



## *Land Use*

While the General Plan Land Use Element and Area Plan Land Use Map guide future development patterns in the Eastern Coachella Valley, additional policy guidance is often necessary to address local land use issues that are unique to the area or that require special policies that go above and beyond those identified in the General Plan. These policies may reinforce County regulatory provisions, preserve special lands or historic structures, require or encourage particular design features or guidelines, or restrict certain activities, among others. The intent is to enhance and/or preserve the identity, character, and features of this unique area. The Local Land Use Policies section provides policies to address those land use issues relating specifically to the Eastern Coachella Valley area.

### **LOCAL LAND USE POLICIES**

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#### **Light Pollution**

The continued growth of urban activities throughout the Valley has many consequences. One of the attractions for residents is the brilliance of the nighttime sky on clear nights, unencumbered by lighting scattered over a large urban area. Wildlife habitat areas can also be negatively impacted by artificial lighting. As development continues to encroach from established urban cores into both rural and open space areas, the effect of nighttime lighting on stargazing and open space areas will become more pronounced. The following policies are intended to limit light leakage and spillage that may obstruct or hinder the night sky view.

##### **Policies:**

ECVAP 3.1      Require the inclusion of outdoor lighting features that would minimize the effects on the nighttime sky and wildlife habitat areas.

#### **Agricultural Lands**

Agriculture is one of the four Foundation Components of the General Plan and also represents a significant component of this area plan. The RCIP Vision specifically seeks to protect agricultural lands not only because of their economic value but also because of their cultural and scenic values.

##### **Policies:**



ECVAP 4.1      Retain and protect agricultural lands through adherence to the policies contained in the Agriculture section of the General Plan Land Use Element.



ECVAP 4.2      Refer to the General Plan Certainty System in the General Plan Administrative Element.