

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This section discusses community facilities, health and social services, education, fire protection, and police protection within 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 County and City Planning Areas comprise the OVOV Planning Area. Implementation of the proposed Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan will allow development that will potentially impact public services. This environmental impact report (EIR) section examines the effects of Area Plan buildout on public services. Potential impacts on public services were found to be less than significant.

### Community Facilities

#### *Library Services*

To determine the potential impacts on community facilities from the proposed buildout of the County's Planning Area, an analysis of the number of library items, such as books, periodicals, videos, CDs and CD-ROM software, audio recordings, audio books, DVDs, and pamphlets; and library space was conducted. Each service level guideline, from the County of Los Angeles Public Library system, consisted of

- 2.75 items per 1,000 residents, and
- 0.5 square foot per 1,000 residents.

Currently, there are 595,314 available library items and 48,605 square feet of library space for the five libraries located within the OVOV Planning Area. Based on the service level guidelines, there is a surplus of 389,064 library items and a surplus of 11,105 square feet of library space. At buildout there would need to be 652,814 library items and 118,694 square feet of library space. With implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies and mitigation measure **MM 3.15-1** provided in this section, the potential impacts on community facilities would be less than significant.

## Health Services

The County's Planning Area has a diverse range of age groups requiring adequate medical facilities in order to maintain a healthy life. Age groups that typically require more medical attention are newborns and the elderly, age 65 or older. As of 2007, 10.2 percent of the population consists of the age group 65 or older. If trends stay the same then, at buildout, 36,557 people, or 15.4 percent, of the projected 237,387 residents would be age 65 or older. Every population would require adequate health care within the County's Planning Area, not just newborns and the elderly. With the implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies, potentially significant impacts on health and social services would be less than significant.

## Education

The County's Planning Area currently has six school districts:

- Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School
- Newhall Elementary
- Saugus Union Elementary
- Castaic Union
- Sulphur Springs Union Elementary
- William S. Hart Union High School

The school districts, as of 2008, educate 14,299 students from kindergarten to grade 12. The school districts design capacity is 15,702 students. There are no school districts over capacity; however there are five schools over capacity. Implementation of the Area Plan would potentially increase the number of new students within the County's Planning Area. Implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies, and Senate Bill 50 would reduce impacts on school districts to less than significant.

## Fire Protection

Fire protection within the County's Planning Area is supplied by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) with six stations currently located in the County's Planning Area. The LACoFD has several standards to maintain to adequately meet the fire protection needs of the residents of the County's Planning Area. The current standards for response times are:

- 5 minutes or less for response times for urban areas,

- 8 minutes or less for suburban areas, and
- 12 minutes or less for rural areas.

The 2008 median response time for the OVOV Planning Area was 5 minutes 42 seconds. To adequately meet the standards for each area, there would need to be an increase in the number of fire stations. Joint cooperation between the County, the City of Santa Clarita, and state and federal agencies would also contribute to maintaining adequate response times. Implementation of the proposed policies, and mitigation measures **MM 3.15-2** and **MM 3.15-3** would reduce potential impacts on fire protection to less than significant.

### **Police Protection**

Law enforcement in the County's Planning Area is served by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department with the California Highway Patrol maintaining jurisdiction over the state highways. The Sheriff's Department, which operates one station in Valencia and a storefront station in Newhall, has a standard of one officer per 1,000 residents to maintain effective police protection. The current number of sworn officers within the County's Planning Area is 171, which provides one officer per 439 residents. With the projected buildout of the Planning Area, the number of officers required to maintain a standard of one officer per 1,000 residents would need to be 237 for the projected population of 237,387 residents. In order to maintain adequate service the County's Planning Area would need an additional 66 sworn officers. With the implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies and mitigation measure **MM 3.15-4**, potential impacts on law enforcement would be less than significant.

## **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

### **Summary**

This section describes the facilities and programs administered by the County. Community facilities in the County's Planning Area include libraries, community centers, and meeting rooms. Impacts on community facilities were found to be less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measure **MM 3.15-1** and the incorporation of the Area Plan policies.

## Existing Conditions

### *Libraries*

The County of Los Angeles Public Library (Library) operates all public libraries within the OVOV Planning Area. There are four County libraries and mobile library services within the OVOV Planning Area. These libraries include Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library, Castaic Library (located in the County's Planning Area), Newhall Library, Valencia Library, and the Santa Clarita Valley Bookmobile. **Figure 3.15-1, Library Locations in the OVOV Planning Area**, shows the general library locations. The public schools in the County's Planning Area maintain their own library collections. The Master's College and the California Institute of the Arts also provide private library facilities, and College of the Canyons has a library that is open to the public.

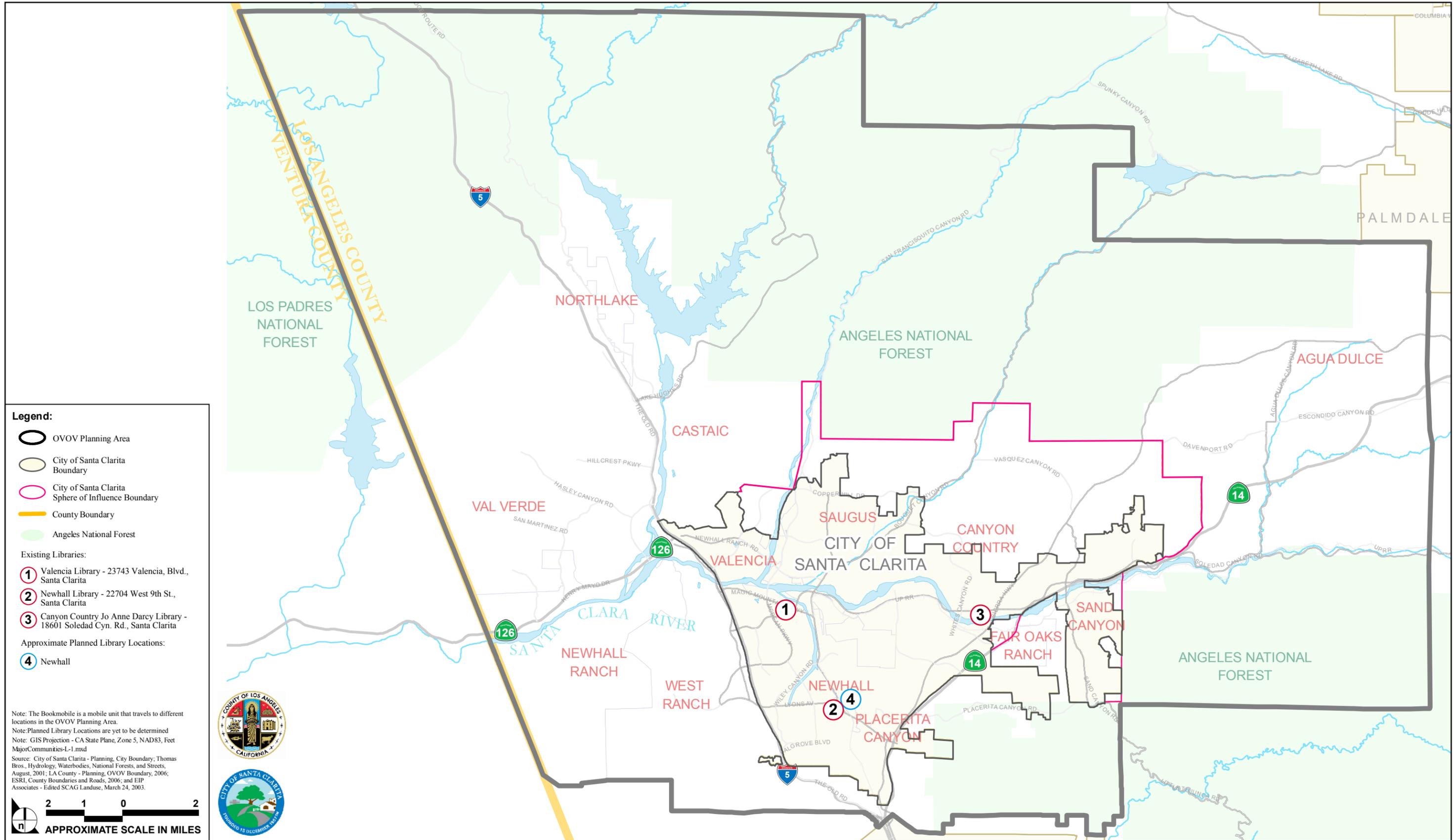
The libraries are open varying hours six to seven days per week; with Valencia Library open Sunday afternoons. Typical library hours range from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM., on weekdays, with reduced hours on the weekends.

### **Collections**

The Library has an automated circulation system that inventories available materials. As of December 2008, the County's Planning Area libraries and bookmobile comprised 560,314 items out of the overall County Library collection (**Table 3.15-1, Existing Library Resources within the OVOV Planning Area**).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> County of Los Angeles Public Library, "Canyon Country, Newhall, and Valencia," <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/newhall/>. 2008.



**Legend:**

- OVOV Planning Area
- City of Santa Clarita Boundary
- City of Santa Clarita Sphere of Influence Boundary
- County Boundary
- Angeles National Forest

- Existing Libraries:
- Valencia Library - 23743 Valencia, Blvd., Santa Clarita
  - Newhall Library - 22704 West 9th St., Santa Clarita
  - Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library - 18601 Soledad Cyn. Rd., Santa Clarita

- Approximate Planned Library Locations:
- Newhall

Note: The Bookmobile is a mobile unit that travels to different locations in the OVOV Planning Area.  
 Note: Planned Library Locations are yet to be determined  
 Note: GIS Projection - CA State Plane, Zone 5, NAD83, Feet  
 MajorCommunities-L-1.mxd  
 Source: City of Santa Clarita - Planning, City Boundary; Thomas Bros., Hydrology, Waterbodies, National Forests, and Streets, August, 2001; LA County - Planning, OVOV Boundary, 2006; ESRI, County Boundaries and Roads, 2006; and EIP Associates - Edited SCAG Landuse, March 24, 2003.



SOURCE: City of Santa Clarita, County of Los Angeles, Valleywide General Plan - March 2009

FIGURE 3.15-1

Library Locations in the OVOV Planning Area

**Table 3.15-1  
Existing Library Resources within the OVOV Planning Area**

Library	Facility Size (sf)	Resources Available (books, audio and video recordings, periodicals, etc.)
Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy <sup>1</sup>	12,864	117,891
Newhall <sup>2</sup>	4,842	91,280
Valencia <sup>3</sup>	23,966	340,203
Castaic Library <sup>4</sup>	6,800	35,000
Santa Clarita Valley Bookmobile <sup>5</sup>	133	10,940
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,605</b>	<b>595,314</b>

Source:

<sup>1</sup> County of Los Angeles Public Library, <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/canyoncountry/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/newhall/>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/valencia/>

<sup>4</sup> Personal communication between Andrea Kish, Assistant Region Administrator and Chris Hampson, Impact Sciences, Inc., on March 10, 2009. The bookmobile is 133 square feet and is 27.5 feet long.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/santaclarita/>

The Library has a countywide collection in excess of 8,558,172 items, which includes books, periodicals, videos, CDs and CD-ROM software, audio recordings, audio books, DVDs, and pamphlets.<sup>2</sup> County libraries also participate in an interlibrary loan program with other local and national libraries in order to make available an even larger selection of materials. The 2008 population within the County's Planning Area was 75,000.<sup>3</sup> The Library's current planning guidelines specify 2.75 library material items per capita and 0.5 square foot per capita. The current demand for the County's Planning Area is 206,250 library material items, and facility space totaling 37,500 square feet. The current library material items consist of 595,314 items and are housed in buildings totaling 48,472 square feet of facility space.<sup>4</sup> The current amount of square feet of facility space, as per the Library standard, is in a surplus of 4,172 square feet. Therefore, the existing libraries in the Santa Clarita Valley meet the County's service level guideline for library items and meet the guideline for available library space per capita.

<sup>2</sup> County of Los Angeles County Library, "Statistics," <http://www.colapublib.org/aboutus/info.html>, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Statistical Summary," [http://www.scvsheriff.com/news\\_incident\\_summary.asp](http://www.scvsheriff.com/news_incident_summary.asp). Accessed 2008.

<sup>4</sup> See **Table 3.15-1** for information on source information.

## Planned Construction

Library facilities are planned to be constructed during the years 2007 through 2016 in order to meet the needs of the OVOV Planning Area. The planned total square feet is summarized in **Table 3.15-2, Planned Construction for the County's Planning Area.**

**Table 3.15-2  
Planned Construction for the County's Planning Area**

Year	Library Location	Square Feet
2012–2016	Newhall Ranch	34,000
2012–2016	Stevenson Ranch	26,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60,000</b>

*Source: California Public Library Building Needs by Library Jurisdiction. <http://www.library.ca.gov/lds/docs/PubLibBuildingNeedsByJurisdiction04162007.pdf>. 2008.*

## Special Services

In addition to the regular collection, the libraries maintain local and regional history collections. The collections are housed in the three cluster libraries which are Canyon Country, Newhall, and Valencia libraries.<sup>5</sup> The collections include photographs, rare books, newspapers, and artifacts that are available for public review. The libraries offer a number of services to assist their users. Computer services include an on-line catalogue and Internet access.

