

3. The Fire Protection District will continue to participate in coordinating efforts of other Federal, State and local agencies to accomplish joint arson investigation and resource sharing.

4.9 Education and Library Facilities and Services

There are 20 public school districts serving the elementary and secondary school needs in Ventura County:

- Conejo Valley Unified School District (Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park and Westlake)
- Fillmore Unified School District (Fillmore, Bardsdale, Piru and Northeast portion of the County)
- Moorpark Unified School District (Moorpark)
- Oak Park Unified School District (Oak Park and Agoura)
- Ojai Unified School District (Ojai Valley)
- Simi Valley Unified School District (Simi Valley)
- Ventura Unified School District (Ventura, Montalvo, Oak View and Saticoy)
- Hueneme Elementary School District (Oxnard, Port Hueneme, and Hollywood Beach)
- Ocean View Elementary School District (Southern portion of Ventura County including Santa Monica Mountains Area)
- Oxnard Elementary School District (Oxnard and beach areas)
- Rio Elementary School District (El Rio and Oxnard areas)
- Mesa Union Elementary School District (rural area between Saticoy and Somis)
- Pleasant Valley Elementary School District (Camarillo, Camarillo Heights and Las Posas)
- Somis Union Elementary (Somis)
- Briggs Elementary School District (West rural Santa Paula)
- Mupu Elementary School District (North rural Santa Paula)
- Santa Clara Elementary School District (East rural Santa Paula)
- Santa Paula Elementary School District (Incorporated Santa Paula)
- Oxnard Union High School District (Oxnard, Port Hueneme and Camarillo area)
- Santa Paula Union High School District (Santa Paula area)

The primary function of the County Superintendent of Schools is to act as an intermediary agency between the Federal and State Government and the local school districts and private schools. In this capacity, the office assists school districts and private schools with administrative, business and fiscal, and educational affairs through the implementation of special programs, services, and legislative mandates.

The Ventura County Superintendent of Schools also provides a special education program, occupational training program and the Gateway Community Schools and Court School.

California State University Channel Islands opened its Camarillo campus in fall 2002. The state funded university will serve residents in Ventura, western Los Angeles, and southeastern Santa Barbara counties.

Ventura County Community College District is responsible for providing public community college education in Ventura County. The Community College District operates three colleges: Ventura College, Moorpark College, and Oxnard College. These colleges serve all communities in the County, except for an area to the northwest of the County that is served by the Kern Community College District.

Ventura County is served by four independent public library jurisdictions: the Ventura County Library, the City of Oxnard, Blanchard-Santa Paula Public Library and the City of Thousand Oaks.

The Ventura County Library operates 15 community, and special libraries. The County Library administrative office is located at 646 County Square Drive, Suite 150, Ventura. The ordering, automation, and cataloging facility is located at 196 South Fir Street, Ventura. Community and special libraries are located as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Avenue Library (Ventura) | • Fillmore |
| • Camarillo | • E. P. Foster (Ventura) |
| • Albert H. Soliz | • Historical Museum Library (Ventura) |

- Meiners Oaks
- Moorpark
- Oak Park
- Oak View
- Ojai
- Piru
- R. D. Prueter (Port Hueneme)
- Saticoy
- Simi Valley
- H.P. Wright Library (Ventura)

The goals, policies and programs which apply to education and library facilities and services are as follows:

4.9.1 Goals

1. Promote quality public education services and educational facilities in order to achieve maximum opportunity for the education of residents of all ages and socioeconomic levels.
2. Goals of the Office of the County Superintendent of Schools are:
 - To provide leadership and direction in the development and implementation of the best possible educational programs throughout Ventura County.
 - To provide services, programs, and support for the purpose of maintaining the efficient and effective operation of district and County educational programs.
 - To operate Countywide educational programs for students when it is not feasible or practical for local districts to do so.
 - To maintain a public information program on educational matters.
 - To assist school district implementation of educational programs or procedures as mandated, requested or recommended by the State Department of Education.
3. The overall goal of the Ventura County Community College District is to meet the educational needs of all eligible students by offering comprehensive programs and services.
4. The goal of the California State University System is to provide eligible California students with high-quality, affordable access to higher education.
5. The goal of the Ventura County Library is to provide to all individuals free access to books, other materials, and services to support their informational, recreational, cultural and self-education needs.

