



County of Riverside General Plan - *Hearing Draft*

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.



3. Implementing strategies have been accomplished to transition public and private fleets from petroleum-based fuels to alternative fuels and Riverside County is known as a center for applied new technology.
4. The County actively participates with other regional jurisdictions in implementing strategies to reduce air pollution spillover into Riverside County from adjacent counties as well as limiting pollutants generated within the County. This participation has led to measures that contributed to exceeding attainment goals established by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.
5. Land use strategies being implemented in the County reflect an improved balance of jobs and housing, resulting in significant reduction in the average commute times and related motor vehicle pollutants.

Jobs and the Economy

Job growth in Riverside County has exceeded the remarkable population growth experienced during the last 20 years. This is a consequence of the natural pattern of jobs following labor force and the extensive efforts by local governments, the business community and educational institutions to stimulate and reinforce new economic activity. The effort has been aided by the fact that Riverside County offers an outstanding variety of living environments and housing choices and now enjoys a reputation as a highly desirable place for business relocation. The expansion of educational opportunities and complementary programs between education, industry, and the work force has played a significant part in this economic vitality.

1. Implementation of the RCIP provides a clear picture of the fiscal implications of land use policies and documents the financial, as well as physical and social viability of communities in the County.
2. Jobs/housing balance is significantly improved overall, as well as within subregions of the County.
3. Voluntary tax sharing arrangements continue to be available to cities and the County to reduce the negative impacts of large scale projects that would otherwise generate tax revenue problems for adjacent jurisdictions.
4. Economic development coalitions at several levels are active partners in implementing the County Plan through their involvement in stimulating new business development. This has resulted in new and expanded clusters of business activities, aided in part through cooperation with university and college research and development programs.
5. Jobs training programs to put people into new industry clusters are operational throughout the county and serve as an attraction to firms seeking a capable and stable labor force.