

# **2001-2002 GRAND JURY REPORT**

## **Riverside County Sheriff's Department Perris Station**

### **Background**

The current Perris Sheriff's Station was established in 1996 when Perris contracted with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services. Canyon Lake, which had been contracting with the former Perris City Police, also signed a contract with the Sheriff's Department to be covered by the Perris Station. The Commander of the Perris Station serves as Chief of Police for the cities of Perris and Canyon Lake.

The Perris Station first operated from the former Perris Police Station. That facility being completely inadequate, the City of Perris purchased the vacant Southern California Edison Service Center in 1997 for use as the Sheriff's Station. The property included a 12,400 square foot office building and an adjacent 3,000 square foot building on 7.12 acres on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Perris. The county spent \$68,000 and the city spent \$170,000 to upgrade the office building in an effort to make it suitable for law enforcement activities. The upgrade consisted only of electrical and communications improvements and minor internal space changes.

The unincorporated communities of Woodcrest, Mead Valley, Sun City, Romoland, Nuevo, Lake Matthews, and Gavilan Hills have since been added to the Perris Station's responsibilities.

### **Findings**

1. The Perris Station is housed in a 40 year-old 12,400 square foot building that was not designed to be a law enforcement facility.
2. The building is too small to adequately support the current staff of 134 serving a population of approximately 130,000. By comparison, the Lake Elsinore Station is 26,500 square feet with a staff of 106 serving a population of approximately 102,000.
3. There is insufficient space in the main building for evidence storage. Both the Perris and Moreno Valley Stations use the separate 3,000 square foot building for that purpose.
4. The existing buildings are located on the northeast corner of the 7.12 acre parcel. The remainder of the lot is approximately 6 acres of paved parking and unused maintenance area.

5. Construction funding for Sheriff's Stations has historically been provided through the cooperative efforts of the Board of Supervisors, the Economic Development Agency, grants, developer fees, transfer of city rent or lease funds and other sources.
6. Based upon Riverside County officials estimations, the population along the I-215 corridor served by the Perris Station will increase from the present 130,000 to 156,000 or more by the year 2007, requiring a proportionate increase in law enforcement staff.

## **Recommendations**

**City of Perris**

**Riverside County Sheriff's Department**

**Riverside County Board of Supervisors**

1. Plan during the next budget cycle for the funding and construction of a new Perris Sheriff's Station.
2. Examine the feasibility of building the new station on the unused 6 acres at the present location on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Perris, leaving the present office building for other county or city uses.