

## 4.12.1 Police Protection

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### 4.12.1.1 INTRODUCTION

*This section analyzes the impacts of the Westside Community Planning Project on law enforcement services in the City of Ventura. Information provided by the Ventura Police Department was used to prepare the following analysis.*

### 4.12.1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### a. Ventura Police Department

Law enforcement services for the City of Ventura are provided by the Ventura Police Department (VPD). The VPD headquarters is located at 1425 Dowell Drive, approximately 5 miles east of the southern portion of the project area. VPD also operates a storefront community resource center in the project area, which is located at 110 North Olive Street, #K. VPD is currently staffed with 172 employees, consisting of 122 sworn officers and 50 civilian staff. On average, VPD responds to approximately 88,000 calls for service annually. In 2010, VPD recorded 216 violent crimes and 3,465 property crimes.<sup>1</sup> In 2010, officers responded within 5 minutes to 68 percent of priority 1 calls for service, which indicate a crime in progress.

VPD divides the City into four geographic beats, which are created based on the number of crimes reported and calls for service. The project area is located in Beat 1, which includes the Ventura Avenue area extending down to California Street in the downtown area. **Figure 4.12.1-1, Ventura Police Department Beat 1 Boundary**, illustrates the current boundary of Beat 1 and the location of the VPD headquarters and Westside Community Resource Center.

#### *Ventura Police Department Strategic Plan*

The VPD's 2011 strategic plan, *A Crime Fighting Blueprint for Our Community*, provides goals and strategies for the three-year period from 2011 to 2014. The strategic plan provides goals and strategies intended to maintain and improve existing levels of police protection service in Ventura. The strategic plan establishes a goal of responding to crimes in progress (priority 1 calls) within 5 minutes 90 percent of

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<sup>1</sup> Ventura Police Department, *A Crime Fighting Blueprint for Our Community*, (2011) 4.

the time.<sup>2</sup> As discussed above, VPD responded to 68 percent of such calls within this timeframe in 2010. VPD does not currently have standards for staffing.

## b. Regulatory Framework

### *General Plan*

The *Our Healthy and Safe Community* chapter is one of 10 chapters of the City's 2005 General Plan. This chapter sets forth the City's goals and policies with respect to public safety and identifies strategies and programs that focus on (1) reducing crime and the fear of crime, (2) improving the quality of life in neighborhoods, (3) enhancing community and police partnerships, (4) developing personnel, and (5) continued accountability.

The following policy and actions from the General Plan Safety Element would apply to the proposed project:

Policy 7D	Improve community safety through enhanced police service
Action 7.15	<p>Increase public access to police services by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increasing police staffing to coincide with increasing population, development, and calls for service,</li> <li>• increasing community participation by creating a Volunteers in Policing Program, and</li> <li>• require the funding of new services from fees, assessments, or taxes as new subdivisions are developed.</li> </ul>
Action 7.17	Establish a nexus between police department resources and increased demands associated with new development.
Action 7.19	Expand Police Department headquarters as necessary to accommodate staff growth

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<sup>2</sup> Ventura Police Department, *Blueprint*, 4.

