

## 3.14 COMMUNITY SERVICES

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community services include seniors and youth, cultural amenities, and homeless and emergency shelter services. Implementation of the proposed General Plan would permit development that could potentially impact community services. This section examines the effects of the buildout of the proposed General Plan on community services in the City's Planning Area. The City's Planning Area consists of its incorporated boundaries and adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI). The County's Planning Area consists of unincorporated land within the One Valley One Vision (OVOV) Planning Area boundaries that is outside the City's boundaries and adopted SOI. Together the City and the County Planning Areas comprise the OVOV Planning Area.

### Seniors and Youth

The seniors and youth subsection discusses the potential impacts on senior and youth services found within the City's Planning Area include affordable senior housing units (851) and senior assisted living facilities (4). The 2008 senior population (age 65 and over) consisted of 14,164 residents, or 8 percent of the 2008 population. As the population of the City's Planning Area reaches buildout, the number of senior citizens would be expected to increase as the existing population ages.

The impact analysis also described the amount of childcare facilities and youth programs. The 2008 youth (age 19 and younger) population was 58,425. The City would need to work with childcare facilities and providers to provide adequate services as the City's Planning Area reaches buildout. Greater utilization of park resources would need to meet the future demands of youth programs and youth sports. Impacts on senior and youth services were found to be less than significant with the implementation of the General Plan goals, objectives, and policies.

### Cultural Amenities

This cultural amenities subsection describes the various social, cultural, and arts resources available within the City's Planning Area. Cultural amenities in the City's Planning Area include theaters, auditoriums, and recreational facilities. Cultural organizations range from arts organizations, to faith-based organizations. Cultural programs include arts programs run by the City's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services as well as those sponsored by private organizations. As the build out of the City's Planning Area increases the demand on different cultural amenities will increase. This increase would require more meeting space to accommodate the increase in population. Impacts on

cultural amenities would be less than significant with implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies.

## Homeless and Emergency Shelter Services

This subsection describes the homeless and emergency shelter services and programs provided within the City's Planning Area. It includes data from the Draft General Plan Housing Element. The discussion in the section pertains to homelessness in the City's Planning Area based on data obtained from the City and the County of Los Angeles. The City's Planning Area offers a temporary homeless shelter during the winter months from December 1 to March 15 of each year. Emergency shelters would be designated in certain zones with a conditional use permit. Portions of the Business Park land use would include a zone overlay for the development of emergency shelters which are allowed by right. Impacts would be less than significant with implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies.

## SENIORS AND YOUTH

### Summary

The potential impacts on senior and youth services found within the City's Planning Area included an analysis on the number of affordable senior housing units (851) and senior assisted living facilities (four). The analysis also described the amount of childcare facilities and youth programs. Impacts on senior and youth services were found to be less than significant with the implementation of the General Plan goals, objectives, and policies.

### Existing Conditions

The senior and youth subsection describes the services oriented to the needs of the youth age groups and the senior age populations in the City's Planning Area, such as children, senior citizens, and disabled persons. The number of senior residents within the City in 2006 totaled 12,361 persons.<sup>1</sup> In 2008, the number of seniors within the City totaled 14,164. There were 58,425 residents that were age 19 and under.<sup>2</sup> Available senior housing consisted of 851 rental units in six rental properties in Santa Clarita.<sup>3</sup> Four senior assisted living centers serve the senior population.<sup>4</sup> Other available services include

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<sup>1</sup> City of Santa Clarita, *General Plan Draft Housing Element*, January 2009.

<sup>2</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Age Demographics," [http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/cd/ed/community\\_profile/2007demographics/population.asp#age](http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/cd/ed/community_profile/2007demographics/population.asp#age). 2009.

<sup>3</sup> City of Santa Clarita, *General Plan Draft Housing Element*, Table-H 3.2.1, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Section 3.19, Population and Housing of this Draft EIR.

childcare, infant care, teen programs, preschool and kindergarten, after school programs, youth intervention programs, sports programs, and special education. For further discussion on senior population see the **Senior** subsection, below.

The City's 2008 population was 177,045. As such, persons age 19 and under comprise about 33 percent of the total population,<sup>5</sup> or approximately 58,425 people, and persons age 65 and older comprise about 8 percent of the population,<sup>6</sup> or approximately 14,164 people. Together, the large number and unique needs of residents in these age groups suggests the need for specialized services. If current trends continue, and as the adult population ages, there will likely be an increase in the youth and senior populations as well as the demand for services for those age groups.

### **Seniors**

Numbering approximately 14,164 seniors, those age 65 or older comprise almost 8 percent of the City's population and have the greatest need for specialized resources, such as transportation, medical, and assisted living.

