

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Community Facilities

Library Services

The potential impacts on community facilities found within the City's Planning Area included an analysis on the number of library items, such as books, periodicals, videos, CDs and CD-ROM software, audio recordings, audio books, DVDs, and pamphlets; library square feet, and the number of library meeting rooms. Each impact area had the criteria of

- 2.75 items per 1,000 residents, and
- 0.5 square feet per 1,000 residents

Currently, there is a surplus of 62,620 library items, and a deficit of 46,718 square feet. At buildout there would need to be 756,250 library items and 137,500 square feet. With the implementation of the planned library expansions and the inclusion of the existing resources there would be a deficit of 195,936 library items and a surplus of 45,172 square feet. With the implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, policies and mitigation measure **MM 3.15-1** provided in this section, the potential impacts on community facilities would be less than significant.

Health and Social Services

The City'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, 8.0 percent of the population consists of the age group 65 or older. If trends stay the same then, at buildout, 42,350 people would be age 65 or older. This population would require adequate health care within the City's Planning Area. With the implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies, potentially significant impacts on health and social services would be less than significant.

Education

The City's Planning Area currently has portions of five school districts:

- Newhall Elementary
- Saugus Union Elementary
- Castaic Union
- Sulphur Springs Union Elementary
- William S. Hart Union High School

The school districts, as of 2008, educate 49,669 students from kindergarten to grade 12. The school districts design capacity is 54,844 students. There are no school districts over capacity; however there are 14 schools over capacity. Implementation of the General Plan would potentially increase the number of new students within the City's Planning Area over the current student population. Implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, policies, and Senate Bill 50 would reduce impacts on school districts to less than significant. School district boundaries are not coterminous with the City's OVOV Planning Area boundaries.

Fire Protection

Fire protection within the City's Planning Area is supplied by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD). The LACoFD has several standards to maintain to adequately meet the fire needs of the residents of the City's Planning Area. The current standard for response time is

- 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 Planning Area was 5 minutes 24 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 City, County, state, and federal agencies would also contribute to maintaining adequate response times. Implementation of the proposed goals, objectives, 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 City's Planning Area is contracted with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department with the California Highway Patrol maintaining jurisdiction over the highways. The Sheriff's Department standard to maintain effective police protection is one officer per 1,000 people. The current number of sworn officers, within the City's Planning Area, is 171, which provides one officer per 1,036 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 275. In order to maintain adequate service the Planning Area would need an additional 104 sworn officers. With the implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, 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 City and LA County. Community facilities in the City'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 General Plan goals, objectives, and policies.

Existing Conditions

Libraries

The County of Los Angeles Public Library (Library) operates all public libraries within the OVOV Planning Area. There are three County libraries and mobile library services within the City's Planning Area. **Figure 3.15-1, Library Locations in the OVOV Planning Area**, shows the general library locations; however the Santa Clarita Valley Bookmobile is not included on the figure because it serves the entire Santa Clarita Valley. These libraries include Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library, Newhall, Valencia,

and the Santa Clarita Valley Bookmobile. The public schools in the City'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.

Currently, 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 City'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 City's Planning Area**)¹. The libraries are not solely used by City residents, but are also used by County residents.

**Table 3.15-1
Existing Library Resources within the City's Planning Area**

Library	Facility Size (sf)	Resources Available (books, audio and video recordings, periodicals, etc.)
Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy ¹	12,864	117,891
Newhall ²	4,842	91,280
Valencia ³	23,966	340,203
Santa Clarita Valley Bookmobile ⁴	133	10,940
Total	41,805	560,314

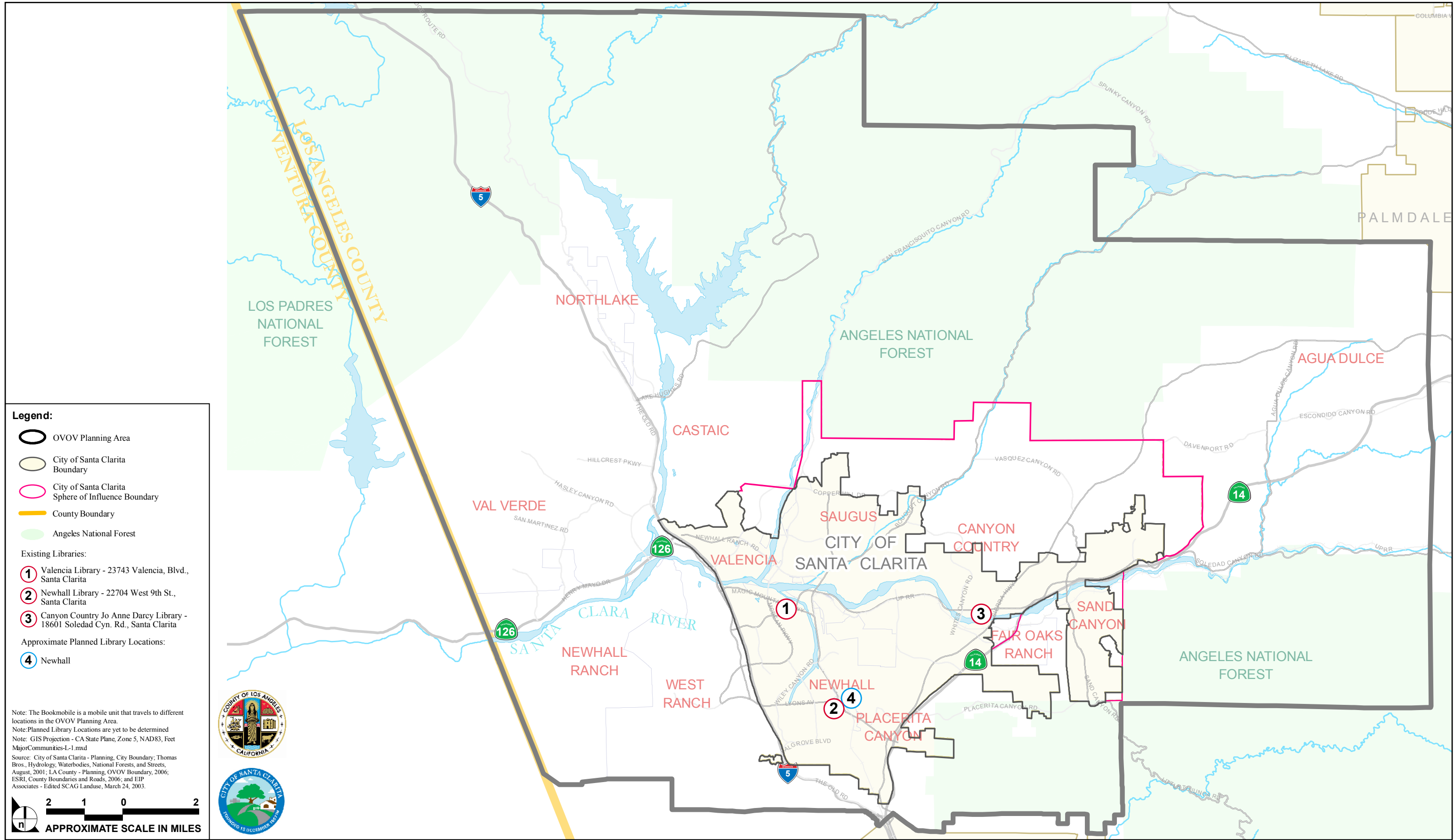
Source: ¹ County of Los Angeles Public Library, <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/canyoncountry>

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






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




⁴ *Ibid.*, <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/santaclarita/>; Telephone communication between Andrea Kish, Assistant Region Administer, and Chris Hampson, Impact Sciences, Inc., March 24, 2009.

