

## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES

This section addresses the effects on public services from the development of a UC campus at Merced. For the purpose of this EIR, public services comprise law enforcement, fire protection, hospitals, schools and public libraries. This section of the EIR describes the existing and proposed public services, and evaluates changes to the physical environment that may result from expansion of such services.

Future demand for public services is linked to projected population growth. The population data used for this analysis is presented in Section 3, Demographics. This evaluation assesses environmental impacts at full development of the proposed campus.

Public comments received in response to the Notice of Preparation raised issues related to the impacts of the increase in population due to the proposed project on the local school districts, fire protection and other services. Concern was expressed that fire protection should be delivered at an “Urban” service level and be evaluated in relation to the timing of a proposed fire station. These issues are addressed in the analysis that follows.

### 4.12.1 Summary of Site Selection EIR Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The SSEIR evaluated the potential for the proposed campus at the Lake Yosemite site to affect public services in the region. The SSEIR examined public service impacts in terms of both on-campus and off-campus demand, the latter being associated with the campus-related population that would be expected to live off campus. Public service impacts were analyzed with respect to law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, and new schools.

All impacts identified in the SSEIR that are relevant to the proposed project are presented in the following table. For all impacts, the level of significance before and after application of mitigation measures identified in the SSEIR is also presented in the table. As noted in Section 2, although the campus location is shifted to a southerly location on the VST property, all other attributes of the proposed project such as population size, and types of facilities and activities on campus are largely unchanged. The change in location would not affect the significance or the severity of impacts previously analyzed in the SSEIR.

SITE SELECTION EIR IMPACT	Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation	Level of Significance after/with Mitigation
Development of a campus would result in an on-campus demand for law enforcement services.	LS	N/A
Development of a campus would result in an on-campus demand for fire protection services.	S	LS
Development of a campus would result in an on-campus demand for emergency medical services.	LS	N/A
Development of a campus would result in the generation of demand for law enforcement services by the campus-related population living outside of the campus, requiring new staff and facilities in order to maintain existing service levels.	S	SU <sub>2</sub>

SITE SELECTION EIR IMPACT	Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation	Level of Significance after/with Mitigation
The selection of a site would result in the generation of a demand for fire protection services by campus population living outside of the new campus, requiring new staff and facilities in order to maintain existing service levels.	S	SU <sub>2</sub>
Development of a campus would result in the generation of a demand for emergency medical services by campus population living outside of the new campus.	S	SU <sub>2</sub>
Selection of a site, in conjunction with cumulative development in the region around the site, would increase the demand for law enforcement services, requiring additional staff and facilities in order to maintain current service levels.	S	SU <sub>2</sub>
Selection of a site, in conjunction with cumulative development in the region around the site, would increase the demand for fire protection services, requiring additional staff and facilities in order to maintain current service levels.	S	SU <sub>2</sub>
Selection of a site, in conjunction with cumulative development in the region around the site, would increase the demand for emergency medical services.	S	SU <sub>2</sub>
School-age children of on-campus residents would require the construction of new school facilities.	S	SU <sub>2</sub>
School-age children of off-campus residents affiliated with the university would require the construction of new school facilities.	S	SU <sub>2</sub>
Selection of a site, resulting in the development of a campus, in conjunction with cumulative development in the region, would increase the number of school-age children and could require the construction of new school facilities.	S	SU <sub>2</sub>

PS=Potentially Significant, S=Significant; LS=Less than Significant; B=Beneficial; NI=No Impact; N/A=Not Applicable; SU<sub>1</sub>= Impacts that cannot be mitigated, or for which it is not certain that mitigation could reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level; SU<sub>2</sub>= Impacts that could reduce the impact to less-than-significant levels, but require action by a jurisdiction other than the University; SU<sub>3</sub>= Impacts that, even with mitigation, cannot, or might not, be reduced to a less-than-significant level, and for which mitigation would not be under the University's jurisdiction.

The SSEIR identified significant and unavoidable impacts on law enforcement services, fire protection services, emergency medical services, and schools from the campus-related population who would live off campus. These impacts are analyzed in the University Community Plan EIR prepared by the County and are summarized in the cumulative impacts in this EIR.

