime case management program. There were 97 single adult males and 28 single adult females during the shelter season. Table 3.14-1 also shows that 22 families, with 40 children under age 18, used the shelter. **Table 3.14-2, Age of Homeless Clients in 2006–2007 Winter Shelter**, shows that 20 youth ages 18 to 23 used the shelter. 38.3 percent of the adults were age 24 to 44 and another 20.9 percent were age 45 to 54. As seen in **Table 3.14-3, Race/Ethnicity of Homeless Clients in 2006–2007 Winter Shelter**, nearly 60 percent (59.5 percent) of clients were White, 19 percent were Latino, and 16 percent were African American. There were six clients who identified themselves as either American Indian or Alaska Native.

In the 2007-2008 winter shelter period, the Santa Clarita emergency winter shelter (EWS) housed 239 persons between December 6, 2007, and March 15, 2008, including 26 families with 60 children. This was a 20 percent increase in persons housed over the 2006–2007 winter shelter period and probably reflects the deepening mortgage crisis, with its attendant evictions and increases in unemployment and in the cost of rent. The outcome of shelter case management in 2007-2008 was that 27 persons found jobs and 25 persons/or families found permanent housing.

**Table 3.14-1
Number of Homeless Clients in 2006–2007 Winter Shelter**

Client Type	Shelter Number	Day Case Management
Single Adult Males	97	43
Single Adult Females	28	221
Families	22	21
Adult Family members	34	33
Child Family members	40	39 (not included in total)
Unduplicated Total	196	85

Source: City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan Housing Element, 2009.

**Table 3.14-2
Age of Homeless Clients in 2006–2007 Winter Shelter**

Age	Number	Percent
Children 17 and under	40	20.4
Youth 18 to 23	20	10.2
24–44	75	38.3
45–54	41	20.9
55–69	14	7.1
70+	1	2.6
Data not available	5	2.6
Total	196	100

Source: City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan Housing Element, 2009.

**Table 3.14-3
Race/Ethnicity of Homeless Clients in 2006–2007 Winter Shelter**

Race/ Ethnicity	Number	Percent (%)
American Indian or Alaska Native	6	3.7
Asian	1	0.6
Black or African American	26	16.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2	1.2
Latino or Hispanic	31	19.0
White	97	59.5
Total (children not included)	163	100.0

Source: City of Santa Clarita, Draft General Plan Housing Element, 2009.

There is no emergency shelter in the OVOV Planning Area that is open 12 months a year. During the winter months (December through March 15), the SCCDC operates a cold weather shelter funded by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) on a site approved only for temporary use. In an agreement with the City of Santa Clarita, the site must be rotated every three years to a different location. The County's Zoning Ordinance allows homeless shelters in certain zones with a Director's Review or Conditional Use Permit. The City of Santa Clarita is proposing to amend the uniform development code (UDC) to allow transitional housing in City in zones with the same requirements as multifamily residential projects. Currently, there is no transitional housing for either individuals or families in the OVOV Planning Area.

Resources and Solutions

The SCCDC EWS operates from about December 1 to March 15 each year. The EWS provides overnight shelter, food, clothing, medical and mental health services as well as other assistance and referrals. The shelter is not open during the day. Daytime case management for shelter residents and for homeless families is provided through a contract with another service provider at Bethlehem Church. Families who comply with case management objectives can receive motel vouchers for up to one month.

In 2008, Lutheran Social Services, which has an office in Canyon Country, will also provide motel vouchers for homeless families in Santa Clarita. This effort will supplement services provided at the EWS, which is open only between December and March and is not open during the day. The voucher provides up to 90 days of shelter. Lutheran Social Services will provide vouchers for up to 90 days of shelter for to

up to five families per month; if each family uses the vouchers for the maximum of 90 days, the vouchers will assist 20 families per year.

Eviction Prevention Services

Lutheran Social Services operates an eviction prevention program, providing one-time payments to assist with housing costs in order to help families with short-term cash flow problems stay in their homes. Moving costs can also be provided under this program for households who need to move to a lower-cost apartment.

DPSS Homeless Assistance Program

The County's Department of Public Social Services continues to provide one-time homeless assistance to families eligible for CalWorks. Covered expenses include up to 16 days in a motel and move-in costs for permanent rental housing. Funds are also available to prevent eviction by paying two months of overdue rent or mortgage payments.

While there is no current figure available for the number of homeless persons in the County's Planning Area, according to the 2000 Census there are 1,341 people living in non-institutionalized, group housing quarters in the OVOV Planning Area.²⁷ The transitory nature of homeless persons inhibits the ability to accurately assess the number of homeless persons in the County's Planning Area. Census data is unable to provide this data, and as indicated by the two reports on homelessness in the OVOV Planning Area, surveys of this population are inaccurate as well.

