



AQ 5.4 Encourage the incorporation of energy-efficient design elements, including appropriate site orientation and the use of shade and windbreak trees to reduce fuel consumption for heating and cooling.

JOBS AND HOUSING

Imagine commuting in the morning and driving only a few short miles to work. There would be no commutes over an hour, no crowded freeways that resemble parking lots and no fighting traffic. This is the life of people who live near work. And as more residents are able to live and work within the County, this will be the commuting pattern of most residents. This will save fuel, ease congestion, speed traffic, cut emissions and improve air quality. However, if nothing is done, the risks are great. SCAG predicts that by the year 2010 commutes between Riverside County and Los Angeles County may increase by 600% over 2000 levels.



Mixed-use land patterns can improve the jobs-to-housing ratio and help minimize traffic congestion.

Part of the solution to the region’s air quality problems is a better jobs-to-housing ratio. The objective of the jobs to housing ratio concept is to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by locating jobs and housing closer together. In the ideal situation, the appropriate number of housing units in various income categories are provided to house the County’s workforce. While this does not ensure that residents will live and work within Riverside County, the likelihood of it occurring does increase.

As stated in the General Plan Housing Element, traffic patterns on the major east-west transportation routes indicate that Riverside County serves as a bedroom community that supplies approximately 18% of the labor pool for the Los Angeles-Orange County metropolitan area (Table AQ-3, Home County by Work County). Statistics for 1990 to 2000 show that Riverside County’s jobs-household ratio is slowly improving, however, from 0.80 jobs per household in 1990 to 0.90 in 1997 and 0.94 in 2000. The unincorporated area shows a severe shortage of jobs, however, with only 0.48 jobs per household in the western County and 0.26 jobs per household in the eastern County in 1997. This is the reverse of the jobs to housing ratio experienced in Los Angeles and Orange Counties where there were approximately 1.46 and 1.52 jobs per household respectively in the year 2000.



A "household" consists of all the people occupying a dwelling unit, whether or not they are related.

Whenever possible, the County should offer incentives to businesses and individuals to control emissions and implement the AQMP. In job-poor areas, the County should stress job creation and reductions in vehicle miles traveled to improve air quality over other less efficient methods. Among the positive approaches available to the County to encourage job creation in job-poor areas are: education; job training and placement services; technical assistance to incoming businesses; reducing regulation and paperwork on businesses; fast-tracking and fee waivers; and low interest loans.



**Table AQ-3
Home County by Work County**

Home County						
Work County	Los Angeles	Orange	Riverside	San Bernardino	Ventura	Imperial
Los Angeles	90%	17%	8%	16%	18%	0%
Orange	6	79	10	7	0	0
Riverside	0	0	68	9	0	1
San Bernardino	2	2	8	68	0	0
Ventura	2	0	1	0	80	1
San Diego	0	1	4	0	1	1
Imperial	0	0	1	0	0	97

Source: 1999 SCAG State of the Commute Report; The Planning Center

Education and Job Training

To stay competitive, the business community requires an educated and trained work force. While County residents are among the most talented and skilled in southern California, job training and education programs should be provided as an incentive for businesses to locate within the County. This will help ensure residents are trained and qualified to meet the specific needs of the business community.

Policies:

AQ 6.1 Assist small businesses by developing education and job training programs, especially in job-poor areas. (AI 124)

AQ 6.2 Collaborate with local colleges and universities to develop appropriate educational programs to assist residents in obtaining job skills to meet market demands.

Business Development

To the extent possible, the Air Quality Element will be an economic development program designed to enhance employment opportunities in Riverside County. Attempts to improve air quality should not prevent business development, especially within job-poor areas. In fact, business development should be identified as a critical factor in increasing air quality. Increasing employment opportunities within the County will allow residents to obtain jobs locally and decrease commute times. Decreased commute times mean less time spent in air polluting vehicles.