

SECTION 11.0 SERVICES IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS

11.1 Overview

The County provides municipal services within unincorporated areas, and by contract to cities as discussed in the previous sections. This section provides a brief overview of the following County services:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Protection
- Parks and Recreation
- Library Services
- Animal Control

11.2 Law Enforcement

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department provides a full range of services, including the following:

**Table 11.1
Riverside County Sheriff Services and Programs**

Patrol	Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS)	Traffic Enforcement
Search and Rescue	Neighborhood Watch	Investigations
Special Enforcement Bureau (SWAT)	Central Homicide Unit	Hostage Negotiation Team
Allied Riverside Cities Narcotics Team (ARCNET)	Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)	Hazardous Device Team
Special Investigations Bureau	County Canine Program	Aviation Program
Traffic Reconstruction Team	High Tech /Computer Crime Investigations	

The unincorporated areas in the western Coachella Valley are served by the following stations:

**Table 11.2
Riverside County Sheriff Stations**

Station	Location	Area Served
Palm Desert	73520 Fred Waring	western half of the Coachella Valley's unincorporated areas of Andreas Hills, Joshua Tree National Park, North Palm Springs, Painted Hills, Pinyon, Sky Valley, Thousand Palms
Indio Station	82-695 Doctor Carreon Blvd	eastern half of the Coachella Valley's unincorporated area including 1000 Palms, Bermuda Dunes, Chiriaco Summit, Desert Beach, Desert Haven, Flowing Wells, Indio Hills, Mecca, North Shore, Oasis, Salton, Sky Valley, Sun City Palm Desert, and Thermal

Calls are received at the County's central dispatch center where they are prioritized and dispatched accordingly. As noted in the Central Valley, Pass Area and Southwestern MSR (2006), the Sheriff's

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Department does not have a defined response time goal. The adopted service standard is 1.2 full-time deputies per 1,000 residents. The County Sheriff is currently operating at an estimated 0.85 sworn deputies per 1,000 residents.

11.3 Fire Services

The Riverside County Fire Department contracts with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) to provide fire protection and emergency medical services. Services provided include the following:

**Table 11.3
Riverside County Fire Services and Programs**

Fire Prevention	Fire Suppression	Emergency Medical
Disaster Preparedness	Fire Safety Inspections	Hazardous Materials Tracing and Enforcement
Weed Abatement Inspections	Volunteer Firefighter Training and Certification	

The following stations provide services within the study area:

**Table 11.4
Riverside County Fire Stations**

Station No.	Location	Equipment
#30 Pinyon	70080 Highway 74, Mountain Center	1 County Engine
#33 Palm Desert	44400 Town Center Way, Palm Desert	1 City engine, 1 ALS Medic Unit, 1 truck, 1 reserve truck, 1 Heavy Rescue Unit, 1 Rescue ALS Medic Unit
#35 Thousand Palms	72695 La Canada Way, Thousand Palms	1 County Medic Engine
#36 North Palm Springs	63775 Dillon Rd. , North Palm Springs	1 County Engine
#37 Desert Hot Springs	65958 Pierson Blvd. Desert Hot Springs	1 City Engine
#50 So. Rancho Mirage	70801 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage	1 Telesquirt truck, 1 medic unit
#53 Garner Valley	59200 Morris Ranch Rd Box 28, Mountain Center	1 County Engine
#55 Indian Wells	44900 El Dorado Drive, Indian Wells	1 City Medic Ambulance, 1 City Engine
#56 Sky Valley	72985 Dillon Rd., Desert Hot Springs	1 County Medic Engine
#67 Mesa View	73200 Mesa View Drive, Palm Desert,	1 City Engine, 1 ALS medic unit
#69 Rancho Mirage North	71751 Gerald Ford Dr., Rancho Mirage	1 City Medic Ambulance, 1 City Engine
#71 Palm Desert North	73995 Country Club Dr., Palm Desert	1 City engine, 1 ALS medic unit, 1 Reserve engine
#81 Sun City	37955 Washington Street, Palm Desert	1 Engine, 1 HazMat Unit, 1 HazMat Support Unit

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All stations are dispatched by the County 9-1-1 Center. The County is participating in the program to standardize communications across all emergency service providers within the Coachella Valley. All fire service agencies within the study area are signatory to the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement which ensures rapid, organized deployment of fire service resources to other jurisdictions when needed. In addition, several fire stations are shared facilities for other entities, including the City fire departments, CDF, and the US Forest Service.

11.4 Park and Recreation Services

The Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (District) was formed in January 1991. The District is an independent agency governed by the County Board of Supervisors, which sits as the District Board of Directors. The District has one park within the western portion of the Coachella Valley: Lake Cahuilla in La Quinta. The park has camping, fishing, a swimming pool, equestrian and hiking trails, and picnicking.

11.5 Library Services

The Riverside County Library System provides library services within the study area. The System is managed and operated by an outside management company. The System is primarily funded through a Library District Tax, which is levied in all unincorporated areas of the County. Additional funding is provided by the Riverside County Library Foundation and development impact fees.

All residents of Riverside County may use any of the libraries. The following libraries serve the study area:

Table 11.5
Riverside County Libraries

Library	Location	Size	Hours of Operation
Cathedral City Branch	33-520 Date Palm Dr.	20,000 sf	Mon-Thurs 10-6; Sat 10-5; closed Fri & Sun
Desert Hot Springs Branch	11691 West Dr.	3,500 sf	Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs 12-8; Sat 9-3; Closed Fri & Sun
Palm Desert Branch	73-300 Fred Waring Dr.	20,500 sf	Mon-Wed 10-8; Thu-Sat 10-5; Sun 1-5.
Thousand Palms	72-715 La Canada	590 sf	Mon & Tues 10-6; Wed 10-8; Thurs 10-6; Sat 10-4; closed Fri & Sun

The County does not have adopted library service standards; local needs and funding are considered when evaluating the need for additional services, facilities, and equipment.

11.6 Animal Control Services

The Riverside County Department of Animal Services provides animal control services in unincorporated areas. Within the western Coachella Valley, the agencies have jointly funded the Coachella Valley Animal Campus regional kennel. The Animal Campus is governed by an oversight commission with representatives from each participating agency. The operation of the regional kennel is contracted to Riverside County Animal Control. The County provides the following services:

- Clinic Services: spaying, neutering, vaccinations, low-cost rabies clinics, microchipping, animal quarantine, euthanization.
- Field Services: stray, injured and dead animal complaints; animal turn-in, cruelty investigations, barking dog complaints, leash law violations, rabies reports, bite reports and quarantines, potentially dangerous, dangerous and vicious dog hearings, dog license inspection/fee collection, kennel license request/inspections, emergency response and investigations, subpoenas for records
- Shelter: adoptions, animal turn-in, animal behavior classes, impounded animal upkeep, and animal records.