

4.15 | PUBLIC SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

This section identifies fire protection facilities, law enforcement, parks and recreation, libraries, schools, and other public facilities that serve the City of Coachella and the Planning Area. Public services within the Planning Area, would serve the existing and projection population under the Coachella General Plan Update (CGPU). Services that supply safety, protection, education, and health, are a vital aspect of any community, and ensure a quality of life that one can thrive, learn, and feel safe in.

The following section is based on various programs/plans/representatives including the City of Coachella Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan, the Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD), the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, the Draft City of Coachella Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan), Riverside County Library System, Coachella Valley Unified School District, and Desert Sands Unified School District.

Fire and law protection will be assessed by existing staff levels, level of service ratio, existing and necessary facilities, and response times. Parks, libraries, schools, and other public services are assessed on various combinations of; level of service ratios, staff levels, hours of operation, acreage, funding, and existing plans/programs.

Each topic will be analyzed against existing conditions, and a determination of significant environmental effects will be analyzed in the thresholds as defined by CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Checklist.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

FIRE PROTECTION ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE SETTING

FIRE PROTECTION OVERVIEW

The City of Coachella was incorporated in 1946 and began contracting with the RCFD for fire and emergency services in 1990. The City of Coachella continues to contract with the California Department of Forestry and the RCFD for fire protection services and emergency medical services including paramedic services. The contract includes fire suppression, fire prevention, hazardous materials response, urban search and rescue response and other related services. As part of a regional fire protection program, additional resources are available to the City when the need arises, without additional expense to City taxpayers. The RCFD is administrated and operated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention under an agreement with the County of Riverside. The Coachella Fire Service is a "Full Service" agency, providing fire protection, emergency medical, emergency management, and public assistance services to citizens within its jurisdiction.

The climatic conditions within the City of Coachella present significant challenges to firefighting resources due to increased fire intensity and the physical toll it takes on firefighters. During July and August temperatures can reach into the low 120's, while the average yearly rainfall is 3.38 inches.¹

The fire prevention and protection objectives concurrent with the master plan have been established in accordance based on land use categories. It is anticipated that over the next 10 years the City will require a level of service commensurate with only the urban and heavy urban land use categories.

FIRE PROTECTION FACILITIES AND STAFFING

The City of Coachella has one Fire Station, Battalion 6 Coachella Fire Station #79, located at 1377 Sixth Street in the City of Coachella, which serves the incorporated portions of the City. This facility has been in operation since 1978. Surrounding areas outside the City limits are served by RCFD stations located in the City of Indio, La Quinta, and Thermal as part of a "Regional Fire and Emergency Medical Response" plan. The City of Coachella Fire Service budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 was \$13,931,145.

Fire Station #79 is staffed by 18 full time personnel (with a minimum of six firefighters on duty at all times), 10 volunteer firefighters, and 10 explorer cadets. This Fire Station is a full service Fire Department Station staffing two Type 1 fire engines that provide 24-hour, year round service.² Fire engine staffing includes three persons per engine per day. This staffing includes a Company Officer/Operator, one firefighter and one firefighter/paramedic. It is the recommendation of the Coachella Master Plan that Engine Company Staffing be increased to four firefighters, which is more operationally efficient, would meet the current municipal standard and provides a higher degree of safety as required by the recently enacted OSHA regulations concerning fire ground rescue response.³ The common national standard for fire service is one firefighter staff person per 1,000 City residents. Coachella currently has a ratio of 0.4 firefighter people per 1,000 residents. During 2009 the Department responded to a total of 1,697 calls for service in the City.⁴

In the very near future, the City of Coachella will need to consider the addition of new fire service facilities. As the need for fire protection in the entertainment district and to the north continues to grow, the current Fire Station, station # 79, is not ideal for meeting the overall response time of five minutes Citywide. While there is still a need for a Fire Station in central Coachella, it is recommended by the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan that a new facility is recommended in the area of Tyler Street and Avenue 48.

¹ Coachella Valley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan. July 2007. Page 2-18.

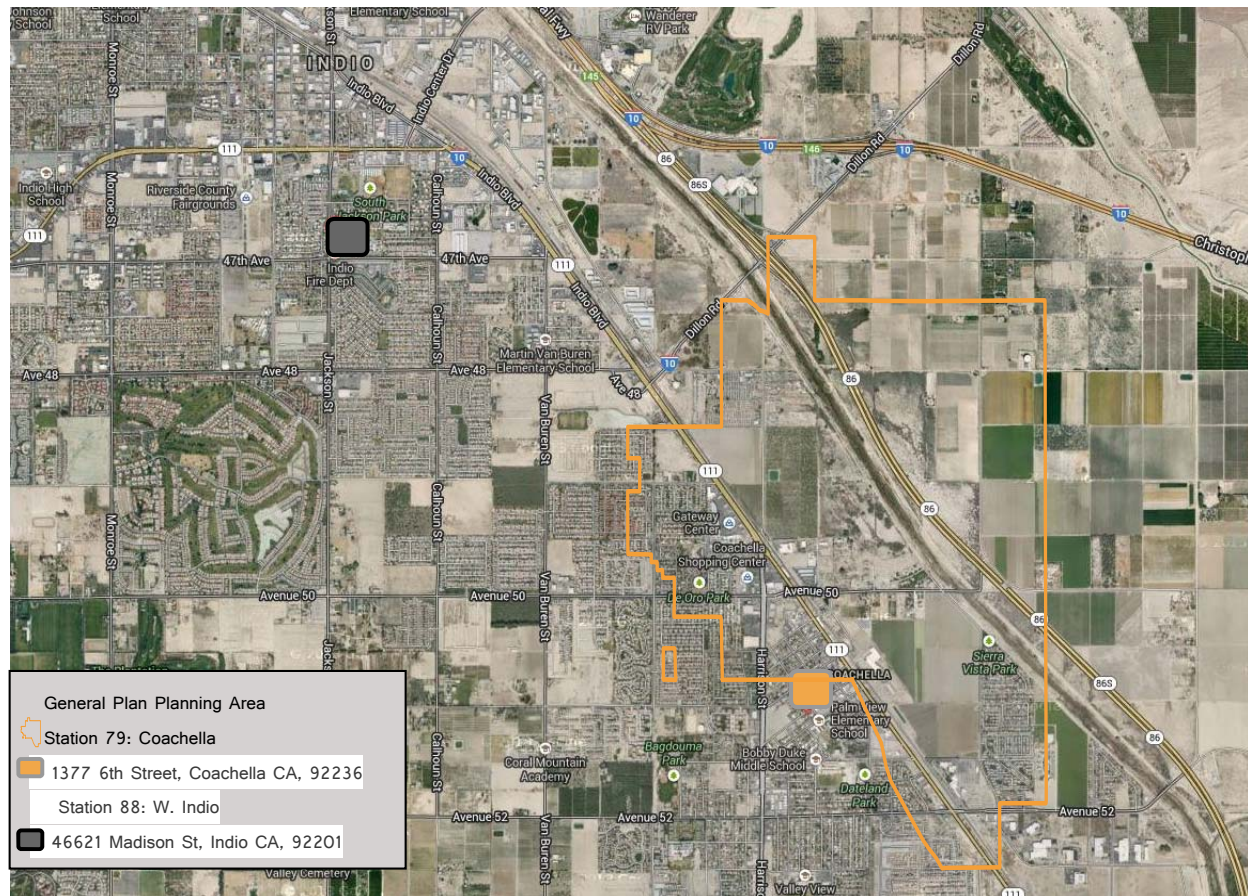
² City of Coachella. <http://www.coachella.org/index.asp?NID=40>

³ City of Coachella Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan, July 2007, Page 5-4.

⁴ City of Coachella, "Fire Station Information," www.coachella.org/index.aspx?NID=202.

Projected development in the City of Coachella indicates a definite need for at least three additional Fire Stations to be constructed, for a total of five Stations. Over the past 10 years, there has been significant interest in development of the area south of I-10 in the vicinity of the La Entrada Specific Plan, and the Fire Department staff has identified the need for at least one Fire Station in this area. The City anticipates the next two new Fire Stations would be located in the Fillmore and Avenue 53 area and Avenue 50 and Frederick Street,⁵ within City limits. The construction and occupancy of these facilities will be based on actual development timetables, and funded as part of the “development agreements” or as part of a “Cost Share” agreement with adjoining agencies or jurisdictions.

Figure 4.15-1: Existing Fire Stations serving the Planning Area



⁵ City of Coachella Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan, July 2007, Page 6-5.

Given the number of new stations needed to meet the present and future demand for fire and emergency services within the city and its immediate sphere of influence, standard facility design will incorporate low maintenance and energy efficient features in order to maximize cost savings over the entire expected life of the facility. The City of Coachella currently does not have a ladder truck immediately available to serve the City. It is the recommendation of the Master Plan that the City pursue the purchase and staffing of a Truck Company, with an estimated cost of \$700,000-\$1,000,000.

The future population growth within the City of Coachella is expected to create the typical range of fire service calls including structure fires, garbage bin fires, car fires, and electrical fires. The Fire and Emergency Medical Services Plan of 2007 reported that the City of Coachella had an estimated 2006 population of 35,208 and an anticipated annual growth rate of three to four per cent.⁶ The City of Coachella continues to experience significant fire activity as compared to similar jurisdictions of its size. This fire activity is expected to increase, although at a slower pace, as the jurisdiction grows in every aspect of population, land area and number of structures. The common national standard for fire service is one fire staff person per 1,000 city residents. Coachella currently has 0.4 fire staff person per 1,000 residents, and plans to build additional Fire Stations in the future to accommodate this growth within the City and its sphere of influence. Continuing to meet service standards and achieve acceptable incident response times is likely to be a challenge as the city continues to grow.

New equipment would be required in order to provide adequate response times to serve future growth. There would also be an increase in the number of responses within the City which would increase demand for existing equipment, and personnel. Much of this increase would be generated by new growth, primarily in the mostly undeveloped northern portion of the Planning Area. As a result, growth in the northern portion of the City and its SOI may necessitate the need for an additional Fire Station or the relocation of existing stations to the northern portion of the City. The successful achievement of the fire suppression goals set by the City depends of many factors outside the fire suppression operational system. Response time objectives are based on assumptions of early discovery, water supply adequacy, and equipment reliability to name a few.

FIRE PROTECTION RESPONSE TIMES

It is the goal of the RCFD fire service to have the first engine company arrive on the scene within five minutes 90 percent of the time. Response time to emergency calls within the City average approximately four minutes or less more than 80 percent of the time. RCFD fire services respond to all medical emergency calls with the nearest available unit. This response time falls within the following time frames based on land use category:⁷

- Outlying: 15 minutes.
- Rural: 10 minutes.
- Urban: 5 minutes.
- Heavy Urban: 5 minutes.

⁶ City of Coachella Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan, July 2007.

⁷ City of Coachella Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan, July 2007, Page 4-19.

FIRE PROTECTION MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

To ensure adequate fire protection services in an emergency, the City of Coachella maintains a mutual aid agreement with surrounding city and county jurisdictions. Three other existing stations are proximate to Coachella. These include Fire Station # 39, located outside the existing City limits at the Jacqueline Cochran Airport in Thermal, Fire Station #70 located at Avenue 54 and Madison Street in La Quinta and Fire Station #86 located at Jackson Street and Dr. Carreon Boulevard in City of Indio. Through the Regional Fire Service System, the City of Coachella receives an immediate response from the outlying stations, including personnel and equipment for any major event or multiple events that may occur within the Planning Area. The City of Coachella is also in a cost shared agreement with the Cities of Indio, La Quinta and Riverside County for the use of the 100' ladder truck located at Fire Station #86. The City of Coachella pays 12.5 percent of the funding of this aerial apparatus.

FIRE HAZARDS AREAS

The Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) performs evaluations and ratings of the fire protection provided in various cities and counties. ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the U.S. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data using our Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). The ISO assigns a Public Protection Classification (PPC) grade related to a community's fire protection levels on a scale of 1-10, based on ISO's FSRS. Class 1 represents exemplary public protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria. Classification criteria include water supply (the single most important factor), equipment, alarm and dispatch system, and training. Currently the City of Coachella Fire Department has an ISO rating of Class 4.⁸

The ISO Rating Schedule requires that the built-upon area of the City should have a first-due engine company within 1 ½ miles, and both the International City Management Association and the NRPA agree that the first engine company should be at emergency scene within five minutes of sounding the alarm. ISO asserted that it would be inappropriate to push fire apparatus beyond safe driving speed for the sake of faster response times. In a jurisdiction as large and complex as that served by the RCFD, it is not practical to meet these response/distance requirements for all land use categories, therefore these objectives represent a compromise between ideal requirements, community needs and the availability of resources. Moreover, there is a renewed City effort to aggressively reduce hazards in an effort to mitigate the potential fires.

The RCFD designates lands in the County in regards to their potential for wildland fire hazards. Based on data from Riverside County, the City of Coachella is not located within an area of high fire potential.⁹ According to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Hazard Severity Zone Map for Western Riverside County, the northeast portion of the City of Coachella has a moderate fire hazard potential and the remaining portion of the City is identified as an Incorporated City.¹⁰

8 City of Coachella, "Fire Station Information," www.coachella.org/index.aspx?NID=202.

9 High Fire Potential for the City of Coachella, Riverside County Geographic Information System, <http://www3.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/pa/rclis/index.html>.

10 Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, http://www.fire.ca.gov/wildland_zones_maps.php.

The Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan includes several objectives related to the number and location of Fire Stations and corresponding apparatus and personnel which are stated by land use category. Further discussion of these objectives are provided below in the Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Section.

FIRE PROTECTION REGULATORY SETTING

FEDERAL

The National Fire Protection Association, (an organization that develops national standards for the fire service), established a new standard for the Fire Engine staffing. This proposal is known as “1710” and it established a nationwide standard of four person Fire Engine staffing.¹¹

STATE

The California Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM), along with other state agencies, is in the process of developing and proposing a new Building and Fire Code for California using the 2006 International Building Code (IBC) and the International Fire Code (IFC) as the base document. The California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24, Part 9, California Fire Code, contains fire safety related building standards. CCR Title 24 is also referred to as the California Building Standards Code. The City of Coachella *Municipal Code* Chapter 8.28, Fire Code Adopted, incorporates CCR Title 24, Part 9. The new building codes were adopted and went into effect on January 1st, 2008, based on the 2006 International Fire Code, International Code Council.

LOCAL

City of Coachella Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan

The *City of Coachella Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan July 2007* is the long-range comprehensive Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan document for the City of Coachella. This plan includes the following components:

- Defines the current and future fire-emergency medical protection environment.
- Defines acceptable life and property risk levels.
- Defines the optimal fire protection-emergency medical system which provides the level of service commensurate with the level of accepted risk.
- Establishes policy in advance of change, permitting control of, rather than reaction to, the fire emergency-medical environment.
- Identifies and justifies the resources necessary to develop and operate the fire protection-emergency medical system.¹²

The Riverside County Fire Department implements the *City of Coachella Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan 2007*. This Master Plan identifies present and future operational needs so that

11 City of Coachella Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan, July 2007, Page 5-4.

12 City of Coachella Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan , July 2007.

cost effective programs, budgeting and program solutions may be defined, rather than reacting to an undefined fire-emergency medical problem.