## Funding

All County libraries are funded by a number of sources, listed here in descending proportions:

- property taxes,
- County General Fund Allocation (which the Board of Supervisors approves annually),
- a voter-approved special tax for the unincorporated areas and 11 cities (including the City of Santa Clarita) served by the Library,
- revenue from fines and fees, and
- developer fees for new residential development in the County's Planning Area.

<sup>5</sup> See **Table 3.15-1** for information on source information.

Because the Library is a special district almost wholly dependent on the property tax, revenue has declined since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, resulting in significant cutbacks in library services. Alternative financing methods have been used to augment the property tax, including a Mello-Roos Community Facilities District, developer impact fees or developer agreements, and a voter-approved special tax.

### **Governance**

In 1994, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors formed the County Library Commission, which consists of 20 members. Each Supervisor appoints two commissioners who are residents of their respective supervisorial districts. The remaining 10 are appointed from a pool of elected city council members in the cities served by the Library. The Commission serves as an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors to help guide the Library's financial and programming goals, and provides a forum for public input.<sup>6</sup>

### **Regulatory Context**

Library services are addressed through the efforts of various state, local government agencies, and private agencies. These agencies work jointly, as well as individually, to provide and improve the library services of particular areas through legislation, regulations, planning, policy making, education, and a variety of other programs.

### ***State Regulations***

#### **California Library Services Act**

It is the intent of the State Legislature<sup>7</sup> to provide all residents the opportunity to obtain from their public libraries needed materials and informational services by facilitating access to the resources of all libraries in California. This policy shall be accomplished by assisting public libraries to improve service to the underserved of all ages, and by enabling public libraries to provide their users with the services and resources of all libraries in this state.

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<sup>6</sup> Anne Browning McIntosh, Mayor's Committee on Managed Growth for a Quality Community, 2001

<sup>7</sup> California Code of Regulations. Chapter 4. Section 18700 to 18703. "California Library Services Act."

## California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000

The Legislature finds and declares the following:<sup>8</sup>

- Reading and literacy skills are fundamental to success in our economy and our society;
- The Legislature and Governor have made enormous strides in improving the quality of reading instruction in public schools;
- Public libraries are an important resource to further California’s reading and literacy goals both in conjunction with the public schools and for the adult population; and
- The construction and renovation of public library facilities is necessary to expand access to reading and literacy programs in California’s public education system and to expand access to public library services for all residents of California.

### *Local Regulations*

#### **Library Facilities and Technology Mitigation Fee<sup>9</sup>**

Library impact fees are currently collected for new residential development within the County’s Planning Area. The current library impact fee for the County’s Planning Area is \$790 per residential unit. The mitigation fee is subject to an annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment on July 1 of each year. In addition, State Bond Act money is available to all public libraries through competitive applications for state matching grants in three funding cycles. On June 3, 1997, Proposition L was passed by a two-thirds majority, which assessed an annual special tax for library services. Effective July 1, 2006, the special tax is \$25.72 per parcel.

### **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.

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<sup>8</sup> Education Code Title 1, Division 1, Part 11, Chapter 12, Articles 1-3, Sec. 19985–20011. “General Provisions.”

<sup>9</sup> County of Los Angeles Zoning Code. Section 22.72.030. “Establishment of Library Facilities Mitigation Fee.”

- A significant impact will occur if future population growth from the implementation of the Area Plan will increase demand for library services beyond the existing capacities of libraries serving the County Planning Area.

## Impact Analysis

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

**Impact 3.15-1**      **A potentially significant impact will occur if future population growth from the implementation of the Area Plan will increase demand for library services beyond the existing capacities of libraries serving the County's Planning Area.**

Implementation of the proposed Area Plan would result in the potential for increased demand for library services within the County's Planning Area to the extent that expansion and construction of new facilities would be required. The projected population for complete buildout in the County's Planning Area is 237,387. **Table 3.15-3** summarizes the library resources for the County with existing conditions and conditions at Area Plan buildout.

The expected population at buildout of the Area Plan is 237,387; this population would require 652,814 library items and 118,694 square feet of library space. As stated above (Planned Construction) the amount of planned square footage by 2016 is 60,000. As the County reaches buildout, the Library system would have an additional 57,500 items to meet the guidelines of 2.75 library items per 1,000 residents, and an additional 10,089 square feet to meet the 0.5 square foot per capita criterion.

**Table 3.15-3**  
**Existing and Proposed Library Resources within the OVOV Planning Area**

Population	Guidelines		Existing Resources		Surplus or Deficit (-)	
	Library Items	Square Feet	Library Items	Square Feet	Library Items	Square Feet
2008						
75,000	206,250	37,500	595,314 <sup>1</sup>	48,605 <sup>1</sup>	389,064	11,105
Buildout (2030)						
237,387	652,814	118,694	N/A	108,605 <sup>2</sup>	57,500 <sup>3</sup>	10,089

<sup>1</sup> From Table 3.15-2.

<sup>2</sup> Total of the existing amount of square feet from Table 3.15-2 and planned construction from Table 3.15-3.

<sup>3</sup> This is the amount of library items needed to meet the goal of 550,000 items based on the existing number of library items.

As buildout of the County increases, additional residential units would be built. The development of these units would need to meet the current library mitigation fee to apply towards the goals set in the County's Zoning Code (**Policy LU 8.1.5**). With implementation of the proposed Area Plan policy and the implementation of the following mitigation measure, impacts on library services would be less than significant.

### ***Proposed Area Plan policies***

**Policy LU 8.1.5:** Coordinate with the Los Angeles County Library System to assist in expanding library services as needed to meet the needs of the community.

### ***Effectiveness of the Proposed Area Plan Policies***

The proposed Area Plan policy focuses on the County's ability to provide adequate library facilities and services.

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

Both the existing and proposed Area Plans contain policies intended to minimize impacts to library resources. As the projected population for the existing Area Plan at buildout is more than the projected population for the proposed Area Plan at buildout, impacts on library service would be fewer with the proposed Plan.

### **Mitigation Framework**

The implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts on library services to a less than significant level.

**MM 3.15-1** Project developers shall pay the current library fee at the time of building permit issuance (\$790.00 per residential unit as of August 2008) to the County of Los Angeles to offset the demand for library items and building square footage generated by the proposed project. The library mitigation payment shall be made on a building permit by building permit basis by the developer for residential projects.

### **Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework**

Implementation of the above proposed Area Plan policy with the incorporation of mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts on library services to less than significant.

## HEALTH SERVICES

### Summary

This section describes the existing health care facilities and social services programs in the County's Planning Area. The fastest-growing population segment in the County's Planning Area is ages 50 and older. Impacts on health care facilities and social services programs were found to be less than significant with the incorporation of the proposed Area Plan policies.

### Existing Conditions

#### *Healthcare Facilities*

The Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital (HMNMH) is the primary acute care hospital serving the County's Planning Area. Additionally, the County's Planning Area is served by the Santa Clarita Convalescent Hospital in Newhall.<sup>10</sup> Facey Medical Group is the largest medical care provider with multiple facilities in the Santa Clarita Valley including offices in Castaic, Santa Clarita, Canyon Country, and Valencia.<sup>11</sup>

#### **Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital**

The HMNMH is the only hospital and emergency services facility in the Santa Clarita Valley. The hospital Master Plan is designed to provide additional enhanced inpatient and outpatient treatment capacity. At buildout, the amount of hospital and medical office space on site (not including parking structures) would increase by 327,363 net square feet to 667,434 square feet, nearly double that of its current 340,071 square feet. The Master Plan would be implemented over a 15-year period.

The HMNMH is a 221-bed, full-service, not-for-profit community hospital focused on serving the Santa Clarita Valley since 1975. A 14-member volunteer board of directors governs the hospital, with over 1,000 employees and 360 medical staff members. More than 43 percent of the Santa Clarita Valley's hospitalization needs and 76 percent of emergency medical needs are met by the HMNMH on its medical campus on McBean Parkway between the Westfield Valencia Town Center and Interstate 5. All hospital inpatient services operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week with most admissions occurring Monday through Friday, and the highest number of Emergency Room visits on evenings and weekends. The hospital provides both inpatient and outpatient services in imaging, surgery, cancer care, heart, digestive,

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<sup>10</sup> City of Santa Clarita, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, (2000).

<sup>11</sup> <http://facey.com/events.php>

and rehabilitation care. Inpatient services such as intensive care, definitive observation, maternity/women's, medical/surgical, and behavioral health are provided by licensed nursing staff. The hospital is also a Level II Trauma Center (provides comprehensive trauma care and provides 24-hour availability of all essential specialties, personnel, and equipment), and provides for trauma services within a 680-square-mile area.

The hospital campus is “home” to many hospital-affiliated physician specialists and essential hospital-owned outpatient services such as the Sheila R. Veloz Breast Imaging Center and the Wound Care Center. Other community assets on campus include the College of the Canyons (COC)/Henry Mayo Education Center, a Community Cancer Program accredited by the American College of Surgeons, an active Volunteer Services, and an Education Department that provides continuing medical education to physicians, hospital staff, and other clinical professionals in the community.<sup>12</sup>

### **Santa Clarita Convalescent Hospital**

The Santa Clarita Convalescent Hospital, located in Newhall, is a 99-bed facility specializing in senior care. The hospital provides round-the-clock care and a full-range of activity programs, physical therapy, rehabilitation, restorative nursing, and dietary services.

### **Other Healthcare Facilities**

Facey Medical Group and Foundation operates five facilities within the OVOV Planning Area, with offices in Castaic, Santa Clarita, Valencia, and Canyon Country. In total, Facey employs more than 120 board-certified primary care and specialty physicians, and the group has been experiencing rapid expansion in recent years. In 2002, Facey acquired the assets of the Henry Mayo Newhall Family Medical Group and expanded its Castaic facility. The organization also opened a women’s center in Valencia in March 2003.<sup>13</sup>

Other medical groups close to the County’s Planning Area include First Care Walk-in Medical Group, with offices in Canyon Country and Saugus, Valencia Health Center in Valencia, Complete Care in Newhall, and the Canyon Walk-in Medical Center. Urgent care and industrial medicine services can be found at the following centers:

- Samuel Dixon Family Health Centers in Val Verde and Canyon Country;

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<sup>12</sup> City of Santa Clarita, Draft Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital Master Plan EIR, September 2008.

<sup>13</sup> <http://facey.com/events.php>

- Facey Urgent Care in Valencia; Facey in Canyon Country;
- SCV Quality Care in Valencia;
- The Doctor's Office in Newhall; and
- First Care Occupational Medical Group in Valencia, Industrial Medicine specialists.<sup>14</sup>

Most are open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, seven days a week.

County residents also have access to a branch of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Jonsson Cancer Center, located in Valencia. This facility, which offers the latest in research and care, is open Monday through Friday, and has staff on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. UCLA physicians see cancer patients on an outpatient basis at the Santa Clarita Cancer Center, but patients also have full access to the main UCLA facility. While UCLA patients are often treated at the HMNMH, the two facilities function independently.

County veterans must travel out of the County's Planning Area, to Wadsworth Hospital Center in West Los Angeles for medical services. However, veterans can also be seen at the Sepulveda Ambulatory Hospital at 16111 Plummer Street, North Hills, on an outpatient basis.<sup>15</sup>

### **Trauma Emergency**

The HMNMH is the designated regional trauma care facility for the OVOV Planning Area by the County of Los Angeles. This designation makes the hospital the primary respondent for trauma cases occurring in and around the Santa Clarita Valley. In order to maintain its status as a Level 2 regional trauma facility, the hospital must maintain a strict level of standards in staffing and equipment.

Los Angeles County is responsible for maintaining standards for the trauma system. Each of the 13 trauma centers in Los Angeles County has a contract with the County that covers policies and procedures for facilities, timeline standards, and patient care. The County also determines which facilities receive trauma designation based on ongoing evaluation of the geographic area, population, and need. Individual hospitals are under contractual obligation to maintain County standards that are largely determined by the California State Title 22 Regulations. These state trauma regulations are the minimum standard of care that the County must maintain.<sup>16</sup> While the trauma care needs of the OVOV Planning

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<sup>14</sup> Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital 2002

<sup>15</sup> Veterans Health Administration 2003

<sup>16</sup> California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 7, Article 1, "Definitions." 2008.

Area are currently being met, future service is not assured. The HMNMH is the only trauma center in the OVOV Planning Area at this time.

### **Emergency Medical Services**

The provision of emergency medical services is divided between basic life support emergency medical technicians (EMT) and advanced life support (paramedics) within the OVOV Planning Area, and is overseen by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. All fire fighters are trained in basic life support as EMTs, while paramedic units provide advanced life support.

Although there are no official response time standards, the Fire Department follows specific dispatch protocol that determines response times and the priority of calls. There is approximately one paramedic unit servicing one-third of the fire stations in the OVOV Planning Area. The Fire Department makes a paramedic unit available for every emergency call; however, a basic life support unit usually arrives first and determines whether or not paramedics are needed. Because the Los Angeles County Fire Department does not have its own ambulance units to transport their patients, they also dispatch an ambulance to all emergency calls.<sup>17</sup> Emergency transportation services are provided by American Medical Response, which provides emergency medical response, and by Rescue Service International, based in Lancaster, which provides emergency rescue service to the Valley.<sup>18</sup>

### **Mental Health Services**

Mental health care is provided by a number of family counseling and mental health clinics and professionals, including those specializing in drug and alcohol abuse treatment, and biofeedback therapy and training.

