

3.13 Public Services

This section analyzes the potential impacts to public services from the proposed project, including fire protection, law enforcement services, schools, hospitals, and libraries that serve the project area, and proposes mitigation measures as necessary.

3.13.1 Environmental Setting

Existing Conditions

Fire Protection and Emergency Services

Orange County Fire Authority. The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) provides structural and emergency medical services, and all fire prevention services (Planning and Development Department, Safety and Environmental Services and Pre-Fire Management) to all developments within unincorporated Orange County; as well areas of the Cleveland National Forest that are within Orange County.

The OCFA is divided into seven geographical divisions that are divided into battalions. The project site is located in Division III, Battalion seven (OCFA, 2016a). OCFA currently has 72 fire stations that provide regional emergency response to all fires, medical aids, hazardous materials incidents fires, aircraft fire and services for the region (OCFA, 2016). The closest OCFA fire stations to the project site are Fire Station No. 56, located at 56 Sendero Way in San Juan Capistrano, which is approximately 15 miles (a minimum of 25 minutes) from the project site; and Fire Station No. 7, located on 31865 Del Obispo Street in San Juan Capistrano, which is approximately 18 miles (a minimum of 28 minutes) southwest from the project site (OCFA, 2016).

For a fire response call, OCFA requires a minimum of three engines, one truck, one battalion chief, and one medic unit to provide an Effective Response Force (ERF) for a single-family residence. Due to the travel limits to the project site, OCFA classifies the project area as “Undeveloped Rural Areas” for response time standards, which is “as soon as possible” (OCFA, 2016).

Riverside County Fire Department. The Riverside County Fire Department also provides services in the project vicinity through the El Cariso Fire Station is located at 32353 Ortega Highway, approximately 1.5 miles from the project site. In addition, the following other Riverside County Fire Stations are located within 10 miles of the project site:

- Riverside County Fire Station 74 is located at 35420 Calle Grande in Lake Elsinore, 6.7 miles (a minimum of 13 minutes) from the project site.
- Riverside County Fire Station 85 is located at 29405 Grand Avenue in Lake Elsinore, 9.2 miles (a minimum of 16 minutes) from the project site.
- Riverside County Fire Station 11 is located at 33020 Maiden Lane in Lake Elsinore, 8.4 miles (a minimum of 14 minutes) from the project site (Google Maps, 2016).

The OCFA is the first responder to all calls within its service area. However, the OCFA has an Automatic Aid Agreement with the Riverside County Fire Department for a geographical area that includes the project site. The agreement states that should an emergency occur, both agencies would respond promptly to the emergency. Because the El Cariso Fire Station is the closest facility to the project site (approximately 1.5 miles away) it would generally be the first responding station to emergency calls for service from the project site. The OCFA would respond to non-emergency service calls.

Police Protection

Orange County Sheriff Department. Police protection services are provided by the Orange County Sheriff Department (OCSD). The Department's headquarters is located at 550 North Flower Street in Santa Ana, California. In April 2015, the South Operations Division split into the Southwest Operations Division and the Southeast Operations Division. The project site is located within the jurisdiction of the Southeast Operations Division, which includes the Cities of Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita; and the South unincorporated communities of Coto de Caza, Ladera Ranch, Las Flores, Rancho Mission Viejo, Wagon Wheel, Trabuco Canyon, and parts of the Cleveland National Forest. The Southeast Operations Division substation is located at 20202 Windrow Drive, Lake Forest, 92630 (OCSD, 2017).

The Southeast Operations Division deploys approximately 70 patrol cars during each 24-hour period to provide law enforcement services, and has 208 staff members and 167 deputy sheriffs. However, there is a long-term need for 10 additional Deputy Sheriffs to serve the unincorporated south Orange County area (OCSD, 2017). Deputy Sheriffs are assigned to a variety of tasks, including patrol, traffic enforcement, juvenile services, and supervision (OCSD, 2017).

Between January 1, 2016 and December 30, 2016, the average OCSD response time for emergency calls for service in the unincorporated south Orange County area was 8:39 minutes, and the average response time to a second level emergency was 16:03 minutes (OCSD, 2017a). Thus, response times to the project site are anticipated to range between 8 and 16 minutes, depending on the type of service call.