¹ 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

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.² 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 City is 177,045.³ 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 City is 486,874 library material items, and facility space totaling 88,523 square feet. The current library material items are in excess of 73,440 items and are housed in buildings totaling 41,805 square feet.⁴ The current amount of square feet, as per the Library standard, is in a deficit 46,718 square feet. It should be noted that users from outside of the City's boundaries use City library resources since there are currently no other library facilities in the OVOV Planning Area. Therefore, while the existing libraries in the Santa Clarita Valley meet the County's service level guideline for library items, they do not meet the guideline for available library space per capita.

Planned Construction

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

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

Year	Library Location	Square Feet
2007–2011*	Newhall	20,000
2012–2016	Canyon Country	68,000
2012–2016	North Valencia	53,000
	Total	141,000

* *Currently under construction*

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

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

³ California Department of Finance, Table 2: E-4 Estimates for Cities, Counties, and State, 2001-2008, 2008.

⁴ County of Los Angeles Public Library, "Canyon Country, Newhall, and Valencia," <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/newhall/>. 2009

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.⁵ 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.

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.⁶

⁵ County of Los Angeles Public Library, "Canyon Country, Newhall, and Valencia," <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/newhall/>. 2009

⁶ Anne Browning McIntosh, Mayor's Committee on Managed Growth for a Quality Community, 2001.

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 Act⁷

It is the intent of the State Legislature 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.

California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000⁸

The Legislature finds and declares the following:

- 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.

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

⁸ Education Code Title 1. Division 1, Part 11, Chapter 12, Articles 1-3, Sec. 19985 – 20011. "General Provisions."

Local Regulations

Library Facilities and Technology Mitigation Fee⁹

Library impact fees are currently collected for new residential development within the City. The current library impact fee for the City'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.

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

Impact Analysis

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

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

Implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in the potential for increased demand for library services within the City's Planning Area to the extent that expansion and construction of new facilities would be required. The projected population for complete buildout in the City's Planning Area

⁹ City of Santa Clarita. Municipal Code. Section 16.21.200. "Library Facilities and Technology Mitigation Fee."

is 275,000. **Table 3.15-3** summarizes the library resources for the City with current conditions and conditions at General Plan buildout.

The expected population at buildout of the General Plan is 275,000; this population would require 756,250 library items and 137,500 square feet. As stated above (Planned Construction) the amount of planned square footage by 2016 is 141,000. As the City reaches buildout, the Library system would need to supply an additional 195,936 items to meet the guidelines of 2.75 library items per 1,000 residents, and would have a surplus of 45,172 square feet to meet the 0.5 square foot per capita criterion.

Table 3.15-3
Existing and Proposed Library Resources within the City's Planning Area

Population	Guidelines		Existing Resources		Surplus or Deficit (-)	
	Library Items	Square Feet	Library Items	Square Feet	Library Items	Square Feet
2007						
177,045	486,874	88,523	560,314 ¹	41,805 ¹	73,440	(-) 46,718
Buildout (2030)						
275,000	756,250	137,500	N/A	182,672 ²	(-) 195,936 ³	45,172

¹ From **Table 3.15-2**.

² Total of the existing amount of square feet from **Table 3.15-2** and planned construction from **Table 3.15-3**.

³ This is the amount of library items needed to meet the goal of 660,000 items based on the existing number of library items.

As buildout of the City 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 City's municipal code to meet the needs of the community (**Goal LU 8, Objective LU 8.1, Policy LU 8.1.5**). With implementation of the proposed General Plan goal, objective, and policy and the implementation of the following mitigation measure, impacts would be less than significant.

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

Plan to Plan Analysis

Both the existing and proposed General Plans contain policies intended to minimize impacts to library resources. As the projected populations for the existing is less than the proposed General Plan, impacts on library service would be fewer with the existing Plan.

Mitigation Framework

Implementation of the following mitigation measure would potentially reduce library impacts to a less than significant level.

MM 3.15-1 The applicant shall pay the current library fee (\$790.00 per residential unit as of August 2008) to the City of Santa Clarita to offset the demand for library items and building square footage generated by the proposed project or whatever fee is established by the City at the time of building permit issuance, whichever is higher. The library mitigation payment shall be made on a building permit by building permit basis.

Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework

Implementation of the above proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies with the incorporation of mitigation measure **MM 3.15-1** would lessen the significant impact to less than significant.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Summary

This section describes the existing health care facilities and social services programs in the City's Planning Area. The fastest growing population segment in the City's Planning Area is age 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 General Plan goals, objectives, and policies.

Existing Conditions

Healthcare Facilities

Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital (HMNMH) is the primary acute care hospital serving the City's Planning Area. Additionally, the City's Planning Area is served by the Santa Clarita Convalescent Hospital in Newhall.¹⁰ Kaiser Permanente operates a full-service facility in Santa Clarita that offers urgent care. Facey Medical Group is the largest medical care provider with multiple facilities in the City's Planning Area with an office in Santa Clarita, an office in Canyon Country and two offices in Valencia. Facey's primary facility in Valencia offer urgent care services.

Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital

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.

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 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, 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, and provides for trauma services within a 680-square-mile area.

The hospital campus includes 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

¹⁰ City of Santa Clarita, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, 2000.

Services, and an Education Department that provides continuing medical education to physicians, hospital staff and other clinical professionals in the community.¹¹

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

Kaiser Permanente operates a local facility on Tourney Road that serves the City's Planning Area. The 43,500-square-foot medical facility has a staff of approximately 100 employees, and offers urgent care, as well as family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics, gynecology, dermatology, optometry, endocrinology, physical therapy, and a pharmacy.¹²

Facey Medical Group and Foundation operates five facilities within the City's Planning Area, with offices in Santa Clarita, Castaic, 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.

Other medical groups in the City's Planning Area include US Health Works Health Care 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;
- SCV Quality Care in Valencia; and
- The Doctor's Office in Newhall.¹³

City residents also have access to a branch of UCLA's 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 HMNMH, the two facilities function independently.

¹¹ City of Santa Clarita, Draft Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital Master Plan EIR, September 2008.

¹² <http://www.kaiserpermanente.org/>, 2003.

¹³ Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital 2002.

City veterans must travel out of the City'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, 16111 Plummer Street, North Hills, on an outpatient basis.¹⁴

Trauma Emergency

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 Title 22 state regulations. These state trauma regulations are the minimum standard of care that the County must maintain.¹⁵ While the trauma care needs of the Planning Area are currently being met, future service is not assured. HMNMH is the only trauma center in the Planning Area at this time.

