

## 4.14 PUBLIC SERVICES

### Fire and Emergency Response

#### 4.14.1 Introduction

This section provides information on the existing fire and emergency services in Simi Valley. The current staffing, equipment, response times, and standards of these services are described along with their ability to meet the needs of the community. It is important to note that urban fire hazards are discussed in Section 4.8 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials). Information for this section was obtained from personal communication with the Ventura County Fire Protection District and information provided on their website.

#### 4.14.2 Environmental Setting

The Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) provides fire prevention, fire suppression, and emergency services in Simi Valley. Founded in 1928, the VCFD provides protection for 476,333 residents of the cities of Simi Valley, Ojai, Moorpark, Port Hueneme, Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, and the unincorporated areas of Ventura County (VCFD 2006). Fire protection for the County is provided by five battalions, which are comprised of 31 fire stations, staffed 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Battalion 4 serves the cities of Simi Valley and Moorpark, and the surrounding unincorporated areas.

##### ■ Fire Stations, Staffing and Equipment

There are five fire stations serving the Planning Area (Table 4.14-1 and Figure 4.14-1). Table 4.14-1 (Fire Station Facilities) summarizes information on each fire station, including staffing and equipment at each facility. The locations of each of the fire stations in the City are identified in Figure 4.14-1 (Fire Stations). Standard staffing for each station consists of one Captain, one engineer, and one firefighter per shift (Williams 2007a).

The VCFD installed a new communications system in November of 2006. The new system consists of computers in all of the structure engines, ladder trucks, and command vehicles. In addition, a global positioning system (GPS) can identify the closest unit for dispatch to an incident. Tactical and premise information specific to the incident location that was previously carried in many different books can now be accessed on the computer screen, allowing for more accurate and efficient fire prevention and emergency services (VCFD 2006).

##### ■ Fire and Medical Incidents

In fiscal year 2005-2006, the five stations serving Simi Valley responded to 6,706 calls; of the 29,711 total calls in the County in this time period, 19,011 (64 percent) were medical emergency responses (VCFD 2006). Divided equally, this equates to approximately 1,205 responses per station, which is well within the number of calls recommended by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) when rating a community for fire insurance rates. The ISO provides rating and statistical information for the insurance industry in the

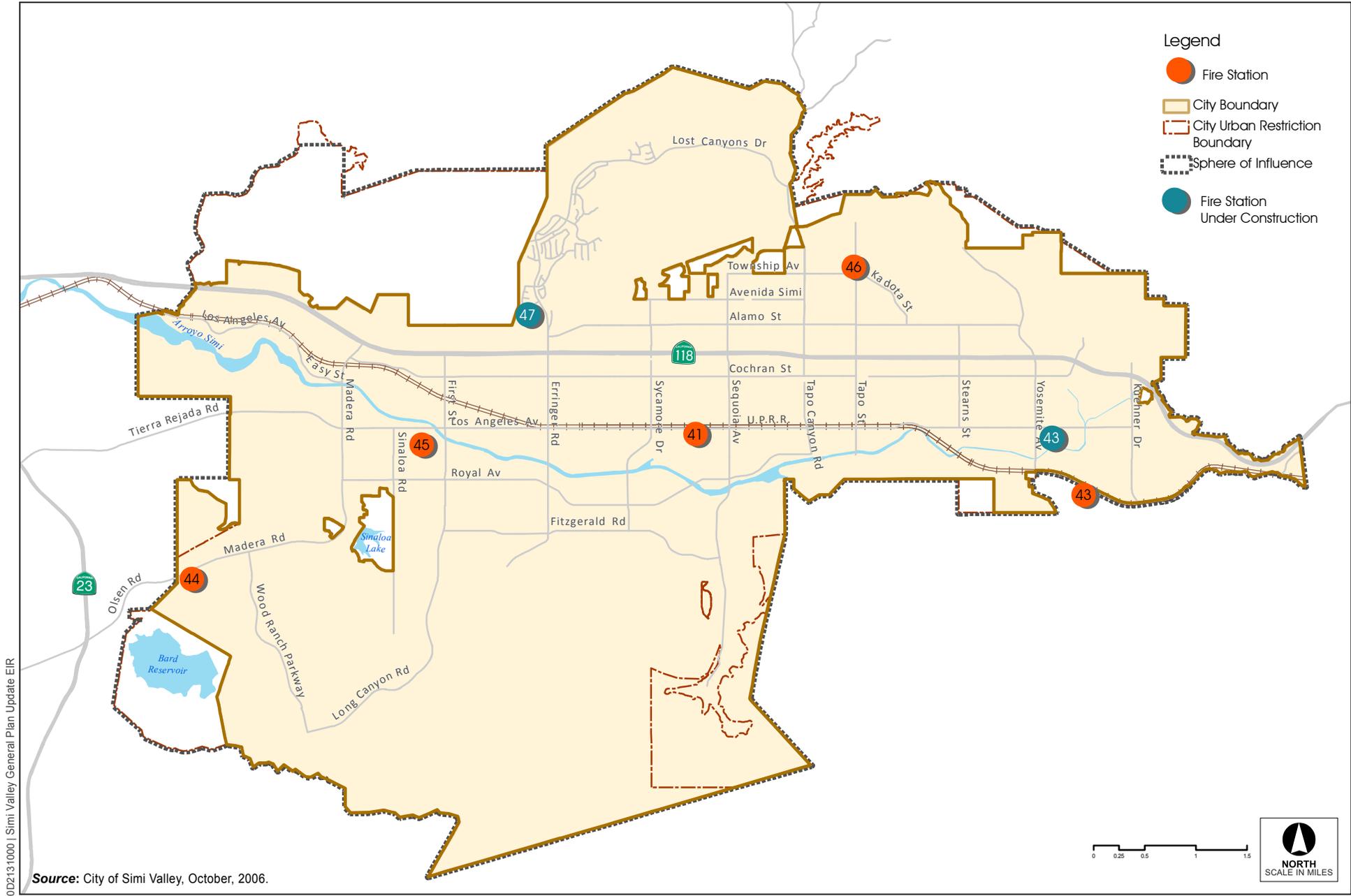
United States. Specifically, the ISO recommends that a second company be put in service in a fire station if that station receives more than 2,500 calls per year. The purpose of the ISO’s recommendation is to assure reliability of response time to a structure fire.

<b>Table 4.14-1 Fire Station Facilities</b>		
<i>Station</i>	<i>Personnel</i>	<i>Equipment</i>
Fire Station 41 Battalion Headquarters 1910 Church Street Simi Valley, CA 93065	Chief Officer 1 Captain 9 Firefighters	1 Fire Engine 1 Squad Vehicle 1 Tractor/Trailer Truck 1 Suburban command vehicle
Fire Station 43 1262 Cypress Street Simi Valley, CA 93063	1 Captain 3 Firefighters	2 Fire Engines 1 Utility Truck
Fire Station 44 1050 Country Club Drive Simi Valley, CA 93065	1 Captain 3 Firefighters	2 Fire Engines 1 OES Water Tender 1 Foam Unit 1 Reserve Ladder Truck
Fire Station 45 790 Pacific Avenue Simi Valley, CA 93065	1 Captain 3 Firefighters	1 Fire Engine 1 Reserve Fire Engine 1 Caterpillar D-7
Fire Station 46 3265 North Tapo Street Simi Valley, CA 93063	1 Captain 3 Firefighters	1 Fire Engine 1 Reserve Office of Emergency Services Engine
Fire Station 47 2901 Erringer Rd Simi Valley, CA 93063	Currently under construction	
Fire Station 43 (New) 5850 E. Los Angeles Ave Simi Valley, CA 93063	Currently under construction	

SOURCE: Ventura County Fire Department website, <http://fire.countyofventura.org> (accessed February 26, 2007)  
Williams, Larry, Fire Prevention Officer, Ventura County Fire Department. 2007. Personal communication. April 2.

The VCFD reports that the highest number of calls for emergency services is for Thousand Oaks (5,195 calls in 2005) and Simi Valley (4,142 calls in 2005); while unincorporated County areas are responsible for the highest number of fire incidences. Other calls to the Division include miscellaneous problems such as alarms and hazardous materials incidents (Williams 2007b).

Fire District Ordinance No. 25 (effective May 1, 2007) mandates fire sprinklers in all new buildings and a retrofit to existing buildings under certain triggers. This will help reduce the impacts due to structure fires. Increased public awareness and community education on fire and life safety can reduce fire and emergency calls for service, although such programs may require additional funding sources (Williams 2007a). More information on this Ordinance is provided in Section 4.8 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials).



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Figure 4.14-1  
Fire Stations



## ■ Response Times and Protocol

According to the VCFD, there is not a set standard or formula for determining acceptable levels of service. Each department considers a variety of factors to evaluate service levels, including calls for service, population ratios, type of service calls, response times, future building, demographics, trends, and funding sources (Williams 2007d). VCFD strives to achieve a response time between five to seven minutes for emergency calls, and nine to 12 minutes for non-emergency calls within the Planning Area. As previously discussed, VCFD responded to 6,706 calls in Simi Valley in the 2005-2006 fiscal year. The average emergency response time was 4 minutes 56 seconds. There were additionally 557 non-emergency incidents with an average response time of 7 minutes, 18 seconds (Williams 2007c). Both types of responses were within the VCFD's desired response time periods.

Response levels vary dependent upon weather and fire risk. During normal fire season periods, two Battalion Chiefs, five fire engines, three hand crews, one dozer, one water tender, and one helicopter are available in the event of a first alarm brush fire (Williams 2007a).

### **Services**

In addition to fire suppression, the VCFD also provides fire prevention services, emergency medical services, and other support services, including wildland fire control.

### **Fire Prevention**

One of the major focuses of the VCFD is fire prevention, which is headed by the Fire Marshal. The Fire Prevention Bureau is organized around common functional areas including (1) Fire Prevention Planning and Construction, which assists in project planning and plan review and inspection services for new construction, water requirements and fire hydrants for fire suppression, access requirements, and high fire hazard designations; (2) Code Enforcement and Licensed Care, which is responsible for the issuance of Uniform Fire Code permits, Fire Prevention Inspection Program, the Business Self Inspection Program, licensed care facility inspections and fire hazard complaints; (3) Engineering and Fire Protection Systems, which is responsible for plan check and inspection of all automatic fire sprinkler systems, special fire protection systems and fire alarm systems; (4) Fire Hazard Reduction, which administers the Fire Department's annual weed abatement program; and (5) Community Education, which consists of programs designed to prevent injury and/or property loss through increased education and public safety awareness.

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

The Emergency Medical Services Division is responsible for all medical functions, training, and medical oversight. 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. In addition to fire, rescue, and medical responses, the Bureau of Emergency Services also maintains a special operations component that is responsible for countywide response to emergencies requiring technically skilled operations. Services provided by these specialized units include hazardous materials incident response, swift water rescue, and confined space rescue. The Emergency Services

Bureau also includes a Regional Fire Training Center that works with all Department units to meet their unique needs.

### **Support Services**

The Bureau of Support Services of the VCFD is comprised of the Wildland Fire Division and the Vehicle Maintenance Unit. The Wildland Fire Division maintains the goal to provide safety and tactical education and training in wildland incident responses for employees. The Division also sustains a long-term plan of maintaining a patchwork of modified fuel beds to control historical wildland fires that provide control zones for assets of value and range improvement.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

The County of Ventura and the City of Simi Valley both implement programs to facilitate emergency preparedness. Specifically, the County of Ventura's Office of Emergency Services (OES) administers the County's disaster preparedness and response program and development of the County's Emergency Response Plan. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a centralized location for coordinating countywide emergency response activities. The EOC is the coordination point between the cities, special districts and the State Office of Emergency Services. The EOC serves to support field operations and liaison with all public and private disaster response agencies at all levels of government. The EOC is activated in response to major events and disasters that are beyond the scope of normal day-to-day emergencies. The EOC also serves as one of the central points for activating the Emergency Alert System for broadcasting emergency information to residents.