The issue of what age groups to include in the term "elderly" is important because the HCD requires jurisdictions to determine the needs of this age group for housing and asks whether the supply of housing is adequate to the need. In this document, the group "elderly" includes persons age 65 and older. There were 12,361 persons aged 65 or older in 2006. Of these, 2,356 or 18.7 percent were 85 or older. Between 2000 and 2006, the number of persons aged 65 and older increased by 2,176 persons. This represents a 20.2 percent increase in the proportion of the population that is age 65 and older. Countywide, during the same period, the population in this age group grew by 18.3 percent.<sup>7</sup>

### **Service Providers**

The Santa Clarita Committee on Aging, a charitable non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that does business as the "Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center" (Senior Center), serves over 6,000 seniors (one-third of the estimated 65 and older population) throughout the valley. The Senior Center is the only comprehensive service provider in the OVOV Planning Area, and is responsible for all senior programming. While there are few facilities especially designed for senior activities, the City strives to accommodate seniors, and all

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<sup>5</sup> City of Santa Clarita, Economic Development, "Age Demographics," [http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/cd/ed/community\\_profile/2007demographics/population.asp#age](http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/cd/ed/community_profile/2007demographics/population.asp#age). 2009.

<sup>6</sup> City of Santa Clarita, Economic Development, "Age Demographics," [http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/cd/ed/community\\_profile/2007demographics/population.asp#age](http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/cd/ed/community_profile/2007demographics/population.asp#age). 2009.

<sup>7</sup> City of Santa Clarita, *Draft General Plan*, Housing Element, 2009.

City facilities are open and accessible to seniors. Transportation to activities throughout the City's Planning Area is provided by both Dial-a-Ride and by the Senior Center. The Senior Center hosts most of their programs on site at 22900 Market Street in Newhall.

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

The single most-important issue facing this population is the lack of nursing care/assisted living facilities in the City's Planning Area. There are currently four senior assisted living facilities that consist of 405 units in the City's Planning Area: Pacifica Senior Living, Santa Clarita Convalescent Home, Summerhill Villa, and Sunrise at Sterling Canyon; and as the adult population continues to age, more facilities will be needed.<sup>8</sup>

Senior housing facilities with affordable units throughout the Planning Area include:

- Bouquet Canyon Seniors
- Canterbury Village Senior Apartments
- Canyon Country Senior Apartments
- Fountain Glen Apartments
- Orchard Arms
- Valencia Villas
- Whispering Oaks Apartments

These apartments have facilitated access to the Center's recreational facilities and services. These facilities make up a total of 851 affordable units.

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<sup>8</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Affordable Housing and Services," <http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/cd/housing/housing5.asp>, 2009.

## **Programs**

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

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

## **Disabled Senior Adults**

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

## **Youth**

In 2008, approximately 58,425 residents of the City's Planning Area were youth 19 years of age or younger and comprised approximately 33 percent of the City's Planning Area population. A wide variety of childcare and teen programs are available throughout the City's Planning Area. Programs include preschool, cooperative, full-day care, school-age childcare, year-round care, infant (six weeks to two years) care, parent-toddler programs, kindergarten, youth intervention, after school programs, sports, and special education.

## Service Providers

Childcare support services in the City's Planning Area include the Child Care Resource Center, the Family Day Care Association of the Santa Clarita Valley, and the Santa Clarita Child and Family Center, formerly known as the Santa Clarita Child and Family Programs.<sup>9</sup> The Child Care Resource Center (CCRC), which is based in Northridge, provides a referral service for special education and day care for the Santa Clarita Valley. The CCRC, which receives public funding, works with City and County agencies to administer Calworks voucher payments for needy families.

### *Childcare*

There are 69 licensed childcare centers in the City's Planning Area and they are licensed through the childcare licensing division of the State Department of Social Services. The total licensed capacity for the 69 licensed facilities is 5,140.<sup>10</sup> Although these providers serve multiple age groups from infant through 12 years old, they are limited to serving a maximum of three infants between the ages of infant through two years. Therefore, most requests for childcare referrals in the City's Planning Area are for infants. As is the case countywide, infants are the most underserved population in the Valley. The childcare needs of the City's Planning Area would only increase with the projected population growth.

### *Funding*

The State Department of Education is the major funding source for subsidized childcare in the state. All of the school districts in the City's Planning Area except for the Castaic Union School District have State-subsidized childcare contracts. Most of the districts have full- or half-day programs that serve preschool-age children ages two to five.

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

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<sup>9</sup> City of Santa Clarita, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, 2000.

<sup>10</sup> California Community Care Licensing Division, [http://www.cclcd.ca.gov/docs/cclcd\\_search/cclcd\\_search.aspx](http://www.cclcd.ca.gov/docs/cclcd_search/cclcd_search.aspx), 2008.