Emergency Medical Services

The provision of emergency medical services is divided between basic life support (EMT) and advanced life support (paramedics) within the City's Planning Area, and is overseen by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. All fire fighters are trained in basic life support (EMT), 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

¹⁴ Veterans Health Administration, 2003.

¹⁵ California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 7, Article 1, "Definitions," 2008.

emergency calls.¹⁶ Emergency transportation services are provided by American Medical Response, which provides emergency medical response.¹⁷

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 City's Planning Area at the HMNMH Psychiatric Unit, Santa Clarita Valley Special Education Local Planning Area Early Start, and the Child and Family Center. Los Angeles County relocated the mental health facility located on Peachland Avenue, which was destroyed in a fire in 2006, to 23501 Cinema Drive in Santa Clarita.¹⁸

Public Services and Programs

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. The hospital holds driving safety and drunk-driving awareness classes for teens.

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. HMNMH 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,

¹⁶ Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, 2002.

¹⁷ Christy Chacon, Operations Manager, Rescue Service International, 2003.

¹⁸ Press Release, "Santa Clarita Valley Mental Health Center will Relocate to New, Larger Facility," <http://antonovich.co.la.ca.us/newsroom/releases/sep2007/RELEASE%20SCV%20Mental%20Health%20Building.htm>, 2008.

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 City'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.¹⁹ These regulations include the use of safety programs and awareness of safety issues on construction sites.

State Regulations

Cal OSHA-Construction Safety Orders

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

Local Regulations

Los Angeles County Public Health Code

The Los Angeles County Public Health Code²¹ is adopted by the City. Any amendments duly adopted by the County of Los Angeles to the Public Health Code are also hereby incorporated by reference.

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 future population growth from the implementation of the General Plan will increase demand for health and social services beyond the adequate capacities of those serving the City's Planning Area.

Impact Analysis

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

¹⁹ 29 C.F.R. Sec. 1926.

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

²¹ City of Santa Clarita. Municipal Code. Section 9.02.010. "Adopted."

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

Implementation of the City's proposed General Plan would result in a buildout population of 275,000 residents. The fastest growing segment of the City's population is the age group 50 and older.²² If current trends persist then the annual growth rate for residents over age 60, from 2008 to buildout would be 5.2 percent.²³ The 2008 residents, age 65 and over, is 8.0 percent of the City's Planning Area population, or about 14,164 people. As the population for the age of residents over 65 increases through build out of the City's Planning Area, which is estimated at 15.4 percent of the population, then the estimated number of residents 65 and over would be 42,350. 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, HMNMH has received City 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 City's Planning Area are met. Based on the City'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 (**Goal LU 8, Objective LU 8.1, Policy LU 8.1.7**).

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 8.1.7: 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 General Plan policies and environmental requirements.

²² Henry Mayo Hospital statistics, 2002.

²³ Los Angeles County Community and Senior Services, *L.A. County Seniors Count*, 2008.

Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The proposed General Plan goal, objective, and policy focus on the City's ability to provide adequate medical facilities and services.

Plan to Plan

The projected buildout population capacity of 266,312 is less than the proposed General Plan; therefore, the City's health and social services needs at buildout under Alternative 1 would be less than that of the City's proposed General Plan. Every age group of the projected population would require adequate health care within the City's Planning Area, not just newborns and the elderly. Therefore, impacts on health services would be less under the existing Plan.

Mitigation Framework

No mitigation is required.

Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework

Implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies would reduce 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 City's Planning Area and discusses current local and regional policy regarding new school development. The school districts within the City's Planning Area contain 14 over capacity schools with the total capacity for the City Planning Area at 90.6 percent. Impacts on the existing school systems, facilities, and enrollment would be less than significant with the incorporation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies.

Existing Conditions

Public School Facilities

Five public school districts serve portions of the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area:

- 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 55 schools including 37 elementary schools; seven junior high schools, 10 high schools, and one charter school. The boundaries of these districts are not coterminous with the City's OVOV Planning Area boundaries and are depicted in **Figure 3.15-2, School District Boundaries and Schools within the OVOV Planning Area.**

Public School Enrollment

The California Department of Education determined the number of students enrolled within the City's Planning Area. **Table 3.15-4, City 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 difference between real enrollment and planned enrollment, with 100 percent capacity representing enrollment and capacity that are equivalent.

**Table 3.15-4
City Planning Area Public School Enrollment 2007–2008**

District/School	CA Dept. of Education Enrollment Numbers	Current Design Capacity	Percent of Capacity (%)
Castaic Union School District			
Castaic Elementary	765	750	102.0
Castaic Middle School	1,176	1,434	82.0
Live Oak Elementary	741	750	98.8
Northlake Elementary	715	750	95.3
Subtotal	3,397	3,684	92.2

District/School	CA Dept. of Education Enrollment Numbers	Current Design Capacity	Percent of Capacity (%)
Newhall Elementary School District¹			
McGrath Elementary	644	720	89.4
Meadows Elementary*	660	624	106.0
Newhall Elementary*	671	792	84.7
Oak Hills Elementary	562	984	57.1
Old Orchard Elementary*	556	576	96.5
Peachland Elementary*	563	672	83.8
Pico Canyon Elementary	939	912	103.0
Stevenson Ranch Elementary	991	960	103.0
Valencia Valley Elementary*	659	744	88.6
Wiley Canyon Elementary*	758	864	87.7
Subtotal	7,003	7,848	89.2
Saugus Union Elementary School District²			
Bouquet Canyon Elementary*	558	600	93.0
Cedarcreek Elementary*	589	775	76.0
Emblem Elementary*	301	825	36.5
James Foster Elementary*	583	775	75.2
Charles Helmers Elementary*	899	1,100	81.7
Highlands Elementary*	636	725	87.7
Mountainview Elementary*	1,002	1,175	85.3
North Park Elementary*	922	930	99.1
Plum Canyon Elementary*	709	775	91.5
Rio Vista Elementary*	935	1,175	79.6
Rosedell Elementary*	677	775	87.4
Santa Clarita Elementary*	547	725	75.4
Skyblue Mesa Elementary*	472	825	57.2
Bridgeport Elementary*	969	930	104.0
Tesoro del Valle Elementary	571	675	84.6
Subtotal	10,370	12,785	81.1
Sulphur Springs Union Elementary School District³			
Canyon Springs Elementary*	646	750	86.1
Fair Oaks Elementary	891	750	119.0
Golden Oak Elementary*	388	500	77.6
Leona Cox Elementary*	530	750	70.7
Mint Canyon Elementary	489	750	65.2

District/School	CA Dept. of Education Enrollment Numbers	Current Design Capacity	Percent of Capacity (%)
Mitchell Elementary*	718	750	95.7
Pinetree Elementary*	728	750	97.1
Sulphur Springs Elementary*	708	750	94.4
Valley View Elementary*	642	750	85.6
Subtotal	5,740	6,500	88.3
William S. Hart Union High School District⁴			
Academy of the Canyons (at COC)*	190	130	146.0
Arroyo Seco Junior High*	1,253	1,300	96.4
Jereann Bowman High*	464	430	108.0
Canyon High*	2,641	2,600	102.0
Early College High*	86	86	100.0
Golden Valley High*	2,062	2,600	79.3
William S. Hart Senior High*	2,265	2,315	97.8
La Mesa Junior High*	1,324	1,394	95.0
Learning Post High*	76	117	65.0
Placerita Junior High*	1,066	1,236	86.3
Rancho Pico Junior High	997	1,200	83.1
Rio Norte Junior High*	1,383	1,394	99.2
Saugus High*	2,573	2,600	99.0
Sequoia Charter School*	42	40	105.0
Sierra Vista Junior High*	1,312	1,221	108.0
Valencia High*	2,769	2,764	100.0
West Ranch High	2,656	2,600	102.0
Subtotal	23,159	24,027	96.4
TOTAL	49,669	54,844	90.6

* Indicates schools within the City's Planning Area.

