LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

MPA 10-025

The Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU) is responsible for processing projects in accordance with all applicable policies, ordinances, and regulations. When reviewing a discretionary project, the Department is charged with determining if adequate law enforcement services are available to the project and if new or expanded law enforcement facilities are needed as a result of the subject project or a as a result of the cumulative projects in the vicinity. The adequacy of law enforcement services is determined by considering the project’s consistency with the Public Facilities Element (PFE) of the San Diego County General Plan (Section 7, Law Enforcement). Objective 1 of the Law Enforcement Section aims to achieve a level of facilities sufficient to accommodate a service level of three patrol shifts per day per 10,000 population, or service-area equivalent for commercial/industrial land uses. Objective 5 seeks to achieve a safe living and working environment through subdivision design. The issue with respect to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is whether the project alone, or cumulatively, generates the need for new or physically altered law enforcement facilities. CEQA requires the environmental impacts associated with the provision of new or altered facilities to be analyzed.

To assist the DPLU in evaluating a project’s compliance with the Public Facilities Element and determining the project’s environmental impacts, please provide answers questions 1-7 below:

1) The project is within the Valley Center command area.

2) The existing facility within the command area is 5,490 square feet in size.

3) Estimated population in the command area is 21,869 (2010 est.) (Source: SANDAG)

4) Number of sworn personnel currently serving in the command area is 23.

5) The project will result in the need for Three* additional sworn personnel to achieve a service level of three patrol shifts per day per 10,000 residential population, or the equivalent service demand for commercial, industrial, mixed-use, or institutional development. (See additional comments).
6) If additional staff is needed, would this necessitate new or expanded facilities? Please circle YES or NO and provide a written explanation supporting the response.

7) Provide any recommendations on design criteria and/or comments relative to other law enforcement concerns specific to the project.

To assist the Sheriff’s Department with this request, DPLU has attached:
- A vicinity map and a project plan/map
- A brief project description, including pertinent raw data (e.g., the total number of residential units, the estimated population at buildout, the total square footage and type of commercial or industrial activity, traffic counts, etc.)
- Information (if any) regarding the proposed use that may have implications for law enforcement. For example, will the project generate hazardous materials, or does it involve the manufacture or distribution of controlled substances?

Please review the attached information and complete and return this form to DPLU, Sami Real, no later than 1/27/2011 (21 days) along with any other supplemental information that would be helpful in evaluating the project’s impacts on law enforcement services and facilities.

If you have any questions regarding this request or need additional information, please contact Sami Real, Planning Manager with the Department of Planning and Land Use at (858) 694-3722.

*Methodology for calculations used in response to Question 5:
- Accepted staffing level standard requires 1 FT 24/7 patrol position per 10,000 residents
- The current relief factor to staff one patrol position is 5.3 employees.
- Proposed Community project estimates 1746 new homes and approximately 5300 new residents at build-out
- Assuming these levels, an additional three deputies would need to be hired and/or assigned to the Valley Center substation to adequately handle the increased service demand.
- This recommendation addresses direct staffing demands only and does not address the cumulative effects that surrounding area growth will have on law enforcement service delivery. The Accretive development may need to be examined in the context of the area’s anticipated growth and whether, in time, the community will be serviced by the proposed North Command station.

**According the Lt. Nolan of the Valley Center substation, three new positions could be accommodated within the existing station facility.

*** For Question 7, the CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) recommendations for this phase of development are as follows:
- Establish conservative sight distances at the exits from any subdivision. Require strict maintenance of sight-lines by the applicant and subsequent owners or assignees.
- Mix compatible residential, commercial, and other land usages permitted by zoning regulations to provide round-the-clock presence and surveillance opportunities.