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

## Programs

### *Disabled Youth*

There are programs offered in and around the OVOV Planning Area for disabled youth. Local organizations that benefit disabled youth include Carousel Ranch and Heads-up Therapy with Horses, which both offer equestrian therapy; Santa Clarita Valley Special Olympics; the Assistance League of Santa Clarita; and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and Let Me Sail.<sup>12</sup> The City of Santa Clarita Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department also provides “adaptive recreation” programs for disabled youth, such as wheelchair basketball. In addition, the Child and Family Center provides early intervention daycare for high-risk children, as well as counseling for children, adolescents, and adults who need therapy for emotional, behavioral, and/or developmental problems. They would also benefit from recreational inclusion programs.

### *Young Adults*

In recent years, the City has targeted young adults as an at-risk population. Citing some of the ongoing threats facing young adults, such as drug abuse, gang violence, and the decline of the family structure, the City held a strategic planning session in April 1995.<sup>13</sup> The purpose of the session was to bring together approximately 100 community members, including parents, young adults, business leaders, clergy, and law-enforcement to discuss the needs of Santa Clarita’s youth. The City of Santa Clarita Youth Strategic Plan was created in 1996 out of growing concerns about the health, welfare, security, and future prospects of the area’s young people.

While acknowledging the challenges facing the City’s youngest residents, such as lack of job training, recreation facilities, and limited transportation, session participants identified goals to ensure a bright future for youth. These goals included providing a teen nightclub for young adults, sponsoring a youth-produced television show, and job training through public/private partnerships. While the primary support and supervision of these programs would be provided by the Santa Clarita Valley Youth Master Plan Committee, additional support would be provided by various organizations, local businesses, Santa Clarita Valley YMCA, the Santa Clarita Public Access Channel, and the City of Santa Clarita Student Employment Program.<sup>14</sup> Most elements of the Youth Strategic Plan have been realized. Youth have been

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<sup>12</sup> Child Care Resource Center, “Help paying for child care,” <http://www.ccrcla.org/home/index.asp?page=142>, 2008.

<sup>13</sup> City of Santa Clarita, *Santa Clarita Valley Youth Strategic Plan*, 1996.

<sup>14</sup> City of Santa Clarita, *Santa Clarita Valley Youth Strategic Plan*, 1996.

involved in the master planning process, and in the design and implementation of an activities center and a teen center as part of the expanded Santa Clarita Sports Complex.<sup>15</sup>

Some of the diverse organizations that provide youth programs are the Boys and Girls Club, Boy and Girl Scouts of Santa Clarita Valley, the Betty Ferguson Foundation, the California Youth Chess League, Canyon Theatre Guild, Hart District Regional Occupational Program, Santa Clarita Valley YMCA, Repertory East Playhouse, Santa Clarita Valley School and Business Alliance, and Santa Clarita Valley Youth Orchestra.<sup>16</sup> The programs vary from music education to sports, and from job training to acting lessons. Many are open to the public at minimal or no cost.

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

The City of Santa Clarita Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services created a "Youth Advisory Group" which creates an action plan on an annual basis. The same young people are also part of an ad hoc focus group that meets with the Santa Clarita City Council and committees.

In addition, youth employment has become a major focus of programs for young adults. Pre-employment training and employment services for youth are offered through the City, County, and through nonprofits. There are an increasing number of programs offered to young adults with an emphasis on creating future job opportunities. These programs include Hart District Regional Occupational Program, Santa Clarita Valley School and Business Alliance, and Santa Clarita Scholarship Foundation. The ACTION (which runs parent and teen support groups to resolve conflicts), and the Santa Clarita Valley Youth Project all provide job-training programs as well.<sup>17</sup>

The Santa Clarita Valley Youth Project is a nonprofit organization that works with high-risk and runaway youth. The organization aims to decrease the involvement of youth in high-risk activities, and to provide them access to reliable, objective information. Through a combination of on-site services, a comprehensive website and community outreach, the Santa Clarita Youth Project provides workshops

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<sup>15</sup> City of Santa Clarita, *Santa Clarita Valley Youth Strategic Plan*, 1996.

<sup>16</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Arts organizations directory," <http://www.santa-clarita.com/arts/artsservices/organizations/index.asp>, 2008.

<sup>17</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "City of Santa Clarita Anti-Gang Task Force," <http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/parks/gang.asp>, 2008.



and resources on topics including alcohol and substance abuse, sex and love, depression, suicide, parenting skills, and health and wellness.

