



## Introduction



If you were to try to experience the Reche Canyon/Badlands area in one trip, you would find yourself driving around the perimeter of the rather large City of Moreno Valley—or at least three sides of it. In effect, this area is several places at once. It varies from the huge basin encompassing Lake Perris to the rough and tumble terrain known as the Badlands, then to the pristine edge of San Timoteo Canyon, and on to the remote reaches of Reche Canyon and Pigeon Pass. The names tell a story: one of great variety and powerful local identity. One cannot miscalculate what a road named Jackrabbit Trail is like, nor misread the terrain it must carve through. This is a territory that stretches the imagination and forms a broad swath of environment around the City of Moreno Valley.

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.

The Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan contains policies that guide the physical development and land uses in this rugged unincorporated portion of Riverside County. 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 for development and conservation within the entire unincorporated County territory, while this area plan provides direction for development and conservation specifically for the Reche Canyon/Badlands area.

The Reche Canyon/Badlands 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 region 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 the Reche Canyon/Badlands. 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 the Reche Canyon/Badlands area, 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 Plan also describes relevant transportation issues, routes and modes of transportation in the Circulation section. The key to understanding our valued open space network is described in the Multipurpose Open Space section. There are, of course, both



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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.

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 Area Plan 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 Reche Canyon/Badlands 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.

**Multi-Purpose Open Space.** This area is heavily invested with a rich mixture of open space resources, especially in its mountain and canyon reaches. A combination of Agriculture, Conservation, Open Space and Rural Residential designations offer an array of habitat, recreation and rural living opportunities. Lake Perris dominates a sweeping conservation area and provides a heavily used water recreation resource.

**Community Separator.** This same pattern of open space and rural uses constitutes one of the most significant community separators in the County. It surrounds the City of Moreno Valley on three sides and clearly sets the suburban and rural/open space edge in stark contrast.

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 will be part of the General Plan Implementation Program.