

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this section is to describe the City's existing police protection services and the potential impacts to said service with build-out of the Specific Plan. Sources used in the preparation of this section include: the City of Oxnard 2020 General Plan (November 1990), the City of Oxnard General Plan Final EIR (June 1990), and personal communication with City of Oxnard law enforcement officials.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Staffing and Facilities

Law enforcement and police protection services are provided to the City of Oxnard and the project area by the City of Oxnard Police Department. The Police Department has one station, located near Oxnard City Hall, and three storefront police substations which are used for community-based policing in the Carriage Square, Southwinds, and La Colonia neighborhoods. The location of these stations in relation to the project area is depicted in **Figure 4.10.3-1**. The Police Department employs 202 sworn officers and 124 support personnel.¹

The department utilizes approximately 55 marked patrol cars, eight police motorcycles, eight marked code enforcement vehicles, four marked animal control vehicles, six marked community services vehicles, an armored SWAT team van, a motor home, and several unmarked and undercover patrol vehicles. The Department employs state-of-the-art crime investigation techniques, computerized information systems, and innovative crime prevention programs. In addition, the City maintains an active neighborhood watch program.²

The City is separated into four Police Districts, each of which contains two response beats (see **Figure 4.10.3-2**). Each response beat is further divided by a grid network in order to allow the Department to accurately and quickly direct patrol officers to calls for service. The beats are patrolled 24 hours a day by uniformed police officers in four overlapping ten-hour shifts per day.

¹ Communication with Art Lopez, Police Chief, City of Oxnard Police Department, October 31, 2000.

² Ibid.

In determining appropriate staffing levels, the Department reviews crime trends, officer availability, response times, as well as geographical barriers, population density, and community based programs, on an annual basis. Adjustments are made after an analysis is made of these factors.³

Crime Statistics

Crime statistics are compiled by the City of Oxnard Police Department on a yearly basis. The statistics are categorized by type of criminal activity and location. The predominant types of crime within the City, as well as within the Beats that contain the project area, include residential and auto burglary, theft, and domestic disputes.

Standards and Response Times

The City of Oxnard Police Department's goal for response time to priority one (emergency) situations is 5 minutes or less. The response time for a non-emergency call is 20 to 45 minutes.⁴

Emergency Assistance

The City of Oxnard Police Department and the County of Ventura Sheriffs Department have a mutual aid agreement in the event additional assistance is needed, or if the emergency response time to an emergency would be quicker from the patrol car in the nearest jurisdiction. In addition, assistance is offered by the California Highway Patrol and Port Hueneme Police Department on an "as needed" basis.

Plans and Policies for Police Protection

2020 General Plan

Police protection is addressed in the Public Facilities Element of the City of Oxnard *2020 General Plan* (November, 1990). The existing police station is at/or exceeds capacity but adequate acreage exists at the site for expansion. The need for additional facilities due to projected growth in the City could be accommodated through expansion of existing facilities, or the acquisition of a new site for a larger police facility.

³ Communication with Art Lopez, Police Chief, City of Oxnard Police Department, October 31, 2000.

⁴ Communication with David Keith, City of Oxnard Police Department, April 5, 2001.

Figure 4.10.3-1
Locations of Police Stations

Figure 4.10.3-2
City of Oxnard Police Beats

The Safety Element and the Public Facilities Element of the *2020 General Plan* list objectives and policies which pertain to the status of Police Protection for the year 2020.

The Safety Element calls for the provision of efficient and effective police protection services by: 1) requiring Police Department review of all proposed development projects for potentially dangerous situations; 2) employing state-of-the-art law enforcement communications techniques to decrease response time; 3) requiring crime prevention devices (deadbolts, locks, peepholes, etc.) in all new development; 4) encouraging use of the principles of crime prevention and defensible space through security design; 5) encouraging neighborhood watch programs; 6) publicizing police protection services throughout the education system; and, 7) encouraging joint police-citizen participation through the Inter-Neighborhood Coordinating Council and Neighborhood Councils.

PROJECT IMPACTS

Thresholds of Significance

For the purposes of this analysis, the City of Oxnard considers the impact of the project on police services significant if the project would result in:

- an unusual number of calls for service
- inadequate police staffing;
- a substantial decline in response times to handle calls for services;
- substantial interference with an evacuation plan.