Mental health treatment is available within the County's Planning Area at the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital Psychiatric Unit, Santa Clarita Valley Special Education Local Planning Area Early Start, and the Child and Family Center. In addition, Los Angeles County will relocate the mental health facility located on Peachland Avenue, which burnt down in a fire in 2006, to 23501 Cinema Drive in Santa Clarita.

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<sup>17</sup> Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital 2002

<sup>18</sup> Christy Chacon, Operations Manager, Rescue Service International, 2003

## **Public Services and Programs**

The HMNMH's extensive community outreach programs include a Senior Program, which includes flu shots, colorectal cancer screenings, stroke screenings, diabetes screenings, pharmacy consults, and health education seminars. The Active Adults Outreach Program includes back pain consults, posture screenings and Alzheimer's Caregiver classes. Programs for parents and children include safety classes on snakes, toxic plants, spider bites, and general safety programs. And for teens, the hospital holds driving safety and drunk-driving awareness classes.

The HMNMH is involved in many community partnerships. One such partnership is the on-site nursing clinic held in collaboration with the College of the Canyons. The hospital is also in a partnership with the American Cancer Society that includes oncology clinical education for nurse staff, community outreach, and patient referrals. Henry Mayo has a community and nurse education program for Alzheimer's disease.

Various community groups and organizations outside of the major medical facilities also provide health and social services. The types of services provided for Santa Clarita Valley residents include AIDS/sexually transmitted diseases (STD) programs, counseling/mental health programs, drug/alcohol/tobacco treatments, disabled/special education/rehabilitation programs, pregnancy and parenting classes, and hotlines.

These services are provided by non-profit as well as for-profit groups in and around the County's Planning Area. These groups range in size and scope from local clinics to national organizations.

## **Funding**

Health and social service funding is obtained from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to the federal government; state and County governments; private donors; grants; insurance companies; and patients and their families. Funding is affected by changes in budget at all levels of government. Therefore funding levels can fluctuate from year to year, depending on the economy and or changes within the law. Providers are responsible for maintaining solvency according to their tax structures, and services can change in relation to the amounts of funding available.

Since long-term healthcare funding is not assured, trauma center funding is also at risk. There is no stable source of funding, which is of concern to health care providers. Because of the high costs for hospitals to maintain the expertise and level of care mandated by the state and County, many trauma centers have

closed due to lack of funding over the past 20 years. (The number of trauma centers in Los Angeles County has been reduced from 20 to 13).

State funding for trauma centers is not guaranteed. If a center receives any funding from the state, the number of trauma patients served determines the amount of funding received. While the funding crisis has received more attention in recent years, funding cutbacks continue.

## **Regulatory Context**

Medical Services are addressed through the efforts of various government agencies and private agencies. These agencies work jointly, as well as individually, to provide and improve medical services of particular areas through legislation, regulations, planning, policy making, education, and a variety of other programs.

### ***Federal Regulations***

#### **OSHA - Safety and Health Regulations**

The US Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sets forth rules and regulations regarding construction workers well-being and safety within Part 1926 of the OSHA Regulations.<sup>19</sup> These regulations include the use of safety programs and awareness of safety issues on construction sites.

### ***State Regulations***

#### **Cal OSHA – Title 8, Chapter 4 Division of Industrial Safety, Subchapter 4 Construction Safety Orders**

The California Department of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal OSHA) has set forth rules and regulations regarding construction workers' well-being and safety.<sup>20</sup> These regulations include the use of safety programs and awareness of safety issues on construction sites.

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<sup>19</sup> 29 C.F.R. Sec. 1926.

<sup>20</sup> California Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Title 8, Chapter 4 Division of Industrial Safety, Subchapter 4 Construction Safety Orders.

## *Local Regulations*

### **Los Angeles County Public Health Code**

Part 2 of Chapter 11.02 and Chapters 11.06 through 11.38<sup>21</sup> of this title are intended to supplement the provisions of the laws and regulations of the state of California by prescribing higher standards of sanitation, health, and safety. Whenever any technical words or phrases are not defined herein, but are defined in such laws and regulations of the state, such definitions are incorporated in this part and shall be deemed to apply as though set forth herein in full.

### **Thresholds of Significance**

In order to assist in determining whether a project will have a significant effect on the environment, the 2008 *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 future population growth from the implementation of the Area Plan will increase demand for health and social services beyond the adequate capacities of those serving the County's Planning Area.

### **Impact Analysis**

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

**Impact 3.15-2                    A potentially significant impact will occur if future population growth from the implementation of the Area Plan will increase demand for health and social services beyond the adequate capacities of those serving the County Planning Area.**

Implementation of the County's proposed Area Plan would result in a buildout population of 237,387 residents. The fastest growing segment of the County's population is the age group 50 and older. If current trends persist then the annual growth rate for residents over age 60, from 2008 to buildout, would be 5.2 percent.<sup>22</sup> The 2008 residents, age 65 and over, is 10.2 percent of the County's Planning Area population, or about 7,650 people. As the population for the age residents over 65 increases through build out of the County's Planning Area, then 36,557 people, at 15.4 percent of the population, would be age

<sup>21</sup> Los Angeles Municipal Code. Section 11.02.150. "Purpose of provisions."

<sup>22</sup> Los Angeles County Community and Senior Services, *L.A. County Seniors Count*, 2008.

65 or older. Current technology allows for longer life, which means that the age group of 65 or older will have the potential to live longer. As the population ages, the greatest medical need in the area will be long-term care with hospitals in the area potentially facing the ongoing challenge of securing funding. As of 2008, the HMNMH has received City of Santa Clarita approval to expand its facilities to better meet the needs of the OVOV Planning Area residents. Funding is a major factor in determining if the medical resources of the County's Planning Area are met. Based on the County's existing medical facilities, the increase in residents would require new facility construction or large-scale expansion of existing facilities to accommodate the additional beds required to treat and provide medical services to the growing area (**Policy LU 8.1.7**). The use of the proposed land use designations, such as Public Facility, within the County's Planning Area would also provide areas for the potential development of additional medical facilities and/or health care facilities.

### ***Proposed Area Plan policies***

**Policy LU 8.1.7:** Work with medical service providers to facilitate preservation and enhancement of health services, including the Santa Clarita Valley's trauma center, provided applications are in conformance with applicable Area Plan policies and environmental requirements.

### ***Effectiveness of the proposed Area Plan Policies***

The proposed Area Plan policy focuses on the County's ability to provide adequate medical facilities and services.

### **Plan to Plan**

Since the buildout population of 270,000 under the existing Area Plan would be greater than the buildout population of 237,387 under the proposed Area Plan, the County's health and social services needs at buildout under the existing Plan would be greater. As of 2007, 10.2 percent of the population consisted of the age group 65 or older. If trends stay the same then, at buildout, 41,580 people, or 15.4 percent, of the projected 270,000 residents would be age 65 or older. The proposed Area Plan would total 36,577 people age 65 and over. Every age group of the projected population would require adequate health care within the County's Planning Area, not just newborns and the elderly. Therefore, impacts on health services would be greater under the existing Area Plan than those of the proposed Area Plan

## Mitigation Framework

No mitigation is required.

## Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework

Implementation of the above Area Plan policies would reduce any potentially significant impacts on health and social services to less than significant.

## EDUCATION

### Summary

This section describes existing school systems, facilities, and enrollment for the County's Planning Area and discusses current local and regional policy regarding new school development. The school districts within the County's Planning Area contain five over-capacity schools with the total capacity for the County's Planning Area at 91.1 percent. Impacts on the existing school systems, facilities, and enrollment would be less than significant with the incorporation of the proposed Area Plan policies.

### Existing Conditions

#### *Public Schools Facilities*

Six public school districts serve the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area:

- Action-Agua Dulce Unified School District
- Castaic Union School District
- Newhall Elementary School District
- Saugus Union Elementary School District
- Sulphur Springs Union Elementary School District
- William S. Hart Union High School District

These local public school districts provide 17 schools including 14 elementary schools; two junior high schools and one high school.

### Public School Enrollment

The California Department of Education determined the number of students enrolled within the County's Planning Area. **Table 3.15-4, County's Planning Area Public School Enrollment 2007–2008** lists the enrollment figures for each school along with the permanent design capacity numbers and percent of capacity.

Permanent design capacity refers to the total number of students planned for enrollment that can be accommodated by classroom structures at a particular school site. Percent of capacity indicates the division of real enrollment by the planned enrollment, with 100 percent capacity representing enrollment and capacity that are equivalent.

**Table 3.15-4  
County's Planning Area Public School Enrollment 2007–2008**

District/School	CA Dept. of Education Enrollment Numbers	Current Design Capacity	Percent of Capacity (%)
<b>Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District*</b>			
Agua Dulce Elementary	308	353	87.3
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>87.3</b>
<b>Castaic Union School* District</b>			
Castaic Elementary	765	750	102
Castaic Middle School	1,176	1,434	82.0
Live Oak Elementary	741	750	98.8
Northlake Elementary	715	750	95.3
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,397</b>	<b>3,684</b>	<b>92.2</b>
<b>Newhall Elementary*:<sup>1</sup> School District</b>			
McGrath Elementary	644	720	89.4
Oak Hills Elementary	562	984	57.1
Pico Canyon Elementary	939	912	103
Stevenson Ranch Elementary	991	960	103
Wiley Canyon Elementary	758	864	87.7
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,894</b>	<b>4,440</b>	<b>87.7</b>

District/School	CA Dept. of Education Enrollment Numbers	Current Design Capacity	Percent of Capacity (%)
<b>Saugus Union Elementary School District*<sup>2</sup></b>			
Tesoro del Valle Elementary	571	675	84.6
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>84.6</b>
<b>Sulphur Springs Union*<sup>3</sup> Elementary School District</b>			
Fair Oaks Elementary	891	750	119
Golden Oak Elementary	388	500	77.6
Mint Canyon Elementary	489	750	65.2
Sulphur Springs Elementary	708	750	94.4
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,476</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>90.0</b>
<b>William S. Hart Union*<sup>4</sup> High School District</b>			
Rancho Pico Junior High	997	1,200	83.1
West Ranch High	2,656	2,600	102
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,653</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>96.1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,299</b>	<b>15,702</b>	<b>91.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Information from a telephone communication between Mike Clear, Asst. Superintendent to Business Services, and Chris Hampson, Staff Planner Impact Sciences, Inc. on 8/5/2008.

<sup>2</sup> Information via electronic communication between Harold Pierre, Director of Facilities Services, and Chris Hampson, Staff Planner Impact Sciences, Inc. on 8/25/08.

<sup>3</sup> Information via email from Carol Greenwood, Administrative Secretary, Business Services Sulphur Springs School District, 10/13/2008

<sup>4</sup> Current information per electronic communication between Pat Willett, Community Liaison Officer, and Chris Hampson, Staff Planner of Impact Sciences, Inc., on 8/19/2008.

\* For purposes of this **Table 3.15-4**; the schools listed are those located within the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles.

There are significant distinctions in the way that the County/City and the school districts define growth. These differences are significant because they may result in insufficient school facilities to meet the needs of a growing student population. In their definition of growth, school districts generally do not account for increases in household size that occur independently of projected population numbers that are the result of new development.<sup>23</sup> The County/City defines growth as new and expanding development, whereas the school districts define growth as a change in demographics that leads to higher enrollment.

<sup>23</sup> Anne Browning McIntosh. Mayor's Committee on Managed Growth for a Quality Community. March 2001.

While higher enrollment levels may result from new physical development, they are often the result of an increased birth rate and young families moving into existing housing stock. Thus, school districts would still experience growth even if there were no further physical development.

### Enrollment Capacity

The number of additional students that may be generated by any given development project is determined by the number and type of residential units to be developed. The number of students that would be generated by each new housing unit is referred to as the “student generation rate.” Student generation rates are largely calculated by categorizing the existing number of students within the particular school district by the type of home in which they live (single family, multi-family, and apartment), and then dividing the total number of students in each category by the total number of homes of each type. The school districts use student generation tables based on rates developed for existing development patterns in the County’s Planning Area. The student generation standards are summarized in **Table 3.15-5, Student Generation Rates**. The student generation rates would be used on a project-by-project basis to determine if new schools would be needed.

**Table 3.15-5  
Student Generation Rates**

School District	Single-Family Development	Family Home***	
		Multi-Family Development	Apartment
Newhall Elementary	0.60	N/A	N/A
Saugus Union Elementary	0.4329** 0.1279*	0.0884	N/A
Castaic Union	0.506	0.134	N/A
Sulphur Springs Union Elementary	0.336	0.336	N/A
Acton-Agua Dulce Unified	0.702	N/A	N/A
William S. Hart Union High School (Junior High School)	0.1280** 0.0387*	0.0196	N/A
William S. Hart Union High School (High School)	0.2246** 0.0768*	0.0367	N/A

\* Single-Family attached

\*\* Single-Family detached

\*\*\* Student generation rates are largely calculated by categorizing the existing number of students within the particular school district by the type of home in which they live (single family, multi-family, and apartment), and then dividing the total number of students in each category by the total number of homes of each type.

Source:

William S. Hart UHSD data received via telephone communication between Lorna Baril, Developer Fees, and Chris Hampson, Staff Planner Impact Sciences, Inc. on 8/25/08.

Given the existing overcrowding of public schools in the County's Planning Area, anticipated growth, and competing land use interests between schools and other public facilities, opportunities to share resources are being explored. Examples include mixed-use facilities, such as cafeteria-auditorium multiple purpose rooms; shared library facilities; joint-use of technological resources between schools and/or between schools and the community; and shared recreational facilities between parks and schools. In addition, in an effort to relieve overcrowding, some schools are utilizing year-round academic calendars.

