



Introduction

Throughout the Area Plan, special features have been included to enhance the readability and practicality of the information provided. Look for these elements:



Quotes — quotations from the RCIP Vision or individuals involved or concerned with Riverside County.



Factoids — interesting information about Riverside County that is related to the element.



References — contacts and resources that can be consulted for additional information.



Definitions — clarification of terms and vocabulary used in certain policies or text.



Unincorporated land is all land within the County that is not within an incorporated city or an Indian Nation. Generally, it is subject to policy direction and under the land use authority of the Board of Supervisors. However, it may also contain state and federal properties that lie outside of Board authority.

It doesn't matter whether you whiz by on Interstate 15 or wind your way down the spectacular face of the Santa Ana Mountains on State Route 74; the eye cannot avoid taking in Lake Elsinore. From the I-15 you also get a bonus in the form of the precipitous slope of the mountains; from the 74 you gaze out over hills, towns and valleys stretching far into the distance. As if that was not enough, there is even the man-made Canyon Lake off to the northeast, capturing waters from the San Jacinto River. The richness of this special place isn't just in its visual qualities. It is also a collection of unique communities as well as home to a remarkable variety of natural species. The Elsinore area is a truly unique human and natural habitat within a County that encompasses many notable environments.

The Elsinore Area Plan doesn't just provide a description of the location, physical characteristics, and special features here. It contains a Land Use Plan, statistical summaries, policies, and accompanying exhibits that allow anyone interested in the continued prosperity of this distinctive area to understand the physical, environmental and regulatory characteristics that make this such a unique area. Background information also provides insights that help in understanding the issues that require special focus here and the reasons for the more localized policy direction found in this document.

Each section of the Area Plan addresses critical issues facing Elsinore. Perhaps a description of these sections will help in understanding the organization of the Area Plan as well as appreciating the comprehensive nature of the planning process that led to it. The Location section explains where the Area Plan fits with what is around it and how it relates to the cities that impact it. Physical features are described in a section that highlights the planning area's communities, surrounding environment and natural resources. This leads naturally to the Land Use Plan section, which describes the land use system guiding development at both the countywide and area plan levels.

While a number of these designations reflect the unique features found only in Elsinore, a number of special policies are still necessary to address unique situations. The Policy Areas section presents these additional policies. Land use related issues are addressed in the Land Use section. The Plan also describes relevant transportation issues, routes and modes of transportation in the Circulation section. The key to understanding the valued open space network is described in the Multipurpose Open Space section. There are, of course, both natural and man made hazards to consider and they are spelled out in the Hazards section.

A Special Note on Implementing the Vision

The preface to this area plan is a summary version of the Riverside County Vision. That summary is, in turn, simply an overview of a much more extensive and detailed Vision of Riverside County two decades or more into the future. This area plan, as part of the Riverside County General Plan, is one of the major devices for making the Vision a reality.



County of Riverside General Plan - *Hearing Draft*

Elsinore Area Plan

No two area plans are the same. Each represents a unique portion of the incredibly diverse place known as Riverside County. While many share certain common features, each of the plans reflects the special characteristics that define its area's unique identity. These features include not only physical qualities, but also the particular boundaries used to define them, the stage of development they have reached, the dynamics of change expected to affect them, and the numerous decisions that shape development and conservation in each locale. That is why the Vision cannot and should not be reflected uniformly.

Policies at the General Plan and local levels implement the Riverside County Vision in a range of subject areas as diverse as the scope of the Vision itself. The land use pattern contained in this area plan is a further expression of the Vision as it is shaped to fit the terrain and the conditions in the Elsinore area.

To illustrate how the Vision has shaped this area plan, the following highlights reflect certain strategies that link the Vision to the land. This is not a comprehensive enumeration; rather, it emphasizes a few of the most powerful and physically tangible examples.

Pattern of Development & Open Space. The Plan intensifies and mixes uses at nodes adjacent to transportation corridors, more accurately reflects topography and natural resources in the Gavilan and Sedco Hills with appropriate land use designations, and avoids high intensity development in natural hazard areas. Land use densities step down into areas constrained by natural features, resources or habitats, or remote from transportation facilities. Existing communities and neighborhoods retain their character and area separated from one another by lower intensity land use designations where possible.

Community Centers. This method of concentrating development to achieve community focal points, stimulate a mix of activities, promote economic development, achieve more efficient use of land, create a transit friendly and walkable environment, and offer a broader mix of housing choices is a major device for implementing the RCIP Vision. Three Community Center designations are located within the Plan area adjacent to Interstate 15. One is located at Horsethief Canyon, in an undeveloped area adjacent to the already developed community there. A second is located at Bundy Canyon Road, a critical east-west transportation facility, and adjacent to existing residential development. A third is located adjacent to Clinton Keith Road, a major east-west connector, and adjacent to a planned light industrial jobs center.

Watercourses. Temescal Wash is a major influence on the character of the northern portion of the Area Plan, traversing it from northeast to southwest and flowing around Lee Lake and adjacent to Interstate 15. Land use designations adjacent to the Wash reflect a desire to buffer it from development so that its scenic and natural resource values are retained. Murrieta Creek, which flows adjacent to Palomar Street in Wildomar has also been designated as a watercourse, with Rural land use designations retained adjacent to it where possible.

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Data in this area plan is current as of June 19, 2001. Any General Plan amendments approved subsequent to that date are not reflected in this area plan and must be supported by their own environmental documentation. A process for incorporating any applicable portion of these amendments into this area plan is part of the General Plan Implementation Program.