Riverside County Sheriff Department. In addition, the Riverside County Sheriff's Station located at 333 W Limited Avenue in Lake Elsinore is 11 miles from the project site. This station serves El Cariso Village, which is approximately 1,500 feet east of the project area. In addition, the Lake Elsinore Station also serves the communities of: Alberhill, Glen Eden, Glen Ivy Hot Springs, Good Hope, La Cresta, Lake Elsinore, Lakeland Village, Meadowbrook, Ortega Hills, Temescal Valley, Wildomar, and Warm Springs.

The Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station currently has 107 sworn officers and 23 non-sworn employees. The current staffing throughout unincorporated Riverside County is 1.04 deputies per 1,000 residents, which is lower than the County's goal of 1.2 deputies per 1,000 residents (Riverside County Sheriff, 2016).

Average response times from the Lake Elsinore Sheriff’s Station vary due to the differing priorities of each service call. Law enforcement calls for services are prioritized per the following:

- **Priority One:** Requires immediate response and May be assigned for Code 3 response (upon the Watch Commander’s approval) using lights and sirens. Includes any situation where a person may be in immediate danger such as injury traffic accidents in a contract city, crimes against persons where the suspect is still present, or back up of another deputy/officer in an urgent situation.
- **Priority Two:** Requires immediate response and may not be assigned Code 3 (lights and siren) response. Includes crimes which have just occurred and the suspect has left the area and the victim is not in any further danger; any incident with potential of quickly escalating to a crime against person, i.e., family disturbance, custody disputes where all parties are present; bomb threats; any incident where a delay in response could impede further investigation, i.e., deceased person or situation involving delicate evidence; alarm calls; or similar circumstances.
- **Priority Three:** Includes calls where the informant is to be contacted for a report only; most routine situations where there is an informant; suspicious person, loud parties or similar disturbances.
- **Priority Four:** Includes calls of a non-emergency nature involving no contact with an informant; situation with no potential for escalation abandoned vehicles; parking problems; routine patrol checks.

Table 3.13-1 shows the number of service calls and average response times from the Lake Elsinore Sheriff’s Station to the communities west of Lakeland Village, which includes El Cariso Village. In 2015 and 11 months of 2016, the average response time for priority one calls was 11.2 minutes and 12.2 minutes (Riverside County Sheriff, 2016). As shown in Table 3.13-1, there have been a relatively low number of priority one calls.

**TABLE 3.13-1
LAKE ELSINORE SHERIFF STATION SERVICE CALLS / RESPONSE TIMES TO AREAS WEST OF
LAKELAND VILLAGE, INCLUDING EL CARISO VILLAGE**

2015		
Call Priority	Total Calls	Average Response Time
Priority 1	20	11.2 minutes
Priority 2	304	31.4 minutes
Priority 3	359	61.4 minutes
Priority 4	175	87.6 minutes
January – November 2016		
Priority 1	12	12.2 minutes
Priority 2	350	27.9 minutes
Priority 3	382	52.1 minutes
Priority 4	183	74.6 minutes

Source: Riverside County Sheriff, 2016.

Of the service calls listed in Table 3.13-1, an average of approximately 12-15 calls per year are from the El Cariso area; and the only constraints in serving the area is the weekend traffic on the single-lane portions of Ortega Highway and weather factors, such as heavy rains, snow, and fire (Riverside County Sheriff, 2016).

The Lake Elsinore Sheriff Station follows the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement, as on file with the State Disaster Council. Riverside County and Orange County are both participants in the Mutual Aid Agreement; and in situations where boundary lines are in question both Sheriff Department’s respond until a determination is made of who is best to provide services.

California Highway Patrol. The California Highway Patrol provides traffic enforcement services throughout the unincorporated Orange County area, including along Ortega Highway, Long Canyon Road, and other roadways in the project vicinity (OCSD, 2017). The California Highway Patrol does not have any formal mutual aid agreements; however, provides patrols on the roadways in the project vicinity. Hence, there are three law enforcement agencies that provide service to the project region.