Over the last decade, the City's Planning Area has developed into a major hub for youth sports and activities. In 2006, more than 569,571 participants ranging from age five and under to adult played on City sponsored recreation classes or events. The highest participation level is in programs for youth (grades K-5) and teens (grades 6-12), especially in youth sports and aquatics. There is also a high level of participation in child development programs for children under 5 years old.<sup>18</sup>

Though facilitated by the City's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, programs are available to all residents of the City's Planning Area. Program types include basketball, flag football, t-ball, softball, volleyball, and aquatics. Children between the ages of four and eight years old enter instructional clinic-style leagues that introduce the fundamentals of the sport and place emphasis on skill development.

## **Regulatory Context**

### ***Federal Regulations***

#### **Workforce Investment Act.<sup>19</sup>**

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

### ***State Regulations***

#### **Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act**

This Act<sup>20</sup> establishes, for the California Department of Aging, volunteer opportunities, programs, funds, and partnerships with health service providers for the elderly.

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<sup>18</sup> City of Santa Clarita, *Santa Clarita Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*, Recreation Programs, 2008.

<sup>19</sup> Code of Federal Regulations. Title 20 Section 664. "Youth Activities."

<sup>20</sup> California Code of Regulations. Section 9000 et. seq. "Older Californians Act."

## California Health and Safety Code

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

## The California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights<sup>21</sup> offered by the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, lists fundamental experiences every child would benefit from experiencing before entering high school. The recommendations address recent concerns about youth detachment from outdoor activities, lack of physical exercise, and increased health risks. The State of California and the City of Santa Clarita are among the agencies and organizations that have endorsed or adopted (Santa Clarita City Council adopted on May 27, 2008) the document, which sets forth that every child should have the following opportunities (and others not listed here):

- Discover California's Past
- Splash in the water
- Play in a safe place
- Camp under the stars
- Explore nature

In the City's Planning Area or in close proximity, there are many opportunities to experience the activities on the list and the City continues to explore new options for furthering its commitment. In particular, the Pioneer/Chevron site, Beale's cut, and the El Puerta Road (Elsmere Canyon) could become more effective historic resources and interpretive opportunities in the future.

## Local Regulations

### City of Santa Clarita Cultural Arts Master Plan

The Cultural Arts Master Plan, Phase I and II, was developed in 1997 and 1998. The Cultural Arts Master Plan identifies needs for cultural facilities; makes recommendations for satisfying those needs; and

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<sup>21</sup> California State Parks. "Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights." [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24952](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24952). 2008.

discusses creation of a local arts agency to support, promote, and develop arts and culture in the community. Top facility needs include (1) a performing and visual arts center with a 1,000-seat theater, a 3,000-square-foot visual arts gallery, and (2) an outdoor amphitheater that accommodates 500 to 1,000 people in fixed seating with additional lawn seating that could allow for an audience of 2,500 total persons. The Cultural Arts Master Plan provides detailed suggestions on the architectural and site components of these facilities.

## Thresholds of Significance

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

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

## Impact Analysis

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

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

There are currently 819 units of affordable senior housing facilities located within the City's Planning Area and 405 units for senior assisted living facilities. In 2008 the number of senior residents totaled 14,164, or almost 8 percent of the population. The existing ratio of senior housing rooms to the current population of seniors is 1 for every 18 seniors. The City does not currently have a housing ratio, so the actual threshold or goal for the amount of affordable housing cannot be determined. With an expected increase in the senior population in the City's Planning Area as the existing population ages, an increase in the amount of affordable senior housing will be necessary. The potential for an increase in medical needs for senior citizens is also addressed in **(Public Services)**. The proposed General Plan policies would require senior housing to meet the needs of the City's Planning Area. The Land Use Map designates the

appropriate zones to allow for a mix of housing opportunities (**Goal LU 3, Objective LU 3.1, Policy LU 3.1.1**). The growth of the City's Planning Area would also increase the potential need for extra development of housing suitable to residents with special needs (**Policy LU 3.1.6**). The buildout of the City's Planning Area would coordinate with local agencies to provide adequate housing and facilities for the potential growth in the senior population (**Goal LU 8, Objective LU 8.1, Policy LU 8.1.10**). Please refer to **Section 3.19, Population and Housing**, of this environmental impact report (EIR) for a review of housing programs.

### ***Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

**Goal LU 3:** Healthy and safe neighborhoods for all residents.

**Objective LU 3.1:** Provide for a diversity of housing types available to provide safe and suitable homes for all economic levels, household sizes, age groups and special needs groups within the community.

**Policy LU 3.1.1:** On the Land Use Map, designate adequate land for residential use at various densities to provide a mix of housing opportunities for all segments of the population, including attached, detached, senior, and mixed-use housing types, which are consistent with community character and meet the region's housing goals.