Mitigation measures in the SSEIR include the following:

- **SSEIR Mitigation Measure 4.15-1**– *Prior to construction of any buildings on the new campus, the University shall ensure that adequate fire protection services are provided to the new Campus site. The University shall either contract with the local fire service provider to establish a campus fire department or provide the campus with fire protection services.*

- **SSEIR Mitigation Measure 4.15-2** – *The University shall ensure that all campus buildings are designed according to any applicable fire protection standards. This may include the provision of automatic sprinklers according to the National Fire Protection Act Standards 13, 13R, and 13D, or other applicable regulations.*
- **SSEIR Mitigation Measure 4.15-3** – *During the design phases of the campus, the University shall ensure that the pathways and access ways to buildings on campus are of sufficient width to allow for the passage of emergency service vehicles, including ladder trucks and combination pumpers. Spacing between buildings shall be sufficient to allow for the required turning radius of emergency response vehicles.*
- **SSEIR Mitigation Measure 4.15-4** – *Prior to occupancy of any buildings on the new campus, the University shall prepare an emergency preparedness plan. This plan should include clear information regarding emergency exits from buildings and the campus. The plan should also outline the proper procedure for handling emergency situations such as fire, smoke, explosions, or natural disaster. Development of this plan shall be coordinated with local emergency response.*
- **SSEIR Mitigation Measure 4.16-1**– *If the local school district proceeds with the construction of a new school facility that will be attended by students living in on-campus residences, then the University of California shall negotiate with the school district to determine the University’s fair share of the costs to implement any feasible and required mitigation measures necessary to reduce the identified physical environmental impacts associated with the construction of the new school facility.*

In compliance with SSEIR Mitigation Measures 4.15-1 and 4.15-2, the University will contract with either the City or the County of Merced Fire Department to provide fire protection services, and may provide a fire station on-site to serve the campus. In compliance with SSEIR Mitigation Measures 4.15-3 and 4.15-4, the design of the buildings on the proposed campus would adhere to applicable fire protection standards and regulations, including sprinklers as specified in the National Fire Protection Act Standards 13, 13R, and 13D. In compliance with LRDP policies, site design would also include sufficient space for the operation of emergency service vehicles, and an emergency preparedness plan. Mitigation Measure 4.16-1 is no longer necessary because the proposed University Community Plan designates sufficient land for school facilities needed to accommodate all school-aged students living in on-campus residences.

## 4.12.2 Environmental Setting

### 4.12.2.1 Law Enforcement Services

The population associated with the proposed UC Merced would generate demand for law enforcement services. As mentioned in Section 2, Project Description, a University police station with associated staff would be established at the proposed site. This is consistent with University of California policy to provide its own police force to serve each campus. This Police Department would be responsible for providing 24-hour service for on-campus calls. University police may enter into mutual aid agreements with the police or sheriff’s departments of adjacent jurisdictions.

***Merced County Sheriff Department***

The Merced County Sheriff Department currently provides law enforcement services to the Campus site. These services include patrolling, crime prevention, maintaining the County jail, SWAT team and providing identification and fingerprinting. The Sheriff Department has a main station in the City of Merced, approximately 6 miles from the proposed campus. There are 80 sworn officers in the Department, which includes 49 patrol staff, 13 detectives and the remainder who are special assignment personnel who support patrol staff (Strength, 2001). Response time for non-priority calls is approximately 10 to 30 minutes, and 10 minutes or less for emergency calls (Cavalleros, 2001).

***City of Merced Police Department***

The City of Merced Police Department provides law enforcement services within the city limits of Merced. The Department has 81 sworn officers and maintains a ratio of 1.32 sworn officers per 1,000 residents. Currently, the closest station to the campus site is at 1109 Loughborough Drive, less than 5 miles from the site. This station will be moved in 3 to 4 years, though the location has not yet be determined. Average response time from the current station is 3.9 minutes (Ringstrom, 2001).

**4.12.2.2 *Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services***

People and buildings at the proposed campus would need fire protection and emergency medical services. At this time, it is not known which agency would provide fire protection services to the proposed campus. Therefore, information is provided for all agencies that could potentially provide fire protection services to the site. Availability of water for fire supply is discussed in Section 4.14, Utilities.