### ***Standards***

No single standard for the size of school sites exists for California educational facilities. The rule-of-thumb approach used for the past several decades recommended a minimum 10 net usable acres for elementary schools, 25 acres for middle schools and 35–40 acres for high schools.<sup>24</sup> Many of the existing schools in the County's Planning Area are below this standard. Further exacerbating the limited site acreage is the addition of portable classrooms to alleviate overcrowding, which results in reduced playground space at many sites.<sup>25</sup>

As land constraints and evolving educational needs have necessitated revisions to these standards, the California Department of Education has published *The Guide to School Site Analysis and Development* in order to establish a valid technique for determining acreage for new school formulas that permit each district to accommodate its individual conditions. The Department of Education recommends that a site utilization study be prepared for a potential site, based on these formulas.

### ***Private and Post-Secondary Education***

The Santa Clarita Valley includes 11 private schools, 2 private colleges, and a public community college. The private schools include:

- Pinecrest Schools (Valencia and Canyon Country locations)
- Northpark Christian Academy
- St. Stephens Preschool
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help

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<sup>24</sup> California Department of Education.

<sup>25</sup> Saugus School District 2002

- Legacy Christian Academy
- Santa Clarita Christian School
- Sierra Montessori Preschool
- Trinity Classical Academy
- Monticello Preparatory School
- Mission View Public School

Adult education facilities include the Golden Oak Adult School and the Learning Post. The three colleges in the Santa Clarita Valley offer two- to four-year degree programs and include:

- California Institute of the Arts (CalArts)
- The Master's College
- College of the Canyons (Community College)

### **College of the Canyons**

The College of the Canyons, located on 158 acres in Valencia, is part of the California Community College System and is fully accredited, offering a variety of two-year degree programs in academic and technical fields. The College is a fast-growing community college. Over the past decade, expansion plans for the school have included classrooms, a library, a computer center, a fine arts building, a 950-seat performing arts theater, an administration building, a small gymnasium, and other recreational facilities. Existing classrooms and laboratories have been remodeled.

### **California Institute of the Arts**

CalArts is the nation's only fully accredited visual and performing arts college. Formed by the Walt Disney Company through a partnership with the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music and the Chouinard Art Institute, the campus is located on a 60-acre site in Valencia. As of fall 2006/2007, CalArts had an enrollment of 1,242 students.

The CalArts campus includes the artistic/academic building; the Eli and Edythe Broad graduate art studios; several annexes that house facilities for art, critical studies, film/video, and theater; a residence hall; and student apartments. The artistic/academic complex, a five-level, multi-winged building of

500,000 square feet, contains classrooms; art studios; electronic music studios; dance spaces; rehearsal rooms; theaters; costume, scenery and machine shops; galleries; photo labs; editing rooms; sound and video stages; a library; a cafeteria; and offices. The Chouinard Residence Hall and Ahmanson Apartments house a total of 450 students. CalArts has a film and entertainment focus and animation training program.

### The Master's College

The Master's College is a private liberal arts college. It is located on over 100 acres in Placerita Canyon. The college consists of 30 buildings and approximately 264,165 square feet of usable building space. The Master's College offers over 50 bachelor of arts (BA) and bachelor of science (BS) degrees for liberal arts majors. Future plans for expansion have been limited with the maximum enrollment set at 1,700 students, including full and part-time students. Enrollment and building data for all three schools is listed in **Table 3.15-6, College Facilities**.

**Table 3.15-6  
College Facilities**

School	Campus and Enrollment
College of the Canyons	Main Campus Buildings: 472,454 assigned square feet Enrollment: Fall 2007: 21,300 Projected 2015: 27,000 Canyon Country satellite location 4,500 square feet
The Master's College	Buildings: 264,165 assigned square feet Enrollment: 2006/07: 1,000
California Institute of the Arts	Buildings: 667,000 assigned square feet Enrollment: 2006/07: 1,242

Source:

College of the Canyons Website <http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/PIO/Resources/FactBook2008rev1.pdf>; The Master's College Website [www.masters.edu](http://www.masters.edu); California Institute of the Arts Website <http://www.calarts.edu>. (Accessed 2008).

### Programs

The six public elementary, intermediate, and high school districts provide traditional curriculum education, as well as programs for special students.

In addition to services offered by the public schools, the Santa Clarita Chamber of Commerce supports programs in a partnership with private businesses. These programs include a Business Education Partnership for junior high school students, the annual Santa Clarita Valley Teacher Tribute honoring local educators, and a scholarship program for high school students.

### ***Funding***

Funding mechanisms to support new construction and expansion of public elementary, intermediate, and high school facilities are provided by various state and local sources.

#### **Local Sources**

Local funding sources include both non-revenue and revenue monies. Non-revenue funds include lease/purchases, certificates of participation, and other mechanisms, which are typically loans. Revenue funds are generated from several sources, including the district's general fund, money from the sale of unused school sites, general obligation funds, redevelopment agreement funds, developer fees, and others.

After land is acquired, school districts are exempt from local zoning regulations and planning processes. But the construction of new schools, like all development, is dependent upon multiple factors, including various funding sources. Without County and/or City support, the attainment of funding in and of itself does not guarantee the construction of schools. Increases in the tax base do not necessarily affect the financial status of the school districts; therefore, a strong local economy does not necessarily mean that more school facilities can be built and that programs can be expanded.<sup>26</sup>

#### **Developer Fees**

Developer fees<sup>27</sup> are another source of funding available to districts. Developer Fee Justification Studies are prepared for each individual school district under the requirement of state law and provide specific fee amounts to be paid, as part of the development process, for the purpose of school funding. The reports provide justification for continuing to collect residential and commercial/industrial development fees, in accordance with state law. All local school districts in the County's Planning Area have adopted fee-justification studies. However, developer fees do not ensure the construction of new schools. School fees paid by developers are not spent on future demand, but on existing demand of a specific project.

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<sup>26</sup> McIntosh, Santa Clarita Valley Technical Background Report, 2001.

<sup>27</sup> California Government Code. Section 65971.

## Regulatory Context

### *State Regulations*

#### **Assembly Bill 2926**

The State of California has traditionally been responsible for the funding of local public schools. To assist in providing facilities to serve students generated by new development projects, the state passed Assembly Bill 2926 (AB 2926) in 1986. This bill allows school districts to collect impact fees from developers of new residential and commercial/industrial building space. Development impact fees were also referenced in the 1987 Leroy Greene Lease-Purchase Act, which required school districts to contribute a matching share of project costs for construction, modernization, or reconstruction.

#### **Senate Bill 50**

Senate Bill 50 (SB 50) and Proposition 1A (both of which passed in 1998) provided a comprehensive school facilities financing and reform program by, among other methods, authorizing a \$9.2 billion school facilities bond issue, school construction cost containment revisions, and an eight-year suspension of the Mira, Hart, and Murrieta court cases. Specifically, the bond funds are to provide \$2.9 billion for new construction and \$2.1 billion for reconstruction/modernization needs. The provisions of SB 50 prohibit local agencies from denying either legislative or adjudicative land use approvals on the basis that school facilities are inadequate and reinstate the school facility fee cap for legislative actions (e.g., general plan amendments, specific plan adoption, zoning plan amendments) as was allowed under the Mira, Hart, and Murrieta court cases. According to Government Code Section 65996, the development fees authorized by SB 50 are deemed to be “full and complete school facilities mitigation.” These provisions are in effect until 2012<sup>28</sup> and will remain in place as long as subsequent state bonds are approved and available.

SB 50 establishes three levels of developer fees that may be imposed upon new development by the governing board of a school district depending upon certain conditions within a district. These three levels are described below:

- Level 1: Level 1 fees are the base statutory fees. These amounts are the maximum that can be legally imposed upon new development projects by a school district unless the district qualifies for a higher level of funding.

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<sup>28</sup> <http://law.onecle.com/california/government/65997.html>

- Level 2: Level 2 fees allow the school district to impose developer fees above the statutory levels, up to 50 percent of certain costs under designated circumstances. The state would match the 50 percent funding if funds are available. Under Level 2, the governing board of a school district may require a developer to finance up to 50 percent of new school construction costs. However, in order to qualify for Level 2 funding the district must satisfy at least one of the following four requirements until January 1, 2000, or satisfy at least two of the four requirements after January 1, 2000:

Impose a Multi Track Year Round Education (MTYRE) with:

- at least 30 percent of K–6 enrollment in the high school attendance area on MTYRE for unified and elementary school districts;
  - or at least 30 percent of high school district enrollment on MTYRE; or
  - at least 40 percent of K-12 enrollment on MTYRE within boundaries of the high school attendance area for which the district is applying for funding;
  - place a local bond measure on the ballot in the last four years which received at least 50 percent plus 1 of the votes;
  - District has issued debt or incurred obligations for capital outlay equal to a specified [under Government Code 65995.5(b)(3)(C)] percentage of its local bonding capacity;
  - at least 20 percent of teaching stations within the district are portable classrooms.
- Level 3: Level 3 fees apply if the state runs out of bond funds after 2006, allowing the school district to impose 100 percent of the cost of the school facility or mitigation minus any local dedicated school moneys.

To accommodate students from new development projects, school districts may alternatively finance new schools through special school construction funding resolutions (e.g., the Valley-Wide Joint Fee Resolution) and/or agreements between developers, the affected school districts and, occasionally, other local governmental agencies. These special resolutions and agreements often allow school districts to realize school mitigation funds in excess of the developer fees allowed under SB 50.

### ***Local Regulations***

#### **Valley-Wide Joint Fee Resolution**

To accommodate students from new development projects, school districts may alternatively finance new schools through special school construction funding resolutions and/or agreements between developers, the affected school districts and, occasionally, other local governmental agencies. This special resolution often allows school districts to realize school mitigation funds in excess of the developer fees allowed under SB 50. The County and the City are signatories to the Valley-Wide Joint Fee Resolution.

## 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 to school facilities will occur if build out of the proposed Area Plan will increase demand for school facilities and services beyond the enrollment capacities of school facilities serving the County's Planning Area.

## Impact Analysis

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

**Impact 3.15-3                    A significant impact to school facilities will occur if buildout of the proposed Area Plan will increase demand for school facilities and services beyond the enrollment capacities of school facilities serving the County's Planning Area.**

Most school districts either cannot meet their current need or will be unable to meet future needs resulting from projected growth. The County's Planning Area currently has six school districts located within the area, with school jurisdictions extending to both the County and City Planning Areas, and they include Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District, Newhall Elementary, Saugus Union Elementary, Castaic Union, Sulphur Springs Union Elementary, and William S. Hart Union High School. The population of the County's Planning Area is 75,000, as of 2008, and the projected population is 237,387 at build out of the proposed Area Plan. As stated previously, there are currently five schools over design capacity with the total capacity for the County's Planning Area at 91.1 percent (**Table 3.15-4**). The school system and facilities are approaching design capacity; expansion of these facilities will be required to accommodate the County's planned growth. As described in (**Table 3.15-5**), the school districts have student generation rates for different types of residential dwellings.

Although the State of California has developed recommended guidelines for school site acreages based on population, the planning process presents the opportunity to examine whether school size and demand is consistent with or differs from those standards that have been identified. Local school districts typically use school generation rates and multiply those with projected population numbers for their jurisdiction. The result is a projected number of students per residential development type proposed, such as single-family or multi-family uses. The private schools and the colleges, both community and

private, are dependent on the State of California and private funds for the development, enhancement, and expansion of facilities and services provided.

As necessary, the price per square foot for development of commercial, residential, or industrial uses will be updated to reflect the affected school district. The school district, developer and the County will determine if any mitigation measures will be necessary on a case-by-case basis (**Policy LU 8.1.1**) to provide the necessary upgrades or new additions to accommodate the projected needs of the County's Planning Area.

### ***Proposed Area Plan Policies***

**Policy LU 8.1.1:** Coordinate plans for new residential development with affected school districts to ensure adequate mitigation of impacts on school facilities; provision of facilities and programs to promote academic excellence for Santa Clarita Valley students; coordination on joint use of facilities and transportation; and long-range planning.

### ***Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies***

The proposed Area Plan policy addresses the need to ensure that school districts meet enrollment capacity through long-range planning, but the policy does not protect the school districts within the County's Planning Area from the increase in school children anticipated with the County's buildout. As discussed below, state law limits the power of the County to impose mitigation for development impacts on schools.

### **Plan to Plan**

The County's Planning Area currently has six school districts and, as of 2008, educates 14,299 students from kindergarten to grade 12. The school districts' design capacity is 15,702 students. No school districts are over capacity; however there are five schools over capacity. Implementation of the existing Area Plan, as well as the proposed Area Plan, would potentially increase the number of new students within the County's Planning Area. The number of projected students is determined using a student generation rate, which is based on the number and type of dwelling units (i.e., single-family detached). As this is a programmatic EIR, the number and types of dwelling units are not provided and therefore, the number of new schools needed at buildout of the County's Planning Area would be conducted on a project-by-project basis. Impacts from implementation of the existing Area Plan would be comparable to that of the proposed Area Plan.

## Mitigation Framework

No mitigation measures are required.

## Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework

SB 50 states that the exclusive method of mitigating the impact of school facilities according to CEQA is to pay the maximum school fees and that such fees are "deemed to provide full and complete school facilities mitigation" related to the adequacy of school facilities when considering the approval or the establishment of conditions for the approval of a development project.<sup>29</sup> Because the Government Code states that compliance with SB 50 will provide full and complete mitigation, no significant impact would occur.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES AND WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION

### Summary

This section provides information on the existing fire and emergency services in the County's Planning Area. The current staffing, equipment, response times, and standards of these services are described along with their ability to meet the needs of the County's Planning Area. Both urban and wildland fire protection are discussed. The 2008 median response time for the OVOV Planning Area was 5 minutes and 42 seconds. The standard response time for Los Angeles County Fire Department is 5 minutes or less for urban areas, 8 minutes or less for suburban areas, and 12 minutes or less for rural areas. Impacts on fire protection within the County's Planning Area were less than significant with the incorporation of the proposed Area Plan policies and the implementation of mitigation measures **MM 3.15-2** and **MM 3.15-3**.

### Existing Conditions

#### *Urban Fire Protection*

##### Provider and Facilities

As part of the Consolidated Fire Protection District, the County's Planning Area receives urban and wildland fire suppression service from the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD). Mutual aid or assistance pacts are maintained with several local, state, and federal agencies. As of 2009 there are 13 fire stations with 11 engine companies, one assessment engine, five paramedic squads, one hazardous materials squad, and two ladder trucks serving the County's Planning Area, **Table 3.15-7, Fire Station**

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<sup>29</sup> California Government Code. Section 65996 (a) and (b). 2008.

**Facilities.** A nine-person hazardous materials Task Force operates out of Station 76. Approximately 64 firefighters are on duty every day, 24 hours a day (not including chief officers and fire prevention staff). There are currently three temporary fire stations and the County is proceeding to build an additional two fire stations, as well as replace the three temporary fire stations, within the OVOV Planning Area in the next two years. It is expected that by 2016, 15 new fire stations will be operational. In 2008, the Department completed the construction of Fire Station #108 on Rock Canyon,<sup>30</sup> and has established temporary Stations #156 on Copperhill, #132 on Sand Canyon, and #104 on Golden Valley. The locations of the fire stations are depicted in **Figure 3.15-2, Fire Station Locations within the OVOV Planning Area.**

Aside from the personnel and equipment listed above, the LACoFD has additional resources available to provide back-up services to the County's Planning Area as needed, including additional engine companies, truck companies, paramedic squads, hazardous material squads, firefighting helicopters, other fire camps, and a variety of specialty equipment.

**Table 3.15-7  
Fire Station Facilities**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Location</b>
Fire Station 73*	24875 N. San Fernando Road Santa Clarita, California 91321
Fire Station 76	27223 Henry Mayo Drive Valencia, California 91355
Fire Station 81	8710 W. Sierra Highway Agua Dulce, California 91350
Fire Station 104 (Temporary)	26201 Golden Valley Rd Santa Clarita, California 91350
Fire Station 107*	18239 W. Soledad Canyon Santa Clarita, California 91351
Fire Station 108 (New station opened 11/1/2008)	28799 N. Rock Canyon Drive Santa Clarita, CA 91390
Fire Station 111*	26829 Seco Canyon Road Saugus, California 91350
Fire Station 123	26321 N. Sand Canyon Road Santa Clarita, California 91387
Fire Station 124*	25870 Hemingway Avenue Stevenson Ranch, California 91381

<sup>30</sup> Los Angeles County Fire Department, "Hometown Fire Stations," <http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/HometownFireStations/HometownFireStations.asp>, 2009.

Station	Location
Fire Station 126	26320 Citrus Street Santa Clarita, California 91355
Fire Station 132 (Temporary)	29310 Sand Canyon Rd Santa Clarita, California 91387
Fire Station 149*	31770 Ridge Route Castaic, California 91384
Fire Station 156 (Temporary)	24525 W. Copper Hill Dr. Santa Clarita, California 91350

\* = Paramedic Units

Source: LACoFD 2008

### Volume of Calls

In 2007, LAFCoFD stations in the OVOV Planning Area responded to 15,396 calls within the Planning Area, of which 591 were fire and 10,097 were emergency medical services, **Table 3.15-8, Fire Incidents**. The Fire Department also responded to 10 hazardous materials calls, including reports of hazardous conditions. The 2008 median response times throughout the OVOV's Planning Area were 5 minutes 42 seconds. Department goals for response times:

- Urban: 5.0 minutes or less
- Suburban: 8.0 minutes or less
- Rural: 12.0 minutes or less
- Rural: 12 minutes or less

However, actual response times vary due to distances and road conditions.

**Table 3.15-8  
Fire Incidents**

<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>County's Planning Area</b>	<b>OVOV Planning Area</b>
Fire	315	591
Emergency Medical Services	7,214	10,097
Other	2,904	4,708
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,433</b>	<b>15,396</b>

*Source: Letter from LACoFD. 2008.*

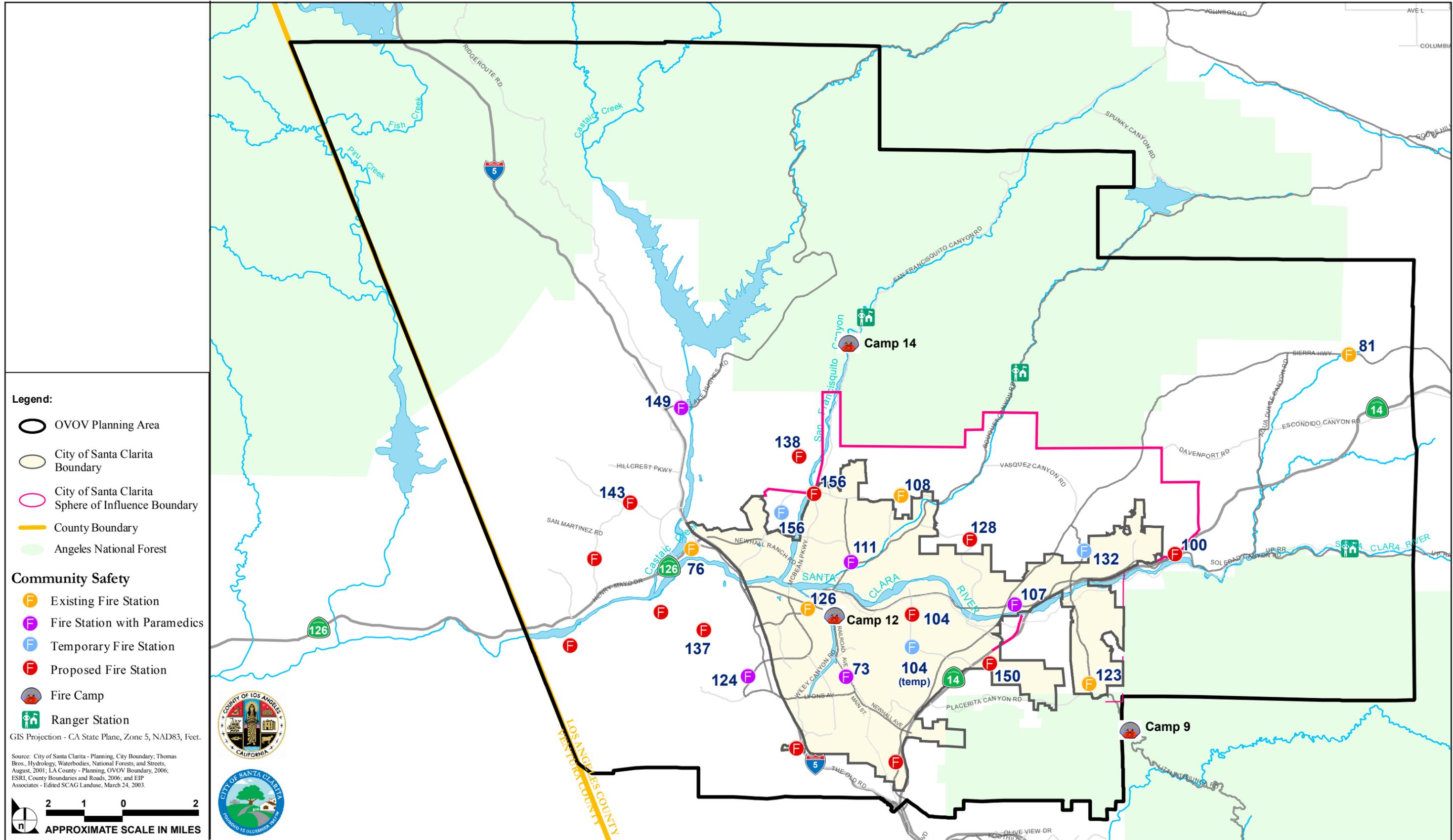
## Services

In addition to fire suppression, the LACoFD also provides fire prevention services, emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials services, and urban search and rescue (USAR) services.

### *Fire Prevention*

One of the major focuses of the LACoFD is fire prevention, which is headed up by the Fire Marshal. As of January 1, 2008, fire prevention services offered by LACoFD's Fire Prevention Bureau include:

- A Codes and Ordinances Unit that participates in updating codes to the latest standards;
- Fire Prevention Engineering that assists in plan checking, particularly for fire sprinkler installation and fire alarm plans;
- Inspections of occupancies (except one and two-family dwellings);
- Forestry services that includes a Brush Clearance Compliance Program and a Fuel Modification Program;
- Special Units Section that includes a Petroleum/Chemical Unit, Schools and Institutions Unit, and Fire Investigation Unit;
- Water, Subdivision and Access Unit that reviews development impact issues;
- Area Sections Unit to inspect and plan check specific buildings/structures; and
- Environmental review.



SOURCE: City of Santa Clarita, County of Los Angeles, Valleywide General Plan - March 2008

FIGURE 3.15-2

Fire Station Locations within the OVOV Planning Area

***Emergency Medical Services (EMS)***

EMS, a second major activity area of the LACoFD, was established in 1969. This service allows paramedics to go straight to a medical call and, if necessary, implement advance life support while being able to contact a nurse at a hospital over a specially designed radio system. Aside from EMS provided by the LACoFD, there is also a private ambulance service in the Planning Area.

***Hazardous Materials***

Another significant activity of the LACoFD is hazardous materials. The mission of this division is “to protect the public health and the environment throughout Los Angeles County from accidental releases and improper handling, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials and waters through coordinated efforts of inspections, emergency response, enforcement, and site mitigation oversight.” Further details regarding hazardous materials management in the County’s Planning Area are addressed in **Section 3.11** of this EIR.

***Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)***

The USAR service, an activity that requires special training and equipment, allows the LACoFD to offer advanced technical rescue capabilities during disasters. Members of the USAR Committee, which consists of LACoFD personnel certified as California state instructors for Rescue Systems I and Emergency Trench Rescue, are trained in confined space rescue, high angle rescue, the use of Biopack self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs), helicopter rescue, rescue diving, and other specialties.

**Fire Service Funding**

The LACoFD Fire District provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the County. The majority of funding for fire services is obtained through property taxes. Additionally, voters in the Fire District approved a special tax in 1997 to pay for essential fire suppression and emergency medical services. The special tax is billed on the Joint Consolidated Annual Tax Bill under Detail of Taxes Due, Direct Assessments. The most common rates are single-family residence—\$49.93; multiple-family residence—\$63.07 + \$0.0064 per square foot; and commercial/industrial—\$60.43 + \$0.0407 per square foot.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The County of Los Angeles and the City of Santa Clarita both implement programs to facilitate emergency preparedness. The County has an Operational Area Emergency Response Plan, which describes the planned response to emergencies associated with natural and man-made disasters and

technological incidents. The City has a Standardized Emergency Management System Multihazard Functional Plan, as discussed above. Both plans provide an overview of operational concepts, identify components of the County's and City's Emergency Management Organization within the Standardized Emergency Management System, and describe the overall responsibilities of the federal, state, and local agencies for protecting life and property and assuring the overall well-being of the population.

Additionally, the Santa Clarita Valley implements the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program, which is designed to help the community to prepare for effective disaster/emergency response through training and preplanning. The Santa Clarita Educated Communities United in Response to Emergencies (SECURE) trains the community members to be prepared in the event of major disasters such as earthquakes, floods, fires, transportation accidents, and hazardous materials exposure. Furthermore, the Santa Clarita Emergency Communications Team, a local chapter of the Los Angeles County Disaster Communication Service, is available within the County's Planning Area to assist in the event of an emergency. The team's primary purpose is to supply emergency communications to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the County. **Section 3.11, Hazards and Hazardous Materials**, provides further detail about emergency preparedness.

### **Wildland Fire Protection**

The County's Planning Area is susceptible to wildland fires because of its hilly terrain, dry weather conditions, and the nature of its plant cover. Steep slopes in the County's Planning Area allow for the quick spread of flames during fires and pose difficulty for fire suppression due to access problems for firefighting equipment. According to the LACoFD, approximately 80 to 90 percent of the County's Planning Area is in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, which is the department's highest classification for areas prone to wildfires. The potential wildland fire hazard areas within the County are referenced in **Section 3.11, Hazards and Hazardous Materials**, and seen in **Figure 3.11-2, Wildfire Hazards Zone within the OVOV Planning Area**. Within Los Angeles County, the LACoFD currently operates 10 fire suppression camps assigned to the Air and Wildland Division. Crew resources can be utilized for fire protection/prevention and suppression activities. The fire crews provide manpower and tools to cut a control line around the perimeter of the fire. The crews coordinate their efforts with bulldozers, water-dropping helicopters, and fixed wing aircraft.