The availability of sufficient on-site water pressure is a basic requirement of the RCFD. The RCFD requires sufficient capacity for fire flow for public hydrants at a minimum fire flow 2,500 gallons per minute (gpm) for multi-family residential development, 4,000 gpm for commercial uses, and 2,500 gpm for heavy industrial.

City of Coachella Municipal Code

Applicable local regulations related to fire protection for the City is contained in the City's *Municipal Code* Chapter 8.28 and Chapter 4.45, Developer Impact Fees.

Chapter 8.28 of the City's *Municipal Code* addresses storage of flammable hazardous and potentially flammable materials. Chapter 4.45 of the City's *Municipal Code* requires developer fees for Public safety capital improvement facilities. Section 4.45.050(D) of the City's *Municipal Code* states the following:

Public safety capital improvement fees will be used to provide the one-time capital expenditures necessary to expand the county sheriff's substation, including a 53.3% share of an anticipated new sheriff's facility that is programmed for the Coachella vicinity, and to provide new Fire Stations and fire apparatus/equipment, for the Riverside County fire department and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection with which the city contracts for fire protection services and the Riverside sheriff's department with which the city contracts for policing services.

Table 4.15-1 lists the City of Coachella's current Development Impact Fees for fire facilities and fire apparatus/equipment based on the type of development land use proposed by a project. Currently, Development Impact Fees for fire facilities and fire apparatus/equipment is a one-time fee of \$1,514 for each dwelling unit and land use units provided in Table 4.15-1.

Table 4.15-1: Public Safety Capital Improvement Developer Impact Fees

Land Use	Unit	One-Time Fee
Residential	Dwelling Unit	\$1,514
Hotel, Motel	Room	\$1,514
Office	1,000 square feet (gross)	\$1,514
Commercial	1,000 square feet (gross)	\$1,514
Restaurant and Gaming	1,000 square feet (gross)	\$1,514
Gasoline	1,000 square feet (gross)	\$1,514
Open Use and Vehicle Sales	Acre	\$1,514

Source: *City of Coachella Municipal Code*, Section 4.45.120, <http://municipalcodes.lexisnexis.com/codes/coachella>.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE SETTING

LAW ENFORCEMENT OVERVIEW

Unincorporated portion of the Planning Area are services by Riverside County Sheriff's Department. Therefore, the Planning Area is under the jurisdiction of both the City of Coachella Police Department and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. The Coachella Police Department would provide service to any unincorporated portions of the Planning Area which are annexed to the City in the future.¹³ Detailed information regarding police protection facilities and police protection services is provided below.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITIES AND STAFFING LEVELS

City of Coachella Police Department

The City of Coachella Police Department operates a substation from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department¹⁴ and is located at 82-695 Doctor Carreon Boulevard. This Department operates out of a single facility with response times of about three minutes for emergency calls. The Department currently has 36 sworn officers and two non-sworn personnel for a total of 38 positions.¹⁵ According to the Department, 24 of these positions are dedicated to the patrol division with the remaining deputies dedicated to special assignments such as the Community Action Team (C.A.T.), a School Resource Officer, along with Gang and Narcotics Enforcement.¹⁶ To provide police services, the Coachella Police Department divides the city into three geographical patrol districts (beats). The Patrol Division of the Department covers an area of over 30 square miles. For the year 2008, the Coachella Police Department responded to over 21,000 calls for service, or approximately 57 calls for service daily.¹⁷

Riverside County Sheriff's Department

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department has been providing contract law enforcement services to the City of Coachella since 1998.¹⁸ The Riverside County Sheriff's Department services portions of the City Planning Area from the Indio Sheriff Station. In 2001, the Sheriff's Department created the Central Homicide Unit. This increased the number of personnel available to investigate homicides. The Central Homicide Unit consists of 16 Investigators, three Sergeants, a Lieutenant, and a Captain. The purpose of this special unit is to conduct homicide and suspicious death investigations. The Coachella Police Department Investigators assist the Central Homicide Unit when needed.¹⁹

The Indio Sheriff Station is located at 82-695 Doctor Carreon Boulevard. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department provides limited service to the unincorporated portions of the Planning Area. The Indio Station services the eastern half of the Coachella Valley including Arabia, Bermuda Dunes, Desert

13 City of Coachella General Plan, adopted 1998.

14 City of Coachella Police Department, accessed at <http://www.coachella.org/FAQ.aspx?TID=14> on February 1, 2012.

15 City of Coachella Police Department, accessed at <http://www.coachella.org/index.asp?NID=104>, on January 31, 2012.

16 City of Coachella Police Department, accessed at <http://www.coachella.org/index.asp?NID=104>, on January 31, 2012.

17 City of Coachella Police Department, accessed at <http://www.coachella.org/index.asp?NID=104>, on January 31, 2012.

18 City of Coachella Police Department, accessed at <http://www.coachella.org/index.asp?NID=74>, on January 31, 2012.

19 City of Coachella Police Department, accessed at <http://www.coachella.org/index.asp?NID=102>, on January 31, 2012.

Beach, Indio Hills, Thermal and portions of the Coachella among other areas including various incorporated cities.²⁰ The Indio Station is located approximately 0.5 miles northwest of the Coachella City limits in the City of Indio. The Station's area of service is divided into "beat areas" and operates on a 24 hour per day basis for response to service calls. Currently, the Indio Station is staffed with 49 Deputy Sheriffs, six Investigators, eight Sergeants, two Lieutenants, one Captain, seven Forensic Technicians, eight Sheriff Service Officers, two Office Assistants, one Accounting Technician, and one Crime Analyst. Of these positions, the unincorporated area is served by 20 Deputy Sheriffs, and a portion of the administrative staff. Support services include Emergency Services, K-9, Forensic Services, Aviation Unit, Hostage Negotiation, Hazardous Device Team, Underwater Recovery Team and other specialized teams. The following services are provided in the field: response to calls, follow-up investigation, limited patrol, and limited traffic control. Response time in the unincorporated area averages about nine minutes for routine calls and eight minutes for emergency calls.²¹

The Indio Jail Facility is located at 46-057 Oasis Street (approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the Coachella City limits) in the City of Indio. This facility is under the command of a shared Sheriff's Captain and is administered under the direction of the Corrections Division Chief.

Plans are underway to construct a new Sheriff's Station at 87-200 Airport Boulevard (approximately 0.5 miles south of the Coachella City limits) in the unincorporated community of Thermal. This new station is anticipated to open in mid-2009. All personnel assigned to serve Coachella would use this new facility, with the exception of the Community Action Team, Traffic Enforcement, and other personnel already assigned to the Coachella Sub-station. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department anticipates the new Sheriff's Station will be able to serve the needs of the Department's current service areas, including the City of Coachella, for 15 years or more.

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department does not have plans for the construction of additional police facilities within the City of Coachella. However, the Sheriff's Department currently includes a request for additional police facility space when new fire facilities are proposed for construction. The requested police facility space includes 200 to 400 square feet of office space with phone and computer lines, an exterior entrance, and interior access to bathroom facilities. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department has requested that police workstations and fire facilities be co-located to enable officers to remain close to their patrol areas for longer periods of time.

LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFFING

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department reviews law enforcement service levels each year in order to find the best balance of need and available revenue. Currently, the Department recommends a service level of 1.2 staff per 1,000 in population. The 1998 adopted Coachella *General Plan 2020* calls for an even higher level of staffing of 1.3 sworn officers per 1,000 residents. As of July 2011, the contract between the Sheriff's Department and the City of Coachella requires the following staffing:

90 patrol service hours per day, which is equivalent to 19 Deputy Sheriff positions at 1,780 annual productive hours per position.

20 County of Riverside Sheriff's Department, accessed at <http://www.riversidesheriff.org/department/> on January 31, 2012.

21 City of Coachella General Plan, adopted 1998.

- 2 Investigators
- 1 Deputy assigned to the Coachella Valley Narcotics Task Force
- 1 Deputy assigned to the Coachella Valley Violent Crime/Gang Task Force
- 1 Sergeant dedicated to the City
- 2 Deputies - Community Action Team.

The staff positions listed above equate to 26 sworn positions and 5 non-sworn support staff. Supervision and investigative support are factored into the rate charged for the deputies and patrol hours. The City of Coachella had a population of 40,704 in 2010 and an anticipated growth rate of 3-4 percent.²² The current staffing level equates to 0.64 sworn officers per 1,000 population.²³ As such, the current service levels do not meet the Sheriff's Department recommendation of 1.3 staff per 1,000 residents²⁴. As more growth occurs within the eastern portion of the City and traffic congestion increases, the Sheriff's Department may seek new facilities and staff beyond those mentioned in the facilities and staff overview above. The main driver for staff or facilities expansion would be a desire to maintain adequate police response times.

Patrol officers serving the Coachella Planning Area are deployed one officer per patrol vehicle. The patrol vehicles utilized are owned by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, but are marked as the Coachella Police Department. These vehicles are maintained by Riverside County Fleet Services at a cost of \$0.85 per mile of actual use, which is charged to the City. This cost includes all emergency and radio equipment, insurance, preventative maintenance, repair, fuel, and even car washes. Traffic enforcement officers drive city-owned enforcement motorcycles. The City insures and maintains these vehicles and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department indemnifies the drivers.

LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TIMES

Table 4.15-2, *City of Coachella Response Times (2002-2007)*, list the average response times for Priority 1, 2, and 3 service calls to the City of Coachella for years 2002 through 2007. Priority 1 calls involve circumstances that pose or did pose a clearly defined threat to human life or property and shall be assigned or the patrol supervisor notified within 60 seconds of receipt by the radio dispatcher. Priority 2 calls involve circumstances of an urgent but not life threatening nature and shall be assigned or the patrol supervisor notified within five minutes of receipt by the radio dispatcher. Priority 3 calls involve circumstances of a non-emergency or past nature and shall be assigned to an available officer as soon as possible.

²² Riverside County Fire and Emergency Services Master Plan.

²³ E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001-2010, with 2000 Benchmark, Sacramento, California. State of California, Department of Finance, September 2011.

²⁴ Riverside County Fire and Emergency Service Master Plan

Table 4.15-2: City of Coachella Response Times (2002-2007)

Year	Priority	Total Calls	Delay Time	Response Time	Total Time
2002	1	254	0.9	4.3	5.2
	2	3,493	4.1	6.1	10.2
	3	4,100	9.1	9.5	18.6
2003	1	252	1.7	4.3	6.0
	2	3,733	4.2	6.2	10.5
	3	4,506	11.3	9.8	21.2
2004	1	248	1.3	4.8	6.1
	2	4,195	4.6	6.9	11.5
	3	4,927	11.1	10.6	21.6
2005	1	269	1.0	4.1	5.2
	2	4,578	4.5	7.6	12.2
	3	4,848	9.9	12.2	22.1
2006	1	321	1.3	5.0	6.3
	2	4,923	5.2	8.2	13.4
	3	5,117	12.2	13.2	25.4
2007	1	279	1	4.6	5.6
	2	5,167	4.6	7.5	12.2
	3	5,160	10.7	11.3	22

SOURCE: Riverside County Sheriff's Department, computer systems data

LAW ENFORCEMENT CRIME STATISTICS

Generally, only certain call types are reportable to California Department of Justice and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These are commonly referred to as Part 1 crimes (i.e. murder, rape robbery, aggravated assault, grand theft auto, larceny, arson). The amount of Part 1 crimes reported in the City of Coachella from 2005 through 2010 is listed in Table 4.15-3, *Crime Comparison: City of Coachella (2005-2010)*. Part 1 crimes are a small portion of the overall call volume. Calls for service include all police services that are requested by the public and police officers that observe crimes. This includes criminal calls of all types; civil disputes that the Sheriff's Department is called on to mitigate; all traffic related issues including moving violations, collisions, parking cites, etc. It also includes alarms, issue with mentally disturbed persons, follow-ups to calls generated previously, and other call types. Some calls may be cancelled prior to being dispatched or before the arrival of the officer. These are still counted because they provide a better indication of call volume handled by the dispatch center. Overall, Part 1 crimes reported within the City of Coachella have increased by approximately 17 percent from the year 2005 to 2010.

Table 4.15-3: Crime Comparison: City of Coachella (2005-2010)

CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 ²⁵
Murder	1	5	2	4	4	2
Rape	13	11	2	6	9	3
Robbery	51	88	73	59	64	74
Assaults (Aggravated)	90	151	225	114	178	114
Burglary	342	392	380	454	479	551
Auto Theft	324	474	750	397	297	405
Larceny-Theft	727	783	430	800	578	667
Arson	8	13	8	12	10	11
TOTAL	1,556	1,917	1,870	1,846	1,619	1,827

SOURCE: Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2012.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROJECTED NEEDS

Calls

Calls to the Coachella Police Department for police services decreased from approximately 21,000 calls in 2008 to approximately 19,000 calls in 2010, which represent an approximately 10 percent decrease. This is compared to an approximately 5 percent population increase during the same period.²⁶ The decrease in services calls over the last three years (2008 to 2010) is detailed in Table 4.15-3, Yearly Service Calls. The Coachella Police Department currently anticipates handling over 20,000 calls for service this year (2007). In addition, the Police Department has implemented a Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) law enforcement system which focuses on problem solving and crime prevention rather than primarily responding to calls and engaging in suppression activities. This system is designed to prevent crime through community involvement.²⁷

²⁵ Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Crime in the United States, Offences Known by Law Enforcement by State by City 2005 through 2010, accessed at <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/>, on January 31, 2012.

²⁶ January Estimate, California State Department of Finance.

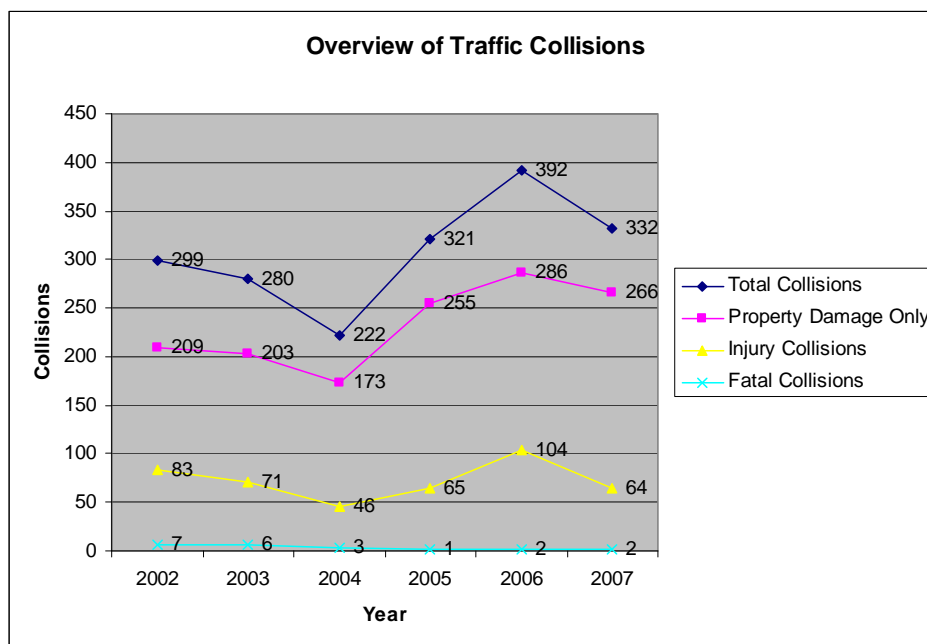
²⁷ The City of Coachella General Plan, adopted 1998.