Schools

The project site is within the boundaries of the Capistrano Unified School District (Capo USD). The District currently has 34 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, six high schools, five charter schools, and seven alternative schools/programs. The District enrolls a total of approximately 54,000 students from its attendance area that encompasses over 195 square miles (Capo USD, 2015). The Capo USD closest schools that would serve the project site include: Ambuehl Elementary School, which is 12.7 miles from the project site; the Marco Forster Middle School, which is 14.9 miles from the project site; and the San Juan Hills high School is 11.9 miles from the project site. As shown, in Table 3.13-2, the enrollment has increased slightly in the last five years.

**TABLE 3.13-2
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BETWEEN 2003-2004 AND 2012-2013**

School Year	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	Design Capacity	Remaining Capacity in 2015-2016
Ambuehl Elementary	444	434	415	403	416	650	234
Marco Foster Middle	1,380	1,363	1,352	1,360	1,378	1,875	497
San Juan Hills HS	1,929	2,021	2,236	2,391	2,392	2,500	108
Capo USD	53,170	53,785	53,833	54,036	53,878	n/a	n/a

SOURCE: Education Data Partnership, California Department of Education, 2016.

Hospital Service

The closest hospital facility in Riverside County is the Inland Valley Medical Center, which is located approximately 18 miles away in Wildomar. The Inland Valley Medical Center is a progressive acute care facility and medical center that is Southwest Riverside County's only trauma center. The facility has 122 beds, is a Riverside County-designated Paramedic Base Station, and averages 2,500 emergency department visits per month (<https://www.inlandvalleymedcenter.com/about>).

The Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center in Mission Viejo is the closest Orange County Hospital to the project site; located approximately 25 miles west of the project site. The facility is

a 523-bed full-service acute care full-service hospital that includes an emergency room trauma center (<http://www.mission4health.com/About-Us.aspx>).

Libraries

The Orange County Public Library provides library Services to unincorporated areas of Orange County plus the Cities of Aliso Viejo, Brea, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Dana Point, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, La Habra, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, and Westminster.

As described in the Public Services and Facilities Element of the Orange County General Plan, the County requires 0.2 square feet of library space per capita and 1.5 volumes of library materials per capita (Orange County, 2005). However, library service needs are changing with the advent of increasing resources being available online and the availability of high speed internet services.

The nearest library to the project site is the Rancho Santa Margarita Branch Library, located at 30902 La Promesa in Rancho Santa Margarita approximately 9 miles west of the project site. Currently, this library includes 85,000 books, 2,000 audiobooks, 1,200 DVDs, receives 135 periodicals, and is operated by 9 full-time employees and 11 part-time employees (Gasset, 2013).

The Mission Viejo Library, located at 100 Civic Center in Mission Viejo approximately 14 miles southwest of the project site. Currently, this branch includes 189,667 books, approximately 50 periodicals, and operates with 20 full-time employees, and 26 part-time employees (Tanton, 2013).

In addition, the Riverside County Library provides library services in the project vicinity. There are currently two Riverside County Libraries in the City of Lake Elsinore. The Vick Knight Community Library is located at 32593 Riverside Drive, which is approximately 7.6 miles from the project site. The ten thousand square foot facility has one conference room and fourteen public computers with internet access. The Altha Merrifield Memorial Library is located at 600 West Graham Avenue, which is approximately 11 miles from the project site.

Regulatory Setting

California Fire Code

State fire regulations are set forth in Sections 13000 et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code, which include regulations concerning building standards (as also set forth in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, 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.

The California Fire Code Chapter 33 related to fire safety during construction prescribes safeguards to provide reasonable safety to life and property from fire during such construction activities. Specific safeguards related to oil-fired heaters, gas heaters, refueling, smoking, waste disposal, welding, electrical, flammable and combustible odors, water supply for fire protection,

fire extinguishers, etc. Implementation of these safeguards is designed to reduce the potential of fire related hazards during construction and demolition activities.

School Facility Development Fees - Assembly Bill 2926

In September 1986, the State Legislature passed AB 2926 (Chapter 887, Statutes of 1986). This bill granted school districts in California the power to levy fees on residential, commercial, and industrial development for the purpose of financing construction of school facilities. State law prohibits a city or county from issuing a building permit unless the local school district has certified that the application is in compliance with its fee program. School districts are also allowed to increase the level of fees every two years, based on the change in the Class B construction cost index, as determined by the State Allocation Board.