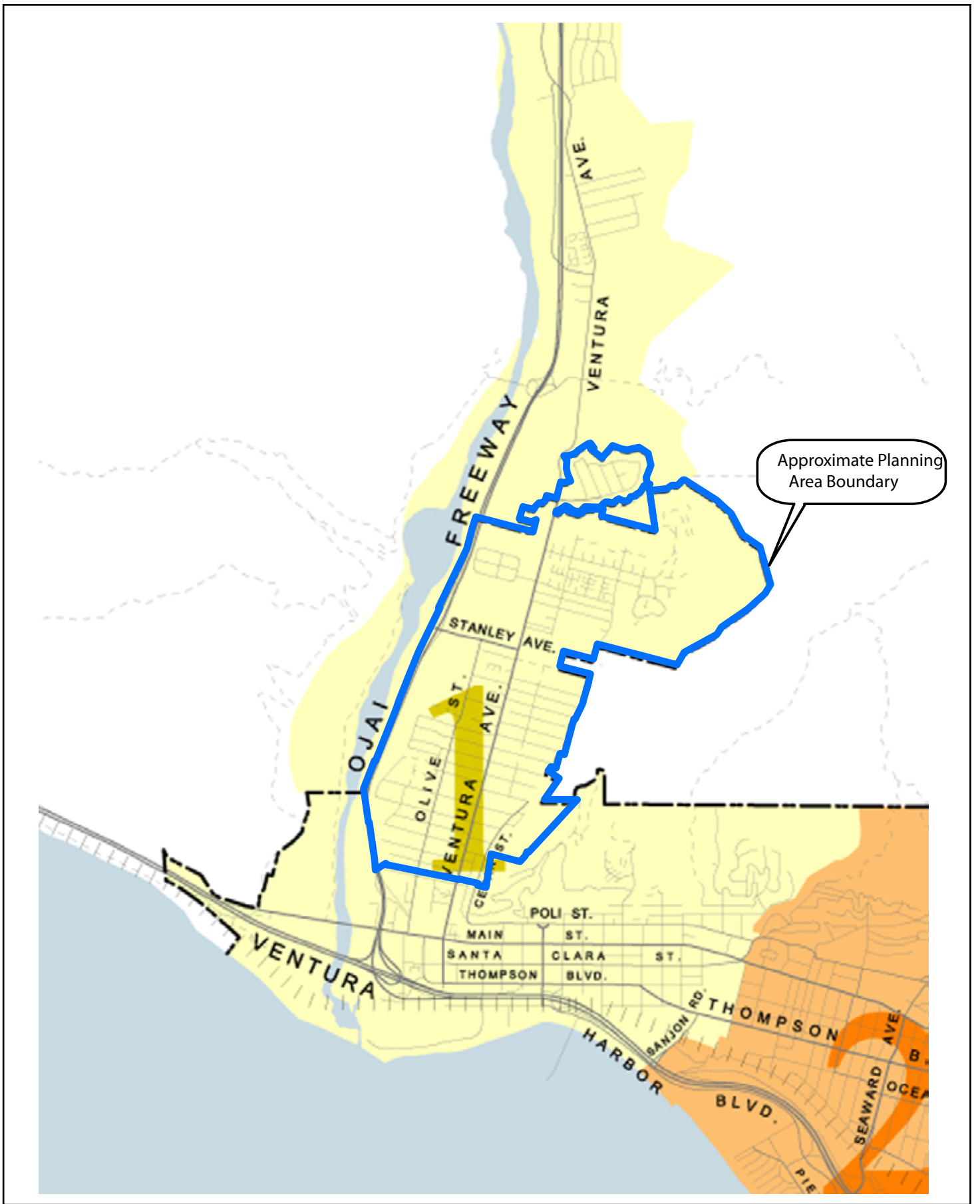


FIGURE 4.12.1-1

Ventura Police Department Beat 1 Boundary



***Downtown Specific Plan***

The Downtown Specific Plan provides goals and actions that apply to the 36 acres in the Redevelopment Project area that are subject to this specific plan. The following actions identified in the Downtown Specific Plan apply to this portion of the proposed project:

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|-------------|---|
| Action 8.20 | Adopt and implement Crime Prevention Design Guidelines recommended by the Ventura Police Department (VPD) to address public safety issues through commercial and residential project design. All new developments and tenant improvements in the Downtown Redevelopment Area shall be collaboratively reviewed by the VPD, Public Works, and Community Development to prevent blight and improve public safety through site design. |
| Action 8.21 | Partner with the Police Department, Public Works and the Redevelopment Agency to identify and implement public safety improvements, including redevelopment and enhancement of existing public parks, plazas, parking areas, and restrooms.   |

**4.12.1.3 IMPACT ANALYSIS****a. Threshold of Significance**

Based upon Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* under Section XIV, Public Services, the following significance threshold is used to evaluate project impacts related to Police Protection.

- POL-1      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 police protection?

