

5.14 Public Services

Based on Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* and comments received during the Notice of Preparation (NOP) public review comment period, this section evaluates the Project's potential impacts to public services including fire protection and emergency services, police protection, schools, and other public facilities such as libraries and community centers. Park services are addressed in Section 5.16 – Recreation.¹

5.14.1 Setting

Fire Protection

The City of Riverside Fire Department (RFD) provides fire protection and emergency services to the City. RFD takes proactive and preventative measures to provide fire suppression and emergency response services for all private, institutional, and public facilities within the City. The five divisions of RFD consist of Administration, Prevention, Operations, Special Services, and Training. RFD's major facilities include 14 fire stations located throughout the City, administration/prevention offices, emergency operation center (EOC) and a training center. (GP 2025 FPEIR, p. 5.13-6) The nearest station to the Project site is the Box Springs Station (Fire Station No. 13), located at 6490 Sycamore Canyon Boulevard, approximately 0.5 mile to the southeast of the site. Additionally, the second nearest station to the Project site is Sycamore Canyon Station (Fire Station No. 14), located at 725 Central Avenue, approximately 1.3 miles to the northwest of the site.

RFD is organized into two types of fire stations: a Single-Company Station or a Multi-Company Station. The Box Springs and Sycamore Canyon Stations are Single-Company Stations, which have one unit. There are fewer personnel in the Single-Company Stations as they respond alone from their stations on fires, hazardous material responses, etc. Moreover, RFD also provides emergency medical services (EMS) as part of the Special Services Division. Private ambulances, such as American Medical Response, are also available within the City limits.

RFD responds to over 30,000 emergency calls annually and its operations employs 211 full-time firefighters, housed 24 hours a day within its stations in the City (RFD Op). The average time for on-site responses to fire calls is 5 minutes and 30 seconds. RFD's goal is to maintain a 5-minute response time for the first arriving units 90 percent of the time for all EMS and fire related incidents. The first arriving unit is capable of advancing the first line for fire control, initiating rescue, or providing basic life support for medical incidents. Additionally, RFD policy states that units will be located and staffed such that an effective response force of 4 units with 12 personnel minimum shall be available to all areas of the City within a maximum of 10 minutes (total response time). (GP 2025 FPEIR, p. 5.13-7)

¹ Copies of all comment letters received during the NOP public review comment period are located in Appendix A of this EIR.

Police Protection

The City of Riverside Police Department (RPD) provides police protection services to the City. RPD operates from three major facilities to deliver services to community residents, divided into four geographical service areas called Neighborhood Policing Centers (NPCs). The headquarters building (4102 Orange Street) serves as RPD's administrative center, housing the Office of the Chief of Police, Administrative Services, the Records Bureau. The Central Investigation Bureau, Special Investigations Bureau, and Internal Affairs are located in the Magnolia Station (10540 Magnolia Avenue, Suite B). The Field Operations Division is the largest division of the RPD. The Field Operations Division provides first response to all emergencies, performs preliminary investigations, and provides basic patrol services to the City. Field Operations for the East NPC, which covers the Project site area, are based at the Lincoln Station located at 8181 Lincoln Avenue. Moreover, additional police facilities are located throughout the City. (GP 2025 FPEIR, pp. 5.13-2 – 5.13-3)

RPD employs approximately 367 sworn officers and 144 civilian personnel (GP 2025, p. PS-32). RPD's police officers rotate through assignments rather than stay within one area. Incoming calls requesting police services are assigned by urgency. Priority 1 calls are typically of a life-threatening nature, such as a robbery in process or a collision involving bodily injury. Police officers strive to respond within 7 minutes to Priority 1 calls. Officers attempt to respond to less-urgent Priority 2 calls within 12 minutes. These types of calls are not life threatening and include such incidents as burglary, petty theft, shoplifting, etc. Further, RPD seeks a balance between reactive response to immediate needs and proactive crime reduction efforts. In addition to responding to incoming calls, RPD policy encourages patrol officers to spend 40 percent of their time in the field on officer-initiated community problem solving activities. (GP 2025 FPEIR, p. 5.13-3)

Schools

The Project site is located within two unified school districts. The northern portion of the Project site, including all of Parcel 2 and a portion of Parcel 1, is within the Riverside Unified School District (RUSD) and the southern portion of the Project site, including the balance of Parcel 1, is within the Moreno Valley Unified School District (MVUSD).

RUSD is headquartered in the City and provides school services to the City and to the unincorporated Riverside County communities of Highgrove, Woodcrest, and Lake Mathews. RUSD operates 47 schools including 30 elementary schools, 1 special education preschool, 6 middle schools, 5 comprehensive high schools, 2 continuation high schools, 2 alternative schools, and a virtual school. RUSD employs approximately 4,354 people with a total of 2,119 teachers. (GP 2025 FPEIR, p. 5.13-8) Approximately 43,000 students K-12 students and 7,000 adult education students are enrolled in RUSD. Within RUSD, the Project site is served by the following schools located within the City: Emerson Elementary School (4660 Ottawa Avenue), University Heights Middle School (1155 Massachusetts Avenue), and John W. North High School (1550 3rd Street).