The City of Simi Valley Emergency Services Program plans for, responds to, and coordinates the recovery from disasters. The program fulfills the following five major objectives: Emergency Planning, Emergency Management Training, Coordination for Emergency Response and Planning, Disaster Recovery, and Public Education. The City also partners with a number of organizations in the response to disasters, including the Simi Valley Unified School District, the VCFD, Southern California Edison, Simi Valley Hospital, Ventura County and California Offices of Emergency Services, Southern California Gas Company, American Red Cross, California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Additionally, the City of Simi Valley implements the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program, which is designed to provide residents and businesses with skills to become self-reliant and to assist others during disasters. Volunteers are trained in a variety of emergency response skills conducted by the Ventura County Fire Department in conjunction with the Simi Valley Office of Emergency Services.

### **■ Mutual Aid Agreements**

In addition to providing service within the City of Simi Valley, the VCFD also participates in automatic and mutual aid services with neighboring jurisdictions. The VCFD is a partner in the Statewide Master Mutual Aid System, which includes Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments, CALFIRE, United States Forest Service, Oxnard Fire Department, Fillmore Fire Department, Santa Paula Fire Department,

Ventura City Fire Department, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and Kern County Fire Department (Williams 2007a).

The ability to manage and control major fires or other emergencies is enhanced by the City's Emergency Services Program and the County's Emergency Operations Center, discussed above.

## ■ Facilities Under Construction

Currently, a new Fire Station 43 is being developed on Los Angeles Avenue near Yosemite Avenue (5850 E. Los Angeles Avenue) to replace the older station and move it closer to the population it serves. A new fire station (Fire Station 47) is under construction on Fire District property located on the west side of Erringer Road, north of Alamo Street within the Big Sky development (2901 Erringer Road).

### 4.14.3 Regulatory Framework

#### ■ Federal

##### *Federal Emergency Management Agency*

In March 2003, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new Department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any major national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

##### *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000*

In 2000, the Disaster Mitigation Act amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act of 1988. Among other things, this new legislation reinforces the importance of pre-disaster infrastructure mitigation planning to reduce disaster losses nationwide by controlling and streamlining the administration of federal disaster relief and developing programs that promote hazard mitigation activities. Among the Act's major provisions:

- Funding for pre-disaster mitigation activities
- Developing experimental multi-hazard maps to better understand risk
- Establishing state and local government infrastructure mitigation planning requirements
- Defining how states can assume more responsibility in managing the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Adjusting ways in which management costs for projects are funded

The mitigation planning provisions outlined in Section 322 of the Act establish performance-based standards for mitigation plans. The Act further requires states to provide for a public assistance program (Advance Infrastructure Mitigation [AIM]) to develop County government plans. Counties which fail to develop an infrastructure mitigation plan risk significant reduction in federal government assistance for repair/replacement of damaged facilities if that facility has been damaged on more than one occasion during the preceding 10-year period by a similar event.

## ***Uniform Fire Code***

The Uniform Fire Code includes specialized technical fire and life safety regulations which apply to the construction and maintenance of buildings and land uses. Topics addressed in the Code include fire department access, fire hydrants, automatic sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire and explosion hazards safety, hazardous materials storage and use, provisions intended to protect and assist fire responders, industrial processes, and many other general and specialized fire-safety requirements for new and existing buildings.

### ■ **State**

#### ***California Fire Code***

The California Fire Code contains regulations relating to construction and maintenance of buildings and the use of premises. Topics addressed in the code include fire department access, fire hydrants, automatic sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire and explosion hazards safety, hazardous materials storage and use, provisions intended to protect and assist first responders, industrial processes, and many other general and specialized fire-safety requirements for new and existing buildings and premises. The code contains specialized technical regulations related to fire and life safety.

#### ***California Health and Safety Code***

State fire regulations set forth in Sections 13000, et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code include regulations for building standards (as also set forth in the California Building Code), fire protection and notification systems, fire protection devices such as extinguishers and smoke alarms, high-rise building and childcare facility standards, and fire suppression training.

### ■ **Regional**

#### ***Ventura County General Plan (2005)***

The Ventura County Fire Protection District is a special district formed on May 16, 1928, and governed by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. The Ventura County Fire Protection District protects life and property by providing fire prevention, fire education, fire suppression, and rescue services. The Ventura County Fire Protection District operates 31 fire stations that serve the cities of Camarillo, Moorpark, Ojai, Port Hueneme, Simi Valley, and Thousand Oaks, and all unincorporated regions of Ventura County. The Fire Protection District, in 2004, had a staff of 554 full-time employees, including 419 uniformed employees. The Ventura County Fire Protection District is a partner in the California Master Mutual Aid system and maintains mutual aid agreements with other adjoining fire agencies. Besides the actual fighting of fires, a great deal of time is spent by the Fire Protection District on preventive measures and preparation for combating fires. Fire prevention consists of making inspections of buildings, schools, and homes, making recommendations for fire safety, and enforcing the Uniform Fire Code. Fire Prevention programs are also sponsored through the schools, service clubs, and other organizations.

### ***Ventura County Fire Management Plan (2005)***

The State Board of Forestry and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) have drafted a comprehensive update of the fire plan for wildland fire protection in California. The planning process defines a level of service measurement, considers assets at risk, incorporates the cooperative interdependent relationships of wildland fire protection providers, provides for public stakeholder involvement, and creates a fiscal framework for policy analysis. Ventura County is one of the Contract Counties that maintain a contractual relationship with CDF and utilizes the California Fire Plan within Ventura County (County of Ventura 2005b).

### ***Ventura County Fire Protection District Ordinance No. 27***

Effective January 11, 2011, Ordinance 27 of the Ventura County Fire Protection District to be known as the Ventura County Fire Code, adopted by reference the 2010 California Fire Code and portions of the 2009 International Fire Code, both of which are part of the California Building Standards Code, known as California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24. Ordinance 25 all includes select Appendices with additions, deletions, and amendments to the California Fire Code and International Fire Code.

## **■ Local**

### ***City of Simi Valley Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (2004)***

The City of Simi Valley is required to adopt and state and federally approved Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan under the regulations of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The overall intent of the Plan is to be a strategic planning tool for the reduction or prevention of injury and damage from hazards in Simi Valley. The Plan includes findings and recommendations that are intended to inform community members and public officials about the hazards in Simi Valley and methods to mitigate them, including fire hazards. The goals, objectives, and actions regarding fire hazards are included in the Plan and provided in Section 7.3 (Fire Hazards) of this TBR.

### ***City of Simi Valley Municipal Code***

#### **Title 4, Chapter 5 (Emergency Preparedness)**

Chapter 5 of Title 4 provides for the preparation and carrying out of plans for the protection of persons and property within the jurisdiction of the City, Districts, Agency, and Authority in the event of an emergency: the direction of the Emergency Organization; and the coordination of the emergency functions of the City with all other public agencies, corporations, organizations, and affected private persons (City of Simi Valley n.d.a).

#### **Title 8, Chapter 18 (Simi Valley Building Code)**

Simi Valley Municipal Code Title 8, Chapter 18 adopts the 2010 California Building Code (which includes the 2009 International Building Code and any and all amendments, omissions, exceptions, and additions pursuant to California Code of regulations Title 24, Part 10) as the Primary Existing Building Code of the City of Simi Valley.

## 4.14.4 Project Impacts and Mitigation

### ■ Analytic Method

Information on existing levels of service, collected from the VCFD, was compared against service levels needed with implementation of the General Plan Update. The VCFD has indicators of need for additional resources and staffing, which include response times, incident loads, resident and transient population, and square footage thresholds. Proposed policies and changes in land use types and intensities in the General Plan Update were compared against such indicators to determine if any significant impacts on fire protection services would occur within the VCFD service area.

### ■ Thresholds of Significance

For the purposes of this EIR, implementation of the General Plan Update would result in substantial adverse physical impacts if it would do the following:

- Result in the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection.

### ■ General Plan Policies that Mitigate Potential Impacts on Public Services

Policies and goals from the Mobility and Infrastructure, Community Services, and Safety and Noise Chapters that would mitigate potential impacts on public services include the following. All General Plan policies are followed by a set of numbers in parentheses. These numbers reference applicable measures that will be undertaken by the City to implement the policy.

- Policy M-8.7**      **Emergency Access.** Provide all residential, commercial, and industrial areas with efficient and safe access for emergency vehicles and evacuation routes. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-18, M-2*)
- Policy CS-1.3**    **Services Provided by Other Agencies.** Support service programs provided by the County, nonprofit groups, and other agencies. Encourage these groups in the expansion, maintenance, and coordination of services. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)
- Policy S-1.1**      **Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and NIMS Plan.** Implement the strategies in the City's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and National Incident Management System (NIMS) Plan to prevent the replication of pre-disaster conditions. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1*)
- Policy S-1.2**      **NIMS Compliance.** Maintain compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Incident Management System (NIMS), which is a template for the management of incidents to reduce the loss of life and property and harm to the environment. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1*)
- Policy S-1.3**      **Consistent and Current Emergency Response Plans.** Develop and maintain consistent, comprehensive, and up-to-date plans and regulations, including the

General Plan and the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, to prepare for and respond to disasters. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1*)

- Policy S-1.4 Disaster Skills Training.** Enhance the capabilities of the City’s first responders to effectively function in disasters, including the City’s Disaster Service Worker Team, Police Department, and City employees. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1*)
- Policy S-1.5 Data and Information Tracking.** Maintain an up-to-date Geographic Information System (GIS) database that tracks new development and structures in hazard areas in order to enhance the City’s capability to assess and respond to emergency incidents. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1*)
- Policy S-1.6 Evacuation Planning.** Coordinate evacuation planning, including evacuation routes, among emergency responders including the Ventura County Fire Protection District, Sheriff’s Department, the California Highway Patrol, and law enforcement agencies in other local jurisdictions. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1*)
- Policy S-1.7 Post-Disaster Response.** Plan for the continued functioning of critical facilities following a major disaster to help prevent major problems during post-disaster response, such as evacuations, rescues, large numbers of injuries, and major cleanup operations. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1*)
- Policy S-1.8 Funding Programs.** Pursue funding for programs related to preparedness, training, mitigation, and response for catastrophic events. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1*)
- Policy S-2.1 Mutual Aid Agreements.** Continue to participate in mutual-aid agreements to ensure adequate resources, facilities, and other support for emergency response. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2*)
- Policy S-2.2 Intergovernmental Partnership.** Maintain ongoing partnerships with federal, state, county, and local governmental agencies to identify and implement disaster mitigation actions, including information sharing. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2*)
- Policy S-2.3 Emergency and Disaster Exercises.** Coordinate with Ventura County, Los Angeles County and other jurisdictions to conduct emergency and disaster-preparedness exercises to periodically test operational and emergency plans. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2*)
- Policy S-6.1 Ventura County Fire Protection District, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, and Simi Valley Hospital Coordination.** Continue to work with and support the Ventura County Fire Protection District, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, and Simi Valley Hospital with regard to personnel, facility, and infrastructure needs to maintain a high level of fire and emergency services within the City. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2, S-7*)
- Policy S-6.2 Emergency Response.** Periodically evaluate emergency response to Citywide disasters to determine if service improvements are needed. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1, S-2*)
- Policy S-6.3 Adequate Infrastructure.** Continue to assess the water pressure for fire suppression and evaluate and implement feasible solutions. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, IU-2, S-7*)

- Policy S-7.1 Intergovernmental Coordination.** Cooperate with the Ventura County Fire Protection District in periodically evaluating services and service criteria to ensure that the City continues to receive adequate fire protection, prevention services, and information-sharing protocols. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2, S-7*)
- Policy S-7.2 Fire Department Review.** Continue review by the Ventura County Fire Protection District of all proposed structures and developments within the community to mitigate potential wildland fire loss and damage. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2, S-5, S-7*)
- Policy S-7.3 Fire Inspection.** Work with the Ventura County Fire Protection District to ensure an ongoing fire inspection program to reduce fire hazards associated with critical facilities, public assembly facilities, industrial buildings, and nonresidential buildings. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2, S-7*)
- Policy S-7.4 Fire Protection Systems.** Encourage existing commercial and multiple-unit residential uses to install fire protection systems, as required by the State, building, and fire codes for new development, and encourage the use of automatic sprinkler systems in existing structures. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-6*)
- Policy S-7.5 Fuel Modification.** Ensure that new development complies with fuel modification requirements of the Ventura County Fire Protection District, as applicable. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5*)
- Policy S-7.6 Post-Fire Debris Flow.** Develop and implement a comprehensive approach to mitigate damage and loss due to post-fire debris flow. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-8*)
- Policy S-7.7 Public Education.** Promote public education of residents regarding site design, landscaping, location of materials, and brush landscaping to prevent and reduce fire hazards. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3*)
- Policy S-7.8 Funding.** Ensure that new developments pay a pro-rata share for increased fire protection as necessitated by their construction. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-14, LU-18, ED-8, S-5*)

## ■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

No Effects Not Found to Be Significant have been identified with respect to fire and emergency response.