### ***Service Providers***

As mentioned previously, fire suppression responsibility in the County's Planning Area primarily belongs to LACoFD, which by contract serves all state lands in Los Angeles County. The Angeles

National Forest, which is federal land that encompasses portions of the County's Planning Area, receives seasonal service from the US Forest Service (USFS). There are three USFS ranger stations located in the County's Planning Area (**Figure 3.15-2**). Fire suppression responsibility in the nearby Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area has been contracted by USFS to LACoFD.

Under a mutual aid pact covering federal forestlands, responsibility for non-structure fires within the national forest belong to the USFS, while LACoFD has the primary mission of suppressing structure fires. Although these responsibilities are stated in the mutual aid pact, each agency fights both wild and structure fires in actual fire emergencies. In addition, an automatic aid agreement, which is an agreement that allows the closest municipality to provide an initial response to fires that may occur in a part of another municipality, exists between USFS and LACoFD. Firefighting, however, is not the primary function of USFS, and the agency is on duty at only certain times of the day. As a result, LACoFD would be called upon to provide fire service if fires involving structures or brushlands near the forest boundary occur after USFS's hours of service.

### *History of Wildland Fires*

Records from the US Department of Forestry reveal that wildland fires occur on a regular basis almost every year, while large fires occur fairly regularly every 10 years. The occurrence of major wildfires in a particular region corresponds to the age of its vegetation. Often, renewed growth of vegetation after a major fire tends to pose a lesser risk during the first 10 years of growth. However, as dead vegetation accumulates, the potential for a major wildfire increases as these materials are more susceptible to ignition and facilitate the spreading of flames. Therefore, the occurrence of wildland fires tends to be cyclical, where a decade will pass with few fires followed by a decade with several large fires. In addition, the occurrence of the largest fires also corresponds to periods of extremely high wind conditions. Major wildland fires that occurred in the County's Planning Area since 2000 are mentioned in **Section 3.11, Hazards and Hazardous Materials**.

### *Programs*

One of the focal points of LACoFD programs is emergency preparedness. Each year, LACoFD sponsors numerous events, including Community Emergency Response Team, Burn Awareness, and North County Brush Clearance in the County to provide residents with the knowledge base for safe fire protection strategies and tips on emergency preparedness. In addition, the LACoFD also provides programs to educate youth about fire safety as well as helping to promote healthy communities. Some of the current youth programs offered by the LACoFD to the community include the following:

- Junior Fire Chiefs – Promoting fire safety to elementary school youths.

- Rescue Youth – LACoFD joining with the District Attorney to assist “at risk” youths.
- Explorers – LACoFD’s explorer program in association with the Boy Scouts of America for young adults interested in a career in Fire Service.
- WATCH (Water Awareness Training for Children in the Home) – A five-step program for poolside safety.
- Spark of Love – Firefighters interacting with the community to bring the spirit of togetherness.
- Yogi Bear Schoolhouse – Using a mobile earthquake simulator to stimulate heightened public awareness about earthquake preparedness.

## Regulatory Context

### *Federal Regulations*

#### **Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review**

The Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review<sup>31</sup> was chartered in 1994 by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to ensure that federal policies are uniform and programs are cooperative and cohesive.

### *State Regulations*

#### **California Fire Code**

The California Fire Code (CFC) applies to all occupancies throughout the State of California as annotated. The CFC is the minimum state standard for fire code implementation in California, and is based on the content of the Uniform Fire Code.<sup>32</sup> The CFC establishes fire flow requirements. The minimum fire flow requirements for one-and two-family dwellings having a fire flow calculation area which does not exceed 3,600 square feet is 1,000 gallons per minute.<sup>33</sup> The CFC provides for a reduction in required flow of up to 50 percent when the building is provided with an approved automatic sprinkler system.

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<sup>31</sup> US Forest Service, “Wildland Fire Policy,” <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/management/policy.html>, 2008.

<sup>32</sup> The National Fire Protection Agency Uniform Fire Code, 2006.

<sup>33</sup> California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, California Building Standards Commission, 2007 *California Fire Code*, pp. 518 and 519. Table B105.1.

### **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)**

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is responsible for the fire protection and stewardship of over 31 million acres of California's privately owned wildlands. In addition, CAL FIRE provides emergency services in 36 of the state's 58 counties via contracts with local governments.

The CAL FIRE Director's responsibility includes identification of very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZ); transmit this information to local agencies, and to periodically review the recommendations.<sup>34</sup>

### **Government Code Section 8607, Health and Safety Code Sections 13071 and 13072**

#### *Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)*

In an emergency, governmental response is an extension of responsibility and action, coupled with normal day-to-day activity. Normal governmental duties will be maintained, with emergency operations carried out by those agencies assigned specific emergency functions. The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) has been adopted by Los Angeles County and the City for managing response to multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction emergencies and to facilitate communications and coordination among all levels of the system and among all responding agencies. Chapter 1 of Division 2 of title 19 of the California Code of Regulations establishes the standard response structure and basic protocols to be used in emergency response and recovery.

Fully activated, the SEMS consists of five levels: field response, local government, operational areas (Countywide), OES Mutual Aid Regions, and state government.

SEMS establishes the following:

- Organizational levels for managing emergencies;
- Standardized emergency management methods; and
- Standardized training for emergency responders and managers.

All local governments, including counties, cities, school districts and special districts, must use SEMS to be eligible for funding of their personnel related costs under state disaster assistance programs. The

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<sup>34</sup> California Government Code, Section 51178 and 51181

County of Los Angeles and City of Santa Clarita are currently using this system for emergency response in the OVOV Planning Area.

### **Wildland Hazard and Building Codes**

The Office of the State Fire Marshal's (OSFM) emergency regulations regulate fire hazards through the Wildland Hazard and Building Codes.<sup>35</sup> The majority of the new requirements take effect in 2008. These new codes include provisions for ignition-resistant construction standards in the wildland-urban interface. The updated fire hazard severity zones will be used by building officials to determine appropriate construction materials for new buildings in the wildland urban interface. The updated zones will also be used by property owners to comply with natural hazards disclosure requirements at time of property sale. It is likely that the fire hazard severity zones will be used by local governments as they update the Safety Element of their General Plans.

The Wildland Hazard and Building Codes state:

*701A.3.2 New Buildings Located in Any Fire Hazard Severity Zone. New buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone within State Responsibility Areas, any Local Agency Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, or any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the enforcing agency for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after January 1, 2008, shall comply with all sections of this chapter. New buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone shall comply with one of the following:*

1. *State Responsibility Areas.*

*New buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone within State Responsibility Areas, for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after January 1, 2008, shall comply with all sections of this chapter.*

2. *Local Agency Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.*

*New buildings located in any Local Agency Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after July 1, 2008, shall comply with all sections of this chapter.*

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<sup>35</sup> California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2, (known as the 2007 California Building Code), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, "Wildland Hazard and Building Codes" [http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire\\_prevention/fire\\_prevention\\_wildland.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_wildland.php)

3. *Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the enforcing agency.*

*New buildings located in any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the enforcing agency for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after January 1, 2008, shall comply with all sections of this chapter.*

The broad objective of the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area Building Standards is to establish minimum standards for materials and material assemblies (components combined together to make a ceiling or floor) and provide a reasonable level of exterior wildfire exposure protection for buildings in wildland-urban interface fire areas. CAL FIRE and OSFM revised the mandatory effective date for those areas where local government has responsibility for wildland fire protection to July 1, 2008, to enable local government agencies more time to review and accept the fire hazard severity zone maps.

### **Fire Hazard Severity Zones**

CAL FIRE is remapping fire hazard severity zones for lands where the state has fiscal responsibility for wildland fire protection (State Responsibility Area) and is preparing Very High Fire Hazard Severity (VHFHS) recommendations for local responsibility areas. CAL FIRE has adopted VHFHSZ maps for those areas of California where the state has fiscal responsibility for wildland fire protection, known as State Responsibility Areas (SRA).<sup>36</sup>

CAL FIRE is preparing recommendations for VHFHSZ in those areas where local government agencies have Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) and will transmit those recommendations to local agencies in 2008.<sup>37</sup> During the fire hazard severity zone hearing for SRA, several local government officials asked for clarification of authorities and responsibilities associated with the adoption of these LRA VHFHSZ recommendations. The purpose of the VHFHS zone recommendations is to classify lands in accordance with whether a very high fire hazard severity is present so that public officials are able to identify measures that will mitigate the rate of spread, and reduce the potential intensity of uncontrolled fires that threaten to destroy resources, life, or property. CAL FIRE staff has been instructed to assist local agencies in the review of the draft map recommendations. In addition to the VHFHS maps, CAL FIRE has mapped high and moderate fire hazard severity areas.

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<sup>36</sup> Public Resources Code Sections 4201 – 4204 and Government Code Sections 51175–51189

<sup>37</sup> Government Code Sections 51175–51189

## ***Local Regulations***

### **Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD)**

County programs directed toward wildland fire prevention include the adoption of the State Fire Code for regulations and standards to be applied toward new development in “hazardous fire areas.” Fire prevention items addressed in the Fire Code include provision of access roads, adequate road widths, and clearance of brush around structures located in hillside areas that are considered primary wildland fire risk areas. Compliance with County Building Codes requires that new development within high fire hazard areas show proof through certification with the LACoFD that new development is located within a designated distance of a water source such as water supply tanks or retention basins for emergency fire fighting purposes. Furthermore, the Water Code specifies that water storage facilities be placed to ensure gravity emergency fire flow in the event power lines are damaged.

### **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 on fire protection services will occur if the proposed Area Plan had:

- Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or expanded fire protection services or facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives.

### **Impact Analysis**

This impact analysis section evaluates the potential effects of the proposed Area Plan policies on fire protection services within the County’s Planning Area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

**Impact 3.15-4                    Substantial potentially adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or expanded fire protection services or facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives.**

The provision of fire stations varies more as a function of the geographic distribution of structures than of population increases. One of the most important criteria for effective firefighting is the response time needed to reach the site of the fire. Existing stations are strategically located to ensure adequate service within the area. Nevertheless, as buildout of the County occurs, more structures will be built and the potential for an increase in structural fires will increase (**Policies LU 3.3.5 and LU 3.3.7**).

Buildout of the Area Plan would increase residential, commercial, and industrial development which would create an increase in demand for fire prevention and suppression services. The County's 2008 population was 75,000 residents. There are currently 6 fire stations within the County's Planning Area (**Figure 3.15-2**). LACoFD has a goal of 5 minutes or less for response times for urban areas, 8 minutes or less for suburban areas, and 12 minutes or less for rural areas (Volume of Calls). The median response time throughout the County's Planning Area was 5 minutes 42 seconds (**Policies S 3.3.1 to S 3.3.3**). Buildout of the County Planning Area would total approximately 237,387 people. To adequately maintain or reach the response time goals set by LACoFD there would need to be more fire stations located throughout the County's Planning Area (**Policy LU 3.3.4 and Policies S 3.1.1 to 3.1.3**). Potential impacts regarding people's exposure to injury or damage to structures in new development within areas of very high fire hazard severity zone are discussed under Impact 3.11-4 in **Section 3.11, Hazards and Hazardous Materials**.

Providing fire service to foothill areas is currently difficult and will continue to be a hazard in the future. These foothill areas have a greater chance of being exposed to wildland fires. The foothill areas also have a greater density of vegetation, which has a very high oil content that creates fire danger. Wildland fires are a serious and growing hazard. As the County reaches buildout the only undeveloped areas would be the foothills around the County's Planning Area (**Policy CO 2.2.2 and Policy CO 3.4.2**). This would mean that if the United States Forest Service (USFS) cannot adequately contain a fire, then LACoFD would add support (**Policy S 3.2.6**). It also indicates that the County, City of Santa Clarita, and USFS would need to coordinate jurisdiction areas with any new development. This new development would indicate an increasing number of people would be living and playing in wildland/urban intermix areas. Wildland/urban interfaces (WUI) create extremely dangerous and complex fire conditions, posing a safety threat to the public and firefighters (**Policy CO 3.6.5**). As described in **Section 3.11** of this EIR,

**Hazards and Hazardous Materials**, for any new residential development located within or near a WUI there are required setbacks for landscapes (**Policy LU 3.3.2** and **Policies S 3.2.1 to S 3.2.7**).

Additional development, particularly industrial, would increase the amount of hazardous materials, such as gasoline, crude oil, and acids stored or used within the County's Planning Area. Service calls regarding the containment of hazardous materials are serious and may require the assistance of specialists. Development of additional roadways and increased traffic would increase the potential for hazardous material accidents along roadways within the County's Planning Area.

The increase in residential population and employment opportunities with the proposed Area Plan and resulting demand for fire protection and emergency medical services is considered a significant impact.

To achieve fire protection for all residents of the County's Planning Area, the County Department of Public Works Building and Safety Division and LACoFD would enforce fire standards as they review building plans and conduct building inspections. Additional programs implemented to ensure compliance with established fire standards include: the maintenance of a Countywide Information Map, showing area of high fire hazard areas, and the provision of uniform fire improvement standards for various land uses. Additional fire stations would also be funded by the Joint Consolidated Annual Tax Bill (**Fire Service Funding** subsection).