MVUSD primarily serves the majority of the City of Moreno Valley and nearby unincorporated areas of Riverside County. MVUSD operates 23 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, 4 high schools, and 6 alternative schools. Approximately 35,000 students are enrolled in MVUSD. Within MVUSD, the Project site is served by the following schools located within the City of Moreno Valley: Edgemont Elementary School (21790 Eucalyptus Avenue), Badger Springs Middle School (24750 Delphinium Avenue), and Moreno Valley High School (23300 Cottonwood Avenue).

Libraries

The City of Riverside Public Library (RPL) system provides over 425,000 books and other library materials, 400 public access computers, and has an annual circulation of 1.23 million items (RPL About). The Main Library is located in the City's Downtown Neighborhood at 3581 Mission Inn Avenue and there are seven other branches located throughout the City. The nearest branch to the Project site is Orange Terrace Branch, located at 20010-B Orange Terrace Parkway, approximately 2.79 miles to the south.

The Orange Terrace Branch, which opened in 2008, encompasses 13,000 square feet and is adjacent to the Orange Terrace Community Center. This branch offers a wide variety of books, movies, CDs and audio books for all ages as well as 38 public computers and free wireless internet access. The meeting room seats 45 persons, and a quiet study room is available at the branch. (RPL OTB)

Community Centers

Community Centers are often the heart of the community and serve as a direct link between the residents and City government. They offer space for meetings, workshops, specialty classes, tutoring, access to computer technology, and recreational sports leagues for youth and adults. The City operates 9 community centers, 3 senior citizen centers and 2 service centers throughout the City. The staffs at the centers also work to expand services through collaborative working relationships with various government, community, and faith-based organizations. The centers offer a wide range of services that include computer training, English as a second language classes, fitness and wellness programs, early childhood programs, aquatics, social recreation programs, specialty classes, sports programs, field trips and a variety of cultural and holiday activities. The centers are designed to provide many life-enhancing opportunities for City residents that promote a positive and healthy lifestyle. (GP 2025 FPEIR, 5.13-19)

The nearest community center to the Project site is the Stratton Center at Bordwell Park, located at 2008 Martin Luther King Boulevard, approximately 3.16 miles to the northwest. The approximately 9,617-square-foot Stratton Center includes a variety of classes including classes for senior citizens.

5.14.2 Related Regulations

Federal Regulations

There are no federal regulations directly applicable to public services with respect to this Project.

State Regulations

Fire Protection

California Fire Code

The California Fire Code (Title 24, Part 9) is based on the 2000 Uniform Fire Code and includes amendments from the State of California fully integrated into the code. The California Fire Code contains fire safety related building standards referenced in other parts of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), also known as the California Building Standards Code.

California Building Code

Current law states that every local agency enforcing building regulations, such as cities and counties, must adopt the provisions of the California Building Code (CBC) within 180 days of its publication. The publication date of the CBC is established by the California Building Standards Commission and the code is also known as Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. The most recent building standard adopted by the legislature and used throughout the state is the 2013 version of the CBC, often with local, more restrictive amendments that are based upon local geographic, topographic, or climatic conditions. Additionally, the 2013 CBC is based on the 2012 International Building Code. These codes provide minimum standards to protect property and the public welfare by regulating various aspects of the design and construction buildings.

Schools

Senate Bill 50

Senate Bill 50 (SB 50), which passed in 1998, provided a comprehensive school facilities financing and reform program and enabled a bond issue to be placed on the ballot. The provisions of SB 50 allowed the state to offer funding to school districts to acquire school sites, construct new school facilities, and modernize existing school facilities. SB 50 also established a process for determining the amount of fees developers may be charged to mitigate the impact of development on school facilities. Under this legislation, a school district could charge fees above the statutory cap only under specified conditions, and then only up to the amount of funds that the district would be eligible to receive from the state. According to Government Code Section 65995, the development fees authorized by SB 50 are deemed to be “full and complete school facilities mitigation.” SB 50 provides that a state or local agency may not deny or refuse to approve the planning, use or development of real property on the basis of a developer’s refusal to provide mitigation in amounts in excess of that established by SB 50. The Project will be required to pay school impact fees to RUSD and MVUSD in effect at the time of building permit issuance based on the building square footage.

Police Protection, Libraries, and Community Centers

There are no state regulations directly applicable to these public services with respect to this Project.

Local Regulations

Fire Protection

Riverside General Plan 2025

The GP 2025 contains objectives and policies related to fire protection that are applicable to the Project. Appendix M of this DEIR summarizes the Project's consistency with the applicable GP 2025 policies.