4.9.2 Policies

1. School sites should be integrated with parks wherever possible.
2. School facilities should be available for community activities when feasible.
3. Community library facilities shall be sited in central locations of the community to be served. Site selection criteria shall consider:
 - Convenient access, preferably on or near the Community's major vehicular and pedestrian traffic routes.
 - Adequate off-street parking.

4.9.3 Programs

1. The Planning Division will continue to work with the County Superintendent of Schools Office and the various school districts in the County concerning school site dedications and fee assessments.
2. The County Planning Division will continue to coordinate an exchange of information with local school districts regarding school facilities needs and site planning for new schools in conjunction with new residential *developments*.
3. The Building and Safety Division will continue to collect the duly authorized *development* fees for school district projects prior to issuance of building permits.

4. School districts should continue to pursue conversion of those facilities that are no longer needed for public education to community uses such as parks, recreation center or private schools.
5. The Library Services Agency will continue to work with cities served in the development of financial partnerships to expand or replace existing facilities.

4.10 Parks and Recreation

In Ventura County the abundance of natural recreation resources has given rise to establishment of many recreation facilities. A wide variety of agencies provide these facilities. At the Federal level, Ventura County contains the Los Padres National Forest, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the Channel Islands National Monument. State parks and open space lands are located along the coast, within the Santa Monica Mountains area and at Hungry Valley State Recreation Area. The above facilities attract patronage from a much greater area than Ventura County alone. The Casitas Municipal Water District and United Water Conservation District provide facilities at Lake Casitas and Lake Piru respectively. At the local level, facilities are provided by the County, the cities and three recreation and park districts.

Recreation facilities can be divided into two main categories: regional and local. A *regional recreation area* is an extent of land which, by its unique natural character or unusual or extensive development, offers recreation opportunities that attract patronage from beyond the local vicinity without regard to physical, political or municipal boundaries. *Local parks* provide facilities to serve the daily needs of a neighborhood or group of neighborhoods within an urban community. The specific facilities should be determined by assessing the needs of the community. Recreation areas can also serve the ancillary purposes of preserving open space, providing water resources, buffering urban land uses and preserving biological, cultural and scenic resources.

The majority of County residents receive local park service from a local city or recreation and park district. The Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District provides local park facilities in the Camarillo area. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District serves the Simi Area and the Rancho Conejo Recreation and Park District provides local and some regional facilities and an extensive trail system in the Thousand Oaks vicinity. The above District's service areas extend into unincorporated territory outside the principal cities. Other incorporated cities provide recreation services through their own recreation departments. Some cities also operate regional recreation facilities. The Public Facilities and Services Appendix contains a more extensive listing of recreation facilities.

The County of Ventura provides recreation services through the General Services Agency, Recreation Services. The primary focus of the County is to provide regional recreation facilities. The County also provides local park facilities in unincorporated areas of the County not served by other agencies. The County operates community recreation centers in Oak View, Casitas Springs, El Rio, Saticoy and Piru.

Trails are another category of recreation facility. The Los Padres National Forest and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area contain extensive trail systems. Local trails exist in many areas of the County. The County, and many other public and private organizations, have been attempting to establish an interconnected trail network throughout the County. Trails can be established on public lands and easements or by obtaining easements through private lands.

Funding limitations on recreation services are a perennial problem. Decreasing availability of Federal and State revenues together with local funding shortages threaten the ability of the County to keep pace with service demand. Innovative utilization of donations, grant sources, volunteer labor and public-private joint ventures can fill the revenue gap. The County has adopted local parkland dedication requirements, (Quimby Ordinance), pursuant to the State Subdivision Map Act to fund the development and renovation of neighborhood and community recreation facilities.