¹ 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.

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

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

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

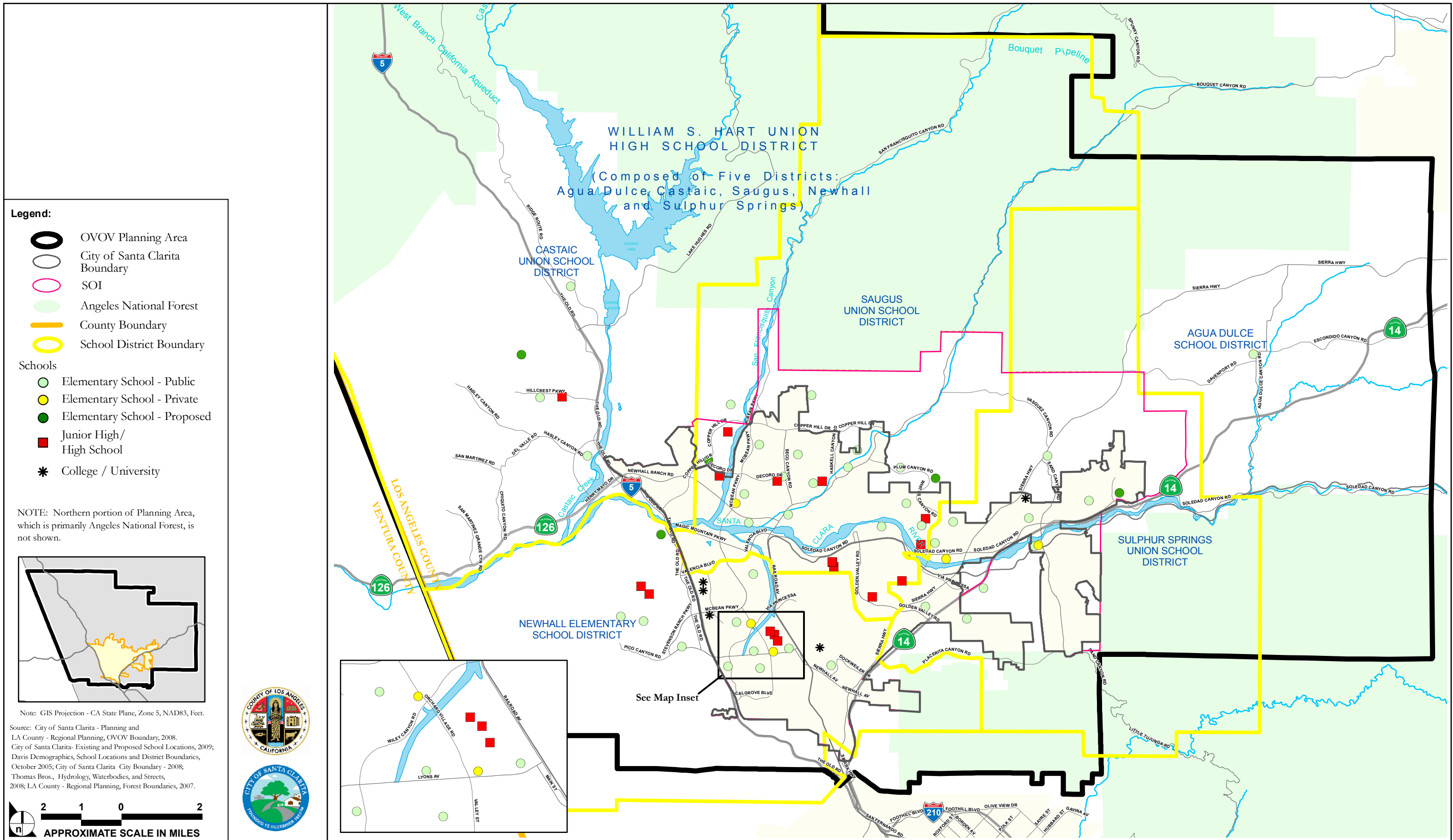
There are significant distinctions in the way that the City and the school districts define growth. These differences are significant because they may result in insufficient school facilities to meet the needs of a growing student population. In their definition of growth, school districts generally do not account for increases in household size that occur independently of projected population numbers that are the result of new development.²⁴ The City defines growth as new and expanding development, whereas the school districts define growth as a change in demographics that leads to higher enrollment. 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 school districts use student generation tables based on rates developed for existing development patterns in the City's Planning Area. The student generation standards are summarized in **Table 3.15-5, Student Generation Rates**.

Given the existing overcrowding of public schools in the City'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.

²⁴ Anne Browning McIntosh. Mayor's Committee on Managed Growth for a Quality Community. March 2001.



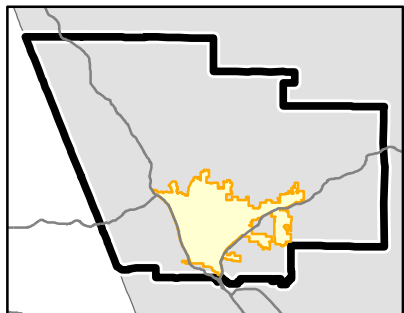
Legend:

- OVOV Planning Area
- City of Santa Clarita Boundary
- SOI
- Angeles National Forest
- County Boundary
- School District Boundary

Schools

- Elementary School - Public
- Elementary School - Private
- Elementary School - Proposed
- Junior High/High School
- College / University

NOTE: Northern portion of Planning Area, which is primarily Angeles National Forest, is not shown.



Note: GIS Projection - CA State Plane, Zone 5, NAD83, Feet.

Source: City of Santa Clarita - Planning and LA County - Regional Planning, OVOV Boundary, 2008; City of Santa Clarita - Existing and Proposed School Locations, 2009; Davis Demographics, School Locations and District Boundaries, October 2005; City of Santa Clarita City Boundary - 2008; Thomas Bros., Hydrology, Waterbodies, and Streets, 2008; LA County - Regional Planning, Forest Boundaries, 2007.



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

FIGURE 3.15-2

School District Boundaries and Schools within the OVOV Planning Area

**Table 3.15-5
Student Generation Rates**

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

* Single-Family attached

** Single-Family detached

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.