### ***Proposed Area Plan Policies***

- Policy LU 3.3.2:** In areas subject to wildland fire danger, ensure that land uses have adequate setbacks, fuel modification areas, and emergency access routes.
- Policy LU 3.3.4:** Evaluate service levels for law enforcement and fire protection as needed to ensure that adequate response times are maintained as new residential development is occupied.
- Policy LU 3.3.5:** Through the development review process, ensure that all new residential development is provided with adequate emergency access and that subdivision and site designs permit ready access by public safety personnel.
- Policy LU 3.3.7:** Ensure adequate addressing in all residential neighborhoods for emergency response personnel.
- Policy CO 2.2.2:** Ensure that graded slopes in hillside areas are revegetated with native drought tolerant plants or other approved vegetation to blend manufactured slopes with

adjacent natural hillsides, in consideration of fire safety and slope stability requirements.

- Policy CO 3.4.2:** Consider principles of forest management in land use decisions for projects adjacent to the National Forest, including limiting the use of invasive species, discouraging off-road vehicle use, maintaining fuel modification zones and fire access roads, and other measures as appropriate, in accordance with the goals set forth in the Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan.
- Policy CO 3.6.5:** Ensure revegetation of graded areas and slopes adjacent to natural open space areas with native plants (consistent with fire prevention requirements).
- Policy S 3.1.1:** Coordinate on planning for new fire stations to meet current and projected needs.
- Policy S 3.1.2:** Program adequate funding for capital fire protection costs and explore all feasible funding options to meet facility needs.
- Policy S 3.1.3:** Require adequate fire flow as a condition of approval for all new development, which may include installation of additional reservoir capacity and/or distribution facilities.
- Policy S 3.2.1:** Identify areas of the Santa Clarita Valley that are prone to wildland fire hazards and address these areas in fire safety plans.
- Policy S 3.2.2:** Enforce standards for maintaining defensible space around structures through clearing of dry brush and vegetation.
- Policy S 3.2.3:** Establish landscape guidelines for fire-prone areas with recommended plant materials, and provide this information to builders and members of the public.
- Policy S 3.2.4:** Require sprinkler systems, fire resistant building materials, and other construction measures deemed necessary to prevent loss of life and property from wildland fires.
- Policy S 3.2.5:** Ensure adequate secondary and emergency access for fire apparatus, which includes minimum requirements for road width, surface material, grade, and staging areas.

- Policy S 3.2.6:** For areas adjacent to the National Forest, cooperate with the United States Forest Service regarding land use and development issues.
- Policy S 3.2.7:** Continue to provide information and training to the public on fire safety in wildland interface areas.
- Policy S 3.3.1:** Plan for fire response times of five minutes in urban areas, eight minutes in suburban areas, and 12 minutes in rural areas.
- Policy S 3.3.2:** Require the installation and maintenance of street name signs on all new development.
- Policy S 3.3.3:** Require the posting of address numbers on all homes and businesses that are clearly visible from adjacent streets.

### ***Effectiveness of the Proposed Area Plan Policies***

The proposed Area Plan policies would be effective against the threat of fire to structures, ensure adequate response times, and ensure that any impact to fire services is reduced to a less than significant level. However, to insure that there is adequate resources for LACoFD, mitigation measures shall be required.

### **Plan to Plan**

Since the buildout population under the existing Area Plan would be greater than that of the buildout population under the proposed Area Plan, the County's fire protection needs at existing Area Plan buildout would be greater. As population increases the number of emergency calls and the emergency response times would potentially increase. Therefore, impacts on fire protection would be greater with buildout of the existing Area Plan.

### **Mitigation Framework**

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce potential impacts on fire hazards to a less than significant level.

- MM 3.15-2** Concurrent with the issuance of building permits, the project applicant shall participate in the Developer Fee Program to the satisfaction of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department.

**MM 3.15-3** Adequate water availability shall be provided to service construction activities of any project to the satisfaction of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department.

### **Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework**

Implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies and mitigation measures **MM 3.15-2** and **MM 3.15-3** would reduce potential impacts related to the effects of future development on fire protection services by reducing the threat of fire, improving the firefighting infrastructure, and ensuring that growth does not exceed acceptable levels of service. Therefore, potential impacts related to fire protection services would be reduced to a less than significant level.

## **POLICE PROTECTION**

### **Summary**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services in the County's Planning Area. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department administers the incarceration facility, while the California Highway Patrol (CHP) provides traffic patrol primarily on state highways, enforces traffic regulations, traffic control in unincorporated areas, and responds to traffic accidents and incidents within the County's Planning Area. The standard level of service for the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department is to have one officer per 1,000 residents. The current amount of sworn officers serving the OVOV Planning Area are 171 and there would need to be an additional 66 sworn officers within the County's Planning Area, from 2008 until buildout, to adequately meet the one sworn officer per 1,000 residents standard. With the incorporation of the proposed Area Plan policies and the implementation of mitigation measure **MM 3.15-4**, impacts on police protection would be less than significant.

### **Existing Conditions**

The County's Planning Area is served by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Santa Clarita Valley Station. The Sheriff's service area covers 656 square miles that includes the portions of Los Angeles County unincorporated areas and the City of Santa Clarita.<sup>38</sup>

In addition to urbanized areas, the service area encompasses major recreational destinations including, the Angeles National Forest, Magic Mountain Amusement Park, Castaic Lake, Pyramid Lake, and Hungry Valley Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Park. **Figure 3.15-3, Sheriff Station Locations within OVOV Planning Area**, shows the Sheriff Service Area and facility locations.

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<sup>38</sup> City of Santa Clarita, Draft OVOV Safety Element. (2008).

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department oversees general law and traffic enforcement within the Santa Clarita Valley, while the CHP has jurisdiction over traffic on state highways and in the unincorporated areas.

### *Facilities*

The Sheriff's station, located in Valencia, was designed to house a staff of approximately 90 people, but is insufficient to meet current needs, according to Sheriff's representatives. In addition, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department operates a storefront station in Newhall. The Storefront station is staffed 8 to 12 hours a day, and sometimes staffed by civilians.

### *Staffing and Equipment*

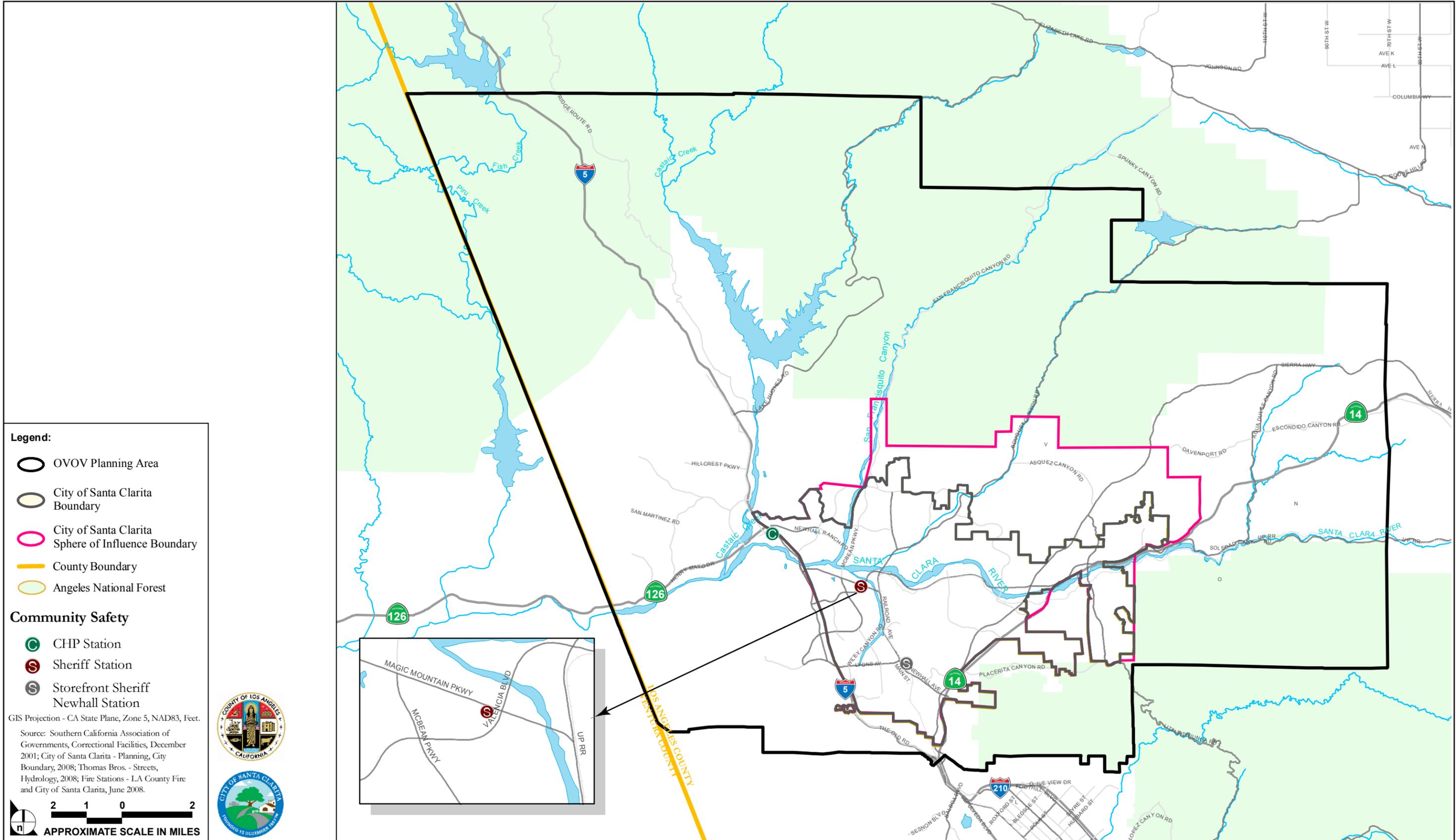
Over the past 20 years, the staffing levels at the station have been fairly constant.<sup>39</sup> There have been fluctuations in the number of officers available for patrol services but they have been small. As of 2008, the station operates with 171 sworn deputies and support staff.

Staffing within the Santa Clarita Valley is split into three shifts. As of January 1, 2003, the day shift consists of five patrol cars, seven traffic cars, two motor units, the Career Offenders Burglary Robbery Apprehension (COBRA) team, and five school resource deputies. The traffic unit is to investigate collisions within the City's Planning Area, and to decrease the number of collisions through enforcement of the California Vehicle Code. The COBRA team is responsible for investigating all crimes perpetrated by juveniles in the City's Planning Area. They are also responsible for tracking any gang activity and gang related crimes. The COBRA unit works hand in hand with local probation and parole officers, assisting them with probation and parole searches throughout the area. The operations team, which includes school resource deputies, handles; all misdemeanor filings, crime analysis, all secretarial functions, evidence and property issues and all crimes committed on school campuses. The PM shift consists of eight general law cars and eight traffic cars, and the AM shift consists of three patrol cars and two traffic cars.<sup>40</sup> While most officers are on duty at least Monday through Friday, there are variations, depending on the shift and day of the week. Numbers are also adjusted during holidays and special events.

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<sup>39</sup> City of Santa Clarita. Draft OVOV Safety Element. (2008).

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.



**Legend:**

- OVOV Planning Area
- City of Santa Clarita Boundary
- City of Santa Clarita Sphere of Influence Boundary
- County Boundary
- Angeles National Forest

**Community Safety**

- CHP Station
- Sheriff Station
- Storefront Sheriff Newhall Station

GIS Projection - CA State Plane, Zone 5, NAD83, Feet.  
 Source: Southern California Association of Governments, Correctional Facilities, December 2001; City of Santa Clarita - Planning, City Boundary, 2008; Thomas Bros. - Streets, Hydrology, 2008; Fire Stations - LA County Fire and City of Santa Clarita, June 2008.

2 1 0 2  
**APPROXIMATE SCALE IN MILES**

SOURCE: City of Santa Clarita, County of Los Angeles, Valleywide General Plan - March 2008

FIGURE 3.15-3

Sheriff Station Locations within the OVOV Planning Area

As of October 2007, there are 53 patrol vehicles in the station's motor pool fleet. There are approximately 30 active patrol units at any given time, depending upon daily conditions. There are also two motorcycles, three Search and Rescue vehicles, and seven "unmarked" cars for detectives. The station currently has a request for eight more patrol vehicles being processed. This increase in vehicles will meet current and anticipated needs, but if additional staffing increases were to occur, then the number of vehicles needed would also increase.<sup>41</sup>

### ***Standards***

While there is no current law enforcement staffing standards available, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department strives to maintain one officer per 1,000 people in County areas. Staffing of patrol areas is also based on the calls for service and other activity in a specific area.

### **Classification of Calls**

Response time for law enforcement calls varies depending on the time of day, number of officers on duty, and traffic conditions. Calls are classified as one of three categories: Routine, Priority, and Emergent. Routine incidents are of a non-priority nature and do not require a priority response from the field units; e.g., vandalism of private property. Priority incidents are those that require an immediate response but not a code three response; e.g., a family disturbance. Emergent incidents are an automatic code three response; e.g., a traffic accident or shooting. As the population continues to grow in the County's Planning Area, it is likely that the total number of calls for service will increase as well.

### ***Crime Statistics***

The Santa Clarita Sheriff's service area is divided into 59 reporting districts. **Table 3.15-9, Part I Crime Statistics for the County's Planning Area 2000–2007**, reports the number of Part I offenses (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, grand theft auto, arson) by categories in the County's Planning Area between 2000 and 2007.