## ■ Less-Than-Significant Impacts

- Impact 4.14-1** Implementation of the General Plan Update could result in increased demand for fire protection services and/or a demand for additional fire stations, department personnel, and/or equipment, but would not reduce the level of protection; however, this impact would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the implementation of General Plan policies and compliance with relevant local, state, and federal regulations. This is a *less-than-significant* impact.

The General Plan Update would allow for the amendment of land use designations and the potential for an increase in densities of existing uses in select areas. In select locations, land use designations would be

amended to accommodate mixed use, which would allow for residential uses in an area that is currently utilized for commercial purposes. In all cases, existing uses within the City would be allowed to remain under the General Plan Update.

As discussed in Section 4.11 (Population/Housing), full build-out of the General Plan Update could bring the City's population to 178,236 persons. However, an increase in population alone would not increase the need for additional fire protection services. The provision of fire stations varies more as a function of the geographic distribution of structures, vehicular incidents, and vacant land with combustible vegetation than an increase in population. The VCFD's service goals are based on accepted service levels, such as response times, incident loads, resident and transient population, and square footage thresholds. The City is currently served by five fire stations and two new stations are currently under construction (whereby one of the new stations is replacing an existing station). Emergency response times in 2006 were reported at approximately 4 minutes 56 seconds (Williams 2007a). There were additionally 557 non-emergency incidents, with an average response time of 7 minutes, 18 seconds (Williams 2007c). Based on current service goals and levels of service, the VCFD is operating at acceptable levels of fire protection service.

The General Plan Update does not include plans for new fire stations, but the increase in population and future new development in the City could require additional fire stations to compensate for additional demand for fire protection services. However, policies contained in the General Plan Update require that adequate infrastructure be provided as new development occurs. For example, compliance with Goal S-6 (Fire and Emergency Services) and Policy S-6.1 (Ventura County Fire Protection District, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, and Simi Valley Hospital Coordination) would facilitate cooperation with the VCFD to ensure that the City continues to receive adequate fire protection and prevention services. Policy S-2.1 (Mutual Aid Agreements), Policy S-2.2 (Intergovernmental Partnership), S-2.3 (Emergency and Disaster Exercises), Policy S-6.2 (Emergency Response), Policy S-6.3 (Adequate Infrastructure) and Policy S-7.1 (Intergovernmental Coordination), would further coordinate fire protection and emergency medical services to support the needs of residents and businesses in the community.

Policy S-7.2 (Fire Department Review), Policy S-7.3 (Fire Inspection), Policy S-7.4 (Fire Protection Systems), Policy S-7.5 (Fuel Modification), Policy S-7.6 (Post-Fire Debris Flow), Policy S-7.7 (Public Education), and Policy S-7.8 (Funding) would further ensure that increased development associated with the General Plan Update would comply with fire protection regulations. Any new development that would occur under the General Plan Update would be required to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations governing the provision of fire protection services, including adequate fire access and fire hydrants. Simi Valley Municipal Code Title 4, Chapter 5, addresses emergency preparedness and includes construction standards for new structures and remodels, road configuration design standards to accommodate fire equipment, and requirements for minimum fire flow rates for water mains. Additionally, Ordinance Number 4386 of the Ventura County Ordinance Code requires the payment of Fire Protection Fees for all new projects, in conjunction with the issuance of building permits. The current fees are \$0.49 per square feet for nonresidential construction, \$979.46 per single-family dwelling unit, and \$721.87 per multi-unit dwelling, and \$587.08 per mobile home, in addition to a

\$15.00 administrative fee per payment invoice. The payment of these fees would help to mitigate impacts to fire protection and emergency services.

If it is determined at a later date that new facilities would need to be constructed to accommodate increased demand on fire protection services, further environmental review beyond this EIR would be required as project-specific plans are developed. All new development would be subject to the City's environmental review process, which includes project-specific environmental review under CEQA. Therefore, the General Plan Update would result in a *less-than-significant* impact with regard to the construction of new fire protection facilities.

## ■ Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

No significant and unavoidable impacts have been identified with respect to fire and emergency response.

## ■ Cumulative Impacts

The geographic context for the cumulative analysis includes the neighboring cities and unincorporated County lands located within the greater Conejo and Tierra Rejada Valley areas, and generally, areas north of the Santa Monica Mountains, south of the Santa Susana Mountains, east of Conejo Pass, and west of the San Fernando Valley. In addition to Simi Valley, these areas would include Moorpark, Thousand Oaks, and Oak Park. All of these areas are continuing to experience additional residential and commercial growth. However, the VCFD operates at acceptable response times and fire protection is adequate in the County, thus there is no cumulative impact. General Plan policies ensure that the City of Simi Valley would provide adequate facilities and personnel to handle the vast majority of fire and related emergencies within the City boundaries. Development in adjacent areas could result in additional demands on VCFD's fire and emergency services through mutual aid agreements. General Plan Policy S-7.2 (Fire Department Review), Policy S-7.3 (Fire Inspection), Policy S-7.4 (Fire Protection Systems), Policy S-7.5 (Fuel Modification), Policy S-7.6 (Post-Fire Debris Flow), Policy S-7.7 (Public Education), and Policy S-7.8 (Funding) ensure that the City of Simi Valley would provide adequate facilities and personnel to handle the vast majority of fire and related emergencies within the City boundaries. Development in adjacent areas could result in additional demands on VCFD's fire and emergency services through mutual aid agreements. General Plan policies provide for mitigation of the City's contribution to the cumulative impacts except in the case of a multijurisdictional wildfire. The General Plan Update would not significantly alter internal or regional demand for fire suppression services, and the cumulative impact is *less than significant*.

## Police Protection

### 4.14.5 Introduction

This section provides information on the existing police protection services in the City. Simi Valley has been consistently ranked by the FBI as one of the Safest Cities in America (City of Simi Valley 2006). The Simi Valley Police Department (SVPD) began with 29 sworn officers in 1971; the Department is now authorized to staff 125 sworn officers and 70 support personnel. In addition, award-winning

programs such as the K-9 and Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) programs represent some of the highest standards of law enforcement and crime prevention services provided to Simi Valley (City of Simi Valley 2006).

#### 4.14.6 Environmental Setting

Police services are provided Citywide by the Simi Valley Police Department (SVPD). The Simi Valley police station is located at 3901 Alamo Street. The SVPD patrol area covers the entire area within the Simi Valley municipal boundaries.

##### ■ Staffing and Equipment

The SVPD employs 124 sworn officers and a support staff of 65 civilians (Jones 2007b). Based upon an estimated 2006 population of 122,700, the SVPD provides about 1 officer per 1,000 residents. The SVPD typically operates on the basis of one officer per patrol car per patrol area per ten-hour period. However, the Department has peak times when more marked, black and white units (1.2 to 3.6 units per patrol area) may be on duty. Usual peak times are Friday and Saturday evenings and Saturday and Sunday days. The fewest officers are on duty during the late evening to early morning period (1:00 A.M. to 6:00 A.M.).

A summary of existing staffing levels and current vacancies is provided in Table 4.14-2 (SVPD Staff Levels [2007]). The total number of required personnel reflects fully authorized and funded positions, and is determined by several factors, including: response times (emergency and non-emergency), traffic accident rates and ratios, crime rates, citizen complaint to call ratios, and case clearance ratios (Jones 2007b).

<i>Level</i>	<i>Staffing</i>	<i>Vacant Positions</i>	<i>Total Authorized</i>
Chief	1	0	1
Captain	3	0	3
Lieutenant	8	0	8
Sergeant	17	0	17
Senior Officers	10	0	10
Officers and Detectives	79	0	79
Civilian Management	18	1	19
Civilian Personnel	47	4.5	51.5
Training	5	0	5
Academy Cadets	1	0	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>194.5</i>

SOURCE: Simi Valley Police Department (2007).

According to SVPD, based upon population, response times, accident rates and crime statistics, this staffing level is considered adequate for the services provided. Increases in population, or increased demands for services could result in the need to increase the personnel to population ratio (Jones 2007b).

### ***Operations Division***

The Operations Division of the Simi Valley Police Department is comprised of the Patrol Unit and Dispatch Unit. The Patrol unit is the most visible service of the Police Department. Patrol personnel maintain 24 hours per-day, seven days per-week law enforcement coverage. The Patrol Unit also includes the Canine Program, Field Training Program, and the Reserve Program.

The Dispatch Unit is a technical, specialized support function within the Police Department. Dispatch personnel handle 911 communications, take complaints, operate several alarm systems, monitor and communicate with all police units in the field and act as the clearing house for various types of information for the public (Jones 2007b).

### ***Investigative Division***

The Investigative Division is comprised of the Special Operations Unit, Detective Unit, and Criminal Intelligence Section. The Special Operations Unit offers specialized enforcement services to the community through the Special Enforcement Section, Special Problems Section, Special Investigation Section, Special Weapons Team, and Crisis Negotiation Team. The Special Enforcement Section is utilized for short term, high priority assignments such as street narcotic enforcement, Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC) violations, warrant service, suppression of identified crime patterns and liaison with State Parole and County Probation Agencies. The Special Problems Section is primarily responsible for gang suppression and graffiti investigations. They also act as liaison to the City's four Neighborhood Councils and handle designated problem oriented policing. The Special Investigations Section is responsible for investigating vice and narcotic cases.

The Detective Unit is divided into two sections: the Violent Crime Section and the Property Crime Section. This Unit is responsible for follow-up investigations of all felony crimes, certain sexual related misdemeanors, and any unusual or complicated cases beyond the expertise of patrol personnel. The Detective Unit also oversees the Crime Scene Investigation function and the registration of sex, narcotic, and arson offenders.

The Criminal Intelligence Section is responsible for the proactive collection, analysis, and dissemination of criminal intelligence on the activities of organized crime groups, public disorder groups, terrorist groups, and officials involved in public corruption. The result of this effort provides the Chief of Police with the knowledge and information necessary to make informed judgments and take appropriate action to effectively counter and control criminal activity within the City (Jones 2007b).

### ***Support Services Division***

The Support Services Division is comprised of the Traffic Unit, Auxiliary Services, Emergency Services, and Press Information.

The Traffic Unit is responsible for traffic law enforcement, traffic collision investigation, traffic safety education, and special event/film permit review, coordination, and approval.

The Auxiliary Services Unit is responsible for planning, training, research, recruitment and background investigations, internal affairs, evidence and property, and jail operation management. This unit is also responsible for all crime prevention programs, including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and the Neighborhood Watch Program, as well as the Drug Abuse Resistance and Education (DARE) program, and the Boy Scouts of American, Police Explorer Program.

The Emergency Services Section is responsible for fulfilling five major objectives: emergency planning, emergency management training, coordination for emergency response and planning, disaster recovery, and public education. The goals of the program are implemented by the City's Emergency Services Coordinator under the general direction of the Chief of Police. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is operated out of this section (Jones 2007b).

### ***Administrative Division***

The Administrative Division is comprised of the Fiscal Services, Records, Crime Analysis, and Maintenance Units. In addition, the Administrative Division is responsible for computer research, development, and coordination, the Technical Reserve Program, the Volunteer Coordinator Program, Citizens on Patrol Program, clerical oversight, as well as acting as the Department's liaison to other City Departments.

The Fiscal Services Unit provides budget, financial, word processing, permit processing, and alarm ordinance coordination services to the Department. The Records Unit of the Police Department provides mandatory custody, coordination, and control of official reports and records generated by the Police Department.

The Crime Analysis Unit is responsible for entering and analyzing all police report data. The unit actively researches and flags special circumstances related to criminal activity, such as gang and hate crimes, crimes of abuse, officers assaulted, violent crimes against senior citizens, and domestic violence.

The Maintenance Unit coordinates regular upkeep and service of the police facility, fleet, and departmental equipment (Jones 2007b).