Orange County General Plan

The Orange County General Plan is a blueprint for growth and development. The General Plan contains elements that describe objectives, policies, and goals for all of Orange County. The following elements listed below contain goals and policies that are most applicable to public services.

Land Use Element

Policy 2: To phase development consistent with the adequacy of public services and facilities within the capacity defined by the General Plan.

Public Services and Facilities Element

Orange County Fire Authority

Goal 1: Provide a safe living environment ensuring adequate fire protection facilities and resources to prevent and minimize the loss of life and property from structural and wildland fire damages.

Goal 2: To provide an adequate level of paramedic service for emergency medical aid in order to minimize trauma of injury or illness to patients.

Orange County Sheriff

Goal 1: Assure that adequate Sheriff patrol service is provided to ensure a safe living and working environment.

Objective 1.1: To maintain adequate levels of Sheriff patrol services through coordinated land use and facility planning efforts.

Schools

Goal 1: Encourage the funding and development of adequate school facilities to meet Orange County's existing and future demand.

Policy 1: To coordinate land use proposal reviews with appropriate school districts to assure that facility needs shall be adequately addressed, including the notification and participation of school district planners in initial County studies of all major developments.

Policy 3: To continue to require compliance with AB 2926.

Orange County Public Library

Goal 1: Assure that an adequate level of library service is provided within the service area of the Orange County Public Library.

3.13.2 Thresholds of Significance

The *CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G provides guidance for assessing the significance of potential environmental impacts. Relative to public services, a project could have a significant effect on the environment if it would:

- 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; or
 - Other public facilities.

As described in Chapter 1.0, *Introduction*, Notice of Preparations and Initial Studies were prepared and circulated for public review in both 2013 and 2014; the following comments related to public services were received:

- Requests from Orange County Fire Authority for information, consultation and involvement.
- Identification of the role of Riverside County Fire Department.
- Identification of fire hazards and response times to the project site.

3.13.3 Methodology

The significant determination for public services is based on public services most likely to be affected by construction and implementation of the proposed project. This analysis included corresponding with the various public services agencies with jurisdiction over the project area to request current information about service ratios, response times, performance objectives, numbers of apparatus devoted to the project's vicinity, and reviewing web-based information about these agencies. In addition, the methodology analyzed applicable General Plan Guidelines, which looked at the requirements for the service providers' and then reviewing the applicable policies in relation to the project.

Impacts on public services are considered significant if an increase in population or development levels would result in inadequate staffing levels, response times, and/or increased demand for

services that would require the construction of new or expansion of existing facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Orange County Standard Conditions of Approval

The following are conditions that must be met to attain project approval from Orange County. The purpose of the Standard Conditions of Approval (SCA) is to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the citizens of Orange County.

OC SCA FF01a: Prior to the recordation of any subdivision map, the applicant shall enter into an agreement with the County of Orange to pay development fees accompanied by Security for equipment necessary to the functioning of such Library facility as provided in Sections 7-9-700 through 7-9-713 of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Orange and Board Resolution 87-1684. Said agreement shall be accompanied by financial security. This condition may be satisfied by entering into an implementation agreement with the County pursuant to an applicable development agreement, in a manner meeting the approval of the Manager of Environmental & Project Planning.

OC SCA FF02a: Prior to the recordation of any subdivision map, the applicant shall enter into an agreement with the County of Orange to pay development fees for Fire Station Standard Conditions of Approval Manual - April 2001 Edition, Page 18 of 63, as provided in Sections 7-9-700 through 7-9-713 of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Orange and Board Resolution 87-1684. Said agreement shall be accompanied by financial security. This condition may be satisfied by entering into an implementation agreement with the County pursuant to an applicable development agreement, in a manner meeting the approval of the Manager of Environmental & Project Planning.

OC SCA FF03a: Prior to the recordation of any subdivision map, the applicant shall enter into a secured agreement with the County of Orange to pay development fees for sheriff substation facilities when an applicable fee program is adopted by the Board of Supervisors, as provided in Sections 7-9-700 through 7-9-713 of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Orange. This condition may be satisfied by entering into an implementation agreement with the County pursuant to an applicable development agreement, in a manner meeting the approval of the Manager of Environmental & Project Planning.