The goals, policies and programs which apply to recreation facilities are as follows:

4.10.1 Goals

1. Acquire, develop and operate a system of recreation facilities to meet the recreation needs of County residents.

PUBLIC FACILITIES (cont.)

2. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Educational facilities within San Joaquin County include public and private elementary and secondary schools, colleges and a university. Special education, continuation schools and adult education, as well as business, vocational, and technical training are also available.

School Facilities.

Public School Systems. Seven unified school districts (Grades K-12) in the County serve approximately 90% of the public school population. The remaining 10% are served by elementary school districts and joint union high school districts. The seven unified school districts include Escalon, Lincoln, Linden, Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, and Stockton. Seven elementary school districts (K-8) are within the Tracy Joint Union High School district (9-12), which also serves one elementary district from Alameda County. Three elementary school districts in the north County area are within the Galt Joint Union High School District (Sacramento County), while a small area in the southeastern portion of the County is within the Valley Home Joint School District (Stanislaus County). Figure II.E-12 shows school district boundaries.

Private Schools. Private school enrollment within San Joaquin County is predominately church-affiliated and accounts for approximately 9.5% of the total elementary and secondary (K-12) enrollment in the County.¹ The percentage of students enrolled in private schools in the County has remained stable over recent years (see Table II.E-12). This percentage is only slightly below the statewide figure of approximately 11%.¹

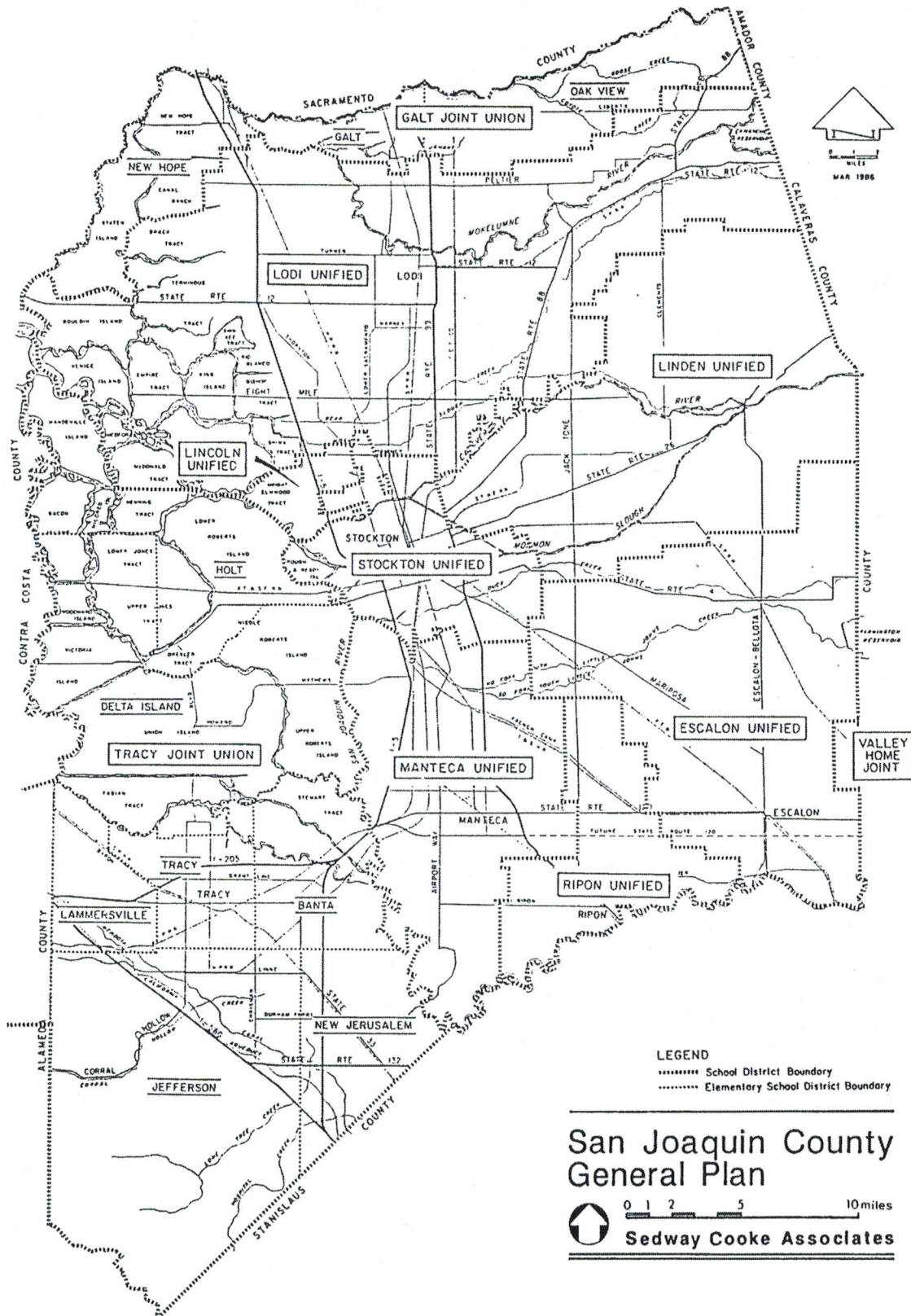
While many private schools have limited enrollment (some by design), several can claim enrollments equivalent to public elementary and secondary schools. Enrollments range from one student being taught in a home to enrollments of over a thousand.²