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<sup>41</sup> Cambra (2007).

**Table 3.15-9  
Part I Crime Statistics for the County's Planning Area 2000–2007**

Year	Criminal Homicide	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny Theft	Grand Theft Auto	Arson	Total Part I Crimes
2000	2	7	26	79	180	504	102	21	921
2001	4	16	30	75	199	576	135	30	1,065
2002	2	9	21	99	265	544	192	34	1,166
2003	0	6	25	72	310	672	148	24	1,257
2004	3	8	41	105	349	687	170	14	1,377
2005	0	10	35	94	348	792	188	28	1,495
2006	1	8	26	67	389	853	164	14	1,522
2007	8	12	43	65	298	988	206	26	1,646

Source: *Crime and Arrest Statistics, Santa Clarita Valley Station, 2000-2007*

From 2001 to 2007, crime rates had steadily increased in total Part 1 crimes for the County's Planning Area. The only criminal category that had decreased for the County's Planning Area was aggravated assault.

### *Services*

The Sheriff's Department focuses not only on crime investigation, but also on crime prevention. Sheriff personnel believe that community-oriented policing is an effective way to prevent crime at the local level, and accordingly engages citizens in crime prevention efforts. There are a number of units or specialized divisions with a specific focus:

- The Community Relations Unit at the Sheriff's Station oversees the community-oriented policing programs, including the neighborhood watch, business watch, school watch, vacation security, and crime prevention programs.
- The Detectives' Bureau consists of three divisions—Burglary, Robbery/Assault, and COBRA, which handles juvenile and gang-related crimes.<sup>42</sup>
- The Traffic Unit Department is responsible for issuing citations, as well as for responding to auto incidents and collisions. Their goal is to reduce the total number of traffic accidents.

<sup>42</sup> McIntosh (2001).

- The Santa Clarita Station is also equipped with air support. The AIR-29 helicopter provides high tech support for ground deputies, with an infrared device that can see in the dark. The station's helicopter also comes complete with spot lighting, a Lo-Jack stolen video locator, moving map technology, and multiple radio communications.
- SCV Search and Rescue is a highly trained volunteer group overseen by the Sheriff's Department. Its members serve as emergency medical technicians, reserve deputies, and mountain rescuers.
- The Sheriff's Department, in coordination with other governmental agencies, works with community members and organizations to provide numerous programs for residents within the station's service area. Programs include the Anti-Gang Task Force, Citizens' Option for Public Safety (COPS) Grant, Drug Education, Family Violence Task Force, Gang Education, Graffiti Abatement Program, Local Law Enforcement Block Grants, and various emergency response programs.<sup>43</sup>

### *California Highway Patrol*

The CHP provides traffic regulation enforcement for unincorporated Santa Clarita Valley and surrounding areas from its station located at 28648 The Old Road, near the interchange of Interstate 5 and State Route 126. The CHP patrols a service area of approximately 700 square miles, which includes Interstate 5, State Route 126, State Route 14, and all unincorporated areas and roadways. This service area extends westerly to the Ventura County line, east to Agua Dulce, north to State Route 138 (and along State Route 138 to Avenue 22 East), and south to State Route 118.

The primary responsibility of the CHP is to patrol State Highways and County roadways in the previously identified service area, enforce traffic regulations, respond to traffic accidents, and to provide service and assistance for disabled vehicles. The CHP also has a major role in the state's enhanced anti-terror activities.<sup>44</sup> The CHP's overall level of staffing is about 10,700 statewide positions, 1,123 uniformed officers for the Southern Division (state freeways and 64 unincorporated communities of Los Angeles County as its primary jurisdiction), and approximately 86 field patrol officers for the OVOV Planning Area. The department is comprised of uniformed (sworn) and non-uniformed (non-sworn) personnel, with uniformed personnel accounting for approximately 7,300 positions, or 67 percent, of total staff.<sup>45</sup>

In the Santa Clarita Valley area, the CHP maintains a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The Newhall Area Station area is staffed by 86 sworn officers and 9 civilian

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<sup>43</sup> City of Santa Clarita (2002).

<sup>44</sup> *Analysis of the 2006-2007 Budget Bill*, Legislative Analyst's Office, February 2006.

<sup>45</sup> Telephone communication with Officer Michelle Esposito, Newhall Area Station, California Highway Patrol, February 10, 2009.

employees. The Los Angeles and Orange County areas are served on a limited basis by a helicopter and a fixed wing aircraft based at Fullerton Airport. There are currently no plans to centrally base a helicopter to service the Los Angeles County Basin. The Newhall CHP has indicated that its facilities and staffing are adequate to meet current demands in its service area.<sup>46</sup>

### ***Incarceration Facilities***

The Peter J. Pitchess Detention Center in Castaic serves the entire OVOV Planning Area. The jail consists of four facilities: North, South, East, and the North County Correctional Facility. Together, these facilities comprise the largest jail complex in Los Angeles County.<sup>47</sup> However, the South Facility is no longer operational. Built in 1987, the North Facility sits on 7 acres and has a housing capacity of 1,500 inmates. As a maximum-security facility, it has an intrusion alarm system, closed circuit television systems, and strict inmate supervision. The South Facility, which is no longer in operation, was built in 1971 as a hospital facility. A barracks-style building, it was updated in 1984. It was then used as a medium security facility, and most recently served as a vocational training site for approximately 1,966 inmates. Built in 1951, the East Facility is the oldest operational jail in Los Angeles County. It has been renovated a number of times and now has a maximum capacity of 1,974 inmates.

North County Correctional Facility was built in 1989. It is a maximum security complex, with total housing capacity of 3,800 inmates. It also houses three vocational training programs, including computer sign production, clothing manufacturing, and printing. These programs along with other educational programs offered at Pitchess Detention Center, serve to provide inmates with a vocation for their return to society. In addition to these facilities, two youth camps serving the region are located within the City's Planning Area. The Los Angeles County Probation Department provides secure detention for delinquent minors in juvenile halls and control and rehabilitation programs in camps such as Camp Scott and Camp Scudder. These juvenile halls and camps provide confinement to minors ranging in ages from 8 to 18 who await adjudication and disposition of legal matters. Camps provide treatment, care, custody, and training for the rehabilitation of delinquent minors as wards of the Juvenile Court.

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<sup>46</sup> Per information from The Master's College EIR: Telephone interview with Lieutenant Mark Odle, California Highway Patrol, Newhall Area Station, November 17, 2006.

<sup>47</sup> Per information from The Master's College EIR: Telephone interview with Lieutenant Mark Odle, California Highway Patrol, Newhall Area Station, November 17, 2006.

## Regulatory Context

Law enforcement services are provided through the efforts of various federal, state, and local government agencies. These agencies work jointly, as well as individually, to improve and conserve the law enforcement services of particular areas through legislation, regulations, planning, policy making, education, and a variety of other programs. This section discusses the various federal, state, local, and other agencies regulations that the proposed project would be obligated to follow in regard to law enforcement services.

### *State Regulations*

#### **Law Enforcement Facilities Fees for North Los Angeles County**

On May 27, 2008, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted law enforcement facilities fees for North Los Angeles County.<sup>48</sup> This mitigation fee is for new residential, commercial, office, and industrial areas located within the unincorporated areas of North Los Angeles County known as Santa Clarita, Newhall, and Gorman (the law enforcement facilities fee zones).<sup>49</sup> Also approved at this time was a capital improvement/construction plans for law enforcement facilities for North Los Angeles County. Each of the law enforcement facility areas will have a separate fee, and the amount of the fee will be set at a base level sufficient to provide, or contribute to, the provision of adequate law enforcement services that is in direct proportion to the population increases from new development that warrant or contribute to the need for a new facility.<sup>50</sup> In areas where a new facility is not required, the fee will be used to augment existing service capacity through the purchase of equipment directly to serve the new population.

The amount of the fee established shall be reviewed annually by the Sheriff's Department, in consultation with the County Auditor-Controller.<sup>51</sup> Further, on July 1 of each year, the fee in each law enforcement facilities fee zone shall be adjusted based on the Engineering News Record-Building Construction Cost Index.<sup>52</sup> The related Capital Improvement Construction Plan setting forth the approximate location, size, time of availability, and estimates of cost for the facilities and improvements to be financed with the fee for the Santa Clarita and Newhall areas will be annually updated by the Board of Supervisors.

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<sup>48</sup> L.A. County Code, Ch. 22.74, Section 22.74.010 et seq.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, Ch. 22.74, Section 22.74.010.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*, Ch. 22.74, Section 22.74.030.

<sup>51</sup> L.A. County Code, Ch. 22.74, Section 22.74.040.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*

## Thresholds of Significance

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

- The proposed Area Plan would have a significant impact on sheriff services with the increase in the population that will cause the services to not be met by the available Sheriff's Department personnel or equipment.

## Impact Analysis

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

**Impact 3.15-5                    The proposed Area Plan would have a potentially significant impact on sheriff services with the increase in the population that will cause the services to not be met by the available Sheriff's Department personnel or equipment.**

Implementation of the proposed Area Plan, with the expected population buildout of 237,387, would result in the need for increased demand for Sheriff facilities, protection, and services. Commercial and mixed-use development could result in a proportionate increase in crimes related to commercial/multi-family residential properties, including robbery, burglary, auto theft, and grand/petty theft. Potential traffic increases could also result from workers commuting to and from work, and therefore, the number of traffic collisions and violations may rise (**Policy S 5.1.1**).

The Sheriff's department in 2008 had 171 sworn deputies to serve the 75,000 residents in the County's Planning Area. That would mean the County's Planning Area would have approximately two officers per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the "one sworn officer per 1,000 resident" standard. The projected build out of 237,387 residents for the County's Planning Area would require 237 officers to adequately cover the area to meet the standard. From 2008 until complete buildout, there would need to be an additional 66 officers to meet the goal of one officer per 1,000 residents.

The ability for the Sheriff's Department to meet the needs of the County's Planning Area not only depends on the number of officers serving, but it requires additional stations to house these officers and would need additional facilities to house incarcerated people. The ability of the Sheriff's Department to support the needs of future growth is also dependent upon its financial ability to hire additional sworn

personnel (**Policies S 5.1.2 and S 5.1.3**). In addition, a growing population would require that the Sheriff's Department secure sites and construct new detention facilities on a timely basis. Because the CHP covers such a large area there would need to be an increase in the number of officers serving the area to be able to adequately handle the buildout population.

The Area Plan is proposed to abate blighting conditions and stimulate economic development throughout the County's Planning Area by enforcing design standards, landscape standards, citywide beautification programs, rehabilitation of older buildings, as well as prohibiting incompatible land uses—all of which will help to improve the perception of public safety and offset any increases in demand for police protection (**Policy S 5.2.1 to Policy S 5.2.4**). Further, the Area Plan is expected to result in circulation system improvements, and new and rehabilitated developments that will incorporate better building design, lighting, security, hardware, location, visibility, and landscape treatments than currently exists. These improvements, in turn, will enhance public safety and potentially result in fewer calls for police protection services than would result without the Area Plan.

### ***Proposed Area Plan Policies***

- Policy S 5.1.1:** Participate in a multi-jurisdictional task force to evaluate alternatives for combining public safety services with administrative services within a centralized government complex serving the entire Santa Clarita Valley.
- Policy S 5.1.2:** Provide staff assistance to assess future law enforcement needs, and work together with the Sheriff's Department, the City of Santa Clarita, and other partners to develop and implement plans for meeting these needs.
- Policy S 5.1.3:** Cooperate on implementation of funding mechanisms for law enforcement services.
- Policy S 5.2.1:** Promote and participate in the Business Watch program to assist business owners in developing and implementing crime prevention strategies.
- Policy S 5.2.2:** Promote and support Neighborhood Watch programs to assist residents in establishing neighborhood crime prevention techniques.
- Policy S 5.2.3:** Provide code enforcement services to maintain minimum health and safety standards and as a deterrent to crime.

### ***Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies***

The Area Plan policies focus on the assurance that development does not exceed the ability of the County to provide sheriff protection. The policies do not ensure that communities and large private facilities will provide private security, nor do the policies set specific levels of service. In conjunction with the proposed Area Plan policies, the following mitigation measures will be implemented.

#### **Plan to Plan**

As described in this section, the Sheriff's Department uses a standard guideline of providing at least 1 sworn officer per 1,000 residents. The current number of sworn officers, within the County's Planning Area, is 171, which provides one officer per 439 residents. With buildout under the existing Area Plan, the number of officers required to maintain a standard of one officer per 1,000 residents would need to be 270 for the projected population of 270,000 residents, or an additional 99 sworn officers. The proposed Area Plan buildout population would be 237,387 residents and would therefore require 237 sworn officers, or an additional 66 sworn officers to maintain standards. The existing Area Plan would require an additional 70 sworn officers than the proposed Area Plan. Therefore, the existing Area Plan would have greater impacts on police protection.

#### **Mitigation Framework**

Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts on law enforcement to a less than significant level.

**MM 3.15-4** Development applicant(s) shall be required to pay the Los Angeles County Sheriff's established law enforcement facility fees for North Los Angeles County prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy on any structure. The fees are for the acquisition and construction of public facilities to provide adequate service to the residents of the County's Planning Area.

#### **Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework**

The implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies, with the incorporation of the mitigation measure **MM 3.15-4**, would reduce the potential for significant impacts on law enforcement services to a less than significant level.