3.13.4 Project Impacts

Impact 3.13-1: Would implementation of the proposed project result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire, police, school, or other public service facilities?

Fire Protection and Emergency Services

Less than Significant Impact. As described above, the OCFA provides structural and emergency medical services, and all fire prevention services to all developments within unincorporated Orange County, including the project site. The closest existing OCFA fire station to the project site is Fire Station 56, which is approximately 15 miles (a minimum of 25 minutes) from the

project site and Fire Station No. 7 approximately 18 miles (a minimum of 25 minutes) from the project site (OCFA, 2016).

However, the El Cariso Fire Station, which is operated by the Riverside County Fire Department is approximately 1.5 miles from the project site, and three other Riverside County Fire Stations are within 10 miles of the project site; including: Fire Station 74 that is 7 miles (a minimum of 13 minutes) from the project site, Fire Station 85 that is 9.2 miles (a minimum of 14 minutes) from the project site; and Fire Station 11 that is 9.3 miles (a minimum of 14 minutes) from the project site.

To best provide services to the geographical area in which the project lies, the OCFA and the Riverside County Fire Department have an Automatic Aid Agreement that includes the project area, in which the two fire agencies agree to respond to emergency alarms, including medical aid, structural fire, and other services. The Automatic Aid Agreement states that emergency response is based on the “nearest unit auto-aid” concept, in which the closest unit to an emergency call for services would respond. Thus, fire protection and emergency services in the project area would be provided by the both the Riverside County Fire Department and OCFA.

Implementation of the proposed project would result in development of 72 new residences and a population of approximately 230¹ new residents within the project area, which would require fire and/or emergency services. The increase in structures and population from the project is not substantial in comparison to the area that OCFA serves; however, due to the distance from the project site to the existing OCFA fire stations, the provision of services to the project site could pose a demand for fire services that could affect other OCFA services in the region (Hernandez, 2014).

However, per the Automatic Aid Agreement described above, both the OCFA and Riverside County Fire Department would respond to calls for service in the project area, and the closest Riverside County Fire Station is approximately 1.5 miles from the project site, which would generally be the first responder to calls for service from the project site. Although the needs for fire services would incrementally increase with development of the project, implementation of the proposed project would not require new or physically altered fire department facilities, construction of which could result in adverse physical impacts on the environment; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

As described in Section 3.8, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, of this EIR, the site’s proximity to extensive open space, varying topography, vegetation, and climatic conditions make it subject to wildland fires. In response to this condition, the project includes specific fire safety project design features including a Fuel Modification Plan in accordance with OFCA’s Guideline C-05, *Vegetation Management Technical Design for New Construction Fuel Modification Plans and Maintenance Program* (Project Design Feature PDF-10), a conceptual landscape plan that meets OCFA guidelines (PDF-4), and a Fire Master Plan (Project Design Feature PDF-11). In addition, the project is designed to be consistent with OCFA and California Fire Code access and circulation requirements, which would be ensured and implemented through a Secure Fire

¹ Based on 72 (proposed residential units) * 3.2 (U.S. Census average number of persons per household for unincorporated Orange County).

Protection Agreement with OCFA that requires the specifications to roadways, access, and fire hydrant spacing to be implemented, which is included as Mitigation Measure MM 3.13-1. Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 3.13-1 would reduce potential impact related to fire hazards and fire and emergency service provision to the project area.

In addition, the proposed onsite fire suppression infrastructure includes two water storage tanks (one 615,000-gallon tank on the Phase 1 (south parcel) and one 525,000-gallon tank on the Phase 2 (north parcel)) (PDF-19), which have been sized pursuant to OCFA specification to ensure adequate fire protection. In addition, the water storage tanks would be directly connected to onsite fire hydrants that would accommodate fire department apparatus to provide fire protection needs within each phase. The proposed project would also install automatic fire sprinklers in every residence (Project Design Feature PDF-11).

Due to the rural location of the project area and the natural environmental conditions related to the potential for wildland fire hazards, Mitigation Measure MM 3.13-2 has been included to require disclosure of the location of fire and emergency services to residents of the proposed project. Furthermore, in accordance with Orange County Standard Conditions of Approval, prior to the recordation of any subdivision map, the project applicant is required to pay development fees to the Orange County Fire Authority (OC SCA FF02a), which would assist in provision of services to the project area.