***California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF)***

CDF is responsible for addressing wildland fires in the area, while the County of Merced Fire Department is responsible for the protection of structures. The campus site is designated by CDF as being in a “very high” Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The fire season extends from late spring to fall. During this time of year, CDF provides assistance to the County Fire Department with wildland fire protection.

***Merced County Fire Department***

The Merced County Fire Department is a full-service fire department providing fire protection and emergency services for the unincorporated areas of Merced County, including the proposed project site. The Department contracts with the CDF to provide administration and fire suppression personnel. Merced County employs support personnel directly.

The Merced County Fire Department maintains 19 fire stations, approximately 80 vehicles and has a staff of over 325 paid-call firefighters (Wellf, 2001). The services the Department provides include comprehensive fire protection planning, fire suppression and recovery, fire inspections, public education and control, and mitigation of hazardous materials emergency incidents. First-

responder level Emergency Medical Services, including rescue and extrication, are also provided.

The Merced County Fire Department station at 3360 North McKee Road is responsible for the Lake Yosemite area. Located approximately 3 miles from the project site, the McKee Road station is staffed 24-hours per day by one full-time firefighter and 15 volunteer personnel. The McKee Road response area is approximately 150 square miles and response times vary. The goal for this area is an arrival response time of 10 minutes. Currently, the McKee Road Station's area is considered underserved.

Insurance companies use the Insurance Service Order (ISO) rating to determine fire insurance rates. The ISO considers the number of firefighting personnel and equipment available to an area, and the average emergency response time. The rating ranges from 1 through 10, with 1 representing excellent fire protection and 10 indicating minimal or no service. The Merced County Fire Department has an ISO rating of 5 within a 5-mile radius of the station where there are fire hydrants, and a rating of 8 in this same area where there are no hydrants. Areas farther than 5 miles from the station have an ISO rating of 9.

### *City of Merced Fire Department*

The City of Merced provides full fire protection services, including fire suppression, emergency medical services, fire prevention inspections and disaster planning within the city limits. Four stations are located within the City of Merced. The Department is staffed with 53 personnel and is equipped with seven engines, two trucks and a rescue squad (Mitten, 2001).

Currently, the closest station to the campus site is Station 53, located at 800 Loughborough Drive. A new station, Station 55, is in the approval stage, and would be functional within 5 years (Mitten, 2001). This station would be located at Parsons Avenue and Silverado Street, which is near Yosemite Avenue. Nine additional staff members would be employed to run this station. Station 55 is located less than 3 miles from the proposed campus, while Station 53 is situated approximately 5 miles from the site.

The City of Merced Fire Department has an ISO rating of 2 and meets an urban level of service, which requires four personnel per engine to arrive at the scene within 5 minutes. The Department's current average response time is approximately 4 minutes.

The City Fire Department has a master plan to accommodate growth in the Merced area by building nine new stations. One of these is projected to be located within 1 mile of the proposed campus, at Gardner Avenue and Bellevue Road. This station, Station 58, would be constructed at a time determined by the development levels in the City of Merced.

Under a Mutual Aid agreement, the City Fire Department and the County of Merced respond to each other's requests for assistance. Frequently, the County Fire Department is called away as part of its responsibilities for the CDF, and the City Fire Department provides service to the unincorporated areas.

The Merced City Fire Department provides first responder services to the City of Merced and the Merced County Fire Department/CDF provides these services to the unincorporated areas of the county. Other public safety agencies include California Highway Patrol and Merced County Sheriff's Department.

### 4.12.2.3 *Hospitals*

Students, staff, faculty and their families may need medical services. The Merced County Department of Public Health is the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency which provides oversight and regulation of the delivery of emergency medical services throughout Merced County. The proposed campus site is located in the Merced Exclusive Operating Area, which also includes the City of Merced, Planada, El Nido, Snelling, and all the rural areas surrounding the City of Merced. Riggs Ambulance Service is the primary transport provider in the county, covering approximately 90 percent of the population and 80 percent of the area (County of Merced, 2001).

Mercy Medical Center Merced operates two hospitals in Merced: the Community Campus and the Dominican Campus. The Community Campus, previously the Sutter Merced Medical Center, provides medical services for all calls handled by Riggs Ambulance Service. The Community Campus provides 220 active physicians, 174 beds and 24-hour emergency services. The Dominican Campus hospital recently submitted an application for a license for 112 beds, an increase from 103 beds. There are approximately 250 physicians at this facility, as well as an Urgent Care unit.

