



land use map and other illustrative materials relevant to the area, as well as specific policy direction required to provide guidance unique to each area. The Area Plans incorporate a streamlined land use designation system representing a full spectrum of categories that relate to the natural or economic characteristics of the land in Riverside County. This system consolidates and replaces over 200 classifications in the previous General Plan.

**Hazards Mapping** – The General Plan incorporates a comprehensive set of natural hazards maps identifying physical development constraints within the County, including floodplains and dam inundation areas, areas of seismic activity or faulting, liquefaction and landslide areas, and high fire hazard areas. These maps provide clearer and more comprehensive direction regarding development constraints than had previously been available.

### **Contemporary Policies and Standards**

The General Plan also provides updated policy direction and standards related to land use, housing, safety, circulation, open space and conservation, air quality, and noise that is relevant countywide.

### **Preserving Stability and Flexibility In the Plan Over Time: The Certainty System**

The Riverside County General Plan Certainty System provides clarity regarding the interpretation and use of the General Plan in ongoing decision making, and seeks to sustain the Plan’s policy direction over time (see Chapter 10, Administration). It recognizes that circumstances will change, imperfections in the Plan will be discovered, and events will occur that require changes in the Plan. The overriding consideration, however, is the absolute necessity to maintain a high level of confidence in the Plan and enable people affected by it to have reasonable expectations regarding how the Plan will impact them. The Certainty System serves the needs of those who value a rural lifestyle, farmers who have invested in their operations, and developers who want to ensure return on their investments. The System also ensures that open space is preserved in the County for the benefit of all.

State law limits amendments to the General Plan to four times per year. Each one can include multiple areas of change. The Certainty System takes the state guidelines a step further by identifying specific amendment categories and a time frame within which each can be considered for amendment to the General Plan. It is essential to the integrated character of this plan that changes made to it do not create inconsistencies with other parts of the Plan.

### **Tracking Progress**

Carrying out the adopted General Plan requires numerous individual actions and ongoing programs involving almost every County department, as well as many other public agencies and private organizations. Implementing Actions for General Plan policies are referenced within each General Plan element and compiled into an Implementation Program contained in Appendix K of this Plan.



The General Plan implementation database is intended to be a responsive, highly automated system for monitoring and assessing cumulative effects of implementation of the Plan, including documentation of development, land preservation, and transportation activities. Reference to this monitoring information is an essential ingredient in the consideration of any change in the Plan, especially regarding land use designations. The information in this system will be maintained in such a way that basic development activity can be summarized at any time for use in reporting mechanisms, including an annual General Plan progress report.

### **Integrating Habitat Considerations**

The Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan for Western Riverside County is a comprehensive habitat conservation planning program that addresses the habitat needs of species and their associated plant communities for a 1.26-million-acre study area. The western County study area extends from the western boundary of the County generally to the western portions of the San Jacinto Mountains.

A similar MSHCP effort has also been undertaken for the Coachella Valley in the eastern portion of the County. The eastern County study area encompasses lands within the Coachella Valley, east to the Mecca Hills and extending Orocopia Mountains, and west into the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains.

### **Integrating Realistic Mobility Options**

The CETAP incorporates three levels of effort: identification of transportation corridors, development of the General Plan Circulation Element (Chapter 4), and exploration of options for transit system development in the County. Further, guidance for the implementation of the four CETAP corridors and the transit system concepts identified, is incorporated into the General Plan's polices and Implementation Plan.

A transit concept, known as the Oasis Transit System, has been developed to fit the unique needs of Riverside County (see Chapter 4). It entails localized transit loops centered around focal points of relatively compact development, tied in with regional transit corridors and, in turn, connected to the County's burgeoning Metrolink system. For the foreseeable future, the system would consist of rubber-tired vehicles resembling small rail cars, and would connect to neighborhoods through transit stations highly integrated into development concentrations at key locations. These nodes of development would contain a mix of uses normally required to serve each community, but would be designed to reinforce and/or benefit from transit service.