Standards

No single standard for 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.²⁵ Many of the existing schools in the City's Planning Area are below this standard. Contributing to the limited site acreage is the addition of portable classrooms to alleviate overcrowding, which results in reduced playground space at many sites.²⁶

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.

²⁵ California Department of Education.

²⁶ Saugus School District 2002.

Private and Post-Secondary Education

The City's Planning Area includes 11 private schools, two 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
- 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 City Planning Area 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 886-seat performing

arts theater, an administration building, a small gymnasium, and other recreational facilities. Existing classrooms and laboratories have been remodeled.

College of the Canyons Canyon Country Campus

The campus is located at 17200 Sierra Highway in Canyon Country, about 1.7 miles north of the Soledad/Sierra Highway intersection. The campus is 70 acres in size and houses 28 modular buildings of classrooms, labs, and related student services. There are 24 general education classrooms and five labs. Of the five labs, there are two science labs, two computer labs, and one child development lab. There is a library which is electronically linked to the Valencia campus, and a Tutoring Learning Center to support student success.²⁷ The college plans to build seven buildings on the campus, totaling nearly 240,000 square feet. This is nearly half the square footage of the Valencia campus. In 2009, the college completed its Educational and Facilities Master Plan, which will guide program and facility development for the next five years.

California Institute of the Arts

The 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, the California Institute of the Arts 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

²⁷ College of the Canyons Canyon Country, "Frequently Asked Questions Updated 09/08," <http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/CCC/about.asp>, 2009.

Master's College offers over 50 Bachelors of Arts (BA) and Bachelors of Science (BS) degrees for liberal arts majors. In January 2009 the City Council approved a 10-year Master Plan for the college that provided for a land use plan, development regulations, design guidelines and programs to ensure that the college campus was developed in a manner consistent with the goals, objectives and policies of the City, The Masters College and the community. 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**.

Programs

The five 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.

**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: 261,147 assigned square feet Enrollment: 2008: 1,105
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>; Master's College Environmental Impact Report, Impact Sciences Inc. 2008.

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. Nonrevenue 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 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.²⁸

Developer Fees

Developer fees²⁹ are another source of funding available to school 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 City's Planning Area have adopted fee-justification studies.

But 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.

²⁸ McIntosh, Santa Clarita Valley Technical Background Report, 2001.

²⁹ 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 2006 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.
- 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; and
 - 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 City and the County 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 General Plan will increase demand for school facilities and services beyond the enrollment capacities of school facilities serving the City's Planning Area.

Impact Analysis

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

Impact 3.15-3 A potentially significant impact to school facilities will occur if buildout of the proposed General Plan will increase demand for school facilities and services beyond the enrollment capacities of school facilities serving the City'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 City's Planning Area currently has five school districts located within the area and they include Newhall Elementary, Saugus Union Elementary, Castaic Union, Sulphur Springs Union Elementary, and William S. Hart Union High School. The 2008 population living within the City is 177,045 with the projected amount to be 275,000 (including SOI) at build out with the implementation of the proposed General Plan. As stated previously there are currently 14 schools over design capacity with the total capacity for the City Planning Area at 90.6 percent (**Table 3.15-5**). The school system and facilities are approaching design capacity; expansion of these facilities will be required to accommodate City's planned growth. As described in (**Table 3.15-6**), 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 City will determine if any mitigation measures will be necessary on a case-by-case basis (**Goal LU 8, Objective LU 8.1, Policy LU 8.1.1**) to provide the necessary upgrades or new additions to accommodate the projected needs of the City Planning Area for Santa Clarita Valley students.

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 8.1.1: 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 General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The proposed General Plan goal, objective, and policy address the need to ensure that school districts are not always over capacity and overcrowded, but they do not protect the school districts within the City's Planning Area from the increase in school children anticipated with the City's buildout. As discussed below, State law limits the power of the City to impose mitigation for development impacts on schools.

Plan to Plan

The City's Planning Area currently has six school districts and, as of 2008, educates 49,669 students from kindergarten to grade 12. The school districts design capacity is 54,844 students. No school districts are over capacity; however there are five schools over capacity. Implementation of the existing Plan, as well as the proposed General Plan, would potentially increase the number of new students within the City'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 the proposed General Plan would have an increase in the number of dwelling units there would be a potentially greater increase in the number of students. Therefore, impacts from implementation of the existing General Plan could be less than those of the City's proposed General 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.³⁰ Because the Government Code states that compliance with SB 50 will provide full and complete mitigation, no significant impact would occur.

FIRE PROTECTION

Summary

This section provides information on the existing fire and emergency services in the City'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 City's Planning Area. Both urban and wildland fire protection are discussed. The 2008 median response time for the City's Planning Area was 5 minutes and 24 seconds. The standard response time for Los Angeles County Fire Department is 5 minutes or less. Impacts on fire protection within the City's Planning Area were less than significant with the incorporation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies and the implementation of mitigation measures **MM 3.15-2** and **MM 3.15-3**.

³⁰ California Government Code. Section 65996 (a) and (b). 2008.

Existing Conditions

Urban Fire Protection

Provider and Facilities

As part of the Consolidated Fire Protection District, the City'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 City's Planning Area, **Table 3.15-7, Existing Fire Station Facilities**.³¹ A nine-person hazardous materials squad 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). In 2007, there were two temporary fire stations with the County moving ahead to build an additional two fire stations within the City's Planning Area. It is expected that by 2016, 15 new stations will be built. Since 2008, the Department has completed construction of Station #108 on Rock Canyon,³² and has established temporary Stations No. 156 on Copperhill, No. 132 on Sand Canyon, and No. 104 on Golden Valley. The locations of the fire stations are depicted in **Figure 3.15-3, 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 City'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.

³¹ Los Angeles County Fire Department, Letter to County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning. June 17, 2009.

³² Los Angeles County Fire Department, Letter to County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning. June 17, 2009.

**Table 3.15-7
Existing Fire Station Facilities**

Station	Location
Fire Station 73*	24875 Railroad Avenue Santa Clarita, CA 91321
Fire Station 76* ¹	27223 Henry Mayo Drive Valencia, CA 91355
Fire Station 81 ¹	8710 W. Sierra Highway Agua Dulce, CA 91350
Fire Station 104 (Temporary)	26201 Golden Valley Rd Santa Clarita, 91350
Fire Station 107*	18239 W. Soledad Canyon Santa Clarita, CA 91351
Fire Station 111*	26829 Seco Canyon Road Santa Clarita, CA 91350
Fire Station 123	26321 N. Sand Canyon Road Santa Clarita, CA 91387
Fire Station 124* ¹	25870 Hemingway Avenue Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381
Fire Station 126	26320 Citrus Street Santa Clarita, CA 91355
Fire Station 132 (Temporary)	29310 Sand Canyon Rd Santa Clarita, CA 91387
Fire Station 149* ¹	31770 Ridge Route Castaic CA, 91384
Fire Station 156 (Temporary) ¹	24525 W. Copper Hill Dr. Santa Clarita, 91350

¹. Outside of City boundaries (including SOI)

* = Paramedic Units

Source: LACoFD 2008

Volume of Calls

In 2007, the Fire Department stations in the OVOV Planning Area responded to 10,433 calls within the City's Planning Area, of which 315 were fire and 10,118 were non-fire and 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 City's Planning Area were 5 minutes 24 seconds. The Department goals for response times are

- Urban: 5.0 minutes or less
- Suburban: 8.0 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**

Incident Type	City's Planning Area
Fire	315
Emergency Medical Services	7,214
Other	2,904
Total	10,433

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.