A third hospital is being planned, and is expected to open in 2007. This facility, at G Street and Cormorant Street, would be closer to the proposed campus than the other two hospitals. This new 245-bed hospital is being planned in accordance with projected population growth, including population associated with the proposed campus (Humphrey, 2001).

Additionally, the proposed campus would have a non-emergency health clinic to provide health services to students, faculty and staff.

### 4.12.2.4 *Schools*

Children of students and faculty living on campus would attend school in the Merced area. For the purpose of this EIR, the analysis of existing educational facilities focuses on public elementary and secondary schools (K-12).

The campus site is located within the boundaries of the Merced City School District (MCSD) and the Merced Union High School District (MUHSD). The MCSD provides education for kindergarten through eighth grade. The MUHSD serves students in grades nine through 12.

There are two preschools, 12 elementary schools, and four middle schools in the Merced City School District. Peterson Elementary School is closest to the project site, being located at 848 East Donna Drive, approximately 4 miles from the proposed site. This K-5 year-round school was established in 1986 and is now the largest elementary school in the District (Peterson, 2001). Current enrollment is 768 students, with a capacity of 908 students. Chenoweth Elementary School, also located to the southwest of the campus, currently has enrollment of 651 students, with a capacity of 704 (Cervantes, 2001). The nearest junior high is Cruickshank Middle School, located at 601 Cormorant Drive, near G Street and Yosemite Avenue. Cruickshank is the newest school in the Merced City School District and is located approximately 3 miles from the proposed campus. Enrollment at Cruickshank is 1,002, with a capacity of 1,088 students.

The Merced High School District operates six high schools, four of which are located within Merced city limits. These are Merced High School, Golden Valley High School, Yosemite High

School and Independence High School; the latter two are alternative high schools. The other two high schools in the District are Atwater High School and Livingston High School. The High School District also operates the East Campus Educational Center, an adult school.

Merced High School is the closest high school to the proposed campus, at 205 West Olive Street (and G Street), approximately 4 miles away. Enrollment at Merced High is over 2,700, and at Golden Valley High, is over 2,100 students. These enrollment levels are in excess of each school's capacity (Merced High School, 2001; Golden Valley High School, 2001).

A new "North Merced High School" is planned for Cardella Road at M Street, with a capacity of 2,000 students. This school will be approximately 4 miles from the proposed project. A new high school is also about to open in east Atwater. While this may aid in easing some of the overcrowding at Merced High School, this school will not be close to the proposed campus, being more than 10 miles away.

#### **4.12.2.5      *Public Libraries***

The Merced County Library system was established in 1910 and has a main branch in Merced and regional branches in Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Livingston and Los Banos. These libraries lend books, records, cassettes and magazines to County residents. Computers are also available to residents for internet and word processing services. The main branch is 44,050 square feet in size, and is open four days each week for an average of 7.5 hours per day. The regional branches are open five days each week for an average of 5.7 hours each day.

Library services in the County of Merced have been scaled back since 1993, due to lack of funding. In 1997, the City and County of Merced adopted a property tax sharing agreement in which the County will receive a share of the tax increment from Redevelopment Project Area #2 specifically for library purposes (City of Merced, 1997). There are currently 30 employees in the County library system, with 13 staff members at the main branch in Merced.

The proposed campus would provide extensive library resources. These resources would be primarily for the research and educational needs of faculty and students, but there would also be some public access.

### **4.12.3 Impacts and Mitigation**

#### **4.12.3.1      *Standards of Significance***

The standards of significance for public services are based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. For the purposes of this EIR, an impact is considered significant if the proposed project would:

- result in the 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.

Public services are identified to include police, fire, schools, hospitals, and libraries.

