



and are contained in Appendix J to the General Plan. The second is the Environmental Impact Report. This document contains a wealth of information on background data and policy implications that provides a valuable reference for users of the General Plan.

A Vision for Riverside County

A Vision for Riverside County, presented in Chapter 2 of this General Plan, sets the stage for the entire General Plan. It describes the County that is envisioned to exist some 20 years in the future. While it is not policy directly, the Riverside County Vision should be referred to on any General Plan topic as an indication of General Plan intent, and as a description of the context in which any General Plan issue should be considered. The key question to be asked when relating a proposed project to the Vision is: will this proposed action move the County toward the Vision to the maximum extent possible?

General Planning Principles

Considerable effort was expended in deriving a set of planning principles from the Vision. They are presented in Appendix B of this General Plan. These principles reflect extensive deliberation by the General Plan Advisory Committee to translate the Vision ideas into more specific direction for preparation of the General Plan policies. Consequently, reference to these principles will provide further insight into the intent of the General Plan. Moreover, these principles and, in fact the Vision as well, derive from 15 Consensus Planning Principles that were developed by a voluntary coalition of diverse interest groups who invested considerable effort in setting direction for the entire Riverside County Integrated Project, one major portion of which was the preparation of this General Plan. So there is a long history of direction and intent that flows from that original thinking.

Countywide Elements and Planning Policies/Area Plans

The General Plan provides policy direction at two levels: 1) Countywide for the entire unincorporated portion of the County under Board of Supervisors' Authority; and 2) for 19 sectors of the County in the form of Area Plans. The intent of this tiered system of policy direction is to distinguish between policies that apply uniformly everywhere in unincorporated territory and those that apply explicitly in distinct geographic areas. In this version of the General Plan, 19 Area Plans provide this more detailed policy direction. A large portion of the eastern desert area of the County is not covered by area plans and thus falls under direction of the countywide policies. March Air Reserve Base is also excluded from any area plan because the policies guiding the base are contained in a general plan prepared by the March Joint Powers Authority (JPA).

The countywide policy direction is captured in traditional topical elements as depicted in the California Government Code: Land Use, Circulation, Multipurpose Open Space (Open Space and Conservation as specified in the law), Safety, Noise and Housing. An additional optional element, Air Quality, also operates at the countywide level. Policies at this level apply to all Area