

1999-2000 GRAND JURY REPORT

Sheriff's Department Southwest Station

Background

The Riverside County Sheriff's Southwest Station is located in an unincorporated area six miles north of the City of Temecula. This station shares the facilities with the Southwest Detention Center. It is commanded by a captain who also serves as the Chief of Police for the City of Temecula. Approximately 85% of the Southwest Station's resources are allocated to fulfill their contractual obligation to provide law enforcement services for Temecula. Except for Murrieta, which has its own police department, the remaining assets provide services for the rest of the county.

Findings

1. Presently, there are thirteen (13) Sheriff Deputies assigned to the Southwest Station, which covers approximately 300 square miles.
2. The population in this area is estimated at 38,000 with an expected growth of about 65,000 in the next four years.
3. There are only two units on patrol at any one time.
4. The Riverside County Sheriff has established a policy of having one deputy on duty for every 1,000 population.
5. Presently, the ratio in the Southwest area is approximately one deputy to every 3,000 people.

Recommendations

Riverside County Sheriff

1. Take steps to increase the number of deputies in the Southwest area over the next two years, creating the recommended ratio of one deputy per 1,000 population.