### 4.12.3.2 *Analytical Method*

#### *Law Enforcement*

To estimate the number of police officers required to serve the new population, a ratio is applied to a population level. This ratio varies from 0.72 to 1.32 per 1,000 population, ranging from the campus police department at the University of California at Davis (UC Davis) to the City of Merced's Police Department, respectively. The ratio is lower for university campuses because of a smaller on-campus resident population compared to a city such as Merced. With a projected on-campus daytime population of 34,188 persons at full development, 24.6 sworn officers would be needed at the proposed campus to maintain a level of service similar to UC Davis. Applying the City's service standard would result in a need for 44.4 sworn officers at full development of the proposed campus. Therefore, the number of needed officers on campus would range from 24.6 to 44.4. In 2007–08, when the on-campus daytime population would be about 5,064 persons, the number of needed officers would range from about 4 to 7. There would also be a need for non-sworn officers and unpaid volunteers, additional support staff, equipment and administrative office to serve the increased population.

#### *Fire Protection*

Increased demand for fire protection services is typically based on projected regional population changes, but is also influenced by other factors such as the type of development, e.g., residential or industrial.

Universities are unique facilities, so measuring fire protection by population numbers or response times cannot provide a complete assessment of the level of impact. Although there is no fire protection standard applied throughout the University of California system, the University of California, Davis has developed criteria that address the need to protect buildings and life from fire hazards. Fire protection at the Davis campus is provided by one or more of the following: maintaining 3.5 firefighters per 1,000,000 square feet of building area; adding additional equipment or improving techniques to meet fire protection needs; and/or expanding mutual aid assistance from adjacent jurisdictions.

The City of Merced General Plan Policy P-2.1 calls for a 4-to-6 minute response time for fire protection services. The standard for an urban level of service requires an engine company on the scene within 5 minutes, 90 percent of the time. The standard number of four personnel is also required for this level of service. The City of Merced Fire Department meets this requirement and has an ISO rating of 2. Instead of using a ratio of staff to population or area, these response times and ISO rating are used to maintain a preferred level of service.

The California Department of Forestry's Master Plan for the Merced County Fire Department provides Level of Service Goals and Objectives that call for a 7-to-14 minute response time for fire protection services. The standard for a heavy urban area is 7 minutes, 90 percent of the time. The Merced County Fire Department currently maintains a fire station proximity of every 1.5 miles in heavy urban areas, and five miles in rural areas to maintain these levels of service.

### Hospitals

The number of beds needed in a hospital depends on the specific needs of the population the hospital is serving. The new medical center has been planned so that there would be approximately 1.6 beds per 1,000 residents of Merced in 2008, including population growth due to the proposed campus. The new hospital will add an additional 245 beds to the existing capacity of the medical system. The ratio of 1.5 hospital beds per 1,000 residents is used at the University of California at Davis. Depending on which ratio is used, the 16,150 persons who would be living on campus at full development would require 24 to 26 beds. In 2007–08, the on-campus resident population of 2,077 persons would require 3 to 4 beds.

### Schools

This EIR applies University-specific student generation rates: 0.56 grades K-8 students and 0.23 9-12 students per single-family housing unit, and 0.26 grades K-8 students and 0.11 high school students per multi-family housing unit. These rates are based on two studies conducted by Michael Paoli and Associates for the Merced City School District and the Merced Union High School District. University students tend to be younger than the general population, and while focusing on their education, delay starting a family. Therefore, the multifamily student generation rate has been reduced to reflect that University students would have a lower school-age child generation rate than the general population.

**Table 4.12-1  
K-12 Student Generation**

Population <sup>a</sup>	Campus households	K-8 children in Single-family units <sup>b</sup>	K-8 children in Multi-family units <sup>b</sup>	High School age children in single-family units <sup>c</sup>	High School age children in multi-family units <sup>c</sup>	Total School-age children
Rate		0.56	0.26	0.23	0.11	
<b>Academic Year 2007–08</b>						
Students with families <sup>d</sup>	181	0	86	0	36	122
Faculty and Staff off-campus <sup>e</sup>	1,325	397	153	163	65	778
<b>Total school-age children</b>		<b>397</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>Full Development</b>						
Rate		0.56	0.26	0.23	0.11	
Students with families <sup>d</sup>	1,250		325		138	463
Faculty in On-Campus Housing <sup>e,f</sup>	710	238	74	97	31	440
<b>Total school-age children</b>		<b>238</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>903</b>

<sup>a</sup> From Table 2-4 On Campus Population Estimates (Selected Years).