### ***Community Perceptions of Crime and Multi-Family Housing***

The perception of crime or a dangerous area has a significant effect upon quality of life. It may discourage people from taking an evening jog or stroll through their community or cause parents to keep their children indoors. Within many communities, some residents perceive that multi-family housing or mixed-use development is associated with higher crime rates (California Planning Roundtable 1997). However, crime rates in Simi Valley have decreased over the past twenty-years, even though new growth in multi-family housing has occurred over the same period (Chen 2007). This indicates that this perception may not be relevant in Simi Valley.

## ■ Standards

The SVPD records calls for service on the basis of response time and the number of actual calls. The Department responded to about 2,281 calls for service during the 2005/06 fiscal year. The average response time to emergency calls for service was 4.4 minutes and for non-emergency calls 9.9 minutes. The Department's goal for response time to emergency calls for 2005/06 was four minutes or less and 12 minutes or less for non-emergency calls. While the emergency response time goal was not met, response times for 2005/06 are within Department averages from previous years, and are considered acceptable by the Department (Chen 2007). The SVPD does not evaluate the need for services based on personnel to population ratios or standards because they do not consider this ratio to be an appropriate measure of the level of services needed (California Department of Housing and Community Development, 1997). As previously discussed, other measures of police protection services are taken into consideration such as response times (emergency and non-emergency), traffic accident rates and ratios, crime rates, citizen complaint to call ratios, and case clearance ratios.

In 2006, the Police Department migrated from a 6-Beat Patrol Plan to a 7-Beat Patrol Plan with the addition of new Police Officer positions. By increasing the number of Beats and the corresponding increase in the number of Police Officers on Patrol, the Police Department will be more visible for crime prevention and be able to reduce the response times to both emergency and non-emergency calls, providing a higher level of service to the community.

## ■ Future Staffing Needs

An aggressive recruitment program is underway within the Department to fill the police officer vacancies which have occurred due to the Department's expansions and some recent retirements (Table 4.14-2). The recruiting of qualified police officer candidates is a problem at city and county levels throughout the country. The City is partnering with the Simi Valley Police Foundation for the recruitment of sworn personnel and the promotion of the Department. Through this effort, the Department will reach a fully staffed level.

The Police Department has no immediate plans to increase staffing by any significant numbers. There are no short-term plans for expansion of the Department's facilities since current staffing levels and existing facilities are considered by SVPD to be adequate. The Department added a Mobile Command Vehicle to its inventory of resources during the fiscal year 2007/08.

As growth in the City continues, it is anticipated that residential density and traffic congestion will increase. The projected rise in resident and transient worker populations may result in an increased demand for police services. This fact, combined with escalating traffic congestion, will result in slower response times to non-emergency calls for service. Without a corresponding increase in staffing, service levels would drop below those considered acceptable.

The Police Department anticipates that an increase in staffing (sworn and civilian), with the necessary supporting equipment, will be necessary to serve population and employment growth. Additionally, continued emphasis on the minimization of crime through environmental design (i.e., lighting and points of access) throughout the City's development process will aid in this task (Jones 2007b).

## ■ Crime Statistics

Based on the Department of Finance (DOF) 2009 population estimate for the City of 125,814 residents, the City's per capita crime rate is 18.1 crimes per thousand population, compared to 20 years ago, in 1986, when the City's per capita crime rate is 29.8 per thousand (Jones 2007b). Table 4.14-3 (Simi Valley Police Department 2005/06 Part I Crime Statistics) reports the number of Part I offenses (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, grand theft auto, and arson) by categories that were committed in the City between 2005 and 2006. As shown in Table 4.14-3, a 15.7 percent increase in violent crimes was reported in 2006 compared to 2005. However, the overall Part I crime rate was down 9.2 percent. It should be noted that Table 4.14-3 provides only recent data on crime statistics and that overall, crime rates have notably decreased in Simi Valley over the past twenty years.

<b>Table 4.14-3 Simi Valley Police Department 2005/06 Part I Crime Statistics</b>			
	<i>Jan - Dec 2005</i>	<i>Jan - Dec 2006</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
Criminal Homicide	0	3	0.0
Rape	17	21	23.5
Robbery	47	58	23.4
Aggravated Assault	108	117	8.3
<b>Total Violent Crimes</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>15.7</b>
Burglary	583	425	-27.1
Larceny Theft	1515	1475	-2.6
Auto Theft	217	160	-26.3
Arson	22	22	0.0
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>2337</b>	<b>2082</b>	<b>-11.0</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>2509</b>	<b>2281</b>	<b>-9.1</b>
<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>9.1% decrease in major crimes in 2006 compared to 2005</b>		

SOURCE: Lieutenant Roy F. Jones, Simi Valley Police Department Auxiliary Services Unit, written communication (March 16, 2007).

As mentioned previously, Simi Valley has been regarded as one of the safest communities in the nation, with relatively low levels of crime. As the City grows and population increases, a proactive and community supported police department (i.e., through programs that raise community awareness of criminal activities such as the Neighborhood Watch Program) will continue help to reduce crime rates as residents and business become more aware on methods and opportunities to reduce crime occurrences (City of Simi Valley 1997).

## ■ Existing Programs and Services

The SVPD supports numerous programs that help maintain the City as a safe community. SVPD operates programs and services that provide emergency services in response to Citywide disasters, inform people about best practices to increase personal safety, raise the level of awareness about criminal activity, and assist in funding projects and resources that support the mission of keeping Simi Valley safe.

Table 4.14-4 (SVPD Programs and Projects) includes descriptions of the programs or projects that are implemented by the SVPD.

Table 4.14-4 SVPD Programs and Projects		
Program or Project	Description	Agency
Emergency Services Program	<p>The City of Simi Valley Emergency Services Program was established in 1984. The Program is designed to plan for and respond to Citywide disasters that involve multiple agencies and/or outside resources. The Program fulfills five major objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Emergency Program Administration</li> <li>■ Emergency Planning</li> <li>■ Emergency Management Training</li> <li>■ Coordination for Emergency Response and Planning</li> <li>■ Public Education</li> </ul> <p>The Office of Emergency Services is nested within the Police Department, but operates with a separate Emergency Services budget. The City's Emergency Services Coordinator under the General Direction of the Chief of Police and the City Manager implements the goals of the program. The Emergency Services Coordinator is a full-time position staffed by a civilian management employee. The State Office of Emergency Services/FEMA Emergency Management Assistance Grant Program partially funds the Program.</p>	Police Department/OES
Emergency Planning Program	<p>The Emergency Services Program is responsible for the maintenance of the following planning documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The City Multi-Hazard Functional Plan</li> <li>■ The Emergency Operations Center Procedures Manual</li> <li>■ The Watch Commander's Emergency Checklist</li> <li>■ Simi Valley Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan</li> </ul> <p>The Emergency Services Coordinator assists the other City Departments in the preparation of their plans and ensures that they are consistent with the City's emergency plan.</p>	Police Department/OES
Emergency Management Training Program	<p>The Emergency Services Program provides emergency management training in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Emergency Operations Center procedures</li> <li>■ Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)/Incident Command System (ICS)</li> </ul> <p>Training is accomplished with classroom training and disaster exercises in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Annual Disaster exercises are conducted at varying levels of complexity, they include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tabletop—scenario discussed in a non-stress, meeting environment</li> <li>■ Functional—scenario played out in the EOC with simulated field units</li> <li>■ Full Scale—scenario played out in the EOC with simulators and field units</li> </ul> <p>The current training schedule calls for at least two tabletop exercises, and one functional exercise each year. A full-scale exercise is conducted every four (4) years, unless actual EOC activations occur within that timeframe.</p>	Police Department/OES
Emergency Response Coordination Program	<p>The Emergency Services Program provides coordination in emergency and non-emergency contexts.</p> <p>During daily operations, the Emergency Services Coordinator maintains relations with the numerous outside agencies that may assist the City during a disaster. Some of the key agencies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ventura County Fire Protection District</li> <li>■ Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services</li> <li>■ State Office of Emergency Services</li> </ul>	Police Department/OES

**Table 4.14-4 SVPD Programs and Projects**

<i>Program or Project</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Agency</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ American Red Cross</li> <li>■ Simi Valley Unified School District</li> <li>■ Ventura County Cities</li> </ul>	
Community Disaster Education Program	<p>The Emergency Services Program provides disaster preparedness information for all aspects of the community. This part of the program is implemented in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program</li> <li>■ Presentations</li> <li>■ Work Shops</li> <li>■ Press Releases</li> <li>■ Attendance at community events including the Annual Simi Valley Emergency Expo</li> <li>■ Brochures</li> <li>■ City AM Radio broadcasts</li> </ul>	Police Department/OES
Emergency Operations Center Program	The Emergency Services Program maintains a dedicated Emergency Operations Center that is equipped with a wide variety of communications and coordination equipment. The EOC is located in the Simi Valley Police Station that was constructed, in part, with Hazard Mitigation funds from the Northridge Earthquake disaster.	Police Department/OES
Standardized Emergency Management System	The City utilizes California's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). SEMS requires the City to utilize standard procedures for managing disasters.	All City Departments
Disaster Supplies Cache Program	The Emergency Services Program maintains three disaster supply caches in the City. These caches contain various supplies to setup shelter locations. The City also maintains a Mass Casualty Unit Trailer. It is equipped with Basic Life Support (BLS) and medical treatment center supplies equipment.	Police Department/OES
City A.M. Radio Station	The Emergency Services Program maintains a 10-watt radio station (WNHI 810 Simi Valley) that is used for disaster public information dissemination.	Police Department/OES
Disaster Service Worker Team Program	The Emergency Services Program established in 2003 and maintains a 40-person Disaster Service Worker Team. The members are volunteers who have graduated from the City's Community Emergency Response Team Program. Each member is a sworn disaster services worker and has completed a background check and attends monthly meetings and training sessions.	Police Department/OES
HAZUS GIS Hazard analysis program	The Emergency Services program utilizes FEMA's HAZUS GIS software to develop loss estimates for earthquakes and floods.	Police Department/OES
Inter Agency Coordination Group (IACG) participation	The Emergency Services Program participates in the County Inter Agency Coordination Group to plan and coordinate disaster management issues.	Police Department/OES
National Weather Service Program participation	A Member of the Emergency Service Program attends Annual National Weather Service briefings.	Police Department/OES
Disaster Services Website	The City maintains a Disaster Services website that provides disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation information.	Police Department/OES
Emergency Manager Mutual Aid Program	The Emergency Services Unit participates in the California Emergency Manager Mutual Aid Program (EMMAP).	Police Department/OES

Table 4.14-4 SVPD Programs and Projects

<i>Program or Project</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Terrorism Working Group	The Police Department is a member of the Ventura County Terrorism Working Group. The Group is comprised of Ventura County Terrorism incident first responders.	Police Department
Terrorism Planning Committee	The Police Department created a Terrorism planning committee to steer the Department's program for Terrorism prevention and response.	Police Department
Police Mutual Aid Program	The Police Department participates in the California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Program.	Police Department
Disaster Operations Coordination	The Police Department is trained to provide Citywide disaster operations coordination from the EOC.	Police Department
Police Department Operations Center	The Police Department has developed a Departmental Operations Center that activates during critical incidents and disasters.	Police Department
Neighborhood Watch Program	The Police Department Crime Prevention Unit maintains existing watch groups and recruits new groups in order to provide public education and prevention tips about crime risks, such as burglary, theft and vandalism.	Police Department
Crime Free Programs	The Crime Free Programs are innovative, law enforcement based crime prevention methods designed to help keep illegal activity off rental property. There are currently three Crime Free Programs being offered; Crime Free Multi-Housing, Crime Free Storage, and Crime Free Lifestyles.	Police Department
Every Fifteen Minutes Program	The Police Department participates in presenting a multi-agency drunk driving prevention/awareness program for high school juniors and seniors each spring. The program includes a re-enactment of a serious traffic accident involving students from the high school. The goal of the program is to increase awareness of the consequences of driving under the influence.	Police Department
Drug Abuse and Resistance Education (DARE) Program	The D.A.R.E. Program teaches kids how to recognize and resist the direct and subtle pressures that influence them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs. The D.A.R.E. program is introduced to children in the 6th grade in all Simi Valley Unified District schools along with students participating in home school.	Police Department
Community Gang Task Force Committee	The Community Gang Task Force Committee is comprised of 21 regular members and one alternate member. The committee is comprised of representatives from government agencies, non-profit organizations, religious entities, and private citizens from the community. The Community Gang Task Force meets on a regular basis, and is updated by the Police Department on recent gang activity and trends. The Task Force discusses ideas to address gang activity, graffiti, and at-risk youth issues.	Police Department
Police Canine Program	The Simi Valley Police Department Canine Program is designed to utilize police dogs and handlers specially trained in crime scene, missing person, and building searches; suspect apprehensions; narcotics detection; and, crowd control. The Program is also used to promote community awareness and acceptance of the Simi Valley Police Department Canine Program as a viable and important crime prevention tool.	Police Department
Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Program	<b>SWAT</b> is a specialized unit within the Police Department that is trained to perform dangerous operations. These can include serving high-risk arrest warrants, performing hostage rescue and/or armed intervention, preventing terrorist attacks, and engaging heavily armed criminals.	Police Department

SOURCE: City of Simi Valley (2007).