Service Providers and Programs

The Santa Clarita Valley Service Center, managed by the Los Angeles County Department of Community and Senior Services, is one of the Santa Clarita Valley's major providers of services for the homeless. The Center receives a portion of its funding from Community Development Block Grant funds made available by the County and City as part of its homelessness intervention and prevention efforts. The Center intends to publish and make available a directory of organizations and facilities that serve the Valley's homeless populations, such as human services agencies, churches, and other non-profit organizations. Service providers believe that the needs of the homeless can best be met by providing emergency shelters and transitional housing close to where services are located.

²⁷ This category is not exclusive to people living in temporary or emergency shelters.

A variety of programs and facilities are available to homeless persons within the OVOV Planning Area.²⁸ Services located within the Valley include:

- Single Mother's Outreach
- Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Conference of Santa Clarita
- The Bible Tabernacle
- National Conference on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
- Santa Clarita Child and Family Center
- Santa Clarita Community Development Corporation
- Santa Clarita Food Pantry
- Santa Clarita Mental Health Center
- Santa Clarita Valley Service Center

The Santa Clarita Child and Family Center provides mental health counseling for children and adults, and the Santa Clarita Valley Mental Health Center provides extensive services in crisis intervention, case management, and rehabilitation. The Santa Clarita Community Development Corporation provides family aid programs. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence provides outpatient alcohol and drug counseling referrals. Single Mother's Outreach provides housing, food, clothing, and job referrals for this at-risk population.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul helps families to become self-sufficient, through financial, medical, and food support. The Bible Tabernacle has a long-term rehabilitation program. The Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry is a nonprofit, nonsectarian community-based volunteer organization dedicated to the distribution of food to people with demonstrated need, on a short-term basis. In addition, a supplemental nutrition program for Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) is available to provide infant formula, and supplemental food vouchers for nutritionally at-risk infants and pregnant women.

28 Santa Clarita Valley Emergency Winter Shelter Task Force, "Final Report," http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/agendas/council/print_attachment.asp?ID=5412, 2007.

The Santa Clarita Valley Service Center located in Newhall also provides assistance to those who are battered persons, victims of crime, and/or have been subject to adult abuse. However, it does not provide any permanent shelter.²⁹

Emergency Shelters

Persons requiring emergency shelter can be divided into two categories: (1) those who require temporary shelter for reasons primarily involving, but not limited to, damage to their place of residence (through flood, fire, and earthquake) and (2) those who are homeless.

The Santa Clarita Community Development Corporation has recently completed a continuum of care system to meet the needs of Santa Clarita Valley's homeless. As part of that effort, the department completed a transitional housing report to identify the housing needs of the homeless population.

According to the transitional housing report underway by the City's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, there is currently one short-term emergency winter shelter in the OVOV Planning Area. The Santa Clarita Community Development Corporation operates the emergency winter shelter that operates nightly from November to April. There are no known permanent shelters in the unincorporated Planning Area.

The Santa Clarita Community Development Corporation also provides motel vouchers, as does the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army. The Santa Clarita Valley contains facilities for battered persons and disaster relief programs. Most individuals utilizing emergency shelters are residents of the Santa Clarita Valley.³⁰

The Domestic Violence Center and Single Mother's Outreach are both nonprofit organizations that serve women and children victims of domestic violence, and both provide transitional housing for up to two years, as well as extensive rehabilitative services. Single Mother's Outreach also serves pregnant women.

In case of disaster, there are numerous groups available to provide emergency shelter within the Santa Clarita Valley. These groups include the American Red Cross—Santa Clarita Valley District, the City of Santa Clarita, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's

²⁹ City of Santa Clarita, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, 2002

²⁹ Santa Clarita Valley Emergency Winter Shelter, <http://www.santaclaritashelter.com/index.asp>, 2008.

²⁹ City of Santa Clarita, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, 2002

³⁰ Santa Clarita Valley Emergency Winter Shelter, <http://www.santaclaritashelter.com/index.asp>, 2008.

Department. According to the Sheriff's Department, all public buildings in the Valley are available to provide temporary quarters in case of an emergency.

Regulatory Context

Federal Regulations

Title 24-Housing and Urban Development Part 91 Consolidated Submissions For Community Planning And Development

The Consolidated Plan is a document required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to apply for funding under the following programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and some competitive grant programs like the McKinney Supportive Housing Program.³¹

State Regulations

Senate Bill 2

The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (b) Because homelessness affects people of all races, gender, age, and geographic location there is a growing need for every city and county to plan for the location of adequate emergency shelters. Many people experiencing homelessness, primarily youth and single individuals, need shelter but also have a need for residential substance abuse and mental health services.
- (d) In order to ensure access to services in every city and county for homeless individuals and families, it is important that cities and counties plan for these services to address the special needs and circumstances of this threatened population.
- (e) It is the responsibility of cities and counties to plan and identify areas for emergency shelters. Cities and counties should include this as part of their planning process and locate emergency shelters where most appropriate in their community. The state should not dictate where these emergency shelters should be located.
- (f) It is the responsibility of the Legislature to promote strong communities and ensure that housing and residential services are available in all communities.