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 City’s Planning Area are addressed in **Section 3.11, Human Made Hazards**, 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 City. 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 City of Santa Clarita and County of Los Angeles both implement programs to facilitate emergency preparedness. The City has a Standardized Emergency Management System Multihazard Functional Plan, as discussed above. 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. 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 City 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 City'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 City. **Section 3.11, Human Made Hazards**, provides further detail about emergency preparedness.

Wildland Fire Protection

The City'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 City'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 City's Planning

Area is in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, which is the department's highest classification for areas prone to wildfires.³³ The potential wildland fire hazard areas within the City are referenced in **Section 3.11, Human Made Hazards**, and seen in **Figure 3.11-2, Wildfire Hazard Zones within the City's 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 City'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 partially encompasses the City Planning Area, receives seasonal service from the US Forest Service (USFS). There are no USFS ranger stations located in the City's Planning Area (**Figure 3.15-3**). Fire suppression responsibility in the nearby Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area has been contracted by USPS 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, or the US Forest Service, 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

³³ City of Santa Clarita, *General Plan*, Draft Safety Element, S-20, 2008.

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 City's Planning Area since 2000 are mentioned in **Section 3.11, Human Made Hazards.**

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 City and throughout 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 5-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 Review³⁴ 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.

³⁴ US Forest Service, “Wildland Fire Policy,” <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/management/policy.html>, 2008.

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.³⁵ 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.³⁶ 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.

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 (VFHSZ); transmit this information to local agencies, and to periodically review the recommendations.³⁷

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 the City and Los Angeles County 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.

³⁵ The National Fire Protection Agency Uniform Fire Code, 2006.

³⁶ California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, California Building Standards Commission, *2007 California Fire Code*, pp. 518 and 519. Table B105.1.

³⁷ California Government Code, Section 51178 and 51181

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 City and County of Los Angeles 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.³⁸ 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 government as they update the safety element of 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.

³⁸ 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

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.

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).³⁹ There is an SRA for the OVOV Planning Area that includes land within the City's SOI and County's Planning Area.⁴⁰

CAL FIRE is preparing recommendations for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) in those areas where local government agencies have Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) and will transmit those recommendations to local agencies in 2008.⁴¹ 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

³⁹ Public Resources Code Sections 4201 – 4204 and Government Code Sections 51175–5118.

⁴⁰ California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection <http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgismaps/download.asp>. Accessed September 10, 2009.

⁴¹ Government Code Sections 51175–51189.

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.

Local Regulations

City of Santa Clarita

The City currently offers two training programs on emergency preparedness for its community. The Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) Program, which is under the leadership of the City and the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, is designed to help families, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses prepare for effective disaster/emergency response through training and pre-planning. Emergency responders, emergency management personnel, and emergency-trained volunteers provide training on preparation and response to fires and other life-threatening situations.

As described under Emergency Preparedness, the Santa Clarita Educated Communities United in Response to Emergencies (SECURE) Program provides free emergency preparedness training for residents and businesses so they can be prepared through the critical first 72 hours from when a disaster/emergency, such as a fire, occurs. Over the past eight years, this program has been effective in training families, businesses, seniors, and schools about basic emergency preparedness skills. Recently, training has been expanded to also reach residents who speak Spanish as their primary language. Additionally, the program now includes specific emergency preparedness information for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. The City also performs outreach to its community through the Internet and libraries. Materials provided to community members include tips on emergency preparedness, such as information on how to prepare 72-Hour Emergency Financial Kits and Emergency Car Kits, how to get disaster assistance, and how to locate emergency shelters. Other non-fire-related services provided by the City depend on issues that are currently important at hand, such as information on bioterrorism preparedness and response, sandbagging classes for El Niño season, updates on epidemics, etc.

An outreach event hosted by the City is the annual Emergency Expo. This event has been in place for 10 years and helps educate approximately 1,500–2,000 people per year on emergency preparedness and safety, and on the emergency services available to them in the Valley.

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 City and County Building Codes also 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 General 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 General Plan goals, objectives, and policies on fire protection within the City’s planning area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

Impact 3.15-4 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.

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 City occurs, more structures would be built and the potential for an increase in structural fires would increase (**Goal LU 3, Objective LU 3.3, Policies LU 3.3.5 and LU 3.3.7**).

Buildout of the General Plan would increase residential, commercial, and industrial development which would create an increase in demand for fire prevention and suppression services. The City's 2008 population is 177,045 residents. There are currently seven fire stations within the City's Planning Area (or City limits) and an additional station within the City's adopted SOI (**Figure 3.15-3**). 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 City Planning Area was 5 minutes 24 seconds (**Goal S 3, Objective S 3.3, Policies 3.3.1 to 3.3.3**). Buildout of the City Planning Area would total approximately 275,000 people. To adequately maintain or reach the response time goals set by LACoFD there would need to be more fire stations located throughout the City Planning Area (**Objective LU 3.3, Policy LU 3.3.4 and Objective S 3.1, Policies S 3.1.1 to 3.1.3**).

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 City reaches buildout the only undeveloped areas, which will be conserved, would be the foothills around the City's Planning Area (**Goal CO 2, Objective CO 2.2, Policy CO 2.2.2, Goal CO 3, Objective CO 3.4, 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 (**Objective S 3.2, Policy S 3.2.6**). It also indicates that the City, County, 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 (**Objective CO 3.6, Policy CO 3.6.5**). As described in **Section 3.11** of this EIR, **Human Made Hazards**, for any new residential development located within or near a WUI it will be ensured that land uses have 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 City'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 City's Planning Area.

The increase in residential population and employment opportunities with the proposed General 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 City's Planning Area, the City 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**).

Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

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

Objective LU 3.3: Ensure that the design of residential neighborhoods considers and includes measures to reduce impacts from natural or man-made hazards.

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.

Goal CO 2: Conserve the Santa Clarita Valley's hillsides, canyons, ridgelines, soils, and minerals, which provide the physical setting for the natural and built environments.

Objective CO 2.2: Preserve the Santa Clarita Valley’s prominent ridgelines and limit hillside development to protect the valuable aesthetic and visual qualities intrinsic to the Santa Clarita Valley landscape.

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.

Goal CO 3: Conservation of biological resources and ecosystems, including sensitive habitats and species.

Objective CO 3.4: Ensure that development in the Santa Clarita Valley does not adversely impact habitat within the adjacent National Forest lands.

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.

Objective CO 3.6: Minimize impacts of human activity and the built environment on natural plant and wildlife communities.

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).

Goal S 3: Protection of public safety and property from fires.

Objective S 3.1: Provide adequate fire protection infrastructure to maintain acceptable service levels as established by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

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.

