
4.12.3 Public Schools

4.12.3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section analyzes the impacts of the Westside Community Planning Project on public educational services in the City of Ventura. Information provided by the Ventura Unified School District was used to prepare the following analysis.

4.12.3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

a Ventura Unified School District

The Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) operates public schools serving the planning area. School attendance is determined by geographic boundaries. Students within the planning area would attend EP Foster, Sheridan Way, Sunset, and Will Rogers Elementary Schools; De Anza Middle School; and Ventura High School. The locations of these schools are shown in **Figure 4.12.3-1, Ventura Unified School District School Locations**. However, parents of students living within VUSD boundaries may choose to enroll students at any VUSD school, based on available capacity. **Table 4.12.3-1, Ventura Unified School District School Enrollment and Capacities**, provides student enrollment at the schools serving the planning area.

**Table 4.12.3-1
Ventura Unified School District School Enrollment and Capacities**

School	2009–2010		
	Enrollment	Design Capacity	Remaining Capacity
EP Foster Elementary School	513	503	-10
Sheridan Way Elementary School	529	552	23
Sunset Elementary School	345	413	68
Will Rogers Elementary School	391	417	26
Elementary School Total	1,778	1,885	107
De Anza Middle School	472	850	378
Ventura High School	2,105	2,481	376

Sources: Educational Data Partnership, <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us> (enrollment); Dave Marshall, VUSD Director of Facilities (capacity).

New development within the VUSD service area would generate new students who would need to be accommodated in VUSD schools. VUSD forecasts the student generation for all new residential development at the following rates:

- 0.22 elementary school student per residential unit
- 0.09 middle school student per residential unit
- 0.11 high school student per residential unit

b. Regulatory Framework

State

The California Department of Education (CDE) has traditionally been responsible for the funding of local public schools. To assist in providing facilities to serve students generated by new development projects, the state passed Assembly Bill (AB) 2926 in 1986.¹ AB 2926 allowed school districts to collect impact fees from developers of new residential and commercial/industrial building space. These development fees are deemed to be “full and complete school facilities mitigation,”² for impacts caused by new development. The legislation also recognized the need for fees to be adjusted periodically to keep pace with inflation. The legislation indicated that the State Allocation Board will set the maximum fees according to the adjustment for inflation in the statewide index for school construction.

California State Allocation Board

The State Allocation Board authorizes school districts to collect developer fees to mitigate the impact of new development on school costs. Levels of developer fee contribution are determined by the State Allocation Board and increase annually. Current state statutes dictate that school districts have the authority to levy statutory or Level I fees on new development at rates of \$2.63 per square foot of new residential development and \$0.42 per square foot for commercial and industrial development. Because these Level I fees often do not generate sufficient funding for new schools, districts may use Level II fees to generate one-half the cost of providing new school facilities. Use of Level II fees assumes that the state will provide the other half of the cost of new schools through the issuance of general obligation bonds.

¹ State of California, *Government Code*, Sec. 66000 et seq.

² State of California, *Government Code*, Sec. 65996.

