



13. The transportation system now has sufficient financial supported to ensure that what is built can be adequately maintained.
14. Ample use is made of advanced transportation technology to ensure that the physical infrastructure is used to its maximum potential. This includes methods of achieving optimum efficiency of transit operations to provide increased frequency and reliability of transit delivery systems.
15. Reliable, real-time information is readily available to travelers for all major transit system routes, including fares, schedules, and current level of service on major roadways in the region to assist travelers in making choices regarding routes and mode of travel.

Conservation and Open Space Resource System

The County's conservation and open space resources are preserved and managed to a degree not thought possible 20 years ago. The multi-purpose open space system provides for multi-species habitat preservation rather than a piecemeal approach to single species. This enables the natural diversity of plants and animals to sustain themselves because of the critical relationships between them. Extensive land areas set-aside for this purpose and they are linked by corridors of various designs to allow movement between habitat areas. In addition, the public's access to the open space system is significantly expanded for recreation purposes, enabling a variety of active and passive recreation pursuits. Trails provide a means of recreation in themselves, as well as access for less intensive recreation. Creative and effective means of acquiring open space have enabled establishment of this system so that private property rights are respected and acquisition costs are feasible. This system also provides an effective approach that has eliminated conflict over development activities because of the demonstrated commitment to permanently preserving critical open space resources.

1. Conserved multi-purpose open space is viewed as a critical part of the County's system of public facilities and services required to improve the existing quality of life and accommodate new development.
2. The open space system and the methods for its acquisition, maintenance, and operation are calibrated to its many functions: visual relief, natural resource protection, habitat preservation, passive and active recreation, protection from natural hazards, and various combinations of these purposes. This is what is meant by a multi-purpose open space system.
3. A major thrust of the multipurpose open space system is the preservation of components of the ecosystem and landscape that embody the historic character and habitat of the County, even though some areas have been impacted by man-made changes.
4. Native habitat for plants and animals endemic to this area that make up such important parts of our natural heritage now have interconnected spaces in a number of locations that allow these natural communities to prosper and be sustained.



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Vision Statement

5. An incentive-based market system for habitat protection is in operation that includes options to use transfers of development rights (TDRs), conservation credits, and management programs to achieve equitable sharing of costs and benefits.
6. The cost to the public of maintaining open space and critical habitat areas continues to be supported because of the habitat value, recreational contributions and economic benefits the areas provide.
7. Lands identified for habitat preservation are based on the best available scientific information regarding species and habitat requirements and that information is updated as better methods emerge.
8. Programs educating students about the rich natural environment are available and offered to local schools.
9. Strategies and incentives for voluntary conservation on private land are an integral part of the County's policy/regulatory system and are referred to nationwide as model approaches.
10. Where natural streams and watercourses are located within designated multipurpose open space systems, they have been preserved as natural living systems. Where they pass through areas that are developed or designated for development (including agriculture), to the extent allowed by existing conditions, their continuity is maintained and protected as environmental corridors linking open space areas. Their viability is enhanced in numerous cases by being included in publicly maintained open spaces rather than in narrow concrete channels.
11. Important watershed resources to support downstream habitat are being maintained. This includes watershed functions such as peak flows, water quality, recharge, and sediment transport, which are necessary for sustaining downstream resources.
12. The Salton Sea, as a result of sustained efforts to return it to a viable condition, is now a thriving water, recreation, and environment resource.

Air Quality

Air quality attainment goals established by the South Coast Air Quality Management District have been more than met despite the substantial growth in the region in the last 20 years. Most of this is a result of significantly improved engine technology and the replacement of more polluting vehicles. However, local initiatives that expanded transit options, concentrated development more efficiently, and increased local employment opportunities have also contributed to air quality improvement.

1. Air quality is viewed as such an important factor in quality of life that its measurements are used as a major factor in evaluating the Plan's performance.
2. Riverside County is an active participant in programs to base air quality improvement techniques on "best available science" methods.