### ***Ventura County Sheriff's Department***

While the SVPD is recognized as the first line of official public responsibility for emergency management activity, the Department staff works closely with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department for emergency services planning and management.

Emergency Services planning in Ventura County is conducted in the Sheriff's Department, Support Services Division, Office of Emergency Services. The staff coordinates planning at each government level (i.e., SVPD). The eight major elements of the Office of Emergency Services work program include the following services that are provided to the City:

1. Emergency Organization Planning and Management
2. Direction, Control, and Warning
3. Population Protection
4. Radioactive Contamination, Monitoring and Control
5. Public Disaster Related Public Education and Emergency Public Information
6. Emergency Support Services
7. Hazard Analysis and Mitigation
8. Multihazards Functional Planning Guidance

In addition, the County Sheriff's Department supports efforts to organize neighborhood, rural, and industrial crime prevention programs, and conduct residential security surveys. The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services maintains and periodically updates the Ventura County Multi-hazard Functional Plan including mitigation measures, preparedness, response, and recovery for natural and war-related hazard contingency sections (i.e., plans).

Additional services provided by the Sheriff's Department to the City include short-term jail services and booking services (City of Simi Valley 1988c). In the case of persons arrested for felony charges, or misdemeanor bookings, the SVPD uses the East Valley Sheriff's facility in Thousand Oaks in the evenings and the Main Jail in Ventura at other times (Jones 2007b).

#### 4.14.7 Regulatory Framework

##### ■ Federal

There are no federal policies that are directly applicable to police services within the City of Simi Valley.

##### ■ State

There are no state policies that are directly applicable to police services within the City of Simi Valley.

##### ■ Local

##### *Simi Valley Municipal Code*

Simi Valley Municipal Code Title 4, Chapter 5, addresses emergency preparedness powers and duties. The declared purposes of this chapter are to provide for the preparation and carrying out of plans for the protection of persons and property within the City in the event of an emergency: the direction of the Emergency Organization; and the coordination of the emergency functions of the City with all other public agencies, corporations, organizations, and affected private persons (City of Simi Valley n.d.a).

## 4.14.8 Project Impacts and Mitigation

### ■ Analytic Method

Proposed policies and development changes in the General Plan Update were compared against current conditions to determine if any significant impacts on police protection would occur within the service area of the SVPD.

### ■ Thresholds of Significance

For the purposes of this EIR, implementation of the General Plan Update would result in substantial adverse physical impacts if it would do the following:

- Result in the need for new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for police protection.

### ■ General Plan Policies that Mitigate Potential Impacts on Police Protection

Policies and goals from the Safety and Noise Chapter that would mitigate potential impacts on police protection include the following. All General Plan policies are followed by a set of numbers in parentheses. These numbers reference applicable measures that will be undertaken by the City to implement the policy.

- Policy S-1.3**      **Consistent and Current Emergency Response Plans.** Develop and maintain consistent, comprehensive, and up-to-date plans and regulations, including the General Plan and the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, to prepare for and respond to disasters. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1*)
- Policy S-1.6**      **Evacuation Planning.** Coordinate evacuation planning, including evacuation routes, among emergency responders including the Ventura County Fire Protection District, Sheriff's Department, the California Highway Patrol, and law enforcement agencies in other local jurisdictions. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1*)
- Policy S-2.1**      **Mutual Aid Agreements.** Continue to participate in mutual-aid agreements to ensure adequate resources, facilities, and other support for emergency response. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2*)
- Policy S-4.1**      **Response Time Standards.** Achieve and maintain appropriate response times for all call priority levels to provide responsive police services for the safety of residents and visitors. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-4*)
- Policy S-4.2**      **Staffing Standards.** Maintain optimum staffing levels for both sworn police officers and civilian support staff in order to provide quality police services to the community. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-4*)
- Policy S-4.3**      **Cooperation with Other Agencies.** Continue to work with the California Highway Patrol, the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, and neighboring law enforcement agencies for the provision of emergency services and to provide backup police assistance in emergency situations. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-4*)

- Policy S-4.4 Community Education and Awareness.** Continue to be responsive to crime trends by informing and educating the community through the Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch Programs and the Business Alert and Citizen Alert System and facilitating educational programs dealing with personal safety awareness. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-4*)
- Policy S-4.5 Communication with the Community.** Maintain a dialogue with the community to improve relationships and customer service, and continually explore innovative means to communicate with the public on police services. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-4*)
- Policy S-4.6 Technology.** Ensure changes and upgrades in equipment and policing activities keep pace with changing technologies. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-4*)
- Policy S-4.7 Crime Prevention through Design.** Support and encourage the use defensible space concepts (site and building lighting, visual observation of open spaces, secured areas, etc.) in the design of new development and rehabilitation projects. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5*)
- Policy S-4.8 Development Review.** Review new development and rehabilitation projects for security matters as part of the development review process. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5*)

## ■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

No Effects Not Found to Be Significant have been identified with respect to police protection.

## ■ Less-Than-Significant Impacts

- Impact 4.14-2 Implementation of the General Plan Update could result in increased demand for police protection services and/or a demand for additional police stations, department personnel, and/or equipment, but would not reduce the level of protection; however, this impact would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the implementation of General Plan policies and compliance with relevant local, state, and federal regulations. This is a *less-than-significant* impact.**

The General Plan Update would allow for the amendment of land use designations and the potential for an increase in densities of existing uses in select locations. For example, in Study Areas 1, 2, and 12, land use designations would be amended to accommodate mixed-use development, which would allow for residential uses in an area that is currently utilized for commercial purposes. In all cases, existing uses within the City would be allowed to remain under the General Plan Update.

Based on the Department of Finance (DOF) 2009 population estimate for the City of 125,814 residents and the 124 sworn officers employed by the SVPD, the SVPD provides about 1.02 officers per 1,000 residents. The SVPD typically operates on the basis of one officer per patrol car per patrol area per ten-hour period. However, the Department has peak times when more marked, black and white units (1.2 to 3.6 units per patrol area) may be on duty. Usual peak times are Friday and Saturday evenings and Saturday and Sunday days. The SVPD does not evaluate the need for services based on personnel to population ratios or standards because they do not consider this ratio to be an appropriate measure of

the level of services needed (California Department of Housing and Community Development, 1997). As previously discussed, other measures of police protection services are taken into consideration such as response times (emergency and non-emergency), traffic accident rates and ratios, crime rates, citizen complaint to call ratios, and case clearance ratios. The average response time to emergency calls for service was 4.4 minutes and for non-emergency calls 9.9 minutes. The Department's goal for response time to emergency calls for 2005/06 was four minutes or less and 12 minutes or less for non-emergency calls. While the emergency response time goal was not met, response times for 2005/06 are within Department averages from previous years, and are considered acceptable by the Department (California Department of Housing and Community Development, 1997).

Based on the information provided in crime statistics, Simi Valley is considered to be a generally safe city, with the number of crimes declining annually while population increases. As such, the increase in population resulting from the proposed infill uses is not anticipated to substantially increase crime within the City. Compliance with Goal S-4 (Police Services, Crime Prevention, and Protection) and Policy S-4.1 (Response Time Standards) and Policy S-4.2 (Staffing Standards) would ensure that the City continues to receive adequate police protection and prevention services. Policy S-4.3 (Cooperation with Other Agencies), Policy S-4.4 (Community Education and Awareness), Policy S-4.5 (Communication with the Community) and Policy S-4.6 (Technology) would further coordinate police protection to support the needs of residents and businesses in the community. Policy S-4.1 (Police Services, Crime Prevention, and Protection), Policy S-4.3 (Cooperation with Other Agencies), Policy S-4.4 (Community Education and Awareness), Policy S-4.7 (Crime Prevention through Design), and Policy S-4.8 (Development Review) would further ensure that increased development associated with the General Plan Update would comply with police protection regulations. Therefore, with implementation of these goals and policies, police staffing and facilities would be able to maintain adequate service levels while serving the needs of new development associated with the General Plan Update, and associated additional demands upon police protection services.

The General Plan Update does not include plans for new police stations, but if new facilities need to be constructed at a later date to accommodate increased demand for police protection services, further environmental review in addition to this EIR would be required as project-specific plans are developed. All new development would be subject to the City's environmental review process, which includes project-specific environmental review under CEQA. Therefore, the General Plan Update would result in a *less-than-significant* impact regarding the construction of new police facilities.

## ■ Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

No significant and unavoidable impacts have been identified with respect to police protection.

## ■ Cumulative Impacts

Although the SVPD would cooperate with other police agencies through mutual aid agreements, the SVPD would not change staffing or construct new facilities to serve these other agencies. Therefore, the geographic context for the cumulative analysis includes the City of Simi Valley. The SVPD operates at acceptable response times and police protection is adequate in the City and the County, thus there is no cumulative impact. General Plan policies ensure that the City of Simi Valley would provide adequate

facilities and personnel to handle the vast majority of police protection and related emergencies within the City boundaries. General Plan policies provide for mitigation of the City's contribution to the cumulative impacts. The General Plan Update would not significantly alter internal or regional demand for police protection services, and the cumulative impact is *less than significant*.

## Schools

### 4.14.9 Introduction

This section describes existing public and private school facilities, education programs, and planned improvements within the City of Simi Valley. Forty-six public and private school facilities serve Simi Valley residents. Public schools must follow all federal, state, and local laws in educating children and adults. Such laws usually include specifics about funding, program development, and curriculum. Private schools are not subject to as many state and federal regulations as public schools. Since private schools are funded independently, they are not subject to the limitations of state education budgets and have more freedom in designing curriculum and instruction. Information from this section is based upon information provided from the Education Data Partnership website, the California Department of Education Facilities Department, and the Simi Valley Unified School District website and District staff.

### 4.14.10 Environmental Setting

The Simi Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) is responsible for providing the majority of primary and secondary education for Simi Valley residents. The SVUSD presently operates twenty-one elementary schools (grades K–6), three middle schools (grades 6–8), three high schools (grades 9–12), one continuation high school (grade 10–12), one adult school, and one independent/alternative school. All of the schools except one use the traditional school schedule.

The SVUSD headquarters are located at 875 East Cochran Street within Simi Valley. Figure 4.14-2 (School Locations) identifies Simi Valley Unified School District school locations, as well as private schools and charter schools within the City. Table 4.14-5 (Public Schools Operated by the Simi Valley Unified School District) lists existing public schools and their associated enrollments and operating capacities as of the 2006/07 school year.

The Simi Valley Unified School District served approximately 20,331 students in a total of 29 public schools, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, during the 2006/07 school year, as indicated in Table 4.14-5 (not including the Simi Valley Adult School).

Within SVUSD boundaries, there is one independent study school; the Monte Vista School (grades K–12), which offers students with alternative schedules, such as actors and athletes or students that are too ill to attend a traditional school, to do independent study. Each student attends the school for one hour a week with their appointed teacher to review assignments, and while completing his or her studies at their respective homes.