Overall, implementation of the proposed project would not require new or physically altered fire department facilities. With implementation of the project design features, compliance with California Fire Code, OCFA, and EVMWD regulations, and implementation of Mitigation Measures MM 3.13-1 and 3.13-2, would reduce potential impacts related to fire protection service to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

MM 3.13-1 Prior to the issuance of any grading permits, the applicant shall obtain the Orange County Fire Authority design approval of all fire protection access roads, fire hydrants, and fire prevention design measures that shall include the following:

- Turning radius and access in and around the project site and structures shall be designed to accommodate large fire vehicles and their weight.
- All roadways that have medians that do not exceed 1000-feet in width shall have a turnaround. Roadways with medians greater than 1000-feet in width shall provide emergency turnaround access for heavy fire equipment.
- If a dead-end street exceeds 150 feet or when otherwise required, a clearly marked fire apparatus access turnaround shall be provided and approved by the Orange County Fire Authority.
- All traffic signals on public access ways shall include the installation of optical preemption devices.
- Project plans shall include plan and section views and indicate the grade and width of the access road flow-line to flow-line.

- Applicable CC&Rs shall contain provisions prohibiting obstructions such as speed bumps/humps, control gates or other modifications unless approval from the Orange County Fire Authority is granted.
- A note shall be placed on the fire protection access easement plan indicating that all street/road signs shall be designed and maintained to be illuminated in a manner meeting the Orange County Fire Authority requirements.
- Fire hydrant spacing shall be 600 feet between fire hydrants, or as approved by the Orange County Fire Authority.
- All electrically operated gates shall install emergency opening devices as approved by the Orange County Fire Authority.

MM 3.13-2 The HOA managing the proposed project shall ensure disclosure of potential wildfire hazards and the location of fire and emergency services to all residents. This information shall be provided in information provided to new homeowners and within regular communications to residents from the HOA.

Police Protection

Less than Significant Impact. Because of the rural location of the project, the Orange County Sheriff Department's response to any emergency at the location could be extended due the distance from regular patrol areas (OCSD, 2017). The project area is approximately 20 miles east from the closest regular OCSD patrol area (Rancho Mission Viejo) with an estimated drive time of 27 minutes (OCSD, 2017). Additionally, Ortega Highway is a narrow, winding two-lane arterial roadway leading to the project area, and a primary route for persons working in south Orange County and Riverside County, and is heavily used. At times, this roadway is closed due to fire, traffic collisions, roadway conditions, and foul weather, which would affect the OCSD's ability to respond to the project area.

However, the Riverside County Sheriff's Station located at 333 W Limited Avenue in Lake Elsinore that is 11 miles from the project site currently serves El Cariso Village, which is approximately 1,500 feet east of the project area. As described above, Riverside County and Orange County Sheriff Departments are both participants in a mutual aid agreement; and in situations where the location of the closest responder to the location of an emergency is in question, both Sheriff Department's respond. In addition, the California Highway Patrol provides traffic enforcement services throughout the unincorporated Orange County area, including the project site (OCSD, 2017). Thus, although the project site is in a rural location that is accessed by a narrow, winding two-lane arterial roadway, three different law enforcement agencies provide services to the project region and would provide various resources.

As described above, OCSD has a long-term need for 10 additional Deputy Sheriffs to serve the unincorporated south Orange County area (OCSD, 2017), in which the project is located. In addition, as shown in Section 3.12, *Population and Housing*, in Table 3.12-3, by the year 2035, SCAG estimates the population of unincorporated Orange County to be 177,900, an increase of 52,480 residents from the 2016 population estimate of 125,420 residents. Based on this number,

the development of the proposed residential uses would constitute approximately 0.44 percent of the anticipated growth in unincorporated area Orange County.

Given the overall anticipated growth in the region that is served by OCSD and the current response times within the south unincorporated Orange County areas, OCSD anticipates the need to augment law enforcement staffing in the unincorporated south Orange County patrol area. However, new or physically altered police facilities would not be required as a result of the proposed project. The project applicant is required to pay mitigation fees as required by Code Sections 7-9-700 through 7-9-713 (OC SCA FF03a) to extend services to developing areas and reduce impacts related to police services. The services needed by the project would not require development or expansion of law enforcement facilities. Thus, adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police facilities would not occur, and impacts related to police services would be less than significant.