Construction Impacts

Site development and construction would not normally require services from the Police Department, except in the cases of trespassing, theft, and vandalism. Such activities at a construction site are not unusual, but are only occasional and do not typically place undue demands on police protection services. Construction of the project would occur periodically as tract maps are approved and subdivisions are built. Construction activity would increase traffic both on and adjacent to the project site during working hours because commuting construction workers, trucks, and other large construction vehicles would be added to normal traffic during the build-out period. Slow moving construction-related traffic along local roadways may reduce optimal traffic flows on these roadways and could conceivably delay police and emergency vehicles or contribute to a vehicle accident. This potential is considered small

given the periodic and short term nature of any construction related traffic and no significant impacts are expected with implementation of flagmen and other standard construction practices.

Operational Impacts

The RiverPark Specific Plan would allow the development of up to 2,805 residential units and up to 2.485 million square feet of commercial space. The City of Oxnard Police Department will have the responsibility for providing general law enforcement services to the Specific Plan area. It is anticipated that demands for law enforcement would increase above current levels upon build-out of the proposed project.

Number of Calls for Service

The uses allowed by the RiverPark Specific Plan include typical residential and commercial uses that will not generate an unusual number of service calls for service. In general, the types and number of calls for service would be consistent with those presently occurring in the area, including residential burglary, auto theft and auto burglary.⁵ Based on current crime statistics the Police Department bases its service planning on a basis of 0.4 calls for service per capita. If all 2,805 units allowed by the Specific Plan are built, the projected increase in population is approximately 7,220. This population would generate approximately 2,900 calls for service annually.

All proposed development in the City is also subject to a detailed review by the Police Department staff for conformance with the Police Department's design standards to reduce demands for police protection services to the site.

Staffing Needs

Based on the number of calls for service estimated to be generated by the RiverPark Project, the Oxnard Police Department has determined that 17 additional police personnel would be required to provide police services to the project.

It is the policy of the City of Oxnard to monitor the need for additional police officers as part of the City's annual budget process. Through this action, the City ensures that police services are available to serve planned and proposed projects. Based upon the fiscal impact study prepared for the Specific

⁵ Communication with David Keith, City of Oxnard Police Department, April 5, 2001.

Plan, revenues accrued to the City's General Fund from sales taxes, property taxes, etc., would meet the capital outlay for police service as well as fully funding all other necessary urban services required by the Specific Plan, including the cost for the additional police personnel required.⁶ The demand for additional police services would grow as the Specific Plan Area develops over time. No significant impacts are expected as the project will generate sufficient revenues to maintain adequate law enforcement services to the Specific Plan Area.

Response Beats and Response Times

As mentioned, the City of Oxnard Police Department's goal for response time to priority one (emergency) situations is five minutes or less. The response time for a non-emergency call is 20 to 45 minutes. The Oxnard Police Department currently provides police service to the existing office buildings in the southwest corner of the Specific Plan Area. Response time for an emergency call to the project area would be five minutes. Annexation of RiverPark Area 'B' to the City would add a new service area to the existing response beat for this area of the City. This increase in service area will result in a significant increase in the size of the service area for the existing response beat.

Emergency Plans and Evacuation Routes

With regard to emergency plans and evacuation routes, all individual development projects occurring within the Specific Plan Area would be required to comply with the existing policies related to public safety in the Safety Element of the 2020 General Plan and related standards in the City's Zoning Code. These standards are enforced during the review of tentative tract maps and building plans by the City's Development Advisory Committee. Development of the RiverPark Project would not adversely hinder the performance of evacuation routes in the area because all significant traffic impacts to the local circulation network would be mitigated to maintain an acceptable level of service. Thus, no significant impacts to emergency plans or evacuation routes will result.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The population increase associated with development of the uses allowed by the Oxnard 2020 General Plan will increase the demand for law enforcement services throughout the City. As police officers are deployed in specific beat areas throughout the City, response times for calls would remain adequate as long as additional officers are provided proportionate with population increases to accommodate the

⁶ Urban Futures, Inc.: *RiverPark Specific Plan Proposal Fiscal Impact Analysis*. November 2000.

corresponding increase in service calls. Funding for Police Department staffing comes from the City's General Fund, and funding is allocated to the Department through the City's budget process. Maintenance of adequate funding to the Department to meet its service obligations will result in this impact not being significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

4.10.3-1 A storefront police station of approximately 1,000 square feet shall be established by the City within the commercial portion of the project when warranted by the increase in the number of calls for service to mitigate the impact of the addition of service area to the existing response beat serving the Specific Plan Area.

UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

No unavoidable significant impacts to police protection services will result from the RiverPark Project.