Table 4.15-4: Yearly Service Calls²⁸

	2008	2009	2010
Priority 1	5.05	4.81	5.68
Number	297	280	293
Priority 2	10.3	8.99	11.51
Number	5,109	5,250	5,106
Priority 3	20.93	15.99	23.16
Number	4,967	4,813	4,784
Total Calls for Service	21,606	21,303	19,029

Traffic Calls

All traffic calls are included in the total service calls listed in Figure 4.15-4, *Yearly Service Calls*, above. Additionally, Figure 4.15-5, *Overview of Traffic Collisions*, has been provided to identify the amount and types of traffic incidents that have occurred within the City of Coachella from years 2002 to 2007. As indicated in the table below, overall traffic collisions within the city have increased by approximately 11 percent. Property damage collisions increased by approximately 27 percent and injury collisions decreased by approximately 22 percent. Fatal collisions decreased by approximately 71 percent.

Figure 4.15-2: Overview of Traffic Collisions²⁹

²⁸ Personal Communication with Clay Hubbard, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, July 12, 2011.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REGULATORY SETTING

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS/PLANS

Other services provided to the City as part of the contract with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department include:

- Special Enforcement Bureau, also referred to as SWAT
- Hostage Negotiations Team
- Forensic Services Unit
- Traffic Reconstruction
- Canine Units with access to Bloodhound Units and Search Units
- Hazardous Device Team, also referred to as the Bomb Team
- Coachella Valley Narcotics Task Force
- Coachella Valley Violent Crime Gang Task Force
- Central Homicide Unit-East
- Aviation Unit
- Underwater Search & Recovery Team, also referred to as the Dive Team
- Desert Search & Rescue
- Sheriff's Mounted Posse
- Explorer Post #503

LAW ENFORCEMENT ADDITIONAL MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

The City of Coachella maintains a formal and an informal mutual aid agreement.³⁰ The City maintains a formal mutual aid agreement with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for law enforcement and emergency services. Since 1960, the Law Enforcement Branch of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services has provided service to law enforcement agencies in California. The State is divided into seven Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Regions, which the Planning Area is located within Region #6. Mutual Aid Region #6 consists of the following counties: Riverside (where the Planning Area is located within), San Bernardino, San Diego, Imperial, Inyo, and Mono. The Sheriff of each County serves as the Operational Area Coordinator. Additionally, one sheriff is elected to serve as the Regional Mutual Aid Coordinator within each mutual aid region.³¹

²⁹ City of Coachella Existing Conditions Report, July 11, 2011.

³⁰ City of Coachella Existing Conditions Report Law Enforcement, July 7, 2011.

³¹ Ibid.

The City of Coachella maintains an informal mutual aid agreement with the Indio, Palm Springs, and Desert Hot Springs Police Departments for law enforcement and emergency services. These Police Departments work closely together on a day-to-day basis in order to assist each other with law enforcement activities, including investigations.³²

In addition, the previously adopted *General Plan 2020* policy required the City to develop an Emergency Preparedness Plan to better facilitate the distribution and coordination of the City's resources (i.e., police, fire, paramedic, etc.) on the local, regional, and State level (if necessary) during an emergency situation.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS

A need was identified for additional law enforcement among particular school sites within the Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD). The Riverside County Sheriff's Department contracts its services to CVUSD. The Sheriff Department agreed to provide a total of two deputies to the serve the CVUSD as follows:

- One Deputy assigned to Coachella Valley High School
- One Deputy assigned to Desert Mirage High School (responsibility also includes Toro Canyon Middle and Las Palmitas Elementary)

Sheriff Deputies assigned to CVUSD schools are known as School Resource Officers. Sheriff Deputies are assigned to the CVUSD on a full-time basis consisting of eight-hour workdays throughout the school year. Their duties include class presentations relevant to law enforcement issues, patrol school campuses, investigate crimes, maintain order on campuses, counsel students and their parents, and serve as a liaison at school sites. Additionally, School Resource Officers serve a liaison role for the School Attendance Review Boards, educators employed by the CVUSD, the Probation Department and other law enforcement officials.

LIBRARIES ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE SETTING

LIBRARIES OVERVIEW

This section identifies the library system that serves the Planning Area, describes the current staff levels, hours of operation, funding, and library programs/plans. Information in this section is based on communication with representatives from the Riverside County Library System and the Riverside County Library System.

LIBRARY FACILITIES

The Riverside County Library System provides library services to the City of Coachella. Participation in the Riverside County Library System enables library users to access all libraries within the system, which includes 33 libraries and two bookmobiles. Residents of California can obtain a free Riverside County Library System card and have full access to library resources. Currently, non-residents of California can obtain a library card for an annual fee of \$10.

³² Ibid.

The Coachella Library branch, located at 1538 Seventh Street in the City of Coachella, is the only public library located within the City's boundaries. The Coachella Library facility includes a 3,000 square-foot building housing approximately 28,300 items. The Coachella Library branch currently operates from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. This facility is closed Friday and Sunday. Nearby library facilities that also serve the area include the Mecca Library, located at 65250 Coahuilla in the City of Mecca, and the La Quinta Library, located at 78-080 Calle Estado in the City of La Quinta.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND PLANS

The Coachella Library Branch operates a free Literacy Program for English speaking adults. The library also provides opportunities for volunteers to tutor adult learners in the Literacy Program.

Many branches of the Riverside County Library System library system offer programs for children and adults, specifically tailored to Latino residents, including bilingual story hours, English as a Second Language classes, cultural programs, author talks, computer classes, and other instructional resources. The library system offers Spanish and bilingual books at every branch in the system. Available books include fiction, children's picture books, and non-fiction books in subjects that range from gardening to health to art to home improvement. Thousands of new Spanish language books have been added to the library system's collection in the 2006. Online resources are also available for library cardholders, such as Cumbre (an online encyclopedia in Spanish) and Informe (a collection of full-text journals and magazines in Spanish).

The BookLetters® is a new service provided by the Riverside County Library System. BookLetters offers book reviews and information on hundreds of authors, which is accessible online. Readers can use this service either at home or at library facilities. BookLetters allows users to discover new authors, access a wide selection of books, and research and meet authors. The BookLetters website spotlights books for teen, children, audiobooks, book clubs choices, and other popular categories.

Additionally, the Riverside County Library System offers family storytelling events at library branches outside the Coachella City Limits and Planning Area, at the Indio, Mecca, and Desert Springs Riverside County Library branches.

LIBRARIES REGULATORY SETTING

There are no Federal or State policies that are directly applicable to library services within the Planning Area.

LOCAL

City of Coachella Municipal Code

Section 4.45.050(B) of the *City of Coachella Municipal Code* requires developer fees for library facilities to be used for the land acquisition and construction costs of a public library facility as part of the Riverside County Library System, to serve the new residential development in the City. Table 4.15-5, Library Developer Impact Fees, list the City of Coachella's current Development Impact Fees for library facilities based on the type of development land use proposed by a project. Currently, Development Impact Fees are only assessed for residential development projects at a cost of \$298 per dwelling unit.

Table 4.15-5: Library Developer Impact Fees

Land Use	Unit	One-Time Fee
Residential	Dwelling Unit	\$298
Hotel, Motel	Room	0
Office	1,000 square feet (gross)	0
Commercial	1,000 square feet (gross)	0
Restaurant and Gaming	1,000 square feet (gross)	0
Gasoline	1,000 square feet (gross)	0
Open Use and Vehicle Sales	Acre (one)	0

SOURCE: *City of Coachella Municipal Code*, Section 4.45.130, <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=16080>, accessed February 1, 2012.

PARKS AND RECREATION ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE SETTING

PARKS AND RECREATION OVERVIEW

Parks and recreational facilities provide residents, visitors and the community with both passive and active recreational benefits. Within the City of Coachella, there are traditional parks, schools parks, recreational facilities, additional recreational services and trails. The Coachella Valley Recreation and Park District (CVRPD) provide park and recreational services for the City. CVRPD administers recreational programs within City-owned parks. Figure 4.15-3, *City of Coachella Parks*, illustrates the location of parks located within the City.

The City of Coachella is currently experiencing a deficiency in parkland, community trails and recreational facilities. There are no regional parks located within the City of Coachella, nor are there any recreational trails or bike trails located within the Planning Area.

CITY OF COACHELLA PARKLAND

Currently there are seven public parks and one tot lot located within the City of Coachella, totaling approximately 60.2 acres. Table 4.15-6, *City of Coachella Parks*, identifies the location, acreage, type of park, and amenities at each park within the City.

Table 4.15-6: City of Coachella Parks

Name	Location	Acres	Type Park	Amenities
Bagdouma Park	84-620 Bagdad Avenue	34.3	Community	7 baseball/softball fields, 3 soccer/football fields, several basketball courts, gym, swimming pool, pavilion, playground, picnic tables, benches, and blenchers
De Oro Park	Avenida De Oro, between 50 th Avenue and Avenida del Parque	4.0	Neighborhood	1 baseball/softball field, 2 soccer/football fields, playground, picnic tables
Dateland Park	Shady Lane, between Bagdad Avenue and Cario Street	4.0	Neighborhood	Skate park, water play spray park, Children's playground, park lawn, exercise path, tables, picnic shelters, canopies.
Sierra Vista Park	Tyler Street, between Calle Mendoza and 50 th Avenue	2.6	Mini-park	1 baseball/softball field, 1 basketball court, and playground
Shady Lane Park	Shady Avenue and 52 nd Avenue	1.0	Mini-park	Picnic tables
Tot lot	53 rd Avenue and Calle Empalme	0.2	Tot lot	Playground
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park	4 th Street, between Street and Vine Avenue	1.5	Mini-park	Swimming pool, playground, picnic tables, benches, and blenchers
Ye'we'vichem Park	Agua Caliente Street, between Calhou and 48 th Avenue	0.6	Special Use	Small monument and benches
Rancho Las Flores Park	48350 Van Buren St	12	Community Park	Soccer fields, Picnic shelters, Basketball court, playground
Total Parkland		60.2		

SOURCE: *Draft City of Coachella, California, Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, prepared by PlaySafe, LLC Recreational Consulting and Services, 2006.

Regional Parks

Regional parks include large and unique facilities, such as a public amphitheater, equestrian center or sports complex, and serve residents throughout the region. A regional park can also include undeveloped open space that preserves habitat for animals and plants, along with a trail system that provides limited public access. Regional parks are typically between 100 and 200 acres, or larger, depending on the intended use of the park and the area the park would serves.

There are no regional parks located within the City of Coachella. The City of Coachella is located within the County of Riverside. Riverside County maintains 35 regional parks, encompassing roughly 23,317 acres. The County of Riverside incorporates a wide range of open space, parks and recreational areas.

The parks and recreational areas within the County also serve residents and visitors in the County, as well as in the desert, mountain and Colorado River regions.³³

Open space and recreation areas within the County are intended to offer residents and visitors recreational opportunities and provide a buffer between urbanized areas.³⁴ Regional parks located near the City of Coachella include the following: Canal Pierce Regional Park is located near Pierce Street and 54th Avenue, within the City Planning Area and just southeast of the City limits. In addition, Coral Mountain Regional Park is located southwest of the Planning Area, on 58th Avenue by Lake Cahuilla County Park in the City of La Quinta. Lake Cahuilla County Park, is a regional park containing approximately 710 acres of open space and campgrounds, and offers patrons hiking trails, swimming pools, showers, restrooms, picnic facilities, and access to Lake Cahuilla³⁵.

Community Parks

Community parks generally range from 20 to 50 acres and are intended to serve as active and passive recreation to patrons within a reasonable distance in the City. Amenities at community parks can vary but often contain extensive landscaping, natural areas, and multipurpose playfields. Community parks often provide on-site parking for residents and visitors. As shown in Table 4.15-6, City of Coachella Parks, the 34.3-acre Bagdouma Park is the only community park located within the City of Coachella. The purpose of community parks, specifically the Bagdouma Park is to provide space for organized sports leagues, community gatherings, and special facilities such as swimming pools, gymnasiums and community gardens. This community park is located in areas that are easily accessible from surrounding neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are generally use active recreation parks designed to service the needs of a neighborhood within a community. Neighborhood parks can typically range in size from two to 20 acres and are generally accessible by residents and community members given their proximity to the park. Typically, these parks contain active recreation features such as multipurpose playfields, game courts, and open turf areas. The De Oro Park and Dateland Park are the only two neighborhood parks located within the City of Coachella. Both parks are four acres in size, which provides a total of eight acres in neighborhood parks Citywide. Neighborhood parks are designed primarily to serve the local area adjacent to them and can vary in size depending on the amenities available.

Mini-parks

Mini parks are designed for more passive recreational activities and can contain play apparatus, benches and landscaped area. The Mini-parks located within the City of Coachella includes Sierra Vista Park, Shady Lane Park, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park and provide a total of 5.1 acres Citywide. Additionally, Ye'we'veichem Park is a 0.6-acre special use park that includes bench seating and a small dirt monument.

33 County of Riverside, General Plan, Multipurpose Open Space Element, October 2003.

34 County of Riverside, General Plan, Multipurpose Open Space Element, October 2003.

35 County of Riverside, Parks, <http://www.rivcoparks.org/parks/lake-cahuilla/lake-cahuilla-recreation-area-home/>

Tot Lots

“Tot lots” are typically small in size and have limited amenities such as sandboxes and playground equipment. The City of Coachella contains one tot lot located at 53rd Avenue and Calle Empalme. This tot lot encompasses approximately 0.2 acres.

CITY AREAS SERVED OR UNDERSERVED

There is a general lack of parkland in the northwest and southwest portion of the City of Coachella. Recent single-family residential development projects were not required to provide parkland. Currently, there is a total of approximately 60.2 acres of parkland within the City of Coachella. As of April 1, 2010, the City of Coachella had a total population of 40,704 persons.³⁶ Based on the City’s parkland standard of three acres per 1,000 in population, the City needs a total of approximately 122.11 acres of parkland to adequately serve the community. As such, the City is currently deficient by approximately 61.91 acres in parkland.