Higher Education. Stockton is the location for two major institutions of higher learning, San Joaquin Delta Community College and the University of the Pacific (UOP). Delta is a two-year public community college which serves all of the school districts in San Joaquin County except the Ripon Unified school district which is served by the Modesto Community College District. Delta also serves Galt Joint Union High School District and River Delta Unified in Sacramento and Solano counties, respectively.

The University of the Pacific (UOP) is a private university with undergraduate and graduate programs in several schools and colleges including business and public administration, music, education, engineering and pharmacy. Separate campuses for dentistry and law are located in San Francisco and Sacramento, respectively.

Additional collegiate programs are provided by Stanislaus State College and the University of San Francisco, which hold classes on the Delta Community College campus, and by a variety of private business, vocational, and technical schools located in the Stockton vicinity.

Figure II.E-12 SCHOOL DISTRICTS



PUBLIC FACILITIES (cont.)

School Trends and Identified Needs.

Enrollment Trends. Following an enrollment peak in 1969, some public schools in San Joaquin County experienced a declining enrollment for the ten year period 1970-1979. This decline is attributed primarily to the trend toward smaller family sizes (i.e., fewer children per family) and couples having children later in life. As shown on Table II.E-12, enrollments began to increase again in 1980 and have grown at an annual average rate of 3% between 1980 and 1984. Private school enrollments have also increased during this period, growing at a slightly slower rate than public schools. These increases are attributed to the general population increase within San Joaquin County, which grew at an annual average rate of 2.8% between 1980 and 1984.

An increase in school age children is expected to continue through the year 2010. Over the next five years, San Joaquin County is projected to see a 57% increase in enrollment, the third fastest growing student population in the State.³ Some school districts could accommodate a moderate increase in enrollment in their existing facilities while other districts will need new facilities to handle the projected growth.

The number of school sites required to accommodate the projected enrollment is based upon two factors: 1) an estimate of one student being generated from each new residence and 2) the various sizes of schools each school district desires. The standards for school enrollment are shown in Table II.E-13.

Development/School District Coordination. Land development and the subsequent population growth create increased demands for educational facilities. Coordination and consultation with the school districts should occur during the preparation of long-term growth plans and during the review of specific development projects. This will assure that the school districts have sufficient lead time to designate sites and plan for construction.