Schools

Less than Significant Impact. As described previously, the project area is within the boundaries of Capo USD, and student enrollment has increased slightly in the last five years (shown in Table 3.13-2). Because the project would develop 72 single-family residences, it is anticipated that school services would be needed. **Table 3.13-3** shows the anticipated number of students based on the most recent Capo USD student generation rates.

**TABLE 3.13-3
ANTICIPATED STUDENTS BASED ON CAPO USD GENERATION RATES**

Grade	Generation Rate*	Students
K-5	0.37	27
6-8	0.1074	8
9-12	0.1039	7
Total	0.5895	42

SOURCE: Capo USD Facility Needs Analysis, May 2010.

As shown in Table 3.13-3, it is estimated that the project would generate approximately 42 students. As shown in Table 3.13-2, the schools that would serve the project site have capacity to serve the students that would be generated from the project. Ambuehl Elementary School has an existing remaining capacity of 234 students; hence, the school has capacity for the 27 elementary school students that would reside at the project site. Marco Foster Middle School has an existing remaining capacity of 497 students; and therefore, would be able to serve the eight middle school students that would be generated from the project. In addition, the San Juan Hills High School has a remaining capacity of 108 students; and therefore, would be able to accommodate the seven high school students that would be generated by the project. Therefore, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in the need for new or expanded school facilities.

In addition, the project applicant is required to pay fees for the provision of school services pursuant to state law AB 2926. Currently, the fee for new residential development for Capo USD is \$3.36 per square foot of new residential development. This fee would contribute to a fund that

would pay for new or expanded buildings, faculty, or equipment. Under state law, payment of school impact fees constitutes mitigation for school facility impacts of projects and such payments are deemed to provide full and complete school facilities mitigation. As a result, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on school facilities.

Hospital Service

Due to the increase in population that would result implementation of the project, an incremental increase demand for hospital services could occur. However, due to the limited (230 residents) population increase that would result from the project, this impact would not affect the ability of the regional hospitals to meet medical service needs generated by the proposed project. The Inland Valley Medical Center and the Mission Hospital would continue to be able to meet the needs of the region, and new or physically altered hospital facilities would not be required as a result of the proposed project. Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

Libraries

Less than Significant Impact. The project would incrementally increase the demand for library services. However, due to the small population increase of the proposed project (230 people), the impact on library services is anticipated to be minimal and would not affect the County's ability to provide library services, as shown in **Table 3.13-4**, below.

**TABLE 3.13-4
PROJECT DEMAND FOR LIBRARY FACILITIES AND BOOK SUPPLIES**

Facilities/Books	Standard of Service (per resident)	Project Demand (230 residents)	Total for Unincorporated Orange County Residents (121,160 residents)
Library Area (Square Feet)	0.2 square feet	46 square feet	24,232 square feet
Book Volumes	1.5 book volumes	345 book volumes	181,740 book volumes

SOURCE: Public Services and Facilities Element of the Orange County General Plan, 2005.

As described above, library service needs are changing with increasing resources being available online and the availability of high speed internet services. Therefore, new residential uses on the project site does not immediately equate to an increased need for library resources/services or square footage of library space. A majority of the residential units would be equipped with internet access, which provides access to many of the same resources provided by the library and would limit the increased need for library services and resources.

The Rancho Santa Margarita Library, Mission Viejo Library, and Lake Elsinore Libraries have adequate facilities and book supplies to serve the existing service population, and can accommodate the additional needs from the proposed project. Furthermore, Orange County Code Sections 7-9-700 through 7-9-713, requires the applicant to pay development fees toward the provision of library services and facilities (OC SCA FF01a). Overall, implementation of the proposed project would not result in the need for new or physically altered library facilities, the

construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts; and impacts would be less than significant.