Riverside Municipal Code

Chapter 16.52 of the Riverside Municipal Code provides for the payment of development fees to be utilized for the purchase of land for and the construction of fire stations and the acquisition of equipment and furnishings to equip fire stations. The fee is required to be paid prior to issuance of a building permit for new development. (RMC) The proposed Project is subject to this development impact fee.

Police Protection

Riverside General Plan 2025

The GP 2025 contains objectives and policies related to police protection that are applicable to the Project. Appendix M of this DEIR summarizes the Project's consistency with the applicable GP 2025 policies.

Schools

Riverside General Plan 2025

The GP 2025 contains objectives and policies related to school services in the City. However, none of these are applicable to the Project.

Libraries

Riverside General Plan 2025

The GP 2025 contains objectives and policies related to library services in the City. However, none of these are applicable to the Project.

Measure C and Measure I

In an effort to secure a dedicated revenue source for local libraries, the City placed Measure C – a \$19 annual parcel tax – on the ballot in 2002. The measure passed with a 69 percent majority; however, Measure C had a 10-year term and was due to expire in June 2012. The City placed Measure I on the ballot in 2011 in order to continue the \$19 annual parcel tax for another 10 years. Measure I was passed with an 85 percent majority, and therefore, the library parcel tax will continue to be collected and used for library services in the City through June 2022.

Community Centers

The GP 2025 contains objectives and policies related to community centers in the City. However, none of these are applicable to the Project.

5.14.3 Thresholds of Significance

The City has not established local CEQA significance thresholds as described in Section 15064.7 of the State *CEQA Guidelines*. Therefore, significance determinations utilized in this section are from Appendix G of the State *CEQA Guidelines*. A significant impact will occur if implementation of the proposed Project will:

- (Threshold A) result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: fire protection; police protection; schools; parks; and/or other public facilities.

Project impacts related to parks are discussed in Section 5.16 – Recreation.

5.14.4 Project Design Features

Project design considerations refer to ways in which a project will reduce or avoid potential impacts through its design. The proposed Project includes street lighting, parking lot lights, and building lighting, to deter unauthorized activities at the Project site. Additionally, the Project site will be fenced with all parking areas gated to deter and prevent unauthorized access. The Project proposes to operate continuously, which will keep the site activated and less inviting for crime. The proposed Project does not include any design features with regard to schools, libraries, or community centers.

5.14.5 Environmental Impacts before Mitigation

Threshold A: *Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: fire protection; police protection; schools; parks; and/or other public facilities?*

Fire Protection

The Project site will be served by the Box Springs Station (Fire Station 13) located at 6490 Sycamore Canyon Boulevard, approximately 0.5 mile to the southeast. If necessary, emergencies at the Project site may also be served by the Sycamore Canyon Station (Fire Station 14) located at 725 Central Avenue, approximately 1.3 miles to the northwest. Given the nature of the proposed use and the proximity of existing fire stations, as well as stations throughout the City, the Project will not impact fire response times and will not otherwise

create a substantially greater need for fire protection services than already exists. No new or expanded fire protection facilities will be required as a result of this Project.

The Project will also be designed to meet safety equipment standards, provide adequate emergency access, fire hydrants, water flows, and fire sprinklers in compliance with the current building code and RFD requirements.

Fire hazards within the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park (the Park) are managed pursuant to requirements outlined in the Fuel Modification Management Plan within the *Sycamore Canyon Management Plan* (SCMP). The existing utility service roads within the Park are essential in providing necessary fire department access to the strategically placed fuel modification areas. Within the Park, the Plan recommends limited and judicious grazing by sheep or goats to provide reduction of surface vegetation and fire hazard in areas that are heavily vegetated with introduced grasses (SCMP, p. 35). In other areas of the Plan recommends mowing, strip burning, fire retardant application, or weed-whipping depending on local site conditions. Management Unit-2 (MU-2), as defined in the Plan, is the management unit adjacent to the proposed Project site. Within MU-2 and in the Project vicinity, the Plan recommends visual monitoring of fuel levels, maintenance of service roads, and stubble management if necessary (SCMP, pp. 48-49). Although Kangaroo Court was identified as a potential emergency access point to the east half of the park, its removal will have a less than significant impact on the park because some fire access will be maintained via the proposed on-site trail and parking lot (SCMP, p. 173).

Additionally, the Project does not propose to use substantially hazardous materials or engage in hazardous activities that will require new or expanded fire protection equipment to meet potential emergency demand. Any incremental impacts on to the provision of fire protection or emergency medical facilities and services will be offset by the payment of development impact fees as required by Chapter 16.52 of the Riverside Municipal Code and from revenue generated for the City from property taxes. Therefore, impacts to fire protection services will be **less than significant**.