## ■ Simi Valley Unified School District Enrollment Capacity

Current enrollment for the 2006/07 school year, as well as SVUSD's projected enrollment through the school year 2012/13, is provided in Table 4.14-6 (SVUSD Current and Projected Enrollment). As shown, the total number of students enrolled in the Simi Valley Unified School District is anticipated to decrease by approximately two percent from 21,291 to 20,921 students in the next six years. Decreasing enrollment is typical of many school districts. In Simi Valley, this primarily due to rising housing costs, which preclude young families from moving into Simi Valley and an aging adult population in the community (Roop 2007b). However, while the total school enrollment is expected to decrease slightly, the number of students enrolled in elementary school is expected to increase by four percent. The greatest decrease in enrollment will occur among high school students (decreasing by almost 8 percent) and middle school students (decreasing by 7 percent).

## ■ Simi Valley Unified School District Overcrowding

The SVUSD has developed numerous criteria to measure the level of overcrowding that can occur in school including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Number of classrooms needed to serve the expected enrollment
2. Size of classrooms
3. Adequacy of support facilities such as libraries, multipurpose rooms, restrooms, and administrative space
4. Adequacy of outdoor facilities such as playgrounds, playfields, and parking.

As identified in Table 4.14-5, seven of the schools in the SVUSD are over capacity for enrollment, including six elementary schools, one high school, and one charter school.

Table 4.14-7 (Pupil Generation Rates for New Housing [Students per Dwelling Unit]) identifies pupil generation rates for new housing development. The impact of a project on a school's overcrowding is initially determined by calculating the number of students expected to be generated using pupil generation rates (i.e. pupils per dwelling unit), broken down by grade and housing type. However, the student projection calculation does not account for the increase in existing household size, which can lead to underestimating the number of students generated by a particular residence type and result in overcrowding in regions where household size has increased.

## ■ Planned Improvements

According to the Simi Valley Unified School District, there are plans for the expansion of facilities at Atherwood Elementary School and Santa Susana High School and for additional facilities at Monte Vista and Royal High School and the expansion of library facilities at various schools by the Measure C-4 bond program. Every school in SVUSD is deficient in library space. Plans for additional classroom facilities are prepared each year as the need arises (Roop 2007a).

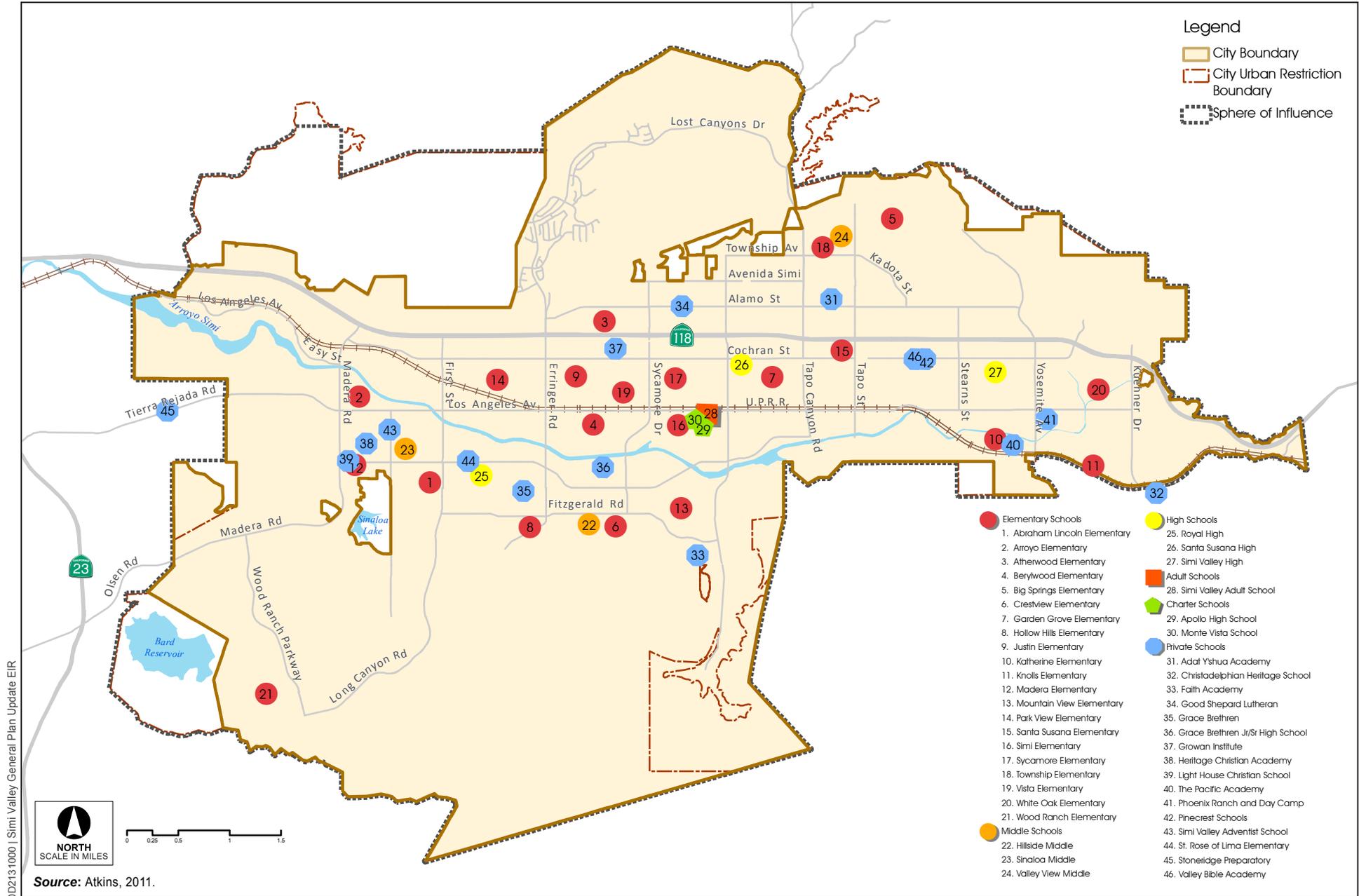


Figure 4.14-2  
School Locations



**Table 4.14-5 Public Schools Operated by the Simi Valley Unified School District**

<i>Map No.</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Operating Capacity 2006/07</i>	<i>Enrollment 2006/07</i>	<i>Percent of Capacity</i>
<b>Elementary Schools</b>					
1	Abraham Lincoln Elementary School 1220 Fourth Street	K-6	453	446	98.5%
2	Arroyo Elementary School 225 Ulysses Street	K-6	352	355	100.9%
3	Atherwood Elementary School 2350 East Greensward Street	K-6	479	512	106.9%
4	Berylwood Elementary School 2300 Heywood Street	K-6	813	730	89.8%
5	Big Springs Elementary School 3401 Big Springs Avenue	K-6	636	652	102.5% <sup>3</sup>
6	Crestview Elementary School 900 Crosby Avenue	K-6	493	462	93.7%
7	Garden Grove Elementary School 2250 North Tracy Avenue	K-6	671	449	66.9%
8	Hollow Hills Elementary School 828 Gibson Avenue	K-6	670	666	99.4%
9	Justin Elementary School 2245 North Justin Avenue	K-6	417	419	100.5%
10	Katherine Elementary School 5455 Katherine Street	K-6	546	524	96.0%
11	Knolls Elementary School 6334 Katherine Road	K-6	447	447	100%
12	Madera Elementary School 250 Royal Avenue	K-6	494	434	87.9%
13	Mountain View Elementary School 2925 Fletcher Ave.	K-6	502	307	61.2%
14	Park View Elementary School 1500 Alexander Street	K-6	559	413	75.4%
15	Santa Susana Elementary School 4300 Apricot Road	K-6	570	430	75.4%
16	Simi Elementary School 2956 School Street	K-6	408	296	72.5%
17	Sycamore Elementary School 2100 Ravenna Street	K-6	409	390	95.4%
18	Township Elementary School 4101 Township Avenue	K-6	498	450	90.4%
19	Vista Elementary School <sup>a</sup> 2175 Wisteria Street	K-6	646	661	102.3%
20	White Oak Elementary School 2201 Alscott Avenue	K-6	578	570	98.6%
21	Wood Ranch Elementary School 455 Circle Knoll Drive	K-6	777	707	91.0%
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>11,418</i>	<i>10,320</i>	<i>90.4</i>

**Table 4.14-5 Public Schools Operated by the Simi Valley Unified School District**

Map No.	School	Grades	Operating Capacity 2006/07	Enrollment 2006/07	Percent of Capacity
<b>Middle Schools</b>					
22	Hillside Middle School 2222 Fitzgerald Rd	6-8	1,776	1,021	86.8%
23	Sinaloa Middle School 601 Royal Avenue	6-8	1,237	1,085	87.7%
24	Valley View Middle School 3347 Tapo Street	6-8	1,512	1,309	86.6%
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>3,925</i>	<i>3,415</i>	<i>87.0%</i>
<b>High Schools</b>					
25	Royal High School 1402 Royal Avenue	9-12	2,512	2,622	104.4%
26	Santa Susana High School <sup>a</sup> 3570 East Cochran Street	9-12	1,337	1,169	87.4%
27	Simi Valley High School 5400 Cochran Street	9-12	2,539	2,284	90.4%
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>6,388</i>	<i>6,075</i>	<i>95.1%</i>
<b>Adult Schools</b>					
28	Simi Valley Adult School 1880 Blackstock Street	adult	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Charter Schools</b>					
29	Apollo High School (YR) <sup>a</sup> 3150 School Street	10-12	377	312	82.8%
30	Monte Vista School <sup>a</sup> 3150 School Street	K-12	115	209	181.7%
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>492</i>	<i>448</i>	<i>91.1</i>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>22,223</b>	<b>20,331</b>	<b>91.5%</b>

SOURCE: Gary Nottingham, Interim Director, Facilities and Planning, Simi Valley Unified School District (August 2007).

YR = year round

a. These schools do not have an attendance boundary

**Table 4.14-6 SVUSD Current and Projected Enrollment**

School	Current Enrollment 2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/02	2012/13
<b>Elementary</b>							
Atherwood	501	588	663	741	779	820	847
Arroyo	362	356	369	378	387	395	408
Berlywood	769	797	783	790	792	816	835
Big Springs	649	649	676	682	696	700	714
Crestview	467	453	454	450	458	480	475
Garden Grove	504	495	483	475	464	467	464

**Table 4.14-6 SVUSD Current and Projected Enrollment**

<b>School</b>	<b>Current Enrollment 2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/02</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
Justin	422	422	417	418	435	440	464
Katherine	533	546	555	571	585	662	632
Knolls	456	454	457	430	422	406	405
Lincoln	446	439	433	418	410	408	419
Madera	427	398	375	333	307	296	281
Mountain View	346	321	294	282	282	263	266
Park View	418	427	447	453	475	497	517
Santa Susana	454	436	446	417	410	393	393
Simi	320	324	326	317	318	325	325
Sycamore	421	400	370	358	341	335	319
Township	473	484	513	529	555	561	572
White Oak	575	556	549	520	521	519	509
Wood Ranch	712	712	703	713	701	719	721
Hollow Hills	668	669	676	677	662	693	700
Vista	674	676	682	684	689	699	705
<i>Elementary Subtotals</i>	<i>10,597</i>	<i>10,602</i>	<i>10,671</i>	<i>10,636</i>	<i>10,709</i>	<i>10,854</i>	<i>10,971</i>
<b>Middle</b>							
Hillside Middle	1060	1137	1116	1101	1081	1100	1110
Sinaloa Middle	1128	1084	1065	1058	1002	991	936
Valley View Middle	1359	1339	1340	1252	1256	1227	1236
<i>Middle Subtotals</i>	<i>3,547</i>	<i>3,560</i>	<i>3,521</i>	<i>3,411</i>	<i>3,339</i>	<i>3,318</i>	<i>3,282</i>
<b>High</b>							
Royal High	2835	2777	2691	2646	2619	2557	2507
Simi High	2516	2459	2400	2427	2371	2424	2422
<i>High Subtotals</i>	<i>5,351</i>	<i>5,236</i>	<i>5,091</i>	<i>5,073</i>	<i>4,990</i>	<i>4,981</i>	<i>4,929</i>
<b>Other</b>							
Santa Susana High	1278	1258	1242	1251	1245	1242	1233
Apollo High	317	319	314	309	305	311	310
Monte Vista	201	201	198	197	195	197	196
<i>Other Subtotals</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>1,778</i>	<i>1,754</i>	<i>1,757</i>	<i>1,745</i>	<i>1,750</i>	<i>1,739</i>
<b><i>District Totals</i></b>	<b><i>21,291</i></b>	<b><i>21,176</i></b>	<b><i>21,037</i></b>	<b><i>20,877</i></b>	<b><i>20,783</i></b>	<b><i>20,903</i></b>	<b><i>20,921</i></b>
Annual Change		-115	-139	-160	-94	120	18

SOURCE: Simi Valley Unified School District (2007).