**b. Methodology**

Resources referenced in this section include the 2005 General Plan *Our Healthy and Safe Community* chapter, the VPD's 2011 strategic plan, *A Crime Fighting Blueprint for Our Community*, and the City of Ventura's VPD website.

**c. Analysis, Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts**

The Westside Community Plan provides the following policy and actions intended to address public safety in Chapter 12.7, *Our Healthy and Safe Community*:

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|---------------|--|
| Action 12.7.5 | Require new development to pay their fair share to fund additional public safety facilities and services for police and fire.  |
| Action 12.7.6 | Integrate features such as public visibility, nighttime public use, low-level lighting, or other crime prevention measures, into the design of commercial and public buildings in order to create a safe environment, particularly in mixed-use areas. |
| Action 12.7.8 | Pursue public, private, and grant funding to add code enforcement personnel in order to provide enhanced services to Westside public places, recognizing the relationship of crime to poorly maintained areas.   |

POL-1 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 police protection?

***Analysis***

As discussed in **Section 4.11, Population, Housing, and Employment**, the Westside Community Planning Project would allow for some intensification of residential, office, and commercial uses within the Westside Community Plan area. New housing constructed through the project's horizon year of 2025 would result in an estimated increase in population of 3,750 residents. This increase in residents and retail and office uses could result in increased demand for police protection services within the project area.

VPD does not currently have a staffing standard; however, the existing ration of VPD staffing to residents is compared with the projected needs of the project in order to provide a framework for analysis. Current VPD staffing levels provide approximately 1.19 sworn officers and 0.39 non-sworn personnel per 1,000 residents. To maintain existing staffing levels with the project-related increase in population, VPD would need to add approximately 5 sworn and 2 non-sworn employees during the planning period to 2025. However, the geographic area served by the VPD would not substantially increase.

The implementation of the actions for the Westside Community Plan area, identified above, would both provide enhanced public safety features within the project area and increase the staffing levels within the VPD. The portion of the Westside Redevelopment Project area located outside the Westside Community Plan area is located within the City's adopted Downtown Specific Plan Area. The Downtown Specific Plan also contains policies and actions to address public safety issues through commercial and residential project design and to identify and implement public safety improvements. Police protection services are not facility-driven; that is, police protection services are not reliant on facilities in order to effectively patrol a beat. Existing facilities are adequate to house the additional law enforcement staff that would be needed to serve the planning area. Therefore, if police officers and patrol vehicles are equipped with adequate telecommunications equipment in order to communicate with police headquarters, additional facilities would not be needed.

No specific development projects are proposed at this time and analyzed at the project level in this program EIR. Project-level review will be required for individual projects proposed within the Westside Community Planning area. Implementation of the actions provided in the Westside Community Plan, the Downtown Specific Plan, and the General Plan would support VPD efforts to provide adequate police protection services in the project area, and impacts would be less than significant. Impacts would therefore be Class III, Not Significant.

#### *Mitigation Measures*

No mitigation measures are required.

#### *Residual Impacts*

Impacts would be Class III, Not Significant.

#### **d. Cumulative Impacts**

Growth within the City of Ventura through the City's 2025 general plan horizon would cause increased demand for police protection services. The City's General Plan includes policies and actions to ensure that police facilities are expanded as needed to accommodate staff growth. No specific development projects are proposed or analyzed at the project level in this program EIR at this time. Project-level review will be required for individual projects proposed within the Westside Community Planning area and within other areas of the City. New development proposals within the City would also be reviewed and would be required to adhere to the policy and actions provided in the General Plan and/or community plan within which they are located, which would support VPD efforts to provide adequate police

protection services and reduce crime and calls for service in the project area. In the event that the construction of new police protection facilities is necessary, any future facilities would require environmental review under CEQA.

The proposed project would exceed the General Plan projections by 150 residential dwelling units, resulting in 385 residents more than were projected to reside in the City in 2025. An additional 49,005 square feet of retail space and 54,450 square feet of office space would also be permitted. The additional 385 residents and additional office and retail development would not be a substantial increase, and the cumulative impact would be less than significant. Cumulative impacts would therefore be Class III, Not Significant, and the project's contribution to cumulative impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.