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## **CONSISTENCY WITH STATE PLANNING LAW**

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The Housing Element is one of the seven General Plan elements mandated by the State of California, as articulated in Sections 65580 to 65589.8 of the Government Code. State Law requires that the Element consists of “an identification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs and a statement of goals, policies, quantified objectives, and scheduled programs for the preservation, improvement and development of housing.” The residential character of the County is, to a large extent, determined by the variety of its housing and the location and maintenance of the housing. The Housing Element is an official response to the need to provide housing for all economic segments of the population. It establishes policies that will guide County decision making, and sets forth an action program to implement housing goals through 2003.

State law also requires that jurisdictions evaluate its housing element every five years to determine its effectiveness in achieving County and State housing goals and objectives, and to adopt an updated Element that reflects the results of this evaluation. Due to delays in the statewide regional housing needs assessment (RHNA) cycle, the current statutory update in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region covers the planing period July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2005. The County of Riverside Housing Element represents a comprehensive update of its housing element to bring it into compliance with State housing law and to meet the statutory update requirement.

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## **GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY**

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The Housing Element of the General Plan is only one facet of a County’s planning program. The California Government Code requires that General Plans contain an integrated, consistent set of goals and policies. The Housing Element is, therefore, affected by development policies contained in the Land Use Element, which establishes the location, type, intensity and distribution of land uses throughout the County. The Circulation Element establishes policies for providing essential streets and roadways to all housing that is developed. The policies that are contained in other elements of the General Plan affect the quality of life that citizens expect.

This update to the Housing Element is part of a larger effort to update the entire General Plan. As stated above, it is imperative that all Elements remain consistent when revisions to the General Plan are complete. To ensure consistency, elements to be updated will be made consistent with the Housing Element, and any needed changes will be made to this document. In addition, as portions of the General Plan may be amended after the update process is complete, the County will periodically review the elements of the General Plan, including the Housing Element, to ensure internal consistency is maintained. Under state law, Housing Elements are to be reviewed and updated every five years.