**Table 4.14-7 Pupil Generation Rates for New Housing  
(Students per Dwelling Unit)**

Grade Level	Family Home		
	Single-Family Detached	Multi-Family Attached	Multi-Family(Apartment)
K-6	0.32	0.10	0.20
7-8	0.08	0.03	0.04
9-12	0.15	0.05	0.09
K-12	0.55	0.18	0.33

SOURCE: Simi Valley Unified School District, Facilities and Property (March.2007).

## ■ Educational Programs

The philosophy of SVUSD is to offer students a comprehensive program of specific services which will enable each student to develop personal skills and to attain educational and career goals consistent with his/her interests and aptitudes. Aside from the standard course curriculum, students are offered a range of approved courses in the fields of practical arts and computer education, as well as a variety of other courses and programs.

### *Interagency Partnerships*

SVUSD has interagency partnerships with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District for recreational facilities, supplies, and programs. Examples include an agreement to purchase certain supplies from the school district at a cost savings, joint use of facilities, coordination of 200 softball diamonds and soccer fields at thirty-two school sites, installation of a lighted softball diamond at Berylwood Elementary School, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District's provision of school-age children with before- and after-school recreation services.

## ■ Private School Facilities

There are sixteen private schools located within Simi Valley. Private schools offer a range of educational opportunities for their students, ranging from pre-school and kindergarten care through high school. Most private schools charge tuition, set their own admission standards, curriculum and graduation requirements, with an emphasis on preparing its graduates for college. Table 4.14-8 (Private Schools within Simi Valley) lists the private schools located within Simi Valley, and the grade range they serve.

Most of the private schools are affiliated with various religious groups. Four of the sixteen listed are classified as non-religious, including Growan Institute, Phoenix Ranch and Day Camp, Pinecrest School, and Stoneridge Preparatory. Six offer high school diplomas, including Adat Y'shua Academy, Grace Brethren Jr./Sr. High School, Heritage Christian Academy, Light House Christian School, The Pacific Academy, and Stonebridge Preparatory. Six are also listed as for-profit institutions, including Faith Academy, Heritage Christian Academy, The Pacific Academy, Phoenix Ranch and Day Camp, and Pinecrest Schools, and Stoneridge Preparatory. None of the private schools offer special education courses.

<i>Map No.</i>	<i>School Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Grades</i>
31	Adat Y'shua Academy	2891 Fairbanks Avenue	Grades: K-12
32	Christadelphian Heritage School	6701 Santa Susana Pass Road	Grades: K-9
33	Faith Academy	403 Talbert Avenue	Grades: K-12
34	Good Shepherd Lutheran	2949 Alamo Street	Grades: K-8
35	Grace Brethren	1717 Arcane	Grades: K-6
36	Grace Brethren Jr/Sr High School	1350 Cherry Avenue	Grades: 7-12
37	Growan Institute	2458 East Marie Street	Grades: K-12
38	Heritage Christian Academy	1559 Rosita Drive	Grades: K-12
39	Light House Christian School	171 Royal Avenue	Grades: 1-12
40	The Pacific Academy	1573 Deanna Avenue	Grades: 2-12
41	Phoenix Ranch and Day Camp	1845 Oak Road	Grades: K-8
42	Pinecrest Schools	4974 Cochran Street	Grades: K-8
43	Simi Valley Adventist School	1636 Sinaloa Road	Grades: K-8
44	St. Rose of Lima Elementary	1325 Royal Avenue	Grades: 1-8
45	Stoneridge Preparatory	1625 Tierra Rejada Road	Grades: 6-12
46	Valley Bible Academy	4910 Cochran Street	Grades: K-12

SOURCE: California Private School Directory (<http://www.cde.ca.gov>) Accessed March 12, 2007.

## 4.14.11 Regulatory Framework

### ■ Federal

There are no federal education regulations applicable to the proposed project.

### ■ State

#### ***California State Assembly Bill 2926 (AB 2926)—School Facilities Act of 1986***

AB 2926 was passed in 1986 and is known as the School Facilities Act of 1986. The Act authorizes imposition and collection of school facilities fees assessed against new construction by local districts to generate revenue for capital acquisitions and improvements. It also established that the maximum fees (adjustable for inflation) which may be collected under this and any other school fee authorization program.

AB 1600, adopted in 1987, amended the School Facilities Act of 1986, adding Section 66000 et seq. of the Government Code. Under the terms of this statute, payment of statutory fees by developers fully mitigates the impacts of development on school facilities for purposes of CEQA. Subsequent legislative actions have alternatively expanded and contracted the limits placed on school fees by AB 2926.

### ***California Senate Bill 50 (SB 50—Leroy Green School Facilities Program (1998))***

SB 50 (1998) defined the Needs Analysis process in Government Code Sections 65995.5–65998. Under the provisions of SB 50, school districts may collect fees to offset the costs associated with increasing school capacity as a result of development. The fees (referred to as Level One fees) are assessed based upon the proposed square footage of residential, commercial/industrial, and/or parking structure uses.

### ***Mello Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982***

The Mello Roos Act allows school districts to establish a Mello-Roos Community Facilities District (CFD) to finance school construction through the issuance and sale of municipal bonds guaranteed through a Special Tax Lien against all properties within the CFD area.

## ■ Local

### ***Simi Valley Unified School District***

Local funding sources used by the SVUSD include both nonrevenue and revenue monies. Nonrevenue funds include lease/purchases, certificates of participation, local bonds, and other mechanisms, which are typically loans. Revenue funds are generated from several sources, including SVUSD's general fund, money from the sale of unused school sites, general obligation funds, redevelopment agreement funds, developer fees, and others such as grants and private donations.

Developer fees are another source of funding available to districts. Developer Fee Justification Studies are prepared for each individual school district under the requirement of state law and provide specific fee amounts to be paid, as part of the development process, for the purpose of school funding. The reports provide justification for continuing to collect residential and commercial/industrial development fees, in accordance with state law. SVUSD collects the full developer impact fee allowed by the State Allocation Board of \$2.63 per square foot of new residential development and \$0.42 per square foot for commercial and industrial development.

## **4.14.12 Project Impacts and Mitigation**

### ■ Analytic Method

Information on existing levels of service collected from the SVUSD was compared against conditions reasonably expected to occur with implementation of the General Plan Update. Proposed policies and development changes in the General Plan Update were compared against current conditions to determine if significant impacts to schools would occur.

### ■ Thresholds of Significance

For the purposes of this EIR, implementation of the General Plan Update would result in substantial adverse physical impacts if it would do the following:

- Result in the need for new or physically altered school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable performance objectives for schools

## ■ General Plan Policies that Mitigate Potential Impacts on Schools

Policies and goals from the Community Services Chapter that would mitigate potential impacts on schools include the following. All General Plan policies are followed by a set of numbers in parentheses. These numbers reference applicable measures that will be undertaken by the City to implement the policy.

- Policy CS-3.1**     **Provision of Schools.** Work with the SVUSD to provide school sites and upgrade existing facilities that serve the needs of the community. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)
- Policy CS-3.2**     **New School Sites.** Assist SVUSD to find appropriate sites for new or expanded school facilities within infill development opportunities in the community. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)
- Policy CS-3.3**     **Joint-Use.** Work with SVUSD and RSRPD to explore opportunities for joint-use that integrates uses for recreation, cultural, and non-school-related activities at new and existing facilities. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)
- Policy CS-3.4**     **Multi-Use Facilities.** Work with SVUSD to provide and design creative multi-use facilities that integrate schools with community rooms, parks, public libraries, and City services, such as police facilities, as part of one multi-use development. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)
- Policy CS-3.5**     **Continuing and Adult Education.** Encourage and support the development, expansion, and upgrade of adult education facilities and continuing educational programs in order for residents to obtain workforce skills to meet the needs of the business community. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)
- Policy CS-3.6**     **Support for Community Colleges.** Support the activities of nearby community colleges to provide continuing education programs, career development, and academic courses to Simi Valley residents. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)
- Policy CS-3.7**     **Youth Workforce.** Encourage and support programs to develop the youth workforce to meet the needs of the business community and prepare youth for the future. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-3*)

## ■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

No Effects Not Found to Be Significant have been identified with respect to schools.

## ■ Less-Than-Significant Impacts

**Impact 4.14-3**      **Implementation of the General Plan Update could result in the generation of additional students, an increased demand for the level of school services, or a substantial need for additional schools in the area; however, this impact would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the implementation of General Plan policies and compliance with relevant local, state, and federal regulations. This is a *less-than-significant* impact.**

The General Plan Update would allow for the amendment of land use designations and the potential for an increase in densities of existing uses in specific areas. For example, land use designations in Study Areas 1, 2, and 12 would be amended to accommodate mixed-use development, which would allow for residential uses in an area that is currently utilized for commercial purposes. In all cases, existing uses within the City would be allowed to remain under the General Plan Update.

As shown in Table 4.14-5, six of the twenty-one elementary schools and one of the three high schools administered by the SVUSD within the City of Simi Valley currently operate at or above the allowable capacity. However, the total capacity of the schools within the district is adequate to accommodate the current district-wide enrollment. In addition, the total number of students enrolled in the SVUSD is anticipated to decrease by approximately two percent from 21,291 to 20,921 students in the next six years.

Under the General Plan Update, the housing inventory in the City could grow to a maximum of 58,438 housing units, an increase of 14,821 housing units over the City's 2006 housing stock estimate of 43,617. Using SVUSD generation factors, provided in Table 4.14-7, of 0.32 elementary school-age children per single-family unit, 0.08 middle school-age children per single-family unit, and 0.15 high-school-age children per single-family unit, the proposed project would result in approximately 8,152 additional school-age residents. When combined with the 21,291 currently enrolled students, the expected increase of the General Plan Update to 29,443 students would exceed the student capacity of 22,223 within the City of Simi Valley. However, this increase would be addressed through the payment of school fees, required for all new development. These fees are based on the use and size of a project.

As school fees are collected from residential, commercial, and industrial uses, developers are required to fund necessary school service and facility improvements to accommodate anticipated population and school enrollment growth within the service area of the SVUSD. If new facilities would need to be constructed at a future date accommodate increased demand on schools, further environmental review separate from this EIR would be required as project-specific plans are developed. All new private development would be subject to the City's environmental review process, which includes project-specific environmental review under CEQA.

Additionally, policies contained in the General Plan Update require that adequate school infrastructure be provided as new development occurs. For example, compliance with Goal CS-3 (Community Education) and Policy CS-3.1 (Provision of Schools) would support the SVUSD and private schools to provide educational services to ensure that the City's school-aged residents continue to receive adequate access to schools. Policy CS-3.2 (New School Sites) and Policy CS-3.3 (Joint-Use Facilities) would further coordinate educational services to support the needs of residents in the community and ensure that

increased development associated with the General Plan Update would not negatively impact the school system in Simi Valley. As discussed in the Regulatory section, Sections 66000, et seq. of the Government Code stipulates that payment of statutory fees by developers fully mitigates the impacts of development on school facilities for purposes of CEQA. With implementation of existing regulations to collect school fees and the General Plan Update policies to ensure the provision of adequate school facilities, impacts related to the need for additional schools in the Planning Area would be *less than significant*.

### ■ Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

No significant and unavoidable impacts have been identified with respect to schools.

### ■ Cumulative Impacts

The geographic setting for cumulative impacts is the SVUSD boundaries. Cumulative impacts are only addressed for those thresholds that have a project-related impact, whether it is less than significant, significant, or significant and unavoidable. Although six elementary schools and one high school administered by the SVUSD within the City of Simi Valley currently operate at or above the allowable capacity, the total capacity of the schools within the district is adequate to accommodate the current district-wide enrollment. As described above, development impacts fees and land taxes are collected for necessary improvements to the school infrastructure in the school districts. The City of Simi Valley requires that developers pay the prevailing development fees for those residential and commercial/industrial uses that are subject to such fees. State law has determined that the payment of the school fees reduces a project's impact to less-than-significant levels. The development impact fees associated with development that would occur under the General Plan Update constitutes full mitigation for impacts to educational services. Thus, since implementation of the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact there would not be a cumulative impact on schools. The cumulative impact, therefore, on educational services in the City would be *less than significant*.

