



6. School programs are coordinated with economic clusters in terms of curriculum emphasis and cooperative internship and training arrangements with businesses.
7. Emerging and expanding employment sectors, such as the hospitality industry and high-tech industries, are receiving renewed emphasis in job training and investment focus.

Agricultural Lands

Agriculture remains a strong component of the County's economy. Even though some agricultural land has been urbanized, there has also been expansion in other locations. The place of agriculture in the community remains strong and conflicts between agricultural operations and nearby development are rare. The Riverside County agricultural industry is a strong competitor in the global agricultural market.

1. Riverside County continues to be one of the major agricultural forces among California counties and competes successfully in the global agricultural economy.
2. Many agricultural properties remain as economically productive businesses, whereas others are phasing into development through a carefully managed transition program designed to stage the transition from farming to clearly designated urban and suburban uses.
3. Productive agricultural lands are broadly understood to be a valuable economic resource and have expanded in some areas. In selected areas they also serve as a valuable buffer between suburban and open space uses. Where agricultural lands are slated for transition to other forms of development, they are still valued for their contribution to the County's economy and continue in productive operation.
4. Financial incentives, such as transfer of development rights, development easements, and other mechanisms are available for voluntary use to preserve the economic value of agricultural lands. Availability of these tools acknowledges the potential development value of these properties and enables property owners to capture some of that value without giving up agricultural production if they so desire.
5. Agricultural operations of varying sizes and types are accommodated under the Plan in response to prevailing market opportunities. In some cases this has resulted in expanding the lands devoted to agriculture.
6. Where agricultural activities with significant environmental impacts such as dairies, egg production, and animal husbandry are accommodated, they are accompanied by special provisions for mitigating impacts on adjacent development to facilitate their continued operation.
7. Agricultural land that remains economically viable, either as a permanent or temporary economic resource, is well protected by policies, ordinances, and design regulations applicable to new development that may be planned nearby.



8. More efficient use of developable land is facilitating the continued use of agricultural lands and the acquisition of open space.
9. Agricultural lands remain as a valuable form of development. Although they are not publicly owned open space, through voluntary agreements, many of them have become part of the County's multi-purpose open space system for their visual value and as buffers to other forms of development.

Educational Facilities

The educational system in Riverside County is highly respected as a valued positive force in the County's communities and economic environment. From pre-school through advanced degrees, the educational infrastructure has expanded remarkably in synch with the County's growth. A particularly effective aspect of education's role in the community is the array of partnership programs with the business community and local governments, dealing with job training, environmental resource management, recreation, and a host of other initiatives. Basic educational programs have moved the County's student population near the top ranks in the State as revealed by academic testing.

1. The priority need for quality educational facilities and programs in the County (in order to educate our youth, serve the ongoing educational needs of our existing communities and attract additional industry, business, and quality development) is satisfied through universally established partnerships between school districts and local governments. This is reflected in cooperative planning for school facilities and access to them.
2. A considerable contribution to the educational excellence within Riverside County has been made by expanded and new facilities at the community college and university levels.
3. There are now numerous examples of arrangements for joint use and financing of school facilities, as well as cooperative community based programs made possible by reduced costs of facilities.
4. Several industrial/office park sectors of the County include community college branch facilities in which job training and employee professional development programs are conducted under a business/college partnership arrangement.
5. The special housing needs of educators and students are recognized through innovative partnerships between developers, communities, and educational institutions to provide a range of residential choices for this segment of the population.
6. Effective and widespread initiatives to bolster resources and focus energies on basic education for our student population have resulted in the County's academic performance making a remarkable surge toward the top of county rankings in the State.