<sup>b</sup> From Michael Paoli and Associates, 1994-1998a for the Merced City School District. Multi-family unit rate adjusted to reflect a lower generation rate because of the characteristics of University students living in apartments.

<sup>c</sup> From Michael Paoli and Associates, 1994-1998b for the Merced Union High School District.

<sup>d</sup> Assumes all students with families live in multi-family units.

<sup>e</sup> Assumes 60% of the faculty and staff would live in single-family units and 40% would live in multi-family units.

<sup>f</sup> Students associated with off-campus population would utilize University Community schools.

### *Libraries*

There is no single official source for library standards. There are State and national standards related to number of library employees. For the County to meet State standards, an additional 33 people would have to be employed, based on the current population. To meet national standards, the County would have to employ an additional 60 staff members (Renteria, 2001). Materials, staff, increased open hours and possibly another facility would all be needed to meet current demand.

#### **4.12.3.3 Project Impacts and Mitigation**

##### **4.12-1 On-campus law enforcement services would be provided by the University, and the anticipated on-campus demand for law enforcement services would be adequately met. This is considered to be a *less-than-significant* impact.**

Development of a campus would result in demand for law enforcement services. As stated in Chapter 2, Project Description, UC Merced would provide its own police department to provide service to both the population who live on campus and population who use the facilities during the day. To maintain level of staffing of 0.72 to 1.32 sworn officers per 1,000 population, at full campus development between 24.6 and 44.4 sworn officers would be needed. In 2007–08, 4 to 7 sworn officers would be needed. Additional support staff, equipment and office space would also be required. Based on the experience of other UC campuses, it is anticipated that the on-campus demand for law enforcement services would be met. The physical environment effects from the construction of a police station are addressed in other sections of this EIR because the police station would be one of the various facilities built under the LRDP on the 910-acre Main Campus. This impact is considered *less than significant*.

#### Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measure would further reduce this less-than-significant impact:

4.12-1 *The campus shall maintain a minimum ratio of 0.72 officers per 1,000 population. (Applicability—program level)*

**4.12-2 The campus would obtain fire protection services through agreement with a local agency. This is considered to be a *less-than-significant* impact.**

Development of a campus would result in demand for increased fire protection services at the proposed campus site. The residential population on the campus would require fire protection services. There is a fire protection need for the nonresidential buildings as well, including the academic, administrative and support buildings. The LRDP Land Use diagram includes acreage for the location of a fire station on campus. The environmental impacts from the siting of such a

facility on campus are addressed in other sections of this EIR. The impact from the provision of fire protection services to the campus is therefore considered *less than significant*.

#### Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measure would further reduce this less-than-significant impact:

- 4.12-2 *The Campus shall implement one or more of the following measures in order to provide an adequate level of fire protection services:*
- (a) *Contract for firefighters and support staff as necessary to maintain a ratio of 3.5 firefighters per 1,000,000 square feet of building area, 24 hours per day;*
  - (b) *Provide additional equipment or improve techniques as needed to meet fire protection demand; and/or*
  - (c) *Establish mutual aid agreements with adjacent jurisdictions.*  
(Applicability—program level)

- 4.12-3 Development of the campus would result in increased demand for hospital services. The existing and currently planned medical facility system would be adequate to accommodate projected future need. This is considered to be a less-than-significant impact.**

At full campus development, the increase in new resident population would require 24 to 26 new beds, with about 3 to 4 beds needed to the campus residents in 2007–08. The new hospital that has been planned and takes into account the population associated with the proposed campus will provide 245 beds. Additionally, the on-campus health facilities would partially reduce the demand for medical services. Therefore, the impact would be *less than significant* because no additional hospital construction would be required.

#### Mitigation Measures

*No mitigation required.*

- 4.12-4 The development of the proposed campus would generate demand for elementary and secondary educational services, which could result in physical effects on the environment. This is considered a potentially significant impact.**

The development of the campus would generate demand for elementary and secondary educational facilities. In the early years of campus development (through 2007–08), students with families living on campus and faculty, staff and student households off campus would generate about 636 K-8 students and 264 high school students, for a total of 900 school-age children. These children would attend schools in the City of Merced or adjacent communities depending on their place of residence. Although not all but a vast majority of these school age children would likely utilize the public schools in the area. The existing schools in the Merced City School District and Merced Union High School District are nearing or are already at capacity. Additional facilities (approximately 20 to 25 portables) would be needed to accommodate these new students.

