

## POLICE AND FIRE—ASSURING THE SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY’S RESIDENTS

### ■ CONTEXT

The University Community site is served by the Merced County Sheriff’s Department, which operates out of City of Merced police facilities. Development in the University Community could necessitate the development of a local facility.

The Merced County Fire Department provides fire, rescue and emergency medical services to the University Community area and all unincorporated areas within the County. McKee Station #85 is the closest facility to the University Community area. Development of the University Community would likely necessitate the development of new facilities to assure levels of service and response times.

### ■ GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

#### A SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY

##### Goal

A high level of police protection for University Community residents, visitors, and businesses.

##### Objective

**PS 1.0** To coordinate land development activities with police and sheriff’s departments in order to ensure that adequate facilities and services are development to provide service in the university community.

##### Policies

**PS 1.1** Increase law enforcement personnel by approximately 40 personnel in order to accommodate the estimated 30,000 university community residents, based on the City of Merced Standard of 1.32 officers per 1,000 residents for urban services. This increase in personnel could differ if based on Merced County standards. *(Imp 4.4, 5.2)*

**PS 1.2** Identify sites for police facility location(s) in subsequent Specific Plans for development in the University Community, based on need, phasing, and timing. The Town Center would be a priority candidate site. *(Imp 2.5)*

- PS 1.3** Coordinate development of public safety programs and personnel to serve the University Community with the UC Merced police programs, finding shared opportunities, where appropriate such as mutual response programs. *(Imp 3.3, 5.2)*
- PS 1.4** Work with appropriate policing authorities to establish community and neighborhood safety and crime prevention programs (e.g. neighborhood watch). *(Imp 5.2)*
- PS 1.5** Work closely with UC Merced towards crime prevention specific to student/community conflicts. *(Imp 3.3, 5.2)*

### Objective

- PS 2.0** To create a land use and development configuration and site design standards to minimize crime

### Policies

- PS 2.1** Require that Specific Plans incorporate site designs that help ensure maximum visibility and security for entrances, pathways, streets and sidewalks, corridors, public and private open space, and parking lots and structures. *(Imp 4.5, 5.3)*
- PS 2.2** Require the incorporation of appropriate lighting that provides adequate exterior illumination around commercial, business center, public, parking, and multi-family structures. *(Imp 2.5, 2.8)*

### Goal

A high level of fire protection service for University Community residents, visitors, and businesses.

### Objective

- PS 3.0** To ensure that fire department facilities, personnel, and equipment needs keep pace with growth of the University Community.

### Policies

- PS 3.1** Ensure that fire facilities and personnel are expanded to serve the needs of the estimated 30,000 residents of the University Community and to maintain a five minute response time. *(Imp 4.5, 5.3)*
- PS 3.2** Include appropriate fire facility location(s) in subsequent Specific Plans for development in the University Community, based on need, phasing, and timing. *(Imp 2.5)*

- PS 3.3** Provide an adequate level of water-related infrastructure in development for use in event of fire. *(Imp 2.5, 4.2)*
- PS 3.4** Coordinate development of fire personnel and facilities with the UC fire protection programs, finding shared opportunities when possible. *(Imp 3.3, 5.3)*
- PS 3.5** Implement brush clearing and other fire suppressing programs in adjacent lands, thereby reducing the possibility for the encroachment of wildland fires onto inhabited areas (in consideration of maintenance programs for important plant and animal habitats). *(Imp 5.1, 5.10)*