To assure that there is coordination with the school districts, all projects which could have an effect on a school district's enrollment should be referred to the district for review and comment. The school districts should help identify possible measures for reducing the impact of developments on their schools when possible.

Land Use Considerations.

School Facility Dedication. The state of California's Subdivision Map Act allows counties to adopt ordinances requiring subdividers to dedicate land which is needed for the purpose of constructing elementary schools necessitated by the subdivision. A section of the San Joaquin County Planning Title allows land reservation for schools which may be required.

AB 1929, passed by the State in early 1988, amends the Education Code and the Government Code as they relate to school facilities funding. Among other things, the governing board of any school district is authorized to levy a fee, charge, dedication, or other development requirement for the purpose of funding the construction or reconstruction of school facilities, subject to certain limitations.

TABLE II.E-12: SCHOOL ACTIVE ENROLLMENT DATA

	Graded Student Enrollment Figures					Annual Rate of Change		
	1967	1970	1975	1980	1984	1967-1970	1970-1980	1980-1984
Unified School Districts								
Escalon	1964	2037	1902	1764	1840	1.2%	-1.4%	1.1%
Lincoln	4512	4864	5529	6197	7182	2.5%	2.5%	3.8%
Linden	2098	2097	2002	1704	1719	.0%	-2.1%	0.2%
Lodi	11489	11714	11997	14432	17132	0.6%	2.1%	4.4%
Manteca	7397	8149	8261	8979	9911	3.3%	1.0%	2.5%
Ripon	1234	1281	1205	1169	1327	1.3%	-0.9%	3.2%
Stockton	31456	31130	26577	22144	25309	-0.3%	-3.3%	3.4%
Rural Elementary Districts ¹	1529	1583	1434	1435	1473	1.2%	-1.0%	0.7%
Tracy Elementary District	2988	2984	2952	2971	3380	.0%	.0%	3.3%
Tracy High School District ²	1694	1768	1776	1713	1902	1.4%	-0.3%	2.7%
Subtotal Public Schools (K-12)	66361	67607	63635	62508	71175	0.6%	-0.8%	3.3%
Private Schools (K-12)	NA	NA	5389	6754	7497	NA	3.6% ³	2.7%
Delta Community College (13-14)	7240	11591	13285	17744	15898	17.0%	4.4%	-2.7%
Total School Enrollment (K-14)	73601	89198	82309	87006	94570	2.5%	0.9%	2.1%

¹ Rural elementary districts are the following: Banta, Delta Island, Holt Union, Jefferson, Lammersville, New Hope, New Jerusalem, Oak View, and Rindge (from 1967-1980).

² Includes out of County students from Mountain House School District (Alameda County).

³ Includes only 1973-1980 figures.

NA Not Available

Source: San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools. Statistical Bulletin No. 2 (1965-1984)
San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools. Private Schools, Miscellaneous Information (1973-1984)

The requirements shall not exceed \$1.50 per square foot of habitable space for residential development, \$0.25 per square foot of covered or enclosed space for commercial or industrial development. However, residential development exclusively for senior citizens is subject to the rates for commercial or industrial development. The bill further makes school facilities constructed through the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act eligible for funds from the State Allocation Board.

TABLE II.E-13: SCHOOL ENROLLMENT STANDARDS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

<u>School District</u>	<u>K-6</u> <u>(# of Pupils)</u>		<u>7-8</u> <u>(# of Pupils)</u>		<u>9-12</u> <u>(# of Pupils)</u>
Escalon Unified ¹	600	(K-5)	600	(6-8)	600
Lincoln Unified ²	400-500		500		2,500
Linden Unified ³	100-200	(K-8)			700
Lodi Unified ⁴	500 ^a		780		1,460
	615 ^b		2,050		1,980
Manteca Unified ⁵	900	(K-8)			1,800
Ripon Unified ⁶	450	(K-8)			750-800
Stockton Unified ⁷	500-600		1,000-1,200		2,000-2,500
Tracy Joint ⁸	500	(K-5)	750	(6-8)	1,800-2,000

^a Average enrollment for a regular term.