**Policy LU 3.1.6:** Promote development of housing suitable to residents with special needs, including but not limited to senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

**Goal LU 8:** Equitable and convenient access to social, cultural, educational, civic, medical, and recreational facilities and opportunities for all residents.

**Objective LU 8.1:** Work with service providers to plan for adequate community facilities and services to meet the needs of present and future residents.

**Policy LU 8.1.10:** Coordinate with agencies that provide services to seniors and the elderly to expand senior facilities, which may include a new senior center.

### *Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies*

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

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

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

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

As the population increases with the City's buildout, demands on childcare programs and programs for the youth will increase. Presently, the most requests for childcare referrals in the City's Planning Area are for infants; infants are the most underserved population in the Valley. **Goal LU 8** includes equitable and convenient access to social, cultural, educational, civic, medical, and recreational facilities and opportunities for all residents. As the population of the City's Planning Area increases, the City will need to work with its service providers to plan for adequate community facilities and services to meet the needs of present and future residents, including those programs and services for childcare (**Objective LU 8.1**).

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

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

This means a city or county may require 3 acres of park space per 1,000 residents for new development.<sup>22</sup> In 2008, there were about 58,425 residents, age group 19 and younger, throughout the City. With the current demand of available park space already in a deficit there would need to be greater utilization of resources to meet the future demands for youth programs and youth sports (**Goal LU 8, Objective LU 8.1, Policy LU 8.1.3**). Other programs like the youth job and skills training will also be essential to equip youth with the skills necessary to command jobs and to provide for more youth services.

### ***Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

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

### ***Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

The implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies would provide the opportunity for youths to be able to participate in activities outside of school.

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

Both the existing and proposed General Plans contain policies intended to minimize impacts to youth services. Impacts would be similar under both Plans.

### **Mitigation Framework**

No mitigation measures are required.

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

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

## **CULTURAL AMENITIES**

### **Summary**

This cultural amenities subsection describes the various social, cultural, and arts resources available within the City's Planning Area. Cultural amenities in the City's Planning Area include theaters,

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<sup>22</sup> California Government Code, Section 66477.

auditoriums, and recreational facilities. Cultural organizations range from arts organizations, to faith-based organizations. Cultural programs include arts programs run by the City's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services as well as those sponsored by private organizations.

### **Existing Conditions**

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

Santa Clarita Valley's nonprofit arts community includes a broad array of organizations and artists, and a substantial number of arts programs and activities. There is a diverse range of artistic disciplines and a strong focus on programs for children and youth. The City, has in recent years, become the largest provider of arts programs in the OVOV Planning Area, as measured in terms of program diversity, budget, audience, and staff. Most private arts organizations are in the small-budget category, under \$100,000 per year. As a whole, the community's institutional development and infrastructure support for arts programming is at an early stage of advancement.

### ***Performing and Visual Arts Facilities***

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

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

In addition to the regular collection, the City's Planning Area libraries preserve local and regional history. The collection covers all periods of time and includes photographs, rare books, newspapers, artifacts, and other items that are available for public review. See **Section 3.15, Public Services**, of this EIR for more information on the libraries in the City's Planning Area.

The City contributed \$2.4 million to assist the College of the Canyons and to construct and ensure the City's usage of the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center. The Center is an 886-seat professional-quality theater as well as an experimental Black Box theater.<sup>23</sup>

### ***Community-Based Organizations and Programs***

#### **Cultural Arts Organizations**

The City's Planning Area nonprofit arts community contains private nonprofit arts organizations, plus several additional unincorporated arts groups. The 661 Arts Committee is comprised of the following organizations:

- California Institute of the Arts
- International Family Film Festival
- Theatre Arts for Children
- Canyon Theatre Guild
- Santa Clarita Symphony
- Santa Clarita Artist Association, Inc.
- Santa Clarita Master Chorale
- Santa Clarita Youth Orchestra
- Repertory East Playhouse
- Santa Clarita Ballet Company
- Santa Clarita Valley Concert Band
- Santa Clarita Valley Poets
- Santa Clarita Valley Film Festival
- Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

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<sup>23</sup> College of the Canyons, "Home Page," <http://www.canyons.edu/offices/pio/canyonspac/index.html>, 2008.



- Young Audiences

Several other private nonprofit organizations have active arts programs or assist private arts organizations, including the Santa Clarita Valley Boys and Girls Club and the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society. Many local colleges and schools have arts programs, including the CalArts, College of the Canyons, The Master's College, as well as the public school districts.

### **Social Organizations**

In addition to arts-focused community-based organizations, the City's Planning Area is home to organizations that range in interests, including political, professional, senior, veteran, women's, and men's groups; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual (LGBT);<sup>24</sup> hobbies and sports; and youth, parents, health, and social organizations.