At full development, the students and faculty living on campus would generate approximately 637 K-8 students and 266 high school students for a total of 903 students. Increased demand for

school facilities is not an environmental impact. However, in this case the increased demand for school facilities created by students and faculty living on the campus would result in the construction of new school facilities, which would in turn be expected to result in environmental effects. If the proposed University Community is approved and constructed, then the Community would provide sufficient school facilities to accommodate the school-aged students generated by the students and faculty living on campus. Environmental effects of development of the University Community are addressed in the EIR for that project.

If the proposed University Community is not constructed, then school-aged children living in on-campus housing would need to be accommodated at nearby schools, or at one or more new schools. Construction of these facilities might result in loss of agricultural land of statewide significance, impacts to biological resources, traffic impacts, and other environmental effects. Because no new school site or school expansion project has been proposed, it is not possible to determine these impacts at this time.

#### Mitigation Measures

4.12-4 *The Merced City School District and the Merced Union High School District can and should provide adequate school facilities to all portions of the service area to accommodate growth in the number of school-aged children.*

Because the impacts of construction of new school facilities cannot be known, and because provision of new school facilities are the responsibility of the school districts, no further mitigation is feasible. Therefore, this impact is considered *significant and unavoidable*.

**4.12-5 Development of the campus would result in increased demand for library services. The campus would itself provide extensive academic library facilities, which would serve the general public, as well as students, staff and faculty of the University. This is considered a *less-than-significant* impact.**

Library services in Merced County are below standard levels of service for both personnel and collection size. However, the library system of the proposed campus, which would meet the needs of a modern research and teaching facility, and thus provide a large array of library services, would be available to the general public on a limited basis as well as to students, staff and faculty of the University. The proposed project would contribute to the library services available in the County, especially of adult non-fiction and reference materials, which would permit the County public library system to reallocate some resources away from adult needs and toward other types of materials, including resources for children. Therefore, this impact is considered to be *less than significant*.

#### Mitigation Measures

*No mitigation required.*

4.12.3.4 *Cumulative Impacts*

**4.12-6 Implementation of the LRDP together with cumulative development in the vicinity will result in increased need for law enforcement services. This cumulative impact is considered *less than significant*.**

**Campus, University Community, and Campus Parkway.** The population associated with the proposed campus is expected to generate demand for law enforcement services. The campus' demand would be handled by the campus police department. The residents and businesses in the University Community would require services of the County Sheriff Department. Although existing law enforcement services of the county may be adequate for the early phases of the development of the University Community, the full buildout of the community would require the addition of about 10 police officers if the current level of service in the County were to be maintained and about 44 additional officers if the county's service were to be improved to be closer to that of an urban area. The addition of staff would not result in any environmental impacts. Impacts would result if new police stations were required to accommodate the new staff. The University Community includes adequate land for the siting of a police station should the County decide to build one in the community to serve the population. The environmental impacts of such a station are evaluated in the EIR prepared by the county for the University Community. Campus Parkway would not place any new demand on police services. Therefore, this impact is *less than significant*.

**Other Cumulative Development.** Other development in Merced County also would contribute to growth in population leading to increased need for law enforcement services and may require the construction of new police stations in the region. It would be speculative for this EIR to evaluate the environmental impacts from the construction of these facilities. Because the campus and the University Community would adequately address their needs for police services, they would not contribute to the regional demand for any new facilities.

**4.12-7 Implementation of the LRDP and cumulative development would generate an increased demand for fire protection services. This is considered a less-than-significant impact.**

**Campus, University Community, and Campus Parkway.** Buildout of the campus would create demand for increased fire protection services at the project site. Although the UC Merced campus would rely on existing resources of the City or the County of Merced fire departments, through a mutual aid agreement, the LRDP provides for the construction of a fire station on the campus site.

The University Community would utilize the services of the County Fire Department. Although existing resources of the fire department may be adequate to handle the initial phases of development in the community, these would not be adequate for the full buildout of the community. The addition of fire fighters to the County Fire Department to serve the needs of the community would not result in any environmental impacts. If a new fire station is needed, it could result in environmental impacts. The University Community Plan sets aside acreage for public services including a fire station, and the environmental impacts from the development of all the acreage within the University Community are addressed in the University Community Plan EIR.

