

Table 2D - Existing vs. Planned Land Use Within Western Riverside County

Existing Land Use	Acres	Planned Land Use	Acres
Developed	218,260	Community Development/Rural	709,560
Vacant ¹	871,040	Open Space	469,370
Agriculture	169,470	Agriculture	38,280
		American Tribal Lands	41,570
TOTAL²	1,258,750		1,258,750

Notes: ¹ Includes American Indian Lands.
² Total does not add up due to rounding error.

Sources: Existing Land Use: LSA Associates, 1999 with updates 2000, 2001.
 Planned Land Use: County of Riverside General Plan and WRCOG City General Plan Land Use Database, October 2000.

2.1.3 Demographic Considerations

Historical Growth

Southern California has experienced periods of rapid growth over most of the past century. As the coastal regions of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties have built-out, much of the new growth has shifted to the inland regions of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. During the 1980s and 1990s, Riverside County led the region in population growth. During the 1990s, Riverside County was also a leader in job growth. In 1970, Riverside County’s total population was 456,916; approximately 224,032 people lived within western Riverside County cities, and 178,591 lived within unincorporated areas (it is assumed a majority of unincorporated County occupants reside within western Riverside County). By 1980, Riverside County’s total population had increased to 663,199. Approximately 291,313 people lived in western County cities, and 276,565 lived in the unincorporated County. The County’s total population grew from 663,199 in 1980 to 1,170,413 by 1990; western County cities were populated by 594,046 people, and an additional 385,384 people lived in the unincorporated western County. The County’s total population grew from 1,170,413 in 1990 to 1,545,387 in 2000. By 2000, a total of 848,413 people resided in western County cities, and an additional 420,721 resided in unincorporated western County areas (California Department of Finance web site, April 2002).

Forecast Growth

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and western Riverside County cities have historically prepared regional growth forecasts in an effort to allocate resources in the most efficient manner and assist infrastructure planning. Forecasts include population, housing, employment, and other economic data. SCAG estimates that by 2025 almost 7 million people and 4 million jobs – the equivalent of adding two cities the size of Chicago – will be added to the Southern California region. This would bring Southern California’s regional population from 16 million to 22.8 million (SCAG 1998, with draft update 2001). Most of the population

growth is expected to occur in north Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties; however, job growth will also occur in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

In 1998, SCAG released Riverside County's population forecasts for 2020; Riverside's population is projected to reach upwards of 2.8 million. This population growth equals approximately 2.8 percent a year from now until 2020 (Stanley R. Hoffman Associates, revised 2000). Population will continue to increase within the county beyond the 2020 horizon; the County's population will reach 3.5 million by 2030 and 4.5 million by 2050. A total of 569,608 additional housing units will be needed to accommodate this anticipated growth (426,354 in western Riverside County and 143,142 in eastern Riverside County).

Infrastructure Needs

The demographics clearly lay out the demands associated with growth in population, housing, and jobs that the RCIP is designed to address as discussed in Section 1.0 of this document. Among those are the demands that will be placed on local governments to provide critical infrastructure, municipal facilities, utilities, roads, parks, open space, and the state allocation of affordable housing units. Infrastructure needs are addressed as Covered Activities in the proposed MSHCP (Section 7.0). The demographics also foretell the increased stress on natural habitats, native plants, and animal species. Merely recounting numbers does not truly describe the magnitude of the challenges facing western Riverside County. Only by looking at the demographics in terms of their impacts on all aspects of the proposed Plan Area's infrastructure, including the conservation of natural resources, can western Riverside County prepare for the future. The RCIP through each of its three elements looks at the impacts of the growth facing the County and begins the process of building the infrastructure necessary to sustain the natural environment and meet the needs of future citizens.

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