



Community Facilities
Serra Mesa Community Plan

7
FIGURE

COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT

This element deals with Schools, Fire Protection, Police Protection, Library Services, Postal Services, Utilities and Emergency Medical Services. Only local community facilities are included.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Schools

The following two tables summarize school information as of this writing. **Table 1** gives the optimal school enrollment and usable site standards of the San Diego Unified School District. **Table 2** provides an inventory of public and private school facilities serving Serra Mesa.

TABLE 1
OPTIMAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
AND USABLE SITE AREA STANDARDS

San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD)

School	Enrollment	Usable Site Area
Elementary	500 - 700	7 acres
Junior High	1,200 - 1,500	16 acres
Senior High	1,800 - 2,000	36 acres

Exceptions are made for existing school sites.

Council Policy 600-22 (adopted June 26, 1975, and last updated November 4, 1985), is concerned with the ability of schools to accommodate school-age children living in new housing developments. One important consideration is the availability policy of each individual school district. A school is considered overcrowded by the San Diego Unified School District if enrollment exceeds the stated school capacity. (See SDUSD Policy for determining the availability of schools - revised March 15, 1977 and 1998). The Council Policy realizes, however, that a particular development project may have varying impact on school enrollment depending on the intended market.

Kearny Senior High in 1999 had an enrollment of 1,683 which exceeds the school's capacity (1,613).

TABLE 2
INVENTORY OF SCHOOL FACILITIES SERVING SERRA MESA

Schools	Enrollment October 1976	Enrollment October 1998	Usable Acres	Construction Date^a
Public Elementary				
Angier	685	439	7.4	1953
Cubberly	399	349	8.1	1959
Fletcher	310	307	8.2	1960
Jones	523	426	9.4	1958
Juarez	345	333	8.8	1961
Wegeforth	467	308	8.0	1958
Public Junior High				
Montgomery ^b	1,408	804	12.8	1942
Taft	1,227	925	16.3	1962
Public Senior High				
Kearny ^b	2,554	1,683	32.8	1954
Public Community College				
Mesa ^b	9,582	23,313	76.7	1964
Private School				
St. Columbia (K-8 th)	346	312	3.5	1958

Notes:

- a. Date of original construction.
- b. Serve the study area, but are located outside the community.

Total enrollment of the six public elementary schools in Serra Mesa peaked at 5,023 in 1969, declining steadily to 2,729 in 1976 and to 2,162 in 1998. The drop is attributable to the general decline in family size and birth rates occurring since the mid-1960s. Enrollment at the two junior high schools and Kearny High peaked in 1975. Enrollment declined at Kearny High (from 3,090 in 1975 to 2,554 in 1976), at Taft Junior High (from 1,592 to 1,227) and at Montgomery Junior High (from 1,961 to 1,408). In 1999, a portion of the school population came from outside the Serra Mesa community area.

Fire Protection

Station 28, located on Kearny Villa Road north of Aero Drive, is the only station within the study area. Its service area includes Serra Mesa (east of I-805). Station 28 maintains one engine and one truck company and accommodates eight personnel. This station also serves as a maintenance and repair facility.

Station 23, located at Comstock and Ulric Streets in Linda Vista, serves the Birdland neighborhood.

Station 39, located at La Cuenta Drive and Tierrasanta Boulevard, in Tierrasanta, also serves the area west of Interstate 15 (I-15).

As a rule, response times in the City are rated as (a) commercial/industrial areas, two minutes; (b) “target hazards” (schools, hospitals, rest homes, etc.), four minutes; (c) residential areas, six minutes; and (d) medical emergencies within eight minutes. The community appears to have adequate fire protection.

Police Protection

Patrol units are assigned to the Serra Mesa planning area from the Eastern Division Police Sub-station on Aero Drive. Service is considered adequate according to police department records.

Library Services

Serra Mesa Branch Library is located immediately north of the Serra Mesa Shopping Center on Sandrock Road. Circulation peaked in the 1971 Fiscal Year at 219,600 volumes then dropped substantially when the Balboa Branch Library opened in October, 1971. The most recent circulation volume was 160,850 in Fiscal Year 1976. In 1997, the library held 50,000 items (including books, videos and compact discs) and 122,000 items were checked out. The Library was opened in 1963 and contains 4,860 square feet.

In the early 1990s, a fund-raising effort was begun to provide a larger replacement library for needed community meeting space, a computer lab and other services. The goal is to develop a 15,000 square-foot Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch Library on the portion of the Serra Mesa Community Park site fronting Aero Drive.