### **Faith-Based Organizations**

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

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

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

### ***Local Programs***

As noted, many of the organizations listed above offer programs in their areas of expertise. However, the City's cultural arts programs have grown in recent years and the City is currently the largest individual cultural and arts provider in the community. All activities and staff are organized within the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Some of the City's diverse programs include the Cowboy Poetry and Musical Festival, Concerts in the Parks, Arts and Crafts Fairs, a grant program, a scholarship program, and numerous classes ranging from watercolor painting, dance classes, and crafts.

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

The City of Santa Clarita Arts and Events Office, in partnership with CalArts, Cultural Arts Partnership, a non-profit arts education organization, and local schools, created the Share the World Program. The Share the World program provides workshops and assemblies in music, dance, and theatre, as well as writing and visual arts. Its goal is to provide greater awareness of cultural diversity in the Santa Clarita Schools.<sup>25</sup>

While not an “arts” related event, the Santa Clarita Marathon is another program under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services. The Marathon has taken place since 1996, and is routed through the local communities of Saugus, Newhall and Valencia. The City of Santa Clarita also holds a yearly Half Marathon, and 5K Run/Walk, and Kid K, as part of the Marathon event.

### *Acquisition and Expansion of Facilities*

Jurisdictions are commonly involved in the development and operation of cultural facilities, often retaining ownership of the facilities. The Cultural Arts Master Plan, Phase I and II, was developed in 1997 and 1998. The Cultural Arts Master Plan identifies needs for cultural facilities; makes recommendations for satisfying those needs; and discusses creation of a local arts agency to support, promote, and develop arts and culture in the City’s Planning Area. Top facility needs include: (1) a performing and visual arts center with a 1,000-seat theater, a 3,000-square-foot visual arts gallery, and (2) an outdoor amphitheater that accommodates 500-1,000 people in fixed seating with additional lawn seating that could allow for an audience of 2,500 total persons.<sup>26</sup> Because cultural facilities are not usually lucrative ventures, they often require ongoing public and private subsidy. Consequently, in an effort to economize, the shared use of cultural facilities is common throughout the Valley.

### *Future Needs*

Phase Two of the Cultural Arts Master Plan focuses on the cultural needs of the community as a whole, with aims to address the community’s need for cultural facilities, and to create a local arts agency to oversee the development of arts and culture in the City’s Planning Area. Phase Two acknowledges the inadequacy of existing facilities for performing and visual arts purposes, and the difficulty of obtaining access to existing venues. The Plan concludes that the development of cultural facilities in the City’s Planning Area will have community benefits such as increased educational opportunities, an enriched cultural life, general economic gains, and may also benefit local redevelopment efforts depending on location.

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<sup>25</sup> City of Santa Clarita Web site 2002.

<sup>26</sup> City of Santa Clarita, *Santa Clarita Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*, Introduction, 2008.

The Cultural Arts Master Plan identifies a need for increased cooperation, coordination, and planning in local arts development. Audience development and education through public awareness of local arts activities will help to increase attendance and participation.

A market study to determine the viability of new cultural attractions within the City's Planning Area concluded that the Planning Area has enormous potential for arts attendance, as it can draw upon both the OVOV Planning Area and the northern San Fernando Valley. As the schools have reported a need for improved cultural performing and instructional facilities, many have current plans for development, including the Hart School District, College of the Canyons, The Master's College, and Newhall Elementary School/Theatre Arts for Children. The Hart School District is also interested in the joint development and use of a cultural facility with the City.<sup>27</sup>

### **Regulatory Context**

There are currently no applicable federal, state, or local regulations that pertain to cultural amenities within the City's Planning Area.

### **Thresholds of Significance**

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

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

### **Impact Analysis**

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

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<sup>27</sup> Op. cit. p. 5.

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

While exact future needs are difficult to predict, given the existing conditions, anticipated growth, and competing land use interests between schools and other public facilities, there is an opportunity to share resources within the City's Planning Area. Examples include mixed-use facilities such as cafeteria-auditorium multi-purpose rooms; library facilities; joint-use of technological resources between schools and the community; and shared recreational facilities between parks and schools, (as currently exists within the City of Santa Clarita). As the build out of the City's Planning Area increases the demand on different cultural amenities will increase. This increase will require more meeting space to accommodate the increase in population. The update of the Cultural Arts Master Plan would help to coordinate the different amenities throughout the City's Planning Area (**Goal LU 8, Objective LU 8.1, Policy LU 8.1.6**).

### ***Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

**Goal LU 8:**                    Equitable and convenient access to social, cultural, educational, civic, medical, and recreational facilities and opportunities for all residents.