Objective S 3.2: Provide for the specialized needs of fire protection services in both urban and wildland interface areas.

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.

Objective S 3.3: Maintain acceptable emergency response times throughout the planning area.

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 Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

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

Plan to Plan

The buildout population under the existing General Plan would be less than that of the buildout population under the proposed General Plan, the City's fire protection needs at General Plan buildout would be similar. As population increases the number of emergency calls and the emergency response times would potentially increase. There would be a greater increase in the number of dwelling units with the implementation of the proposed General Plan resulting in a greater increase in the number of calls. Therefore, impacts on fire protection under the existing General Plan would be less than those of the City's proposed General Plan.

Mitigation Framework

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce the potential impacts on fire services 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 with payment to the satisfaction of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. A special tax was approved in 1997 to pay for essential fire suppression and emergency medical services and is billed on the Joint Consolidated Annual Tax Bill under Detail of Taxes Due, Direct Assessments with the common rates being \$49.93 per square foot for a single family residence; \$63.07 + \$0.0064 per square foot for a multiple family residence; and \$60.43 + \$0.0407 per square foot for commercial/ industrial buildings.

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 General Plan goals, objectives, and 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 will be reduced to less than significant.

POLICE PROTECTION

Summary

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services in the City's Planning Area. The Sheriff's Department oversees general law and traffic enforcement within the City, while the California Highway Patrol (CHP) has jurisdiction over traffic on State highways and in the unincorporated areas. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department administers the incarceration facility. The standard level of service for the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department is to have one officer per 1,000 residents. There would need to be an additional 104 sworn officers within the City's Planning Area, from 2008 until buildout, to adequately meet the 1-sworn-officer-per-1,000-residents standard. The incorporation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies and the implementation of mitigation measure **MM 3.15-4**, impacts on police protection would be less than significant.

Existing Conditions

The City'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 City and portions of Los Angeles County unincorporated areas.⁴²

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 3.15-4, Sheriff Station Locations within the OVOV Planning Area**, shows the Sheriff Service Area and facility locations.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department oversees general law and traffic enforcement within the City, while the California Highway Patrol (CHP) has jurisdiction over traffic on State highways and in the unincorporated areas.

⁴² City of Santa Clarita, Draft OVOV Safety Element, 2008.

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 one storefront station in Newhall. While a second storefront has been acquired, there is insufficient staff to operate the facility at this time. Storefront stations are staffed 8 to 12 hours a day, and are sometimes staffed by civilians.

Staffing and Equipment

Over the past 20 years, the staffing levels at the station have been fairly constant.⁴³ There have been fluctuations in the number of officers available for patrol services but they have been small. As of 2008, the station has operated with 171 sworn deputies and support staff.

Staffing within the City is split into three shifts. As of January 1, 2003, the day shift consists of six general law cars; six traffic cars; three motor units; the chemical, ordnance, biological and radiological (COBRA) team; the crisis intervention (CIT) team; a transit deputy; and five school resource deputies. The PM shift consists of 11 general law cars and eight traffic cars, and the AM shift consists of eight general law cars and two traffic cars.⁴⁴ 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.

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.⁴⁵

Standards

While there is no current law enforcement staffing standards available, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department strives to maintain a standard of one officer per 1,000 people within jurisdictional areas. The contract between the Sheriff's Department and the City determines the number of officers on duty in the City at any given time. Staffing of patrol areas is also based on the calls for service and other activity in a specific area.

⁴³ City of Santa Clarita, Draft OVOV Safety Element, 2008.

⁴⁴ City of Santa Clarita, Draft OVOV Safety Element, 2008.

⁴⁵ Cambra 2007.

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 City's Planning Area, it is likely that the total number of calls for service will increase as well.

Crime Statistics

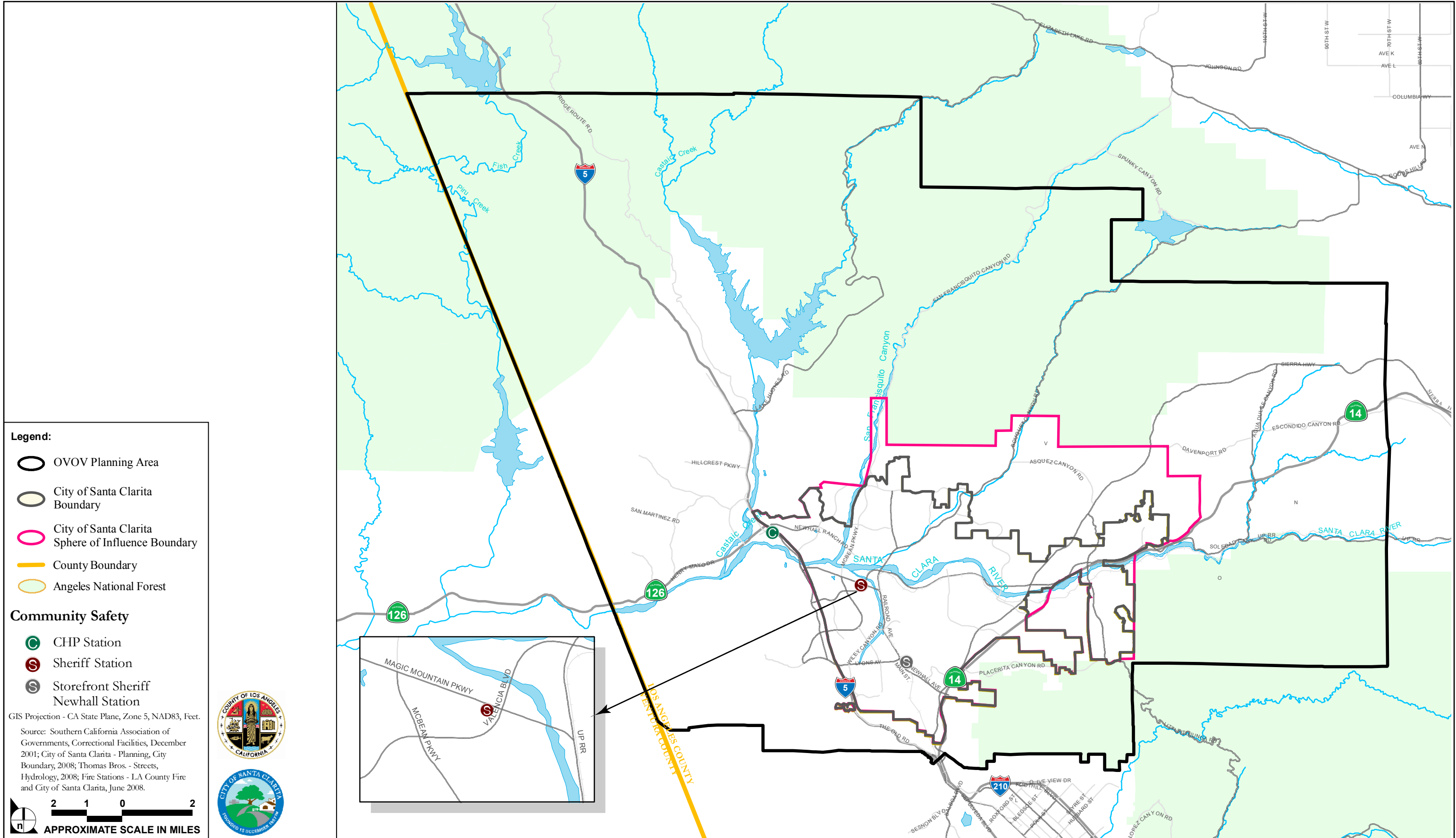
Table 3.15-9, Part I Crime Statistics for the City's Planning Area 2000–2007, reports the number of Part I crimes in the City between 2000 and 2007.

