



## Features

The Riverside County Vision builds heavily on the value of its remarkable environmental setting. That characterization certainly applies here. The San Jacinto Valley area offers vistas in every direction. This section describes the setting, features and functions that are unique to this notable area. These defining characteristics are shown on Figure 2, Physical Features.

### SETTING

---

The San Jacinto Valley lies between the Lakeview Mountains in the northwest, the Dawson Mountains in the southwest and the San Jacinto Mountains along its northeastern flank (also a portion of the San Bernardino National Forest). This Valley floor encompasses the Cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, and the East Hemet and Valle Vista areas. The western and southern portion of the plan area is largely rural, mountainous and agricultural, including agricultural operations north and south of the San Jacinto River. The eastern portion of the Cities and the Valle Vista/North Hemet area are largely urbanized. Sloping terrain, groves and scattered hillside dwellings extend to the south of Valle Vista all the way into Bautista Canyon and along Bautista Creek. Vistas to and from the Valley are exceptional.

### UNIQUE FEATURES

---

Several significant physical features characterize the San Jacinto Valley area and have a material effect on existing and proposed land use patterns. The San Jacinto River traverses the northern half of the Valley from northwest to southeast. This reach of the river contains significant habitat qualities as well as flood and dam inundation constraints, and is a major scenic resource for the Valley. The river's form changes from its natural state to a physically constrained drainage channel within the more urbanized areas. Diagonally across the Valley, the Diamond Valley Lake is expected to be a significant recreational destination. The varying terrain within which existing and potential development are located provides for a variety of unique housing opportunities and views as well as scenic backdrops for visitors and residents.

### San Jacinto River

The San Jacinto River, with wide bends, travels in a general east/west path across western Riverside County. The land uses in this area vary significantly but are all constrained by the steep slopes of the San Jacinto Mountains, 100-year floodplain, and dam inundation reaches along the River. Dairy farms exist in the western portion of this riverine area. The Soboba Indian Reservation encompasses the eastern portion of this part of the San Jacinto Valley. Along Gilman Springs Road, the entrance to the San Jacinto Valley from the north, a variety of uses include a church campus, mobile homes and recreational amenities. The entire length contains multiple areas of significant habitat value.