In the event that the Campus contracts with the County Fire Department for fire protection services and this service is provided out of existing fire stations or a new fire station located on campus or in the University Community, there would be no environmental impacts beyond those analyzed in this EIR and the University Community EIR.

**Other Cumulative Development.** Other development in the region would also require fire protection services from the City and/or County of Merced Fire Departments. The existing

resources would not adequately accommodate growth in the area, thus requiring additional fire protection facilities and equipment. The City of Merced has developed a master plan to accommodate the projected growth in the population of the SUDP by providing new infrastructure through additional fire protection facilities and equipment. The City is planning to complete another fire station at Parsons Avenue and Silverado Street in the next 5 years, which would be less than 3 miles from the campus. In anticipation of the growth in population in North Merced, the City plans to build another new station at Gardner and Bellevue Road, less than a mile from the campus. Because the campus and University Community would provide area for the construction of new fire stations, these projects would not contribute to the cumulative need for a new fire station. Therefore the impact is considered less than significant.

**4.12-8 Implementation of the LRDP and cumulative development would generate an increased demand for elementary and secondary educational services, which would be met in the University Community. This is considered a *less-than-significant* impact.**

**Campus, University Community, and Campus Parkway.** At full development of the LRDP and University Community, schools constructed in the University Community would be able to accommodate all school-aged children generated by the campus and University Community. It is estimated that the campus and community combined would generate a need for 4.5 to 5.5 elementary schools, about 1.3 to 1.4 middle schools, and about one high school. School impact fees would be paid by development in the University Community, which would contribute towards the funding for the new schools. Because the University Community would accommodate all school-aged children generated by the two projects, the cumulative impact is considered *less than significant*.

**Other Cumulative Development.** Cumulative development in the region would increase demand for elementary and secondary school educational services, and in the near term the campus would contribute to this demand. In the long term, however, the combined campus and community would not contribute to this demand because the University Community would be able to accommodate all school-aged students generated by students, faculty and staff. Therefore the long-term cumulative impact is *less than significant*.

**4.12-9 Implementation of the LRDP and other cumulative development would result in increased demand for library services. This is considered a *less-than-significant* impact.**

**Campus, University Community, and Campus Parkway.** The current library system in Merced County is understaffed leaving the Merced County community underserved. The Campus would provide extensive library resources, which would serve primarily the research and educational needs of faculty and students, but would also include public access. Thus the proposed project would contribute to the library services available in the County, and allow the County to redirect funds away from adult non-fiction and reference materials to provide library resources to other members of the community that would not directly benefit from UC Merced library resource. The University Community would create a demand for library services. The community plan contains policies to address this demand and provides land for the construction of a library to serve the new community. Environmental impacts from the development of a library on the community site are addressed in the EIR for that project.

**Other Cumulative Development.** Further development within the County, the proposed UCP, and the Campus would result in subsequent growth that would place higher demand on existing library facilities. However the proposed project would not contribute to this demand, and the cumulative impact associated with this demand.

**4.12-10 Implementation of the LRDP and other cumulative development would result in increased demand for hospital services. This is considered a *less-than-significant* impact.**

**Campus, University Community, and Campus Parkway.** The increase in population generated by the implementation of the LRDP would require medical services. The Campus is located within the Merced Exclusive Operating Area, which is currently being served by two hospitals in Merced. A third hospital is being planned and is expected to open in 2007 will have 245 beds and is being planned in accordance with projected population growth, including the population associated with the campus. The Campus will also provide on-campus health facilities, partially reducing demand for medical services. The University Community would also generate a need for medical facilities. The campus and the University Community would together generate the demand for about 75 hospital beds. With the addition of the planned hospital, there would be adequate facilities to handle this demand. The impact would therefore be less than significant.

**Other Cumulative Development.** Further development within the County, the proposed University Community, and the campus would result in growth that would place higher demand on existing medical facilities. The planned third hospital is expected to be able to accommodate the projected demand for hospital facilities. It would be speculative for this EIR to evaluate environmental impacts from any future facilities that are added beyond those planned at this time.

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