3.13.5 Cumulative Impacts

Fire Protection and Emergency Services

The geographic context for cumulative fire protection and emergency services is the County of Orange and nearby areas within Riverside County that would be served by the facilities serving the project area. As described above, the project would include numerous project design features and a mitigation measure to reduce impacts related to fire service facilities to a less than significant level. Other residential development projects (see **Table 3-1** in Chapter 3.0) in the project vicinity include: the Lakeshore Point and Villages at Lakeshore projects within the City of Lake Elsinore; the Ranch Plan Planning Area 2 in unincorporated Orange County, and Robinson Ridge in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. The projects within the City of Lake Elsinore are the closest related projects, approximately 2.4 miles from the proposed project. Like the proposed project, the development projects that are located in high fire hazard areas and would be required to implement similar fire master plans and fuel modification plans per OCFA that would reduce fire hazards.

As described in the General Plan, future residential, commercial, and industrial growth projected to occur in south and southeast Orange County and would require expansion of OCFA's system of fire stations (County of Orange, 2005). Project and cumulative project demands for services are offset by impact fees and by project specific fire protection improvements that are required on a project-specific basis (Mitigation Measure MM 3.13-1). As the project includes Project Design Features PDF-4, PDF-10, PDF-11, and PDF-19 (described above) that involve fire safe planning, which would reduce impacts to a less than significant level, and related projects would also be subject to impact fees and fire hazard design planning, cumulative impacts associated with fire service facilities would be less than significant.

Police Protection

The geographic context for cumulative fire protection and emergency services is the County of Orange and nearby areas within Riverside County that would be served by the facilities serving the project area. As described above, the project applicant is required to pay mitigation fees as required by Code Sections 7-9-700 through 7-9-713 (OC SCA FF03a) to extend services to developing areas and reduce impacts related to police services, and project impacts related to law enforcement services would be less than significant. Several residential and commercial projects are proposed within the nearby geographical area including: the Lakeshore Point and Villages at Lakeshore projects within the City of Lake Elsinore; the Ranch Plan Planning Area 2 in unincorporated Orange County, and Robinson Ridge in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. The projects within the City of Lake Elsinore are the closest related projects, approximately 2.4 miles from the proposed project, which would have a cumulative impact on sheriff services. However, the increased need for police protection services would be offset by development fees in compliance with Orange County Code Sections 7-9-700 through 7-9-713. Because the project

would reduce impacts to a less than significant level, and because related projects would be subject to impact fees to offset services, cumulative impacts associated with police facilities would be less than significant.

Schools

The geographic context for cumulative impacts to schools is the Capo USD service boundaries. As described above the schools that would serve the proposed project have excess capacity. As described above the project is anticipated to generate a small number of students that would be accommodated within existing school facilities. Like the proposed project, each cumulative project would be required to pay school facility fees pursuant to state law AB 2926 that would mitigate impacts to schools. Because the project would result in less than significant impacts related to schools and because school fees are required pursuant to AB 2926, the proposed project's contribution to a cumulative impact to school facilities is less than significant.

Hospitals

The geographic scope for cumulative library services is the County of Orange and nearby areas within Riverside County that would be served by the facilities serving the project area. The proposed project, in combination with other identified development in the service area including: the Lakeshore Point and Villages at Lakeshore projects within the City of Lake Elsinore; the Ranch Plan Planning Area 2 in unincorporated Orange County, and Robinson Ridge in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, could increase the need for hospital services. However, the majority of these related projects are located closer to Mission Hospital, and the proposed project is located closer to the Inland Valley Medical Center; thus, most of the emergency medical needs from these related projects would be served by Mission Hospital. The hospital closest to the project area is currently operating with adequate capacity to serve the proposed project in combination with related development projects in the vicinity. Due to the low number of residences provided by the project and the level of existing hospital and medical services within the region, the proposed project would result in a less than significant contribution to cumulative impacts related to hospital facilities.

Libraries

The geographic scope for cumulative library services is the County of Orange and nearby areas within Riverside County that would be served by the facilities serving the project area. The proposed project, in combination with other identified development in the service area including: the Lakeshore Point and Villages at Lakeshore projects within the City of Lake Elsinore; the Ranch Plan Planning Area 2 in unincorporated Orange County, and Robinson Ridge in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, could increase the need for library services. However, project impacts would be less than significant due to the limited number of residents generated by the project and the resources available through the internet, which most of the new residences would have. In addition, impacts related to cumulative projects would be offset by required development fees. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant cumulative impact related to library facilities.