Table 3.15-9
Part I Crime Statistics for the City'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	1	26	83	229	598	1,507	252	61	2,757
2001	3	23	79	211	664	1,833	354	55	3,222
2002	6	24	90	184	612	1,838	437	35	3,226
2003	3	18	97	189	686	2,015	474	20	3,502
2004	2	31	113	217	729	1,965	463	18	3,538
2005	3	17	106	212	841	2,202	514	28	3,923
2006	5	26	130	233	766	2,253	425	24	3,862
2007	1	22	112	237	764	2,602	416	26	4,180

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

From 2000 to 2007, crime rates have held steady or increased in almost every category of crime, except for arson, which decreased, for the City's Planning Area.



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.

APPROXIMATE SCALE IN MILES

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

FIGURE 3.15-4

Sheriff Station Locations within the OVOV Planning Area

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.⁴⁶
- 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.
- 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.⁴⁷

California Highway Patrol

The California Highway Patrol (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 south to State Route 118.

⁴⁶ McIntosh 2001.

⁴⁷ City of Santa Clarita 2002.

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.⁴⁸ The CHP's overall level of staffing is about 10,700 positions. 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.⁴⁹

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 73 sworn officers and 9 civilian 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.⁵⁰

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.⁵¹ Built in 1987, the North Facility sits on 7 acres and has a housing capacity of 1,556 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 3,928 inmates. It also houses three vocational training programs, including computer sign production, clothing manufacturing, and printing. These programs along with other educational

⁴⁸ Analysis of the 2006-2007 Budget Bill, *Legislative Analyst's Office*, February 2006.

⁴⁹ Analysis of the 2006-2007 Budget Bill, *Legislative Analyst's Office*, February 2006.

⁵⁰ Per information from The Master's College EIR: Telephone interview with Lieutenant Mark Odle, California Highway Patrol, Newhall Area Station, November 17, 2006.

⁵¹ Per information from The Master's College EIR: Telephone interview with Lieutenant Mark Odle, California Highway Patrol, Newhall Area Station, November 17, 2006.

programs offered at Pitchess Detention Center, serve to provide inmates with a vocation for their return to society. In addition to these facilities, three youth camps serving the region are located within the 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 located in the City's Planning Area. These juvenile halls and camps provide confinement to minors ranging in age from 8 to 18 in the City's Planning Area 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.

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 City of Santa Clarita adopted law enforcement facilities fees for North Los Angeles County.⁵² This mitigation fee is for new residential, commercial, office, and industrial areas located within the City's Planning Area (the law enforcement facilities fee zones).⁵³ 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.⁵⁴ 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.

⁵² L.A. County Code, ch. 22.74, section 22.74.010 et seq.

⁵³ L.A. County Code, ch. 22.74, section 22.74.010.

⁵⁴ L.A. County Code, ch. 22.74, section 22.74.030.

The amount of the fee established shall be reviewed annually by the Sheriff's Department, in consultation with the County Auditor-Controller.⁵⁵ 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.⁵⁶ 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 City.

Local Regulations

Standard Emergency Management System

The City of Santa Clarita is in compliance with Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS) and is responsible for emergency operations within City boundaries. The Santa Clarita City Manager is the Director of Emergency Services for the City. The primary emergency operations center for the City of Santa Clarita is City Hall, located at 23920 Valencia Boulevard. A secondary emergency operations center (should City Hall be unavailable) is the City's Transit Maintenance Facility, located at 28250 Constellation Road, Santa Clarita.

The City serves as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the Santa Clarita Valley area. The Santa Clarita EOC works in cooperation and coordination with local and regional offices of the California Office of Emergency Services and the Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff's Departments to coordinate community action in the event of a disaster, such as fire suppression, search and rescue, evacuation, post-disaster safety inspections, and cleanup efforts in its service area. The City's EOC can be entirely self-sustaining during disaster operations.⁵⁷

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 General 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.

⁵⁵ L.A. County Code, ch. 22.74, section 22.74.040.

⁵⁶ L.A. County Code, ch. 22.74, section 22.74.040.

⁵⁷ Telephone interview with Donna Nuzzi, Emergency Services Coordinator, City of Santa Clarita, January 26, 2007.

Impact Analysis

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

Impact 3.15-5 The proposed General 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 General Plan, with the expected population buildout of 275,000, would result in the need for increased demand for Sheriff facilities, protection and services within the Santa Clarita Valley. 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 (**Goal S 5, Objective S 5.1, Policy S 5.1.1**).

The Sheriff's department in 2008 had 171 sworn deputies serving more than 177,045 residents in the City's Planning Area, including unincorporated Los Angeles County. That would mean the City's Planning Area would be six officers short of the one-officer-per-1,000 standard. The projected build out of 275,000 residents for the City's Planning Area would require 275 officers per the standard to adequately cover the area. From 2008 until complete buildout there would need to be an additional 104 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 City'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 facilities are overcrowded and deficient in space. 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 amount of officers serving the area to be able to adequately handle the buildout population.

The General Plan is proposed to abate blighting conditions and stimulate economic development throughout the City'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 (**Objective S 5.2, Policy S 5.2.1 to Policy S 5.2.3**). Further, the General 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 General Plan.

Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal S 5: Protection of public safety through the provision of law enforcement services and crime prevention strategies.

Objective S 5.1: Cooperate with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's plans for expansion of facility space to meet current and future law enforcement needs in the Santa Clarita Valley.

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 County, Sheriff's Department, 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.

Objective S 5.2: Cooperate with the Sheriff's Department on crime prevention programs to serve residents and businesses.

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 General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The General Plan goals, objectives, and 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 General Plan goals, objectives, and policies, the following mitigation measures will be implemented.

Plan to Plan

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 OVOV Planning Area, which would include the City's Planning Area, is 171 which provides one officer per 439 residents. With buildout under the existing General Plan, the number of officers required to maintain a standard of one officer per 1,000 residents would need to be 266 for the projected population capacity of 266,312 residents, or an additional 95 sworn officers. The proposed General Plan buildout population would be 275,000 residents and would therefore require 275 sworn officers to maintain standards. However, the proposed General Plan would potentially have the capacity for 1,930 more dwelling units than the existing General Plan, which would potentially require more patrols and officers. Therefore, potential impacts on police protection under existing General Plan would be less than the City's proposed General Plan.

Mitigation Framework

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

MM 3.15-4 The development applicant(s) to the related projects 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 as they are

developed. The fees are for the acquisition and construction of public facilities to provide adequate service to the residents of the Planning Area.

Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework

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