Postal Services

The Serra Mesa post office station is located on Greyling Drive across the street from the Serra Mesa Shopping Center. Its service area (zip code 92123) includes Serra Mesa. However, there are enough post office boxes at the station to satisfy demand.

Utilities

- Gas and Electricity:

Gas and electric service is provided for the entire Serra Mesa planning area.

- Water and Sewer Services:

The City of San Diego provides water and sewer services to the community.

All of the mesa areas of the community are served by water from the Miramar Filtration Plant. The water flows from Miramar through two major pipeline systems to a central distribution facility along I-805 between Clairemont Mesa Boulevard and Balboa Avenue. A major crosstie pipeline is planned along Clairemont Mesa Boulevard from I-805 to Santo Road. This will weld the pipelines together to complete the Miramar Loop. This

project will be needed soon to assure reliable water service to the city north of Mission Valley from the Pacific Ocean to Camp Elliott. The Mission Valley fringe of the community is served by the Alvarado Filtration Plant.

The Mission Valley/Kearny Mesa trunk sewer system collects all liquid wastes from the study area.

- Telephone Service:

Telephone service is provided to all parts of the community on demand. No major projects are anticipated and service is adequate.

- Cable TV (CATV) Service:

Cable television service is provided to all parts of the community on demand.

- Bulk Petroleum Pipeline:

A high pressure underground pipeline that brings liquid fuels from Norwalk, California, to the petroleum tank farm located at Friars Road and I-15. The pipeline, built in 1963, extends from Ruffner Street near Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, southeastward along Kearny Villa Road and Aero Drive, then south of Ruffin Road and Mission Village Drive to Friars Road.

Although the pipeline serves the community only indirectly, it is worthy of discussion because of safety risks. It could develop leaks by either natural deterioration or mishaps occurring during periodic maintenance.

- Emergency Medical Services:

(also, see Institutional Complex Section that follows)

Donald N. Sharp Memorial Community Hospital is the only general medical facility in the community. It provides emergency care for Serra Mesa and nearby communities. Children's Hospital provides medical and emergency care for children and Mary Birch Women's Hospital provides facilities for women. All these are part of the Serra Mesa Medical Campus located between State Route 163 (SR-163) and I-805.

Kaiser Permanente operates a hospital on Zion Avenue near Mission Gorge Road in the Navajo community. All health services, including emergency care, are available to Kaiser Plan members. Kaiser/Permanente also operates a medical facility on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard at I-805 in the Kearny Mesa area.

GOAL

TO ASSURE THAT A HIGH LEVEL OF ALL COMMUNITY SERVICES IS REACHED AND MAINTAINED BY ADHERING TO STANDARDS SET FORTH IN THE PROGRESS GUIDE AND GENERAL PLAN.

OBJECTIVES

Schools

- To urge maximum utilization of school facilities for educational, recreational, cultural and other activities.
- To assure all students direct, safe access to schools.
- To encourage community participation in identification, evaluation and implementation of the educational needs of the community.

Community Facilities

- To assure that all community facilities and services adequately respond to changing community characteristics.

PROPOSALS

Schools

- All schools should be maintained in accordance with board of education policy and the highest possible standards.
- Elementary school attendance boundaries should generally remain stable. However, changes should be considered when necessary to ensure safer access and balance school enrollments.
- If the board of education classifies any schools as “surplus property” the community and the City should be given the opportunity to acquire the land for public purposes before the property is sold for private development.
- Available space at Taft Junior High School should be reserved for a community swimming pool as an alternative to the proposed site at Serra Mesa Community Park. This would be consistent with current board of education policy.

Fire Protection

- Evaluation of fire protection should be continued to assure adequate coverage in the community.

Police Protection

- The present response time should be continually evaluated. Police emphasis should be placed on protection of the community. Crime prevention, community relations and crime-inhibiting design programs should be emphasized both in residential and in commercial/industrial areas.

Library

- The Plan anticipates that the Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch Library will relocate and be expanded on City-owned property adjacent to Aero Drive. This branch should eventually be expanded in accordance with library department standards.
- Periodic studies should be conducted to ensure that adequate sewer, water and drainage facilities are provided in the community.
- Flood control facilities should be designed to ensure adequate protection for the community while preserving the natural topography and minimizing adverse environmental effects.

Emergency Medical Services

- The emergency medical support system should be improved through better utilization of existing ambulance services, increasing the level of paramedic training and improving the use and development of communication equipment.

See **Figure 7**: Community Facilities.