RECENTLY COMPLETED AND FUTURE PLANNED PARKS

The Shadow View Specific Plan of 2006 (SP) contains the design, development and use standards for the approximately 529 acre project site. The project could expand the Planning Area’s park land by 0 to 120 acres.³⁷ The developer of Shadow View Specific Plan project would provide the parkland to the City, and the City in turn would then develop the five acres park site.

The City of Coachella has recently completed two additional parks within the Planning Area, Bagdouma Park and Dateland Park. The \$4 million Bagdouma Park 100-acre expansion was completed in early 2013, and offers a community meeting space, pool, baseball field, softball fields, and soccer fields³⁸. Dateland park offers a number of recreation services including skateboarding facilities, play structure, and restrooms.

The City is also in the process of expanding Rancho Los Flores Park to increase park space by 29 additional acres. Additionally, the Coachella Valley Recreation and Park District Master Plan proposes future park sites, to include both a regional and a community park. The regional park would be approximately 150 acres and located northeast of Interstate 10 and Dillon Road. The community park would be ten to 30 acres and located along the western city limit near 54th Avenue.³⁹

PLANS FOR TRAIL SYSTEM

The Coachella Valley Community Trails Alliance, with funding from the County of Riverside Department of Health, is presently implementing measures to develop a regional trail system, and is developing an Urban Trails and Bikeways map for the entire Coachella Valley. CVCTA envisions a regional trail system that will connect the entire Coachella Valley. Many communities throughout the country provide

36 E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001-2010, with 2000 Benchmark, Sacramento, California. State of California, Department of Finance, September 2011.

37 The Shadow View Specific Plan 2006. Page 4-11

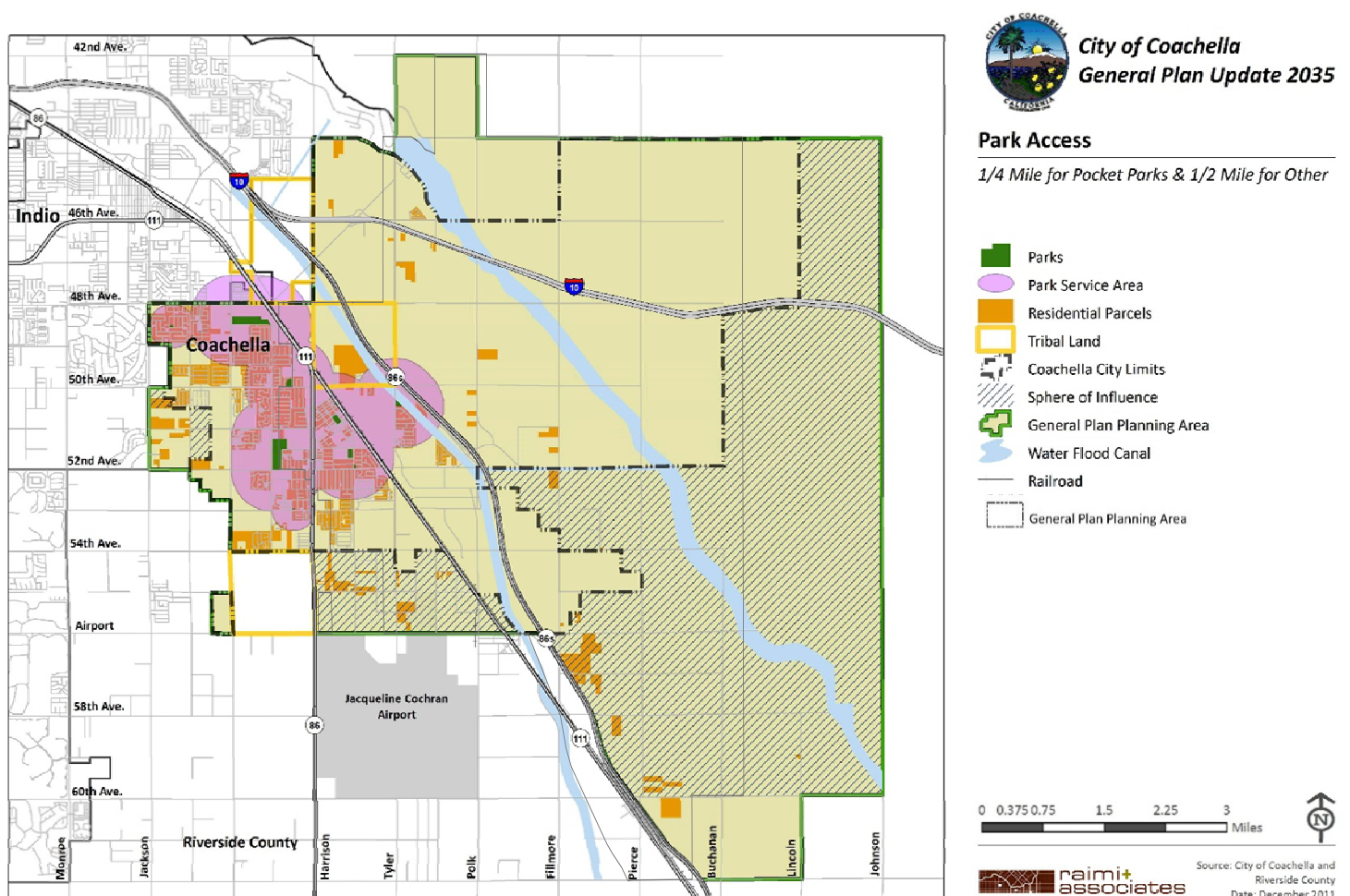
38 Personal communication with Mr. Gordon Fisher, the Construction Manager for the City of Coachella. He referenced the Change Order Accounting logs for Bagdouma Park and Dateland Park for financial data. September 25, 2008. 760-398- 3502 EXT 174.

39 The Coachella Valley Recreation & Park District Master Plan adopted in 2002. Page 54.

off-road corridors for recreation and non-motorized transportation. The development of a Whitewater Channel Trail has been in discussion, and will be implemented by the CVCTA. The Whitewater Channel and the Coachella Canal will serve as a network for an extensive linear parkway system, which will link Palm Springs to the Salton Sea and all the communities in between. It will include connections to The College of the Desert current and proposed campuses, the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, Lake Cahuilla, on-road cycling routes, parks, hiking and equestrian trailheads, schools and entertainment districts. Parks adjacent to the trails will provide parking and serve as trailheads.

In addition, the Coachella Valley Recreation and Park District & Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District held a Public Trails meeting in October 2008 with the Dangermond Group, a trail planning consultant to designate additional local trail connectors.

Figure 4.15-3 City of Coachella Parks



SCHOOL PARKS

There are a number of parks and recreation resources available for students in the Coachella Unified School District (CVUSD) during school hours and to the general public after school, evenings, weekends and summers. However, the availability of these resources to the general public is on a site-specific basis and accessibility can be limited. Table 4.15-7, School Parks, provides a list of school sites and amenities within and surrounding Coachella.

Table 4.15-7: School Parks

School	Location	Amenities
Bobby Duke Elementary	85-358 Bagdad Avenue City of Coachella	7 baseball/softball fields, playground, volleyball area, shade structures, and benches
Cesar Chavez Elementary	49-601 Avenida De Oro City of Coachella	1 soccer field fields, 1 baseball/softball field, playground, basketball courts, shade structure, and benches
Cahuilla Desert Academy (Middle School)	82-489 Avenue 52 City of Thermal	Track and football field, basketball courts, and fitness course
Coachella Valley High School	83-800 Airport Road City of Thermal	Gymnasiums, track field, football field, soccer field, baseball/softball fields, multi-use/tennis courts, playground, and child care facility with playground equipment and indoor swimming pool
Palm View Elementary	1390 Seventh Street City of Coachella	Large ball field, basketball courts, shade structures and benches. This is a Head Start/Day Care facility.
Peter Pendleton Elementary	84-750 Calle Rojo City of Coachella	1 soccer field, 1 baseball/softball field, fields, 1 basketball court, playgrounds, and shade structure with benches
Valle del Sol Elementary	51-433 Education Way City of Coachella	1 baseball/softball field, 1 indoor gymnasium, 6 basketball courts, 2 volleyball courts, and playground
Valley View Elementary	85-270 Valley Road City of Coachella	1 open field, 6 basketball courts, playground, and shade structure with benches

SOURCE: *Draft City of Coachella, California, Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, prepared by PlaySafe, LLC Recreational Consulting Services, 2006.

CITY OF COACHELLA RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Recreational facilities located within the City, its SOI and Planning Area includes the Coachella Valley Boxing Club, Jack Delgado Karate Club, and Eleanor Shadowen Senior Citizen Center. The City of Coachella contracts with the Coachella Valley Boxing Club and leases the indoor boxing club and fitness facility at the located at 51303 Douma Street. This previously 5,849 square feet fitness facility has undergone a 4,000 square foot expansion. The City of Coachella also leases two City-owned classrooms, located at 1538 7th Street, to the Jack Delgado Karate Club. Additionally, the City owns and operates the Eleanor Shadowen Senior Citizen Center located at 1540 7th Street in downtown.

Non-governmental organizations also offer recreational programs and services for the Planning Area. These organizations include the Boys and Girls Club of Coachella, the Esperanza Youth and Family

Center, churches, and Parent-led Sports Programs. The Boys and Girls Club of Coachella is located at 85350 Bagdad Avenue in the City of Coachella. The Esperanza Youth and Family Center is located at 1536 Seventh Street in the City of Coachella.

CITY OF COACHELLA ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL SERVICES

The Coachella Valley Boxing Club provides supervised boxing instruction and offers competition events, free of charge to City residents. Karate classes at the Jack Delgado Karate Club are available Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. for children ages five and up.

Eleanor Shadowen Senior Citizen Center offers program activities in the mornings and “open time” and free choice activities in the afternoons Monday through Friday. All services provided at the Senior Center are free for City residents. Activities at this facility include: bingo, ceramics, chorus, exercise, sewing, health checkups, guest speakers, karate club, and hot lunches. There is a large lunchroom, which is used for activities, and a second large room used for arts and crafts activities. Services provided at the Senior Center are as follows:

- Services Assistance
- Information/Referral
- Translation
- Home Visiting
- Recreation
- Notary
- Physical Fitness/Exercise
- Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Program
- Health Screening
- Nutrition Program

PARKS AND RECREATION REGULATORY SETTING

FEDERAL

There are no Federal policies that are directly applicable to parks and recreational services and facilities within the Planning Area.

STATE

Proposition 12 (The Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000) provides funds to preserve open space and repair and improve safety of neighborhood parks in the State of California. The City of Coachella utilizes funds from Proposition 12.

Proposition 40 (The California Clean Water, Clean Air, and Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002) allows California to continue to acquire, develop, restore and protect parkland, following Proposition 12. The City of Coachella utilizes funding from Proposition 40.

The Quimby Act, California Government Code § 66477, allows cities and counties to require, as a condition of approval of a subdivision, the dedication of land or the payment of a in-lieu fee dedication,

or a combination of both, for park or recreational purposes at a minimum of three acres per 1,000 population. In-lieu fee credit can be given for parkland, but not open space. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities. The goal of the Quimby Act was to require developers to help mitigate the impacts of property improvements. The Quimby Act gives lead agencies the authority only to cities and counties to create land dedication ordinances. Special districts must work with cities and/or counties to receive parkland dedication and/or in-lieu fees. The fees must be paid and land conveyed directly to the local public agencies that provide park and recreation services community-wide.

LOCAL

Over the past few years, several state and local policies have been approved to improve parks and recreational services available statewide and for the City of Coachella Planning Area. These policies include Proposition 12, Proposition 40, the City of Coachella Quimby Ordinance 868, Developer Impact Fees (*City of Coachella Municipal Code* Chapter 4.45), and Lighting and Landscape Districts (LLDs) (refer to discussion above for Positions 12 and 40). Additionally, general bonds and other funding programs/grants are available for parkland development and/or improvements.

The City of Coachella Quimby Ordinance 868 requires the dedication of land or the payment of fees in lieu thereof, or a combination of both, for park and recreational purposes as a condition of the approval of a tentative map or parcel map. This ordinance establishes the City's parkland standard of three acres per 1,000 population.

The *City of Coachella Municipal Code* Chapter 4.45, Development Impact Fees, was established in part in order to implement the goals and objectives of the City's General Plan and applicable specific plans by accommodating the need for public facilities and mitigate financial and physical impacts for all development projects within the City. In accordance with the City's *Municipal Code* Chapter 4.45, public parks facilities must be constructed, installed, and paid for or financed. (please see Table 4.15-8).

Table 4.15-8: Parks Improvement Developer Impact Fees

Land Use	Unit	One-Time Fee
Residential	Dwelling Unit	\$3,541
Hotel, Motel	Room	0
Office	1,000 square feet (gross)	0
Commercial	1,000 square feet (gross)	0
Restaurant and Gaming	1,000 square feet (gross)	0
Gasoline	1,000 square feet (gross)	0
Open Use and Vehicle Sales	Acre	0

SOURCE: *City of Coachella Municipal Code*, Section 4.45.130, <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=16080>, accessed February 1, 2012.

Section 4.45.050(C) of the *City of Coachella Municipal Code* requires Developer Impact Fees for park improvement to be used to ensure that City parkland dedicated pursuant to the City's Quimby Act

requirement of three acres per 1,000 population, or otherwise, will be improved with the financial resources provided by this development impact fee in addition to those of the CVPRD. Typical park improvements include turf, fields, fencing, play apparatus, lighting, restrooms and parking. Currently, Development Impact Fees for park improvement are only assessed for residential development projects at a cost of \$3,541 per dwelling unit.

Lighting and Landscape Districts (LLDs) are areas within the City of Coachella that receive services in direct proportion to a special fee assessed to that district. The City has approved the use of LLDs to assist in funding public services. The City pays some park maintenance fees through LLD funds, while other park funding comes out of the General Fund.

General Obligation Bonds allow government entities to borrow money for major improvements needed and requires that the money be paid back over a period of years. A tax is levied on all taxpayers, on their taxable property, using the taxable property of the governmental body as security for the repayment of the debt. The obligation is spread over all community residents through an increased tax for the period of time that the bond repayment is in effect. General obligation bonds are voted for by registered voters at a special or general election and are a common method of funding major acquisition and development projects.

Coachella Park Master Plans

The City of Coachella has an adopted Park Master Plan, adopted in 2002, intended to guide Coachella's parks and recreation system from 2002 through 2010. However, the City has prepared a *Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, intended to cover the years 2006 to 2011. The plan contains a detailed catalogue of the park infrastructure in the City of Coachella, as well as a prioritized Implementation Plan for parks and recreation facilities in the City. Though it calls for new park development, the plan does not suggest specific locations for new parks. The following list provides a summary of suggestions for the City.