**Objective LU 8.1:**            Work with service providers to plan for adequate community facilities and services to meet the needs of present and future residents.

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

### ***Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

The implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies would enhance the access and potentially allow for the joint use of facilities.

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

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

## Mitigation Framework

No mitigation measures required.

## Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework

The implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies would reduce potential impacts on cultural amenities to less than significant.

## HOMELESS AND EMERGENCY SHELTER SERVICES

### Summary

This section describes the homeless and emergency shelter services and programs provided within the City's Planning Area. It includes data from two recent reports on homelessness in the Santa Clarita Valley. The discussion in the section pertains to homelessness in the City's Planning Area based on data obtained from the City and the County of Los Angeles. The City's Planning Area offers a temporary homeless shelter during the winter months from December 1 to March 15 of each year.<sup>28</sup>

### Existing Conditions

#### *Homelessness*

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

#### Definitions of "Homeless" and "At-Risk to Homelessness"

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

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<sup>28</sup> Santa Clarita Valley Emergency Winter Shelter, <http://www.santaclaritashelter.com/Pages/Services.html>, 2008.

There were two reports on homelessness commissioned during 2002, and both were collaborative efforts of the City of Santa Clarita and Los Angeles County. Each report offers a different definition of homelessness. The Santa Clarita Homeless Advisory Task Force, a coalition of public and private agencies, supervised the first report, "Homelessness in the City of Santa Clarita." The Task Force report defines a person as "homeless" if "he/she resides in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or in transitional housing for homeless persons." A person is considered "at-risk for homelessness" if "he/she has utilized services at a social services agency in the City of Santa Clarita that serves low and moderate-income individuals." (Low and moderate income is defined by HUD as a family of four with a total income less than 80 percent of the median income in the area.) Additionally, the Task Force survey takers identified those who did not identify themselves as homeless as at risk for homelessness.

According to the second report, "Report on Homelessness in the Santa Clarita Valley," which was prepared by the Santa Clarita Valley Service Center, which is operated by Los Angeles County, the "homeless" are those who are currently without permanent housing, and those deemed "at-risk" are those unlikely to be able to afford a place to live in the immediate future.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is no emergency shelter in the City of Santa Clarita that is open 12 months a year. During the winter months (December through March 15), the SCCDC operates a cold weather shelter funded by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) on a site approved only for temporary use. In an agreement with the City of Santa Clarita, the site must be rotated every three years to a different location. The City's Unified Development Code (UDC) allows transitional housing in the City in all residential zones with the same requirements as multi-family residential projects. Currently, there is no transitional housing for either individuals or families in Santa Clarita.

### ***Resources and Solutions***

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

In 2008, Lutheran Social Services, which has an office in Canyon Country, also provided motel vouchers for homeless families in Santa Clarita. This effort will supplement services provided at the EWS, which is open only between December and March and is not open during the day. The voucher provides up to 90 days of shelter. Lutheran Social Services will provide vouchers for up to 90 days of shelter for up to five families per month; if each family uses the vouchers for the maximum of 90 days, the vouchers will assist 20 families per year.

### ***Eviction Prevention Services***

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

### ***DPSS Homeless Assistance Program***

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



### *Census Data*

While there is no current figure available for the number of homeless persons in the City's Planning Area, according to the 2000 Census there are 1,341 people living in non-institutionalized, group housing quarters in the City's Planning Area.<sup>29</sup> The transitory nature of homeless persons inhibits the ability to accurately assess the number of homeless persons in the City's Planning Area. Census data is unable to provide this data, and as indicated by the two reports on homelessness in the City's Planning Area, surveys of this population are inaccurate as well.

### *Service Providers and Programs*

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

A variety of programs and facilities are available to homeless persons within the City's Planning Area.<sup>30</sup> Services located within the Valley include

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

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<sup>29</sup> This category is not exclusive to people living in temporary or emergency shelters.

<sup>30</sup> Santa Clarita Valley Emergency Winter Shelter Task Force, "Final Report," [http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/agendas/council/print\\_attachment.asp?ID=5412](http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/agendas/council/print_attachment.asp?ID=5412), 2007.

- Santa Clarita Food Pantry,
- Santa Clarita Mental Health Center, and
- Santa Clarita Valley Service Center.

The Santa Clarita Child and Family Center provides mental health counseling for children and adults, and the Santa Clarita Valley Mental Health Center provides extensive services in crisis intervention, case management, and rehabilitation. The Santa Clarita Community Development Corporation provides family aid programs. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence provides outpatient alcohol and drug counseling referrals. Single Mother's Outreach provides housing, food, clothing, and job referrals for this at-risk population.<sup>31</sup>

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

The Santa Clarita Valley Service Center located in Newhall also provides assistance to those who are battered persons, victims of crime, and/or have been subject to adult abuse. However, it does not provide any permanent shelter.<sup>32</sup>

## Emergency Shelters

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

As indicated earlier, there is currently one short-term emergency winter shelter in the City. The Santa Clarita Community Development Corporation operates the emergency winter shelter that operates nightly from November to April. There are no known shelters in the unincorporated Planning Area.

