



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 San Jacinto Valley.

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 more accurately reflects the natural resources in the San Jacinto Mountains and along the San Jacinto River 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.

San Jacinto River. The San Jacinto River is recognized as an important corridor for species migration and habitat preservation as well as protection from natural hazards. The river is home to many habitats that contain rare and endemic species. Moreover, it offers outstanding value in the area of drainage, flood control, water conservation, and natural hazard protection.

Agricultural Preservation. Agriculture has long been an integral part of the economy and culture of the San Jacinto Valley. The remaining agricultural areas of the Valley, primarily in the Bautista Canyon area of the plan, have been preserved in the Agriculture foundation component. Areas within the San Jacinto River floodplain presently devoted to farming, ranching and dairy and poultry operations will continue.

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.