^b Average enrollment for year-round school schedule.

Sources:

- ¹ Escalon Unified School District. Telephone conversation with Jacob Klessens, March 1986.
- ² Lincoln Unified School District. Telephone conversation with Beverly Holt, March 1986.
- ³ Linden Unified School District. Telephone conversation with Don Schwering, March 1986.
- ⁴ Lodi Unified School District. Telephone conversations with Mary Joan Starr, Facility Planner and Jack Dunn, Principal, Creekside School, March 1986.
- ⁵ Manteca Unified School District. Telephone conversation with Jim Thomas, March 1986.
- ⁶ Ripon Unified School District. Telephone conversation with Jim Thomas, March 1986.
- ⁷ Stockton Unified School District. Telephone conversation with Arthur Bachelor, March 1986.
- ⁸ Tracy Joint Union School District. Telephone conversation with Robin Blakely, Facilities Planner, March 1986.

Locational Considerations. The effect educational facilities can have upon an area is significant; thus, a careful analysis of proposed sites is necessary. A number of factors are important to siting school facilities and are summarized below. Precise locations are established by the school districts and the State Department of Education, after it is determined whether a new facility is necessary.

Access. The site should be easily accessible by automobiles, buses, bicycles, and pedestrians. Public transportation should also be considered in areas where it is available.

Due to the amount of traffic generated by educational facilities they should be located on collectors or arterials depending on the size of the facility and the population to be served.

For safety, elementary schools should minimize the number of major street crossings required of students on their way to and from school.

High Schools should be located directly onto a Collector street as well as directly or indirectly to a secondary road.

Surrounding Land Uses. It is appropriate for elementary and middle schools to be located within the residential areas they serve. High schools, vocational and technical schools, large private schools, colleges and universities and other similar types of facilities which draw their students from a larger area should be located to serve their feeder elementary and middle school attendance areas. They may be located within or adjacent to high density residential or commercial areas, provided they are properly buffered.

Noise. Schools are noise generators and are also sensitive to noise. The traffic generated by educational facilities and the outdoor uses can generate significant amounts of noise. Therefore, they should not be located adjacent to noise sensitive uses such as hospitals or rest homes. Noise also affects schools, primarily in terms of speech and learning interference, and they should not be sited near noise generators such as certain industrial plants, highways, railroads, and airports.

Transmission Lines. Some studies indicate possible adverse health effects from the exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) from high voltage (500-750 kv) transmission lines. In addition, school playgrounds are commonly used by children and residents for recreation, kite flying, ball games, etc. which can be a potential conflict. Although rare, high voltage lines can also be downed in high winds and storms. Thus, for the protection of health and safety, schools should be located 400 feet or more from high voltage power transmission lines.⁴

Topography. A major portion of school sites are used for outdoor game fields and playgrounds; thus, sites with relatively level topography, less than 10% slope, and needing minimal grading are preferred.

Outside Floodplain. For obvious safety reasons, schools should be located outside the 100-year floodplain.

Airports.⁴ Schools should not be subject to existing or future aircraft noise levels of 65 db CNEL or Ldn, or greater. They should not be sited under any runway approach surface and at least one-half mile from any portion of a usable runway.

Endnotes

1. State of California, Department of Education. Enrollment and Staff in California's Private Elementary Schools and High Schools 1983-84, Superintendent of Public Instruction. Sacramento. 1984.
2. San Joaquin County Office of Education. Private Schools, Miscellaneous Information 1979 to 1985. January 1985.
3. Mary Joan Starr, Facility Planner, Lodi Unified School District. Personal communication. July 25, 1988.
4. State of California, Department of Education. *School Site Selection and Approval Guide, Draft*. September 10, 1987.