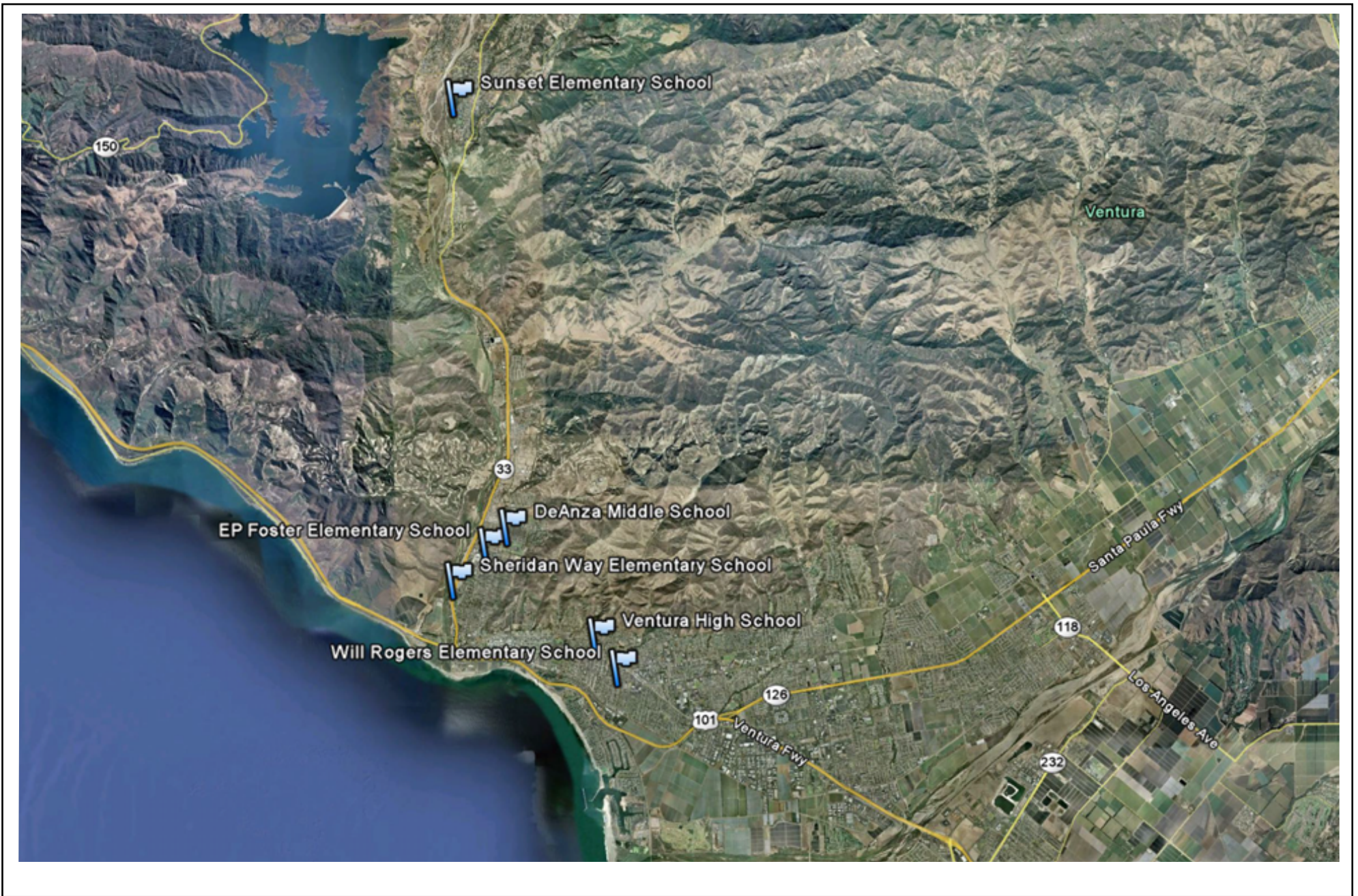


FIGURE 4.12.3-1

Ventura Unified School District School Locations

In the event that the state does not have funding available, participating districts have the option to temporarily increase the fees to Level III fees on new residential development to try to meet their needs if the district meets certain conditions, such as having 20 percent of the district's classrooms classified as relocatable.

General Plan

The *Our Educated 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 education. The following policy and action from the General Plan Education Element would apply to the proposed project:

Policy 8B	Increase the availability and diversity of learning resources.
Action 8.8	Work with the Ventura Unified School District to ensure that school facilities can be provided to serve new development.

Downtown Specific Plan

The Downtown Specific Plan provides the following action related to public school services:

Action 8.25	Partner with the Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura County Community College to facilitate new schools, campuses, and improvements to existing educational facilities and services.
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4.12.3.3 IMPACT ANALYSIS

a. Threshold of Significance

SCH-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 public schools? (Class III, Not Significant)

b. Methodology

This section was prepared based upon communication with the VUSD. Student generation rates provided by VUSD are used to forecast the student population that would be generated by the proposed project. These new students are added to existing enrollments at schools serving the planning area to determine

whether existing schools would have available capacity adequate to serve students generated by the project.

c. Analysis, Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts

The Westside Community Plan provides the following goal, policies, and actions related to education services within the planning area:

Goal	Provide learning opportunities for adults and children through community partnerships.
Policy 12 CC	Partner with the Ventura Unified School District, Ventura Community College, Ventura County Library, and other education organizations to provide an adult education and training program in the Westside Community.
Action 12.8.1	As a short-term strategy, coordinate with Ventura Unified School District for shared use of campus facilities for adult education and training programs.
Action 12.8.2	Seek grant funding and local sponsorships to develop and promote a Westside adult education and training program.
Action 12.8.3	In the long-term, find a permanent location for a Westside adult education and training center within a Pedestrian Core Node, such as Stanley and Ventura Avenue, or the old Avenue School at 2717 Ventura Avenue.
Action 12.8.4	Explore relocation and expansion of the neighborhood library facility from the current location at 606 North Ventura Avenue, near higher density neighborhood development, school, or park.
Policy 12 DD	As the population increases in the Westside Community, the City shall coordinate with Ventura Unified School District for necessary school facilities, including a possible new elementary school to serve new development.

SCH-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 public schools?

Analysis

New residential development forecast to occur under the Westside Community Plan would add an estimated 1,415 new residential units. Based on VUSD student generation rates, **Table 4.12.3-2, Project Student Generation**, shows the number of new students that would be generated by development forecast to occur under the Westside Community Planning Project.

**Table 4.12.3-2
Project Student Generation**

	Student Generation Rate	Units	Project Student Population
Elementary School Student	0.22	1,415	312
Middle School Students	0.09	1,415	128
High School Students	0.11	1,415	156
Total			596

As shown in **Table 4.12.3-1**, existing VUSD elementary schools serving the planning area are at or near capacity. Middle and high school students generated by the project could be accommodated at existing schools. The additional elementary students generated by new residential development would require additional school capacity in order to serve project residents. However, this assumption is based on the assumption that no new schools would be developed and all 1,415 residential units would be developed at one time. In reality, these residential units are projected to be added between project approval and 2025. In addition, as discussed below, the VUSD monitors growth trends and capacity at its schools and makes adjustments as necessary.

The implementation of the goal, policies, and actions for the Westside Community Plan area, identified above, would support VUSD's education services in the planning area. 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 an action that would support the provision of school services. 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.

VUSD collects fees for new development within its service area. As discussed previously, payment of these fees is considered full and complete mitigation for impacts to school services. Therefore, with payment of these fees and implementation of the policies provided in the Westside Community Plan, the Downtown Specific Plan, and the City's 2005 General Plan, impacts to schools 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 year would cause increased demand for public school services. The City's General Plan includes policies and actions to ensure that school facilities are expanded by VUSD to accommodate growth as needed. 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 VUSD efforts to provide adequate school facilities to serve residents in the City of Ventura.

The proposed project would exceed the General Plan projections by 150 residential dwelling units, resulting in 65 students more than were projected to reside in the City in 2025. The additional 65 students would not be a substantial increase, and the cumulative impact would be less than significant with the payment of school impact fees. Cumulative impacts would therefore be Class III, Not Significant, and the project's contribution to cumulative impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.