High Priority

- Improvement of existing parks
- New park development
- Creation and implementation of developer guidelines
- Implementation of the Quimby Act requirements

Medium Priority

- Provision of baseball/softball fields
- Provision of soccer/football fields
- Development of pedestrian linkages to connect parks

Low Priority

- New community center
- Swimming pool
- Tennis courts
- Basketball courts and volleyball courts

No Action

- Golf course

Coachella Valley Recreation and Park District: Coachella Valley System-Wide Park Plan 2004-2014

The Coachella Valley Recreation and Park District (CVRPD) has developed the Coachella Valley System-Wide Park Plan 2004-2014, which takes a regional approach to assessing the need for parks in the Coachella Valley, and recognizes that many residents outside the City will use park facilities. The CVRPD recommends concentrating on the southern part of the Coachella Valley, which includes the City of Coachella, and needs to implement an additional seven community parks, 10 neighborhood parks, three regional parks, and four special use parks in the next five years to the Coachella Valley area. The most immediate necessity is the development of larger community parks. However, the CVRPD is primarily a service provider and facility operator, and generally waits for parks to be built by other agencies and then provides services at those parks.

SCHOOLS ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE SETTING

SCHOOLS OVERVIEW

There are two unified school districts within the Planning Area, Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) and Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD). Together they provide primary, secondary, and high school education services to residents of Coachella Valley. In addition, there are several local colleges available to meet the educational needs of the approximately 40,000 residents. Coachella Valley has planned the construction of several additional schools at different levels to accommodate the growth in local population.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Coachella Valley Unified School District

The majority of the Planning Area is located within the jurisdiction of the CVUSD; refer to Figure 4.15-4. The CVUSD serves the City of Coachella, portions of Indio and La Quinta, as well as the unincorporated communities of Thermal and Mecca. As of the 2010-2011 school year, CVUSD had a total enrollment of 18,464 students with a capacity for 17,642 students, which includes temporary portable classrooms (excluding alternative/continuation schools). Some of the schools within the CVUSD have not reached capacity. However, thirteen schools within the CVUSD exceed capacity by a total of 1,562 students. The Table 4.15-9 below identifies the existing enrollment and capacity of each school in the CVUSD (excluding alternative/continuation schools).

In addition to the public schools, CVUSD provides alternative education opportunities at La Familia Continuation High School, located at 56-615 Olive Street in Thermal, and serves students 16 years of age or more in grades 10-12. This school has a total enrollment of 110 students with a capacity for 127 students.⁴⁰ The other alternative educational opportunity was EL Camino Alternative Education School, located at 87-069 Church Street in Thermal; however, the school was closed due to budget cuts.

⁴⁰ Ed-Data <http://www.ed->

[data.k12.ca.us/App_Resx/EdDataClassic/fsTwoPanel.aspx?#!bottom=/_layouts/EdDataClassic/profile.asp?tab=0&level=06&Repo](http://data.k12.ca.us/App_Resx/EdDataClassic/fsTwoPanel.aspx?#!bottom=/_layouts/EdDataClassic/profile.asp?tab=0&level=06&Repo rtNumber=16&County=33&fyr=1011&District=73676)
rtNumber=16&County=33&fyr=1011&District=73676 accessed February 2, 2012.

Table 4.15-9: CVUSD Enrollment and School Capacity

School and Location	Grade	Enrollment	Capacity	Difference
Elementary School				
Cesar Chavez 49-601 Avenida De Oro Coachella, CA 92236	K-6	895	986	-91
Coral Mountain Academy 57-375 Van Buren Street Coachella, CA 92236	K-6	890	632	+258
John Kelley 87-163 Center Street Thermal, CA 92274	K-6	619	560	+59
Las Palmitas 86-150 66 th Avenue Thermal, ca 92274	K-6	680	915	-235
Mecca 65-250 Coahuilla Mecca, CA 92254	K-6	816	697	+119
Mountain Vista 49-750 Hjorth Street Indio, CA 92201	K-6	995	1,103	-108
Oasis 88-775 76 th Avenue Thermal, CA 92274	K-6	681	679	+2
Palm View 1390 Seventh Street Coachella, CA 922.36	K-6	668	610	+58
Peter Pendleton 84-750 Calle Rojo Coachella, CA 92236	K-6	715	781	-66
Saul Martinez 65-705 Johnson Street Mecca, CA 92254	K-6	1,073	1,000	+73
Sea View 2381 Shore Hawk Salton City, CA 92275	K-6	512	499	+13
Valle del Sol 51-433 Education Way Coachella, CA 92236	K-6	691	611	+80
Valley View 85-270 Valley Road Coachella, CA 92236	K-6	770	854	-84
Westside 82-255 Airport Boulevard Thermal, CA 92274	K-6	628	575	+53
Elementary Total		10,633	10,502	+131
Middle School				
Bobby Duke 85-358 Bagdad Avenue Coachella, CA 92236	7-8	721	408	+313
Cahuilla Desert Academy 82-489 52 nd Avenue Coachella, CA 92236	7-8	868	1,192	-324
Toro Canyon 86-150 66 th Avenue Thermal, CA 92274	7-8	1,002	1,012	-10
Middle Total		2,591	2,612	-21

Table 4.15-9 (continued)
CVUSD Enrollment and School Capacity

School and Location	Grade	Enrollment	Capacity	Difference
High School				
Desert Mirage 86-150 66 th Avenue Thermal, CA 92274	9-12	1,936	1,636	+300
Coachella Valley 83-800 Airport Boulevard Thermal, CA 92274	9-12	2,722	2,525	+197
West Shores 2381 Shore Hawk Salton City, CA 92275	9-12	404	367	+37
High School Total		5,062	4,528	+534
CVUSD School Total		18,286	17,642	+644

NOTES: All enrollment totals include regular and special education. Alternative/continuation schools are omitted from this table.

SOURCE: Ed-Data, http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/App_Resx/EdDataClassic/fsTwoPanel.aspx?#bottom=/_layouts/EdDataClassic/profile.asp?fy=1011&county=33&district=73676&school=3330354&Level=07&reportNumber=16 accessed February 2, 2012.

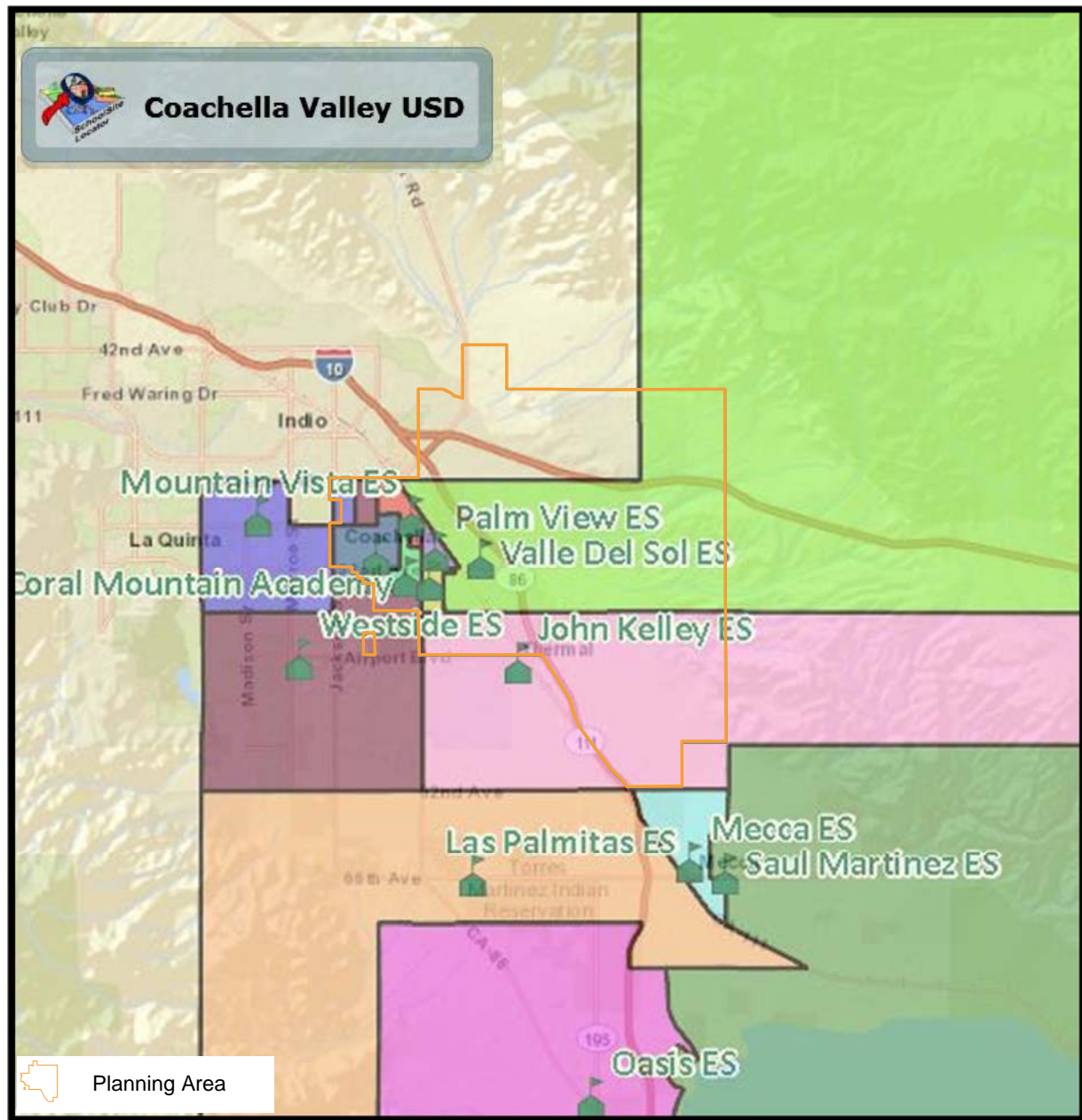
DESERT SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The north and northwest portion of the Planning Area is located within the jurisdiction of the Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD); refer to Figure 4.15-5 on page 2-6. In general, DSUSD jurisdictional boundaries encompass the area north of 48th Avenue and west of Fillmore Street. DSUSD boundaries also include the areas north of 20th Avenue between Jackson Street and Van Buren Street, and the area south of 48th Avenue and west of Jefferson Street. The Planning Area is served by Dwight Eisenhower Elementary, Woodrow Wilson Middle, and Indio High Schools within the DSUSD. As of October 23, 2007, the schools serving the Planning Area had a total enrollment of 3,254 students with a capacity of 4,112 students, which includes temporary portable classrooms. As such, presently none of these schools exceed capacity and there is space for 858 new students. Table 4.15-10 below identifies the existing enrollment and capacity of each school within the DSUSD that serves the Planning Area.

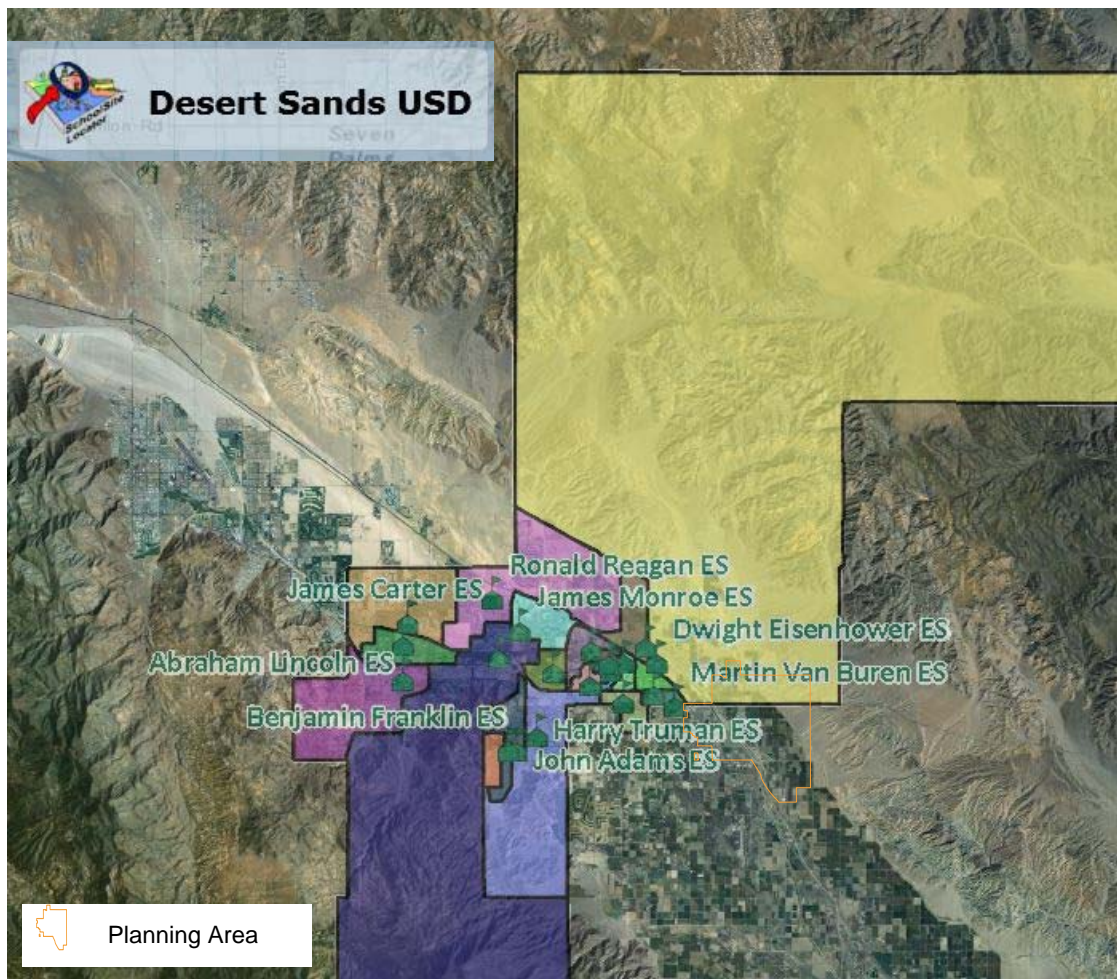
FUTURE SCHOOL FACILITIES

North Shores Elementary would be located near Arthur Street and 70th Avenue and would serve kindergarten to 6th grade. Development of this school is currently in the planning phase and the anticipated opening date cannot be determined at this time. The third new school facility planned would be located near Monroe and 49th Avenue and would serve 7th to 12th grades. Development of this unnamed school facility is currently in the planning phase and the anticipated opening date cannot be determined at this time.

No new campuses are planned by Desert Sands Unified School District.

Figure 4.15-4 Coachella Unified School District⁴¹

⁴¹ Coachella Unified School District http://www.coachella.k12.ca.us/parents__students/school_site_locator

Figure 4.15-5 Desert Sands Unified School District Map⁴²

42 School Site Locator Online <http://www.schoolsiteonline.com/schoolsitelocator/?districtCode=83763>

HIGHER EDUCATION

Opportunities for higher education nearby the Planning Area are provided by College of the Desert, California State University of San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus, Chapman University's Coachella Valley Campus and University of Riverside's satellite campus. Financial aid may be available at each of these schools for students that qualify.

College of the Desert is located at 43-500 Monterey Ave in the City of Palm Desert. College of the Desert is a "two-year" public community college, which offers Certificate and Associate Degree programs. This college provides lower division academic, vocational, and basic skills education. Lower division courses may be completed at College of the Desert prior to transferring to a university that offers Bachelor Degrees.