Police Protection

RPD does not use a formula for calculating the numbers of officers per capita; instead, staffing for RPD is based on the business and residential growth and evaluated on a project-by-project basis. RPD endeavors to respond to Priority 1 calls within 7 minutes, and to respond to Priority 2 calls within 12 minutes. (GP 2025 FPEIR, p. 5.13-30) Industrial land uses generally do not generate a substantial number of law enforcement calls as compared to residential uses. The proposed Project will not result in any unique or more extensive crime problems that cannot be adequately handled by the existing level of police resources. As such, no new or expanded police facilities will need to be constructed as a result of this Project. Additionally, the proposed Project will have to adhere to Business staffing criteria for the City. Business staffing within the City is based on square footage of the business, type of business and type of police service required. As a result, RPD estimated that its staffing projections through 2025 are 110 additional sworn officers and 55 additional non-sworn personnel. Because the staffing needs

have already been accounted for within the City General Plan and there is no change in land use, the Project is not anticipated to increase the amount of police resources needed. Therefore, impacts to police protection services will be **less than significant**.

Schools

The Project does not include a residential component and will not directly increase the numbers of school-aged children within either RUSD or MVUSD. As discussed in Section 5.14 – Population and Housing, it is reasonably anticipated based on growth projections for the City and surrounding area, as well as the size of the proposed Project, that the Project’s employment opportunities will be filled by residents that will reside in the region already, regardless of implementation of the proposed Project. As such, indirect impacts from Project implementation to RUSD and MVUSD are not expected. Even so, in accordance with California Government Code, the school facility impact fees in effect at the time of building permit issuance will be paid by the Project developer. Therefore, impacts to school services will be **less than significant**.

Libraries

The Project does not include a residential component and will not directly increase the use of existing library services as it is reasonably anticipated employees at the Project site would utilize existing library facilities by their place of residence, and the employees at the Project site are expected to already reside in the region regardless of Project implementation. As such, an indirect impact from Project implementation on RPL is not expected. Additionally, the City currently collects a library parcel tax in the amount of \$19 per parcel, continuous until 2022. Collection of this tax mitigates potential impacts to libraries, and once the tax lapses, the City is required to search for and address funding mechanisms to support RPL needs, which may include another extension of the library parcel tax (GP 2025 FPEIR, p. 5.13-35). The Project site property owner(s) will be subject to payment of this tax. Therefore, impacts to library facilities and services will be **less than significant**.

Community Centers

The Project does not include a residential component and will not directly increase the use of existing community centers in the City. Additionally, as discussed in Section 5.14 – Population and Housing, it is reasonably anticipated based on growth projections for the City and surrounding area, as well as the size of the proposed Project, that the Project’s employment opportunities will be filled by residents that will reside in the region. As such, indirect impacts on community centers in the City are not expected. Therefore, impacts to community centers will be **less than significant**.

5.14.6 Proposed Mitigation Measures

An EIR is required to describe feasible mitigation measures which could minimize significant adverse impacts (State *CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15126.4). Implementation of the proposed

Project will not result in any potentially significant impacts to public services, and therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

5.14.7 Environmental Impacts after Mitigation Measures are Implemented

No mitigation measures are necessary regarding the Project's impacts to public services. Impacts were found to be **less than significant**.

5.14.8 References

In addition to other documents, the following references were used in the preparation of this section of the DEIR:

- GP 2025 City of Riverside, *General Plan 2025*, certified November 2007 with subsequent amendments to various elements. (Available at <http://www.riversideca.gov/planning/gp2025program/general-plan.asp>, accessed July 14, 2016.)
- GP 2025 City of Riverside, *General Plan 2025 Program Environmental Impact Report* (SCH# 2004021108), certified November 2007. (Available at <http://www.riversideca.gov/planning/gp2025program/>, accessed July 14, 2016.)
- FPEI R
- RFD Op City of Riverside Fire Department, Operations, website. (Available at <http://www.riversideca.gov/fire/operations.asp>, accessed July 14, 2016.)
- RMC City of Riverside, *Municipal Code*, Title 16. (Available at <http://www.riversideca.gov/municode/title16.asp>, accessed July 14, 2016.)
- RPL About City of Riverside Public Library, About the Library. (Available at <http://riversideca.gov/library/about.asp>, accessed July 14, 2016.)
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- RPL OTB City of Riverside Public Library, Orange Terrace Branch. (Available at http://www.riversideca.gov/library/loc_orangeterrace.asp, accessed July 14, 2016.)
- SCM P Dangermond & Associates, et. al., *Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Management Plan and Updated Conceptual Development Plan*, March 1999. (Available at http://www.riversideca.gov/planning/pdf/SpecificPlans/SycCynMnmgtPlan_UpdatedConceptualPlan.pdf, accessed July 18, 2016.)