³¹ 24 CFR 91.205

State Affordable Housing Trust Fund

This regulation allows for funds for affordable rental housing and homeownership attainable for many residents of the state and has been able to create ongoing, effective programs to construct and preserve affordable housing.

Local Regulations

County of Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is a Joint Powers Authority established in 1993 as an independent agency by the County and the City of Los Angeles. LAHSA is the lead agency in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, and coordinates and manages over \$70 million dollars annually in federal, state, county and city funds for programs providing shelter, housing, and services to homeless persons in Los Angeles County and City of Los Angeles.³²

Through LAHSA, funding, program design, outcomes assessment and technical assistance is provided to over 100 non-profit partner agencies who operate within the County assisting persons who are homeless achieve independence and stability in permanent housing. Partner agencies provide a continuum of programs ranging from outreach, access centers, emergency shelters, safe havens, transitional and permanent housing, and prevention along with the necessary supportive services designed to provide the tools and skills required to attain a stable housing environment.

Specialized programs funded through LAHSA address a wide range of issues related to homelessness, including but not limited to: domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse, job training, family strengthening, health, mainstream benefits enrollment, and most importantly, supportive short- and long-term housing. Additionally, LAHSA partners with both the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles to integrate services and housing opportunities to ensure wide distribution of service and housing options throughout the Los Angeles Continuum of Care. The Commission is empowered with making budgetary, funding, planning and program policies and decisions.

LAHSA Legislative Agenda 2008

LAHSA has adopted the following legislative agenda for 2008. These policy priorities are in line with LAHSA's mission to support, create, and sustain solutions to homelessness in Los Angeles County. LAHSA's federal policy priorities include McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Program

³² Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, <http://www.lahsa.org/about.asp>, 2008.

reauthorization and funding, homeless services for supportive housing, affordable housing, and housing and services for successful post-incarceration reentry. State priorities this year include development and maintenance of permanent supportive housing and affordable housing and increased access to existing federal and state funding streams.³³

Thresholds of Significance

In order to assist in determining whether a project will have a significant effect on the environment, the *State CEQA Guidelines*, Appendix G identify criteria for conditions that may be deemed to constitute a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in physical conditions.

- A significant impact will occur if the future population growth from the implementation of the proposed Area Plan will increase demand on the availability of affordable housing and the resources of providing an adequate amount of emergency shelters.

Impact Analysis

This impact analysis section evaluates the potential effects of the proposed Area Plan policies on homelessness and emergency shelter availability within the County's Planning Area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

Impact 3.14-4 Build out of the County's Planning Area has the potential for a significant impact on emergency shelters and the availability of affordable housing.

The Housing Element in the Countywide General Plan and the Population/Housing section in this EIR addresses the need for affordable housing, housing for people with special needs, constraints to providing affordable housing, the agency's progress in meeting its housing goals, quantified objectives for provision of housing, a survey or adequate sites for housing, a resource inventory, and identification of at-risk affordable units and methods of preservation. During the next Housing Element update process in 2014, the programs established in that element will be evaluated to determine the County's level of success in meeting its objectives. Programs identified within the Housing Element help to attain the policies assisting in the development of affordable housing for not only senior housing, but for extremely low, very low, low and moderate income housing.

Each senior receives a comprehensive assessment to determine housing needs. They are then provided with a wide array of housing-related services, which help them maintain independent living in the least

³³ Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, "Legislative Agenda 2008," <http://www.lahsa.org/docs/policyandplanning/lahsa2008legislativeagenda.pdf>, 2008.

restrictive manner possible. Similar programs could be utilized in this way to help the overall homeless population to be able to live in housing (**Policy S 6.3.1**). The current winter shelter has found four new sites that will be used for two years and then rotated to the next site (**Policy LU 8.1.8**).

Emergency shelters are usually located at community centers and schools (**Policy S 7.2.1**). The maintenance of these areas and the accessibility during a disaster are extremely important. These types of areas are only to be used for temporary shelters. In case of a major disaster the state and federal governments would have to provide the necessary long term shelters.

Proposed Area Plan Policies

Policy S 6.3.1: In cooperation with other agencies, ensure adequate shelter for homeless persons to limit their exposure to accidental injury and illness.

Policy S 7.2.1: In cooperation with other agencies, plan for temporary shelters for residents displaced by disasters and emergency incidents.

Policy LU 8.1.8: Work with social service agencies providing assistance to homeless persons to develop and maintain a suitable shelter in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies

The implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies would help to ensure that there are adequate emergency shelters in the case of an emergency. The policies also encourage assistance to homeless persons through social service agencies and suitable shelters. Implementation of the above policies would minimize potentially adverse impacts on homelessness and emergency shelter services.

Plan to Plan Analysis

Both the existing Area Plan and the proposed Plan provide for the availability of affordable housing and emergency shelters. Both plans would be similar with respect to affordable housing and emergency shelters.

Mitigation Framework

No mitigation measures are required.

Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework

The proposed Area Plan policies would reduce any potential significant emergency shelter or homelessness impacts to less than significant.