Due to population growth in the Palm Desert, California area, that College of the Desert (COD) needed to acquire two new campuses. The proposed campuses are located at opposite ends of the Coachella Valley. The East Valley Center campus of College of the Desert is slated to begin the initial phase of construction in September of 2008. The East Valley Center will serve as the focal point and anchor of a 600-acre masterplanned community known as Panorama. The West Valley Center campus is anticipated to begin construction in 2008, as well.

California State University of San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus is located at 43500 Monterey Avenue in the City of Palm Desert. California State University of San Bernardino is a public university. The university's Palm Desert Campus offers upper-division and graduate programs. Students must complete lower division courses at another school prior to transferring to the California State University of San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus.

Chapman University's Coachella Valley Campus is located at 42-600 Cook Street in the City of Palm Desert. Chapman University is a private university and offers Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's Degrees programs, as well as Credential Programs and Graduate Certificates.

SCHOOL FUNDING

New school facilities are funded though development fees paid to local school districts as mitigation for the construction of new residential and commercial/industrial developments, and for residential General Plan amendments based upon a mitigation plan. Development fees are discussed in more detail in Regulatory Framework section below.

California's Governor Jerry Brown has SB 91 changing the existing school funding formula. The new allocation allows additional funding, per student, for schools with 55% or more students who have English as a second language (ESL), or low-income. It is expected to increase funding for programs and core curriculum to applicable schools.

Table 4.15-10: DSUSD Enrollment and School Capacity

School and Location	Grade	Enrollment	Capacity	Difference
Elementary School				
Dwight Eisenhower 83-391 Dillon Avenue Indio, CA 92201	K-5	505	672	-167
Middle School				
Woodrow Wilson 83-501 Dillon Avenue Indio, CA 92201	6-8	452	690	-238
High School				
Indio	9-10	2,297	2,750	-453
DSUSD Schools Serving the Planning Area Total		3,254	4,112	-858

NOTE: All enrollment totals include regular and special education.

SOURCE: Ed-Data http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/App_Resx/EdDataClassic/fsTwoPanel.aspx?#bottom=/_layouts/EdDataClassic/profile.asp?fy=1011&county=33&district=67058&schoo=3333192&Level=07&reportNumber=16 Accessed February 2, 2012.

SCHOOLS REGULATORY SETTING

FEDERAL

There are no specific Federal regulations related to school facilities within the Planning Area.

STATE

California Code of Regulations

The California Code of Regulations, Title 5 Education Code, governs all aspects of education within the State.

Proposition 1A/Senate Bill 50

Proposition 1A/Senate Bill (SB) 50 (Chapter 407, Statutes of 1998) is a school construction measure authorizing the expenditure of State bonds totaling \$9.2 billion through 2002, primarily for modernization and rehabilitation of older school facilities and construction of new school facilities, of which \$2.5 billion is for higher education facilities and \$6.7 billion is for K-12 facilities.

Proposition 1A/SB 50 prohibits local agencies from using the inadequacy of school facilities as a basis for denying or conditioning approvals of any “legislative or adjudicative act involving the planning, use, or development of real property” (Government Code 65996(b)). Additionally, a local agency cannot require participation in a Mello-Roos for school facilities. However, the statutory fee is reduced by the amount of any voluntary participation in a Mello-Roos. A Mello-Roos Community Facilities District (CFDs) allows for financing of public improvements and services. The services and improvements that Mello-Roos CFDs can finance include streets, sewer systems and other basic infrastructure, police protection, fire protection, ambulance services, schools, parks, libraries, museums and other cultural facilities. By law, the CFD is also entitled to recover expenses needed to form the CFD and administer the annual special taxes and bonded debt.

Satisfaction of the Proposition 1A/SB 50 statutory requirements by a developer is deemed to be “full and complete mitigation.” The legislation also recognized the need for the fee to be adjusted periodically to keep pace with inflation. The legislation indicated that in January 2000, and every two years thereafter, the State Allocation Board will increase the maximum fees according to the adjustment for inflation in the statewide index for school construction.

SB 50 establishes three levels of developer fees that may be imposed upon new development by the governing board of a school district depending upon certain conditions within a district. These three levels are described below:

Level 1: Level 1 fees are the base statutory fees. These amounts are the maximum that can be legally imposed upon new development projects by a school district unless the district qualifies for a higher level of funding. Level 1 fees assessed by both the CVUSD and the DVUSD; the amount of these fee varies by land use type and are periodically updated.

Level 2: Level 2 fees allow the school district to impose developer fees in excess of statutory levels, up to 50 percent of certain costs under designated circumstances. The state would match the 50 percent funding if funds are available. Under Level 2, the governing board of a school district may require a developer to finance up to 50 percent of new school construction costs. However, in order to qualify for Level 2 funding the district must satisfy at least two of the following four requirements (post January 1, 2000).

1. Impose a Multi Track Year Round Education (MTYRE) with:
 - At least 30 percent of K-6 enrollment in the high school attendance area on MTYRE for unified and elementary school districts; or
 - At least 30 percent of high school district enrollment on MTYRE; or
 - At least 40 percent of K-12 enrollment on MTYRE within boundaries of the high school attendance area for which the district is applying for funding.
2. Place a local bond measure on the ballot in the last four years that receive at least 50 percent plus one of the votes.
3. District has issued debt or incurred obligations for capital outlay equal to a specified (under Government Code 65995.5(b)(3)(C)) percentage of its local bonding capacity.
4. At least 20 percent of teaching stations within the district are portable classrooms.

Level 2 fees assessed by both the CVUSD; the amount of these fee varies by land use type and are periodically updated. DSUSD does not assess Level 2 fees.

Level 3: Level 3 fees apply if the state runs out of bond funds after 2006, allowing the school district to impose 100 percent of the cost of the school facility or mitigation minus any local dedicated school moneys. Neither the CVUSD nor the DSUSD currently assess Level 3 fees.

To accommodate new students resulting from new development projects school districts may alternatively finance new school facilities through special school construction funding resolutions (e.g., the School Facilities Funding Mitigation Agreement) and/or agreements between developers, the

affected school districts and, occasionally, other local governmental agencies. These special resolutions and agreements often allow school districts to realize school mitigation funds in excess of the developer fees allowed under SB 50.

Proposition 55

Proposition 55 is a school construction measure passed in March 2004 authorizing the sale of approximately \$12.3 billion in bonds to fund qualified K-12 education facilities to relieve overcrowding and to repair older schools. Funds target areas of the greatest need and must be spent according to strict accountability measures. Funds are also used to upgrade and build new classrooms in the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California, to provide adequate higher education facilities to accommodate growing student enrollment. These bonds will be used only for eligible projects. Approximately ten billion dollars will be allocated to K-12 schools, with the remaining \$2.3 billion allocated to higher education facilities.

Department of Education Standards

Education Code Section 17521 and the *California Code of Regulations* (CCR) Title 5 Sections 14001 through 14012, outline the powers and duties of the California Department of Education regarding school sites and the construction of school buildings. School districts seeking state funding must comply with the *Education Code* and CCR Title 5 Sections 14001 through 14012. Site approval from the California Department of Education must be granted before the State Allocation Board will apportion funds. The California Department of Education encourages school districts using local funds to seek the Department's approval to receive the benefit of an objective outside review of potential sites.

The *School Site and Approval Guide* published by the California Department of Education that contains information designed to help school districts (1) select school sites that provide both a safe and a supportive environment for the instructional program and the learning process; and (2) gain state approval for the selected sites. The *School Site and Approval Guide* establish a valid technique for determining acreage for new school development. Rather than assigning a strict student/acreage ratio, this guide provides flexible formulas that permit each district to tailor its ratios as necessary to accommodate its individual conditions. The California Department of Education recommends that a site utilization study be prepared for a potential site, based on these formulas.

The California Department of Education's recommendations for site size can be found in *School Site Analysis and Development*. The 2000 Edition of the *School Site Analysis and Development* published by the California Department of Education assists school districts in determining the amount of land needed to support their educational programs in accord with their stated goals and in accord with recommendations of the California Department of Education.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

In accordance with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would have a significant environmental impact on public services 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
 - Law protection
 - Schools
 - Parks
 - Other public facilities

FIRE PROTECTION

IMPACT STATEMENT

Impact 4.15-1: Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, 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 services?

FIRE PROTECTION SIGNIFICANCE: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT

Fire protection is a service that prevents and protects structures and natural habitats from man-made and natural fires. Fire protection is a public service and serves local boundaries, and regional efforts in the event of emergency services and fires. Fire stations, employees, and volunteers, are all necessary to provide a level of service that will provide quick response times in emergencies. To ensure level of service in an area, there is a need for an adequate ratio of fire stations to population. Development of fire stations provide an increased level of service, but can also cause negative impacts including temporary noise impacts from sirens generated by stations and trucks. Those living within the noise contours of a fire station can experience noise nuisance from sporadic and 24 hour potential from sirens in the event of emergencies. Other potential impacts include traffic congestion in areas surrounding fire stations, and water runoff issues from continuous use of water and natural resource to operate fire station facilities.

Currently the Planning Area is served by two fires stations. Battalion 6 Coachella Fire Station #79 that serves the incorporated City and the City of Indio Fire Department that serves in unincorporated areas of the Planning Area. The existing fire stations have current response time longer than five minutes, and service population ratio of 0.4 firefighter people per 1,000 residents. The requirement for level of

service times is less than five minutes, and a ratio of 1.0 firefighter people per 1,000 residents⁴³. Therefore, the City is current under serving its residents

Lack of level of service is impacted by long response times that, in-turn, create more time for the negative impacts of any given emergency to increase in severity. With a decreased response time for fires, it is more likely that the fire will expand and spread. Spreading fires will increase need for regional aid, temporarily reduce air quality levels, cause permanent damage to more structures, and generate significant negative environmental impacts.

Because the Planning Area does not meet current demands, the growth in population could result in an ever more decreased level of service and a higher demand for increased fire stations throughout the Planning Area. According to the City of Coachella Fire and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan 2007, there is a need for at least three additional fire stations, and these are suggested to be added in the southern and western portion of the Planning Area, where the majority of urban development is anticipated. Development of additional fire stations would place more residents within noise contours and increase potential nuisance of noise and traffic related impacts on businesses, residents, and sensitive receptors. In addition to fire facilities, the CGPU has proposed several policies addressing the sustainable development of all public facilities and serve as an additional measure to ensure reduced impacts from public services including fire protection facilities, these policies are outlined as follows.

Sustainability + Natural Environment

- 2.2 **Passive solar design.** Require new buildings to incorporate energy efficient building and site design strategies for the desert environment that include appropriate solar orientation, thermal mass, use of natural daylight and ventilation, and shading.
- 2.3 **Alternative energy.** Promote the incorporation of alternative energy generation (e.g., solar, wind, biomass) in public and private development.
- 2.11 **Publicly funded buildings.** Require energy conservation as the primary strategy to reduce energy demand in new and renovation projects using public funds.
- 2.14 **Public buildings.** Require that any new building constructed in whole or in part with City funds incorporate passive solar design features, such as daylighting and passive solar heating, where feasible.
- 3.1 **Conservation performance targets – new construction.** Require new construction to exceed the state's Green Building Code for water conservation by an additional 10 percent.

Infrastructure + Public Services

- 1.9 **Land use compatibility.** Ensure public utility facilities are designed to be safe, aesthetically pleasing, and compatible with adjacent uses.

⁴³ City of Coachella Fire and Emergency Master Plan

- 7.8 **Development impacts.** Require new development in the City to mitigate project related impacts to police and fire services.
- 7.10 **Fire service equipment.** Work with the Riverside County Fire Department to ensure adequate fire-fighting and EMS infrastructure, equipment and personnel to provide a high level of fire and emergency medical service in Coachella to meet growing demands.
- 7.11 **Fire service facility improvements.** In coordination with the Riverside County Fire Department and surrounding cities, support the replacement of old and outdated fire facilities with new facilities containing the necessary infrastructure and design features to adequately support fire and emergency functions for the area.
- 7.12 **Fire service response standards.** Work with the Riverside County Fire Department to manage the distribution of fire stations and seek goals of 2.0 personnel per 1,000 population, provide fire protection within a 1.5 mile radius from the fire stations, and five-minute response times.

Noise Element

- 1.1 **Noise Compatibility.** Use the City's Land Use/Noise Compatibility Matrix shown in Figure 10-1 as a guide for planning and development decisions.
- 1.2 **Noise Analysis and Mitigation.** Require projects involving new development or modifications to existing development to implement mitigation measures, where necessary, to reduce noise levels to at least the normally compatible range shown in the City's Land Use/Noise Compatibility Matrix in Figure 10-1. Mitigation measures should focus on architectural features, building design and construction, rather than site design features such as excessive setbacks, berms and sound walls, to maintain compatibility with adjacent and surrounding uses.
- 2.1 **Noise Ordinance.** Minimize noise conflicts between neighboring properties through enforcement of applicable regulations such as the City's noise ordinance.
- 2.2 **Noise Control.** Minimize stationary noise impacts on sensitive receptors and noise emanating from construction activities, private developments/residences, landscaping activities, night clubs and bars and special events.

The CGPU policies propose increased level of service and fire protection facilities along with conscious development and adequate land use allocation to reduce negative impacts to from fire protection facilities. Fire protection facilities provide a public service to the community, and have little variation in impacts from any other public service building. Potential impacts from public services buildings, including fire stations, are reduced through CGPU policies that include sustainable site design, energy conservation efforts, noise compatibility, and development impact review.

Additionally, specific sites of additional facilities have not been determined, and analysis of site specific environmental impacts would be too speculative as the impacts are dependent on surrounding land uses. The CGPU address development to review land use compatibility and has proposed policies to address this strategy. Based on the policies to require the provisions of new facilities, staff, and equipment concurrently with new development implementation of the CGPU would not impact service levels. Additionally, the CGPU policies also address potential environmental impacts of new facilities. Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are necessary.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Impact 4.15-2: 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 law protection?

Significance: Less than significant.

Construction of new, or expansion of, law enforcement facilities would include police stations, and increase in facilities, vehicles, and resource commitment to maintain regulated levels of service. Potential impacts from increased law protection facilities could generate short-term noise and air quality impacts, and possible long-term noise impacts from sirens and facilities operations.

Law protection in the Planning Area is provided by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, and services the City, with limited service to the unincorporated areas of the Planning Area. Law protection operations occur out of the Indio Sherriff's station and cover the eastern portion of the Coachella Valley. The department historically recommends 1.3 staff per 1,000 residents⁴⁴. Currently, Coachella is operating at a service ratio level of 0.64 sworn officers per 1,000 residents creating response times to be roughly three minutes for emergency calls. Therefore, the City is currently underserved.