## Libraries

### 4.14.13 Introduction

This section describes Simi Valley's existing library services. Information for this section is based on the Ventura County Library website and other online sources, and personal communication with staff at the Simi Valley Library.

### 4.14.14 Environmental Setting

The Ventura County Library Service Agency provides library services for Simi Valley residents. Located at 2969 Tapo Canyon Drive, the Simi Valley Library is a branch library of the Ventura County Library Service Agency. Although the Simi Valley Library primarily serves Simi Valley residents, any Ventura County library cardholder may also check out library materials.

As of March 2007, the Simi Valley Branch had 12 full-time staff, 11 part-time staff, and 75 volunteers (Redfield 2007) who served approximately 90,000 registered borrowers. The annual circulation rate for

fiscal year 2006/07 was 306,156. This number included books, periodicals, and audio/video materials (Redfield 2007). Typical library hours range from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday, with reduced hours on Fridays and the weekends (Ventura County Library 2011).

## ■ Collections

The Simi Valley Library includes a number of materials and databases including books, magazines, periodicals, business materials, reference documents, and community information available for use by patrons. The Simi Valley Library system contains approximately 135,000 books (Simi Valley 2007).

In addition to the regular collection, the Library also maintains local and regional history collections. The collections include the following:

- The Ventura Star (formerly the Simi Valley Enterprise) back to 1912
- A large collection of automotive repair manuals, biographies, careers, and Simi Valley history
- The public review documents for the City of Simi Valley and the Santa Susana Field Laboratory
- Magazines, books on tape and music CDs (Ventura County Library n.d.a)

## ■ Services

The Simi Valley Library offers a number of services to assist their users. Computer services include an on-line catalogue and free internet access (Redfield 2007). Nine computers are available for public use, and are filtered for use by customers under age 18 (Ventura County Library n.d.a). Many reference materials are available by electronic access via the Library's database. Self-service copy machines are available and microfilm/fiche reader printers are among the other equipment available to customers (Redfield 2007).

In addition to traditional book and media circulation, the Simi Valley Library also provides story times for children, summer reading program activities for children, an annual Children's Book Festival, an adult lecture series, a poetry series, a book club, a public meeting room, the Friends of the Library Bookstore, and additional services via Ventura County Library webpage (i.e., online databases, downloadable books) (Redfield 2007). Some of these services are discussed in Programs Offered, below.

## ■ Programs Offered

The Simi Valley Friends of the Library help to support the Simi Valley Library. In addition to their large used bookstore in the Library, they also sponsor children's programs, an adult lecture series, as well as rental books and tapes. Storytelling programs are offered at the Library as well as a reading and media discussion group.

Simi Valley Library is a site for the Ventura County Library's Adult Literacy Program. Students are matched with volunteer tutors who help them improve reading, writing, and spelling skills. The Reading Program for Adults, an integral part of the Adult Literacy Program, provides free one-to-one reading and writing tutoring by trained volunteers throughout Ventura County. Tutoring takes place in libraries, school, community, and jail facilities throughout Ventura County. These sites are managed by part-time professional educators, called site managers. They are available during specified times to assess learners

reading levels, interview tutors, match students and tutors, recommend teaching materials and provide support for learning partners.

The Ventura County Library has been offering this service since 1984, when it was one of the original public libraries to join the California Literacy Campaign. Administrative costs are part of the Ventura County Library's budget. Additional funding comes from ongoing collaborative agreements with Ventura Adult School, Oxnard Adult School, various cities, and the Sheriff's Department. State grants and donations from government, business, and service organizations enable Ventura County Library to help over 500 individuals each year.

Many of the Simi Valley Library services are supported by volunteers. Volunteers are needed on an ongoing basis to support the Adult Literacy Program, storytelling, and crafts programs.

## ■ Standards

The Ventura County Library Service Agency has an existing standard of two volumes per capita, based on City population estimates of 124,340 and an estimated annual circulation rate of 306,156 for the 2006/07 fiscal year. Three volumes per capita was estimated for the 2007-08 fiscal year, for a projected population of 125,647 and annual circulation of 351,295 (Redfield 2007).

## ■ Projected Needs

According to the 2008 SCAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), SCAG population projections for 2020 indicate a population of 131,894 for the City of Simi Valley. In order to maintain the existing level of service of two volumes per capita, an estimated annual circulation rate of 263,788 would be required. However, to achieve a standard of three volumes per capita (which is projected for the 2007/08 fiscal year), an estimated annual circulation rate of 395,682 would be required.

## ■ Planned Improvements and Facilities

No facilities or improvements are planned at this time. Simi Valley Library is currently developing a 1-year and 5-year strategic plan.

## ■ Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum is a 100-acre site that opened in 1991 located at 40 Presidential Drive. Ronald Reagan's campaign trail and inauguration as the 40th President of the United States, the Oval Office, and key events of his two terms are revealed through documents, photographs, and artifacts from eight years in the White House. The facility is also home to a world-class research facility featuring original presidential documents. It is one of twelve presidential libraries directed by the National Archives and Records Administration.

The Reagan Presidential Library receives thousands of requests from researchers all over the world to study such historical records as:

- 50 million pages of presidential papers
- Documents from Reagan's eight years as California's governor

- Half a million feet of motion picture film
- 20,500 video tapes, 25,500 audio recordings, and nearly 1.5 million photographs
- 10,000 volumes of books and other publications

The library's expert archivists work to make more of these items available while preserving them for generations to come (Simi Valley 2007).

## **Programs**

### **Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Scholars Program**

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation's Presidential Library Scholars Program honors President Reagan's legacy of leadership each year by rewarding deserving Ventura County high school seniors who have demonstrated qualities of leadership and strong character throughout their four years of high school. The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Library bestows upon selected graduating high school seniors the designation of Presidential Library Scholar. In partnership with California Oaks State Bank, scholarships are also awarded for academic use to the highest ranked Presidential Library Scholars. The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Foundation has offered among the highest individual scholarships designated for academic use in Ventura County (Simi Valley 2007).

### **A Revolutionary Experience Weekday School Program for Fifth Graders**

A Revolutionary Experience Weekday School Program involves re-enactment (with displays and demonstrations) of life during eighteenth-century colonial times from the vantage points of American soldiers, British soldiers, and colonial women. It is free for fifth grade students; however availability is limited, and includes six school days out of the year (Simi Valley 2007).

## **4.14.15 Regulatory Framework**

### **■ Federal**

There are no federal library service regulations applicable to the proposed project.

### **■ State**

#### ***California Education Code***

Public Library Fund (PLF) is a state-funded program founded in 1850. It embodies the state's interest in the general diffusion of information and knowledge through free public libraries; encourage lifelong learning; supplement the system of free public education; help libraries serve as sources of information and inspiration to persons of all ages, cultural backgrounds and economic status; and furnish a resource for continuing education. The funds assure the availability to every resident of the state an adequate level of public library service regardless of the taxable wealth of the local jurisdiction providing the service. Funds are appropriated annually in the state budget to support the program. Localities may use the funds freely so long as the funds serve the public library purposes stated in the law.

The state provides funding to qualifying public libraries, based on the population of the library's service area (California State Library n.d.). PLF funds have been authorized for \$21,360,000 to the Ventura County Library system for the 2006/07 fiscal year (California State Library 2006).

## ■ Regional

### ***Ventura County General Plan***

The goals and policies of the Ventura County General Plan that apply to library facilities and services aim to promote services, programs, and support of educational programs in the County.

## ■ Local

There are no local regulations related to provision of library services.

## 4.14.16 Project Impacts and Mitigation

### ■ Analytic Method

Information on existing levels of service collected from the Ventura County Library Service Agency was compared against conditions reasonably expected to occur with implementation of the General Plan Update. Proposed policies and development changes in the General Plan Update were compared against current conditions to determine if any significant impacts on library services would occur within the service area.

### ■ Thresholds of Significance

For the purposes of this EIR, implementation of the General Plan Update would result in substantial adverse physical impacts if it would do the following:

- Result in the need for new or physically altered library facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable performance objectives for libraries.

### ■ General Plan Policies that Mitigate Potential Impacts on Library Services

Policies and goals from the Community Services Chapter that would mitigate potential impacts on library services include the following. All General Plan policies are followed by a set of numbers in parentheses. These numbers reference applicable measures that will be undertaken by the City to implement the policy.

- Policy CS-4.1 Library Services.** Continue to support Ventura County in the provision of library services and programs to meet the needs of residents. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)

- Policy CS-4.2**     **Joint Use Facilities.** Encourage libraries to be sited and consolidated with other community facilities such as civic centers, community centers, and educational facilities. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)
- Policy CS-4.3**     **Satellite Libraries.** Develop new freestanding “satellite libraries” or shared library facilities with area schools, at new community centers, or within private development in order to supplement services offered at the Simi Valley Library. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)
- Policy CS-4.4**     **Facility Usage.** Encourage the use of library facilities, including the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, as additional venues for community events and programs. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)
- Policy CS-4.5**     **Multi-Functional Facilities.** Support the use of the Simi Valley Library, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, and other new facilities to serve as multi-functional facilities, cultural centers, and gathering places. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)
- Policy CS-4.6**     **Technology and Access.** Encourage the use of computers and the internet to digitally access library resources, multi-media, and other information. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)
- Policy CS-4.7**     **Alternative Service Delivery.** Work with Ventura County and other agencies, as necessary, to explore alternative models to deliver library services to Simi Valley residents, in situations when Ventura County cannot provide the level and/or type of services desired by the City, and the means to fund payment of these services. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, CS-1*)

## ■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

No Effects Not Found to Be Significant have been identified with respect to schools.

## ■ Less-Than-Significant Impacts

**Impact 4.14-4**     **Implementation of the General Plan Update could result in the an additional demand for library services, a substantial adverse environmental impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered libraries, or the need for new or physically altered libraries; however, this impact would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the implementation of General Plan policies and compliance with relevant local, state, and federal regulations. This is a *less-than-significant* impact.**

The General Plan Update would allow for an increase in densities of existing uses in specific areas, thus potentially increasing the population and workforce in the City. Demand at the Simi Valley Library for resources and programming remains strong, and any development under the General Plan Update could increase that demand. However, policies within the General Plan Update support providing library services to residents of Simi Valley. For example, compliance with Goal CS-4 (Library Services and Facilities) and Policy CS-4.1 (Library Services) would facilitate the support of Ventura County in the provision of library services and programs to meet the needs of residents. It is not anticipated that new library facilities are necessary to accommodate the growth proposed under the General Plan Update, and

so the General Plan Update would not result in library facility construction that has the potential to result in significant environmental impacts. However, if new facilities would need to be constructed to accommodate increased demand on library services, further environmental review would be required as project-specific plans are developed. All new private development would be subject to the City's environmental review process which includes project-specific environmental review under CEQA. Therefore, the General Plan Update would result in a *less-than-significant* impact.

## ■ Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

No significant and unavoidable impacts have been identified with respect to schools.

## ■ Cumulative Impacts

As the City of Simi Valley is served by the Ventura County Library system, which serves the entire County, and Ventura County cardholders can access any facility in the system, the geographic context for the analysis of cumulative impacts associated with library services is Ventura County. Additional development in the County, particularly residential development, could increase the demand for library services. Currently, there is no deficiency in the Ventura County Library system, which is managed to ensure that each of the [libraries](#) is responsive to the needs of its local community, but makes efficient use of shared resources.

While libraries in Simi Valley provide services to residents of Simi Valley, other County residents could use the services of libraries in the City. Therefore, as the City implements Policy CS-4.1 (Library Services) which would support Ventura County in the provision of library services and programs to meet the needs of Simi Valley residents, the City would ensure that library resources are available to not only Simi Valley residents, but to all residents of the County. Consequently, policies included in the General Plan Update would ensure that impacts related to library services would be *less than significant*.

## 4.14.17 References

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