

**APPENDIX 5.9**

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**Police Response Letter**



January 16, 2009

Evan Sharp, Staff Planner  
Impact Sciences, Inc.  
803 Camarillo Springs Road, Suite A  
Camarillo, CA 93012

Subject: Riverwalk Marketplace Phase II Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Sharp:

I am providing the following information pursuant to your request in a letter to Porterville Police Chief Chuck McMillan, dated January 9, 2009. It is my goal to provide a response to all of the questions posed and provide the vital information needed for your environmental impact report.

The Porterville Police Department operates from the Headquarters facility located at 350 North "D" Street. The Police Department is comprised of 62 sworn police officers and 25 non-sworn employees, considered as support staff. We are a full service police department, meaning that we provide a response and action to a myriad of requests for public safety services. We fully equip every officer with all necessary safety equipment essential to performing their assigned duties. This includes uniforms, safety vests, firearms, and other protective gear.

Police officers in Porterville provide patrols and service to a city which encompasses more than sixteen square miles and has a population of approximately 51,500 people. The Tulare County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol have sub-stations in the City of Porterville. We have an excellent working relationship with both of these law enforcement agencies. We work in cooperative fashion to assist each other in policing the greater Porterville area, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Efforts are presently underway to design and build a public safety building in the community. This joint use facility would house both police and fire personnel. Selection of a site and negotiations for purchase of land are underway. The site presently being considered is within one mile of the Riverwalk Marketplace. Should this come to fruition, police personnel would be available to respond timely to any emergency or request for police services at Riverwalk, from the facility.

Currently, the Police Department is operating at a ratio of 1.2 officers per 1,000 residents. The City of Porterville does not have a standard officer-to-population ratio established for the Police Department. Prior to the passage of a Public Safety Sales Tax Measure (Measure H) in 2005, this ratio was significantly low. After passage of this tax measure,

**PORTERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT**

The members of the Porterville Police Department are committed to the safety and security of the community while providing quality service with excellence, honesty and integrity.

the police and fire departments were able to add public safety personnel to bolster our policing and fire fighting efforts. Today and for the foreseeable future, the department is able to provide an adequate response to the growing community of Porterville. The department has not established a standard response time for calls for service. However, on a consistent basis, the department is able to provide a timely response to most calls anywhere in the city. The following statistics reflect the department's response to crime and other needs of the community:

<b><u>POLICE ACTIONS</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>
Officer Initiated Activity	36,012	37,135
Calls for Service	30,702	27,883
Police Reports	11,385	10,052
<b><u>RESPONSE TIMES</u></b> (Average of all responses)		
Priority 1 (Injury accidents, crimes in progress, threats to public safety, etc)	4:45	3:59 min.
Priority 2 ( Disputes, crimes where suspect has left scene, Semi-urgent matters)	9:06	7:21 min.
Priority 3 (Routine complaints, cold reports of crime, non-urgent matters)	11:44	9:33 min.

The Patrol Division is the largest staffed division in the Police Department. This division is highly visible in the community as the officers are in uniform and patrol the city in marked police vehicles. The personnel in this division provide policing services 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. They are assisted in the effort to keep the community safe by special teams or units in the police department that have special skills and expertise to combat crime and address specific problems occurring in the community. The Police Department provides patrols and responses to all requests for police services in marked and unmarked police vehicles and police motorcycles. Additionally, officers have specialized vehicles available to them to more effectively police the community. Vehicles available to perform the police function include: armored SWAT truck, Mobile Command Trailer, Radar Display Trailer, Polaris All-Terrain vehicle, bicycles and others.

The Police Department is comprised of dedicated employees who work hard to deter crime, improve public safety in the community and apprehend those engaged in criminal activity. Their efforts are reflected in the year end crime statistics. The Part I Crimes statistics are the eight crimes used by the FBI and most police agencies throughout the

United States to gauge the level of crime in a community. The following chart does not include Arson as that data is provided by the Fire Department:

<u>PART I CRIMES</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Homicide	7	1
Robbery	72	63
Rape	14	7
Assault	632	552
Burglary	540	389
Larceny	1,491	1,165
Auto Theft	320	325
Arson		

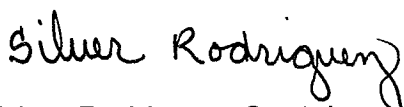
In 2005, the local electorate passed Measure H, a Public Safety Sales Tax Measure. This tax measure increased the local sales tax by one-half percent, with the provision that all additional revenues raised by the increase would be used to improve and add public safety staffing, equipment and facilities.

The Police Department does not anticipate that the Riverwalk Marketplace development will place burdens or demands on the department that will exceed its ability to meet them. Through a myriad of strategies and approaches, the Police Department stands ready to police our community while it experiences commercial, residential or population growth.

Should you have any questions regarding any of the information provided, please feel free to contact me at (559) 782-7403.

Sincerely,

Chuck McMillan  
Chief of Police



Silver Rodriguez, Captain  
Services Division