Increased population within the Planning Area could increase call volumes, events needed law protection services, and would reduce level of service without additional facilities and staff. The development of law protection facilities is proposed to continue to meet growing demands and maintain recommended level of service. Because law protection services benefit the safety and welfare of the Planning Area, the CGPU propose policies that address level of service, and impacts associated with facility development. The CGPU also proposes a well-connected street pattern and would help resolve any potential issues with slower response times. The connectivity of the street pattern development under the CGPU would relieve time and physical barriers for emergency response vehicles and in turn, maintain or increase quality of safety and service levels in the Planning Area. The following policies are from the Sustainability + Natural Environment and Infrastructure + Public Services Element;

Sustainability + Natural Environment

- 2.2 **Passive solar design.** Require new buildings to incorporate energy efficient building and site design strategies for the desert environment that include appropriate solar orientation, thermal mass, use of natural daylight and ventilation, and shading.

⁴⁴ Riverside County Department of Fire and Emergency Service Master Plan

- 2.3 **Alternative energy.** Promote the incorporation of alternative energy generation (e.g., solar, wind, biomass) in public and private development.
- 2.11 **Publicly funded buildings.** Require energy conservation as the primary strategy to reduce energy demand in new and renovation projects using public funds.
- 2.14 **Public buildings.** Require that any new building constructed in whole or in part with City funds incorporate passive solar design features, such as daylighting and passive solar heating, where feasible.
- 3.1 **Conservation performance targets – new construction.** Require new construction to exceed the state’s Green Building Code for water conservation by an additional 10 percent.

Infrastructure + Public Services Element

- 1.9 **Land use compatibility.** Ensure public utility facilities are designed to be safe, aesthetically pleasing, and compatible with adjacent uses.
- 1.10 **Minimized environmental impacts.** Locate and design utilities to avoid or minimize any impact to environmentally sensitive areas and habitats.
- 7.1 **Quality of service.** Provide courteous, responsive and efficient police services.
- 7.2 **Service efficiency.** Strive to continuously improve the performance and efficiency of the police department.
- 7.3 **Service ratio.** To the extent feasible, raise the ratio of police officers to residents to a minimum of 1.3 officers per 1,000 residents, and maintain personnel and facilities in the police department necessary to provide the best response time feasible.
- 7.4 **Serving current and future growth.** The police department will maintain adequate police staffing, performance levels and facilities to serve the existing Coachella population as well as its future growth.
- 7.5 **Review of new development.** Encourage the police department will continue to work with the Community Development Department to review and modify development proposals to incorporate “defensible space” concepts and other public safety design concepts into new development.
- 7.6 **Anti-crime programs.** Develop anti-crime programs and implement them through coordination with schools, neighborhoods, churches and other governmental agencies.
- 7.8 **Development impacts.** Require new development in the City to mitigate project related impacts to police and fire services.

The CGPU proposes increased level of service to 1.3 officers per 1,000 residents, as well as requirements to reduce project related impacts to fire and police services. Development of additional law protection facilities is recommended to go under a development review to assess and mitigate potential negative impacts from the project. Law protection facilities could have negative impacts, without proper planning and development practices, but these facilities also provide a service to ensure the protection of the existing environment and populations. Law protection also focuses on enforcement of other policies aiming to protect the environment, and offer environmental benefits to the Planning Area.

Finally, the CGPU policies propose requirements for ensuring new Police Service is added concurrently with development to ensure new growth does not impact service level. Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are necessary.

SCHOOLS

Impact 4.15-3: 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, or other performance objectives for any schools?

Significance: Less than significant.

Development of schools provide education services to all ages of a population, and can enhance the knowledge and skill set of a given population. Potential impacts from the construction of schools could be short-term air emissions reducing air quality, long term emissions generated by vehicles, and traffic, traveling to and from schools daily, and development design creating negative impacts on surrounding environments.

The Planning Area is served by Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) and Desert Sands Unified School District. 2010/2011 enrollment reached 18,464 students, exceeding the 17,642 student capacity by 1,562. The CVUSD has 14 elementary (K-6) schools, 3 middle schools (7-8) and 3 high schools (9-12). There are currently three CVUSD schools in the planning stages and would increase capacity, however site specific and capacity information is not known.

Based on the population projections under the CGPU, the Planning Area would need additional schools serving all ages. According to the Desert Sand Unified School district comments from the Notice of Preparation of this EIR, the Planning Area will need additional 'interim and permanent school facilities, as well as central administration and support facilities, to serve students in Kindergarten through Grade 12'. (Full comment can be found in Appendix 11.3). The environmental impacts of such facilities could effect a number of issues including, water runoff quality from playground pavement, temporary air quality violations, and changing existing traffic patterns. These issues are addressed in the following policies from the multiple Elements of the CGPU.

Land Use + Community Character

- 8.3 **School location and design.** Work with school districts to size, design and locate schools to better enable students to walk or bicycle to them.

- 10.1 **Required contents of Specific Plans and Planned Developments that implement the subarea Master Plans.** Require that all Specific Plans, Planned Developments, Master Plans and other master-planned community implementation tools include:
 - A plan for the phasing of all off-site infrastructure.
 - A performance schedule for the issuance of building permits based on the concurrent availability of public services and amenities, including parks, schools and other public facilities identified in the entitlement documents.

- A clear statement of the minimum public improvements that will be required as part of the first phase of development.
- A statement of the financing mechanisms that will provide for the ongoing funding and financing of the public facilities of the project. These financing tools should be presented and discussed in the entitlement document implementation plan.

Community Health and Wellness

- 5.4 **Edible school yards.** Partner with schools and other organizations to create “edible school yards” and sustainable gardening programs at public and private schools within Coachella. When feasible, increase access to healthy foods and promote healthy eating by encouraging on-site food swaps, cooking classes and/or selling food at farmers’ markets to provide educational opportunities to learn about farming and selling.
- 8.1 **Joint use with schools.** Create joint-use agreements with Coachella Valley Unified School District to maximize community use of school facilities and expand school use of City park facilities, where appropriate and community space to expand opportunities for physical activity.
- 8.2 **School facilities planning.** Continued use of CVAG cooperative agreement for school-related projects and consult with the School District in the early planning stages of any new park or school to encourage walkable school design and accessible location. The City would prefer to have schools in existing and new neighborhoods that are multi-story with a smaller campus size verses large school campuses that are not accessible for most students.
- 8.3 **Neighborhood schools.** Prioritize new school locations that maximize the number of students who can walk or bike to school over locations that are further away. Consider reducing parking minimums if the school is accessible.
- 8.4 **Existing school and park facilities.** Meet with school districts to explore and establish potential joint-use arrangements.
- 8.5 **Co-locate parks and schools.** Work to acquire park sites adjacent to existing and proposed schools, where possible, and develop these sites as joint use facilities, develop joint use agreements to ensure public accessibility while ensuring safety and security. Provide for sustainable resources to maintain parks.
- 8.6 **Public school capacity.** Coordinate with Coachella Valley Unified School District to provide an adequate number of elementary, middle and high schools for Coachella’s growing population and achieve an equitable distribution of school sites among all socio-economic categories.
- 8.7 **Education impact fees.** Coordinate with the school districts in the assessment of the impact of new development on existing public educational facilities.
- 8.8 **Provision of school sites.** Encourage the dedication of real property, based on the master plan of the applicable school district, for the provision of necessary public educational facilities within a half-mile of each neighborhood.
- 8.9 **Health services.** Encourage and plan for health clinics to open at or near schools.

- 8.10 **School wellness.** Work with school districts and existing community groups to collaborate and support school-based nutrition and physical fitness programs and wellness policies.
- 8.11 **Healthy school siting.** Work with the school district to promote standards to protect students and staff from environmental hazards. Modify zoning to prevent schools and other sensitive receptors from being located near known or expected new stationary sources of air pollution. The specific “safe” distance from a pollution source is dependent on the source and amount of pollution releases; however, a good rule of thumb is at least 500 feet.
- 6.6 **Buffer zones.** Create buffer zones between agricultural and residential areas, schools and other sensitive receptors to protect community members from pesticides and herbicides.
- 6.14 **Proximity to pollution sources.** Avoid locating new sensitive uses such as schools, child-care centers, multifamily housing and senior housing in proximity to sources of pollution (e.g., I-10, truck routes, busy roadways and agricultural land where pesticides and chemical fertilizers are used regularly) and vice versa. Where such uses are located in proximity to sources of air pollution, use building design, construction and technology techniques to mitigate the negative effects of air pollution on indoor air quality. For guidance consult with the South Coast Air Quality Management District, CARB’s Air Quality and Land Use Handbook or other more recent scientific studies or tools.

Sustainability + Natural Environment

- 2.2 **Passive solar design.** Require new buildings to incorporate energy efficient building and site design strategies for the desert environment that include appropriate solar orientation, thermal mass, use of natural daylight and ventilation, and shading.
- 2.3 **Alternative energy.** Promote the incorporation of alternative energy generation (e.g., solar, wind, biomass) in public and private development.
- 2.11 **Publicly funded buildings.** Require energy conservation as the primary strategy to reduce energy demand in new and renovation projects using public funds.
- 2.14 **Public buildings.** Require that any new building constructed in whole or in part with City funds incorporate passive solar design features, such as daylighting and passive solar heating, where feasible.
- 3.1 **Conservation performance targets – new construction.** Require new construction to exceed the state’s Green Building Code for water conservation by an additional 10 percent.

Infrastructure + Public Services

- 1.8 **Joint-use facilities.** Support the development of joint-use water, drainage and other utility facilities as appropriate in conjunction with schools, parks, golf courses and other suitable uses to achieve economy and efficiency in the provision of services and facilities.

- 1.9 **Land use compatibility.** Ensure public utility facilities are designed to be safe, aesthetically pleasing, and compatible with adjacent uses.
- 1.10 **Minimized environmental impacts.** Locate and design utilities to avoid or minimize any impact to environmentally sensitive areas and habitats.

The CGPU policies encourage increased level of service for schools and also propose new facilities to be designed and planned to mitigate potential environmental impacts. Several of the proposed CGPU policies would reduce potential impacts to schools, as well: locating schools next to residential areas to reduce vehicle trips to and from school, co-located parks to create multiple benefits from one facility, edible school yards, and keeping hazardous emissions and materials away from school sites. Additional policies include the development of any public facilities, and propose sustainable design, energy efficiency, and conservation performance targets. Potential impacts from future school development, much like other public facilities, can be reduced using the policies and strategies proposed by the CGPU. The development of schools and supporting administrative facilities within the Planning Area will contribute to broad environmental impacts at a scale that is but a fraction of the entire build-out of the CGPU. In addition, site specific location, design, and capacity have not been determined, and environmental impacts beyond the citywide impacts addressed by this DEIR would be too speculative to determine. Based on the proposed CGPU policies, impacts would be less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are necessary.

PARKS

Impact 4.15-4: 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, or other performance objectives for any parks?

Significance: Less than significant.

Parks offer a community open space and recreation areas, and allow patrons to take part in various outdoor activities. In addition to passive and active open space, some parks also have community centers, meeting rooms, and structures that support community congregation. Development of such parks may cause initial construction impacts, from dust and noise, and long term environmental impacts from maintenance including demand on water, electricity for nighttime lighting, and staff to maintain facilities. The resource demand to maintain parks could lead to negative environmental impacts without proper mitigation or planning.

Currently the Planning Area has 60.2 acres of park, and 109 acres of parkland and open space, offering a number of recreation opportunities including; baseball fields, soccer fields, swimming pools, playgrounds, picnic areas, and basketball court. To maintain these facilities, a commitment of resources are required, including land, to provide this public service to community members. Watering grass removes water from natural sources, electricity to light parks and run equipment needs infrastructure, and land used by parks could either be natural landscaping, or developed structures.

The Planning Area is currently deficient in parkland by 61.91 acres and does not meet the 2010 population's park ratio of three acres of parkland per 1,000 people. Population projections would create a significant need for more parkland to close the deficit and meet the 3 acres/1,000 people ratio.

Under the CGPU the project population of 135,000 will require 394 acres of parkland within the Planning Area, meaning there will be a need for an additional 333.8 acres of parkland. This increase in parkland would provide an adequate level of service, and could potentially cause negative environmental impacts from maintenance of additional parkland. The following policies of the CGPU propose various strategies to increase parklands and open space, and mitigate potential impacts.

Land Use + Community Character

- 2.13 Growth expansion areas.** Identify subareas 12 and 14 as future Growth Expansion Areas. During the time horizon of the General Plan, growth that occurs in these areas shall conform to the following criteria and characteristics.
- Minimum size of proposed development projects must be over 100 acres
 - Residential areas must be developed as one or more complete neighborhoods that contain a mix of housing types, sufficient parks and open spaces, necessary community facilities and services with access to retail and other goods and services.
 - Development must be connected to the existing City via a network of multi-modal streets and non-motorized trails.
 - All infrastructure connecting the new development to the existing City must be paid by the project sponsor using the City's infrastructure specifications.
 - Financing plans for on-going operation and maintenance of streets, roads, parks and other community facilities and services that do not increase taxes or reduce services for existing residents must be approved and in place.
- 2.17 Parks and open space.** Establish parks and open space as allowed uses within all General Plan Designations.
- 2.18 Open space conservation.** Establish mechanisms to provide for the conservation of resource land that is not yet conserved if it falls within one of the following categories:
- Flood plain, including Special Flood Hazard Areas.
 - Open Space to be acquired.
 - Wildlife corridors.
 - Legacy farmland.
 - Riparian areas.
 - Areas of cultural significance.
 - Seismic or geological hazard areas.
 - Legacy viewsheds.
- 3.6 Family-friendly community.** Strive to create multi-generational family-friendly public spaces and affordable family-friendly neighborhoods through the following measures:
- The provision of family-friendly amenities, such as libraries, recreation centers and parks in residential neighborhoods.
 - Encouraging child-care and schools near employment centers and housing and vice versa.
 - Set a minimum proportion or number of two-, and three-bedroom units in multifamily and rental housing development.
 - Allow family child care in residential units by right.
 - Provide child care at public meetings.
 - Encourage youth participation in the planning process.
- 4.7 City Greenbelt.** Strive to create an undeveloped or rural greenbelt around the City comprised of rural residential, preserved parks and open space, and agricultural lands.

- 5.16 **Access to parks and open spaces.** Design new neighborhoods and, where feasible, retrofit existing neighborhoods, so that 60 percent of dwelling units are within a one-third mile walk distance of a usable open space such as a tot-lot, neighborhood park, community park or plaza/green.
- 8.2 **Phasing of public facilities.** Require new parks, open spaces and public facilities be constructed concurrent with, or prior to, the development of each Neighborhood. All required parks, open spaces and public facilities should be constructed before 75 percent of the dwelling units are constructed.
- 8.4 **Parks and open space.** Establish a range of parks and open spaces, including tot lots, neighborhood parks, community parks, plazas/greens and/or greenways/parkways within all new Neighborhoods, Centers and Districts.
- 9.5 **Green/open space network.** Establish an interconnected open space network throughout Coachella that serves as a network for active transportation, recreation and scenic beauty and connects all existing and future areas of the City. In particular, connections should be made between preserved open spaces, parks, the Downtown, Neighborhood Centers and other destinations within the City. Consider the following components when designing and implementing the green/open space network:
- Preserved open space areas.
 - Greenways and parkways along fault lines, the Whitewater River and the Coachella Canal.
 - Roadways with significant landscaping and pedestrian and bicycle amenities.
 - Community and neighborhood parks.
 - Multi-use trails and non-motorized rights-of-way.

