



## 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.*

The Eastern Coachella Valley encompasses a variety of man-made and natural environments. It is a County stronghold of agricultural production, features a developing County airport, is framed by spectacular mountain ranges, boasts numerous special communities, encompasses large reaches of the Colorado Desert, and is located at the northern end of the State of California's largest inland sea. The area plan that governs this diverse Valley, therefore must recognize, preserve and even enhance its most important features and components.

This area plan is not a stand-alone document, but rather an extension of the County of Riverside General Plan and Vision Statement. The County of Riverside Vision Statement details the physical, environmental, and economic characteristics that the County aspires to achieve by the year 2020. Using the Vision Statement as the primary foundation, the County of Riverside General Plan establishes policies to guide development and conservation within the entire unincorporated County territory, while the Area Plan details standards and policy direction specifically for Eastern Coachella Valley.

This 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 region to understand where the future is headed. Background information also provides insights that help in understanding the issues that require special focus in this plan and the reasons for the more localized policy direction found in this document.

Each section of the area plan addresses critical issues facing the Eastern Coachella Valley. 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 this plan, a number of special policies are still necessary to address unique situations. The Policy Areas section presents these policies. Land use related issues are addressed in the Land Use section. The area 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.