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<sup>31</sup> City of Santa Clarita, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, 2002.

<sup>32</sup> Santa Clarita Valley Emergency Winter Shelter, <http://www.santaclaritashelter.com/index.asp>, 2008.

The Santa Clarita Community Development Corporation also provides motel vouchers, as does the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army. The Santa Clarita Valley contains facilities for battered persons and disaster relief programs. Most individuals utilizing emergency shelters are residents of the Santa Clarita Valley.<sup>33</sup>

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

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

## **Regulatory Context**

### ***Federal Regulations***

#### **Title 24—Housing and Urban Development Part 91 Consolidated Submissions For Community Planning And Development**

The Consolidated Plan is a document required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to apply for funding under the following programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and some competitive grant programs like the McKinney Supportive Housing Program.<sup>34</sup>

### ***State Regulations***

#### **Senate Bill 2 (SB 2)**

The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (b) Because homelessness affects people of all races, gender, age, and geographic location there is a growing need for every city and county to plan for the location of adequate emergency shelters. Many people experiencing homelessness, primarily youth and single individuals, need shelter but also have a need for residential substance abuse and mental health services.

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<sup>33</sup> Santa Clarita Valley Emergency Winter Shelter, <http://www.santaclaritashelter.com/index.asp>, 2008.

<sup>34</sup> 24 CFR 91.205.

- (d) In order to ensure access to services in every city and county for homeless individuals and families, it is important that cities and counties plan for these services to address the special needs and circumstances of this threatened population.
- (e) It is the responsibility of cities and counties to plan and identify areas for emergency shelters. Cities and counties should include this as part of their planning process and locate emergency shelters where most appropriate in their community. The state should not dictate where these emergency shelters should be located.
- (f) It is the responsibility of the Legislature to promote strong communities and ensure that housing and residential services are available in all communities.

### **State Affordable Housing Trust Fund**

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

### **Thresholds of Significance**

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

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

### **Impact Analysis**

This impact analysis section evaluates the potential effects of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies on homeless services and emergency shelter services within the City's Planning Area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

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

The General Plan's Housing Element and the Population/Housing section in this EIR addresses the need for affordable housing, housing for people with special needs, constraints to providing affordable housing, the agency's progress in meeting its housing goals, quantified objectives for provision of housing, a survey or adequate sites for housing, a resource inventory, and identification of at-risk

affordable units and methods of preservation. During the next Housing Element update process in 2014, the programs established in that element will be evaluated to determine the City's level of success in meeting its objectives. Programs identified within the Housing Element help to attain the goals, objectives, and policies assisting in the development of affordable housing for not only senior housing, but for extremely low, very low, low and moderate income housing.

Each senior receives a comprehensive assessment to determine housing needs. They are then provided with a wide array of housing-related services, which help them maintain independent living in the least restrictive manner possible. Similar programs could be utilized in this way to help the overall homeless population to be able to live in housing (**Goal S 6, Objective S 6.3, Policy S 6.3.1**). The current winter shelter has found four new sites that will be used for two years and then rotated to the next site (**Goal LU 8, Objective LU 8.1, Policy LU 8.1.8**).

Emergency shelters are usually located at community centers and schools (**Goal S 7, Objective S 7.2, Policy S 7.2.1**). The maintenance of these areas and the accessibility during a disaster are extremely important. These types of areas are only to be used for temporary shelters. In case of a major disaster the state and federal governments would have to provide the necessary long-term shelters.

### ***Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

**Goal S 6:** Reduced risk to public safety and property damage from accidental occurrences.

**Objective S 6.3:** Provide for the safety of disadvantaged persons.

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

**Goal S 7:** Protection of the public through planning for disaster response and recovery, in order to minimize damage from emergency incidents or terrorist activities.

**Objective S 7.2:** Plan for ways to minimize economic and social disruption, and expedite recovery from emergency incidents.

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

**Goal LU 8:** Equitable and convenient access to social, cultural, educational, civic, medical, and recreational facilities and opportunities for all residents.

**Objective LU 8.1:** Work with service providers to plan for adequate community facilities and services to meet the needs of present and future residents.

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

### ***Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

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

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

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

### **Mitigation Framework**

No mitigation measures are required.

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

The proposed goals, objectives, and policies would reduce any potential significant emergency shelter or homelessness impacts to less than significant.