Community Health and Wellness

- 8.1 **Joint use with schools.** Create joint-use agreements with Coachella Valley Unified School District to maximize community use of school facilities and expand school use of City park facilities, where appropriate and community space to expand opportunities for physical activity.
- 8.5 **Co-locate parks and schools.** Work to acquire park sites adjacent to existing and proposed schools, where possible, and develop these sites as joint use facilities, develop joint use agreements to ensure public accessibility while ensuring safety and security. Provide for sustainable resources to maintain parks.

Sustainability + Natural Environment

- 2.8 **Renewable energy–open space areas.** Allow the installation of renewable energy systems in areas zoned for open space.
- 2.9 **Energy-efficient street lighting.** Implement a program to install the latest energy efficient technologies for street and parking lot lights to meet City and state standards.
- 3.7 **Landscape design.** Encourage the reduction of landscaping water consumption through plant selection and irrigation technology.

- 3.8 Groundwater infiltration.** Encourage the use of above-ground and natural stormwater facilities in new development and redevelopment, such as grassy or vegetated swales, permeable paving and rain gardens.
- 13.1 Parks and recreation.** Improve existing parks and open space facilities and expand recreational programs as a means of improving the health of Coachella residents. Active play structures and/or amenities should be designed to accommodate a range of ages and abilities.
- 13.2 Revitalization efforts.** Coordinate park development in existing neighborhoods with City revitalization and redevelopment initiatives.
- 13.3 New parks.** Ensure existing and new neighborhoods have sufficient access to park facilities that meet the needs of all residents, and increases in new residents do not overburden existing parks.
- 13.4 Accessibility to parks.** Seek new park locations that will serve residential areas that are more than a quarter mile from an existing or planned park or separated from an existing or planned park by a street that consists of four or more travel lanes. Where possible, parks shall be associated with and connected to the trail network.
- 13.5 New development needs.** Work with new development to provide at least five acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents and ensure new development complies with this requirement. Strive to provide at least 5 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents and ensure no neighborhood should have less than three acres for every 1,000 residents. School playgrounds and fields shall be counted where access is ensured by a joint use agreement.
- 13.6 Perimeter paths.** Create well-lit perimeter paths around parks, where feasible, to improve safety and to improve how the parks interface with the sidewalk and surrounding neighborhoods.
- 13.7 Recreation centers.** Locate more public and private health clubs and recreation centers in Coachella in partnership with the Desert Recreation District, community based organizations and private businesses. Explore regulatory or financial incentives in the zoning code and development approval process to encourage the location of private/non-profit recreation facilities (e.g., gyms, yoga or dance studios, martial arts, etc.).
- 13.8 Diverse recreation programs.** Ensure that recreation programs are affordable and meet the diverse needs in the community for users such as seniors, youth, non- English speaking groups and special needs groups.
- 13.9 City-wide open space network.** Establish a city-wide open space network within walking distance of residential neighborhoods.
- 13.10 Coachella Canal Trail.** Establish a multi-use trail that runs along the Coachella Canal levy and extends into the Mecca Hills.
- 13.11 Coachella Whitewater Trail.** Establish a multi-use trail that runs along the Whitewater River.

- 13.12 **Active Recreational Areas.** Prohibit consideration of natural drainages and other sensitive resource areas as active park land.
- 13.13 **Nature access.** Work with the County Tribal Governments and other recreation and open space districts to create desert preserves with hiking trails, nature observing areas and picnic areas.
- 13.14 **Parks classification system.** Adopt and utilize the parks classification system identified in Table 6-1 to help guide maintenance and planning work in the city.
- 13.15 **Sustainable landscaping.** Promote sustainability for residences through desert friendly water-efficient landscaping for parks. Establish public demonstration gardens using native desert planting.
- 13.16 **Unique features.** Encourage parks and trails to be designed to conserve scenic and natural features and encourage public awareness of Coachella's unique geography.
- 13.17 **Park maintenance.** Ensure all parks will be clean, well-kept and well-maintained, preserving them as primary community gathering points in the City.
- 13.18 **Clean parks.** Create methods and opportunities that encourage residents to monitor and report vandalism along with maintenance issues in parks.
- 13.19 **Keep America Beautiful program.** Consider becoming a "Keep America Beautiful" community and utilizing free technology and online mapping programs so residents can report issues using their smart phones or other portable devices.
- 13.20 **Park environments.** Ensure parks in Coachella are a safe and well-lit environment for recreational activities, day and night.
- 13.21 **Funding.** Explore innovative funding and development concepts with non-profit groups.
- 13.22 **Park fees.** Collect land dedications or in lieu fees from new development for the provision of parks and recreation facilities, in pursuit of a minimum parkland standard of three acres per 1,000 residents, as allowed by the California Quimby Act. Establish policies for identifying neighborhoods that have a preference for the physical provision of park and recreation infrastructure over in lieu fees and administer a fee through which new development can provide parkland in lieu of certain development fees.
- 13.23 **Sports facilities.** Regularly assess how existing sports facilities (e.g., pools, fields, courts, etc.) match up with the demand and incorporate findings into the planning of park improvements and developments.
- 13.24 **Economic opportunities.** Utilize parks to maximize new and existing economic development opportunities through recruitment of new entertainment uses and by coordinating park development to support commercial development.
- 13.25 **Regional parks.** Seek out opportunities to create regional parks, such as professional-quality soccer fields and baseball fields that will attract tourists to the City.

Safety

- 3.6 **Floodplain development.** Promote the use of floodplains as parks, nature trails, equestrian parks, golf courses or other types of recreational facilities that can withstand periodic inundation. In the planned build-out of the City, create an atmosphere of working with nature and the natural processes characteristic of the arid environment.

Infrastructure + Public Services

- 1.8 **Joint-use facilities.** Support the development of joint-use water, drainage and other utility facilities as appropriate in conjunction with schools, parks, golf courses and other suitable uses to achieve economy and efficiency in the provision of services and facilities.
- 2.17 **Reclaimed water use.** To promote water conservation and increase the use of reclaimed water, use reclaimed water in City-owned parks, plazas, landscaped medians and other public spaces and in privately-owned open spaces wherever feasible.

The proposed of CGPU policies address reductions in potential environmental impacts through; desert friendly landscaping, energy efficient lighting, joint-facilities with school play yards, and reclaimed water use for maintenance. Additionally, parks and open space proposed in the CGPU area designed to preserve sensitive habitat communities, be built in flood zones to reduce structure impacts from flooding, and offer a trail system to use alternative modes of transportation that could in-tern reduce GHG emissions from vehicle use. Parks are also included in the public facilities policies proposed by the CGPU. As part of the public services system, these facilities should incorporate sustainable design practices outline by CGPU policies. Also like other public services, the community would benefit from parks, as they offer green space, a place to stay active and healthy, and a balance between natural and urban environments. Though potential environmental impacts are possible from parks development and maintenance, the proposed policies and additional environmental benefits from parkland help reduce impacts. Additionally, the proposed CGPU includes policies that would require the provision of new parkland concurrently with new development, ensuring that park level of service will be met. Based on the policies of the CGPU and parkland characteristics, impacts from new or expanded park or open space facilities would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are necessary.

MEDICAL CORE

Impact 4.15-5: 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 medical facilities, healthcare facilities, or hospitals?

Significance: Less than significant.

In addition to police, fire, parks, and schools, additional services possible needed under the CGPU would be an increase in medical facilities, healthcare facilities, or hospitals. Environmental impacts from these public facilities could cause temporary air and noise levels to exceed standards, and long term-impacts from maintenance of structures, energy supply, circulation, and noise.

The Planning Area currently has seven medical facilities providing routine health services. The closest hospitals are Desert Hospital in Palm Springs, and John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Indio. The increased population projections under the CGPU could require additional hospital and medical facilities to develop in order to maintain existing level of service. Potential impacts from additional medical facilities within the Planning Area could increase traffic volumes from emergency services, cause noise nuisance for those located within the contours of a hospital and 24-hour sirens, demand water, electricity and other resources to build and maintain facilities, and land loss that could also generate runoff impacts from impermeable surfaces. The CGPU proposes street development connectivity that would help make response times for hospital and emergency response vehicles to move more efficiently throughout the Planning Area. This would also reduce the amount of noise impacts along the route, as the connectivity would prevent sirens or response vehicles to from passing by unnecessary areas of the City. The following CGPU policies propose the increase of medical services, as well as sustainable development practices to reduce impacts from medical facilities.

Land Use + Community Character

- 8.1 **Equitable distribution of facilities and services.** Strive to equitably distribute public facilities, improvements and services throughout Coachella, with priority given to remedying existing deficiencies in blighted or underserved areas of the City.
- 8.2 **Phasing of public facilities.** Require new parks, open spaces and public facilities be constructed concurrent with, or prior to, the development of each Neighborhood. All required parks, open spaces and public facilities should be constructed before 75 percent of the dwelling units are constructed.
- 14.1 **Sustainable development leadership.** Establish the City as a regional leader in sustainable development and encourage compact, higher-density development that conserves land resources, protects habitat, supports transit, reduces vehicle trips, improves air quality, conserves energy and water and diversifies the housing stock in the Coachella Valley.

Sustainability + Natural Environment

- 1.1 **Municipal operations.** Conduct city operations and institutionalize practices that reduce municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and lead the community in reducing GHG emissions.

- 1.2 **GHG reductions.** Promote land use and development patterns that reduce the community's dependence on and length of automobile trips.
- 1.6 **Climate-appropriate building types.** Seek out and promote alternative building types that are more sensitive to the arid environment found in the Coachella Valley. Courtyard housing and commercial buildings can be designed to provide microclimates that are usable year round, reducing the need for mechanically cooled spaces and reducing energy consumption.
- 2.3 **Alternative energy.** Promote the incorporation of alternative energy generation (e.g., solar, wind, biomass) in public and private development.
- 2.6 **Energy performance targets – new construction.** Require new construction to exceed Title 24 energy efficiency standards by 15 percent and incorporate solar photovoltaics.
- 2.7 **Energy performance targets – existing buildings.** When existing buildings undergo major retrofits, require the buildings to exceed Title 24 energy efficiency standards by 15 percent and encourage solar photovoltaics.
- 2.11 **Publicly funded buildings.** Require energy conservation as the primary strategy to reduce energy demand in new and renovation projects using public funds.
- 2.14 **Public buildings.** Require that any new building constructed in whole or in part with City funds incorporate passive solar design features, such as daylighting and passive solar heating, where feasible.
- 3.1 **Conservation performance targets – new construction.** Require new construction to exceed the state's Green Building Code for water conservation by an additional 10 percent.
- 3.7 **Landscape design.** Encourage the reduction of landscaping water consumption through plant selection and irrigation technology.
- 3.8 **Groundwater infiltration.** Encourage the use of above-ground and natural stormwater facilities in new development and redevelopment, such as grassy or vegetated swales, permeable paving and rain gardens.

Community Health + Wellness

- 9.4 **Accessible health and social services facilities.** Ensure health and social services facilities are accessible to residents and well served by transit.
- 9.9 **Rural health care.** Acknowledge and address the unique health care needs of a suburban-rural community like Coachella, and consider the health care needs of unincorporated rural communities when planning for new programs and facilities. Be open to alternative models of health care systems (such as mobile clinics) that address the specific needs of rural residents in health professional shortage areas.
- 9.10 **Hospital.** Develop a partnership with nearby cities to investigate the plausibility of recruiting a regional medical center/hospital to locate in Coachella to provide expanded medical services.

- 9.11 **Culturally appropriate medical care.** Support cultural sensitivity training of community medical and social service professionals and City staff and encourage bilingual Coachella residents to train and work as medical translators.

Mobility

- 8.3 **Regional non-motorized connections.** Prioritize connections between the City's bicycle and pedestrian network to regional facilities such as the CV Link and other regional trail facilities.

Medical core facilities serve to benefit the quality of life and health of community residents. Additional hospitals and medical facilities in the Planning Area would provide an asset to the Planning Area and provide a valued service to residents and patrons. The CGPU recognizes the importance of including these facilities as potential development scenarios and has outlined several policies to ensure the facilities are being developed in a minimal impactful way on the environment, as they are needed. The CGPU anticipates a need for new medical facilities and accommodates that need through the following designations: Urban Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Center, Downtown Center, Urban Employment Center, Suburban Retail District, and Regional Retail District. Additionally, the CGPU proposes policies also ensure all public facilities, including medical facilities incorporate sustainable design including; sustainable landscaping, energy conservation practices, passive heating and cooling design, and land use patterns to reduce GHG emissions. All policies address potential impacts from public buildings, including medical facilities, and aim to reduce negative impacts from development. Additionally, medical facilities would be built concurrently with all other development of the CGPU both as demanded by the market and through City-facilitated regional efforts, and would make up a small proportion of the overall built environment. Though there are potential negative impacts associated with medical facilities, the significance of medical facilities among the overall CGPU is less than significant. Based on the scaled development of medical facilities and policies outlined in the CGPU, impacts from construction and maintenance of additional medical facilities would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are necessary.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts from public services are analyzed on a regional scale to determine if combined impacts would negatively affect the existing regional environment. Because the proposed project is a General Plan Update, which takes into account existing and potential development over approximately the next twenty years, the analysis of utilities-related impacts contained within this chapter of the EIR is already cumulative in nature. The demand for all public services within the Planning Area are expected to increase, as population increases and the need to maintain adequate quality of service, access, and response times for emergency vehicles. As a result of development, certain negative short-term and long-term impacts are considered affect the existing environment. Combined impacts could affect regional water quality, noise, traffic, regional energy supply and land loss within the region. However, the cumulative policies of the CGPU propose multiple strategies to reduce potential impacts. Policies throughout the CGPU provide cumulative proposal to reduce impacts from public facilities, and ensure adequate level of service ratio be reached under the project.

Additionally, as population increase, so does the physical environmental and need for additional public services. The CGPU proposes maintenance of levels of service ratios for all public services that would create the need for additional facilities. In order to maintain level of service for a population of 135,000 residents, development of such facilities could have cumulative negative impacts however, the proportion

of facilities power need, land coverage, and maintenance, would account for a small proportion of the overall development under the CGPU. The Planning Area is expected to grow and hold new housing, businesses, entertainment districts, and other land and structures allocated for various uses. Public services would account for a less than significant proportion of this development. Based on the CGPU policies and scale of development of the CGPU, cumulative impacts from public services would be less than significant.

SIGNIFICANT AND UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Based on the above environmental analysis, there would be no significant and unavoidable impacts to public services under the CGPU.