

# Los Angeles County Draft Preliminary General Plan Executive Summary



 2007



"To enrich lives through effective and caring service."



"To improve the quality of life through innovative and resourceful physical and environmental planning, balancing individual rights and community needs."

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# Executive Summary



MALIBU LAGOON STATE BEACH



A SHERIFF'S HELICOPTER ON PATROL ABOVE THE COUNTY

## Table of Contents

The Los Angeles County General Plan can be found at the Department of Regional Planning's website at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/>. To obtain a hard copy of the General Plan, please call (213) 974-6411.

### CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

- I. WHAT IS THE GENERAL PLAN?
- II. GENERAL PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- IV. GENERAL PLAN FORMAT
- V. COMMUNITY PRIORITIES
- VI. IMPLEMENTING THE GENERAL PLAN

### CHAPTER II: BACKGROUND

- I. COUNTY DESCRIPTION
- II. POPULATION PROJECTIONS
- III. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

### CHAPTER III: LAND USE ELEMENT

- I. LAND USE POLICY MAPS
- II. COUNTY LAND USE POLICY
  - Sustainability
  - Land Use Policy Strategies
    1. Planned Growth
    2. Managed Development
    3. Healthy & Livable Communities
    4. Community-Based Planning
- III. GOALS AND POLICIES
- IV. ACTION PROGRAMS

### CHAPTER IV: CIRCULATION ELEMENT

- I. GOALS AND POLICIES
- II. ACTION PROGRAMS

### CHAPTER V: CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

1. Open Space Resources
2. Parks and Recreation Amenities
3. Biological Resources
4. Agricultural Resources

- 5. Mineral and Energy Resources
- 6. Scenic Resources
- 7. Cultural and Historical Resources
- II. GOALS AND POLICIES
- III. ACTION PROGRAMS

**CHAPTER VI: NOISE ELEMENT**

- I. COUNTY REGULATIONS
- II. GOALS AND POLICIES
- III. ACTION PROGRAMS

**CHAPTER VII: SAFETY ELEMENT**

- I. BACKGROUND
- II. GOALS AND POLICIES
- III. ACTION PROGRAMS

**CHAPTER VIII: PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES ELEMENT**

- I. GOALS AND POLICIES
- II. ACTION PROGRAMS

**CHAPTER IX: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT**

- II. GOALS AND POLICIES
- II. ACTION PROGRAMS

**List of Tables and Figures**

**CHAPTER II: BACKGROUND**

Table 2.1: Unincorporated Los Angeles County Population Projections

Figure 2.2: Unincorporated Areas of Los Angeles County

**CHAPTER III: LAND USE ELEMENT**

Table 3.1: Los Angeles County Land Use Categories

Figure 3.1: Distribution of Land Uses for Unincorporated County Areas

Figure 3.2: Unincorporated County Planned

Figure 3.7: Growth Concept Map  
Area, Community and Local Plans in  
Unincorporated Los Angeles County

**CHAPTER V: CONSERVATION and OPEN SPACE  
ELEMENT**

Figure 5.1: Los Angeles County Open Space and  
Other Natural Resources

Figure 5.3: Los Angeles County Significant  
Ecological Areas (SEAs)

Figure 5.5: Los Angeles County Special  
Management Areas

Figure 5.7: Los Angeles County Ridgelines and  
Hillside Management Areas

**CHAPTER VII: SAFETY ELEMENT**

Figure 7.1: Los Angeles County Seismic Hazard  
Map

Figure 7.2: Los Angeles County Flood Zone Map

Figure 7.3: Los Angeles County Fire Hazards  
Map



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING



LAND USE PLANNING



HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

## CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

### I. What is the General Plan?

The Los Angeles County General Plan is the outline for growth and development in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. California law requires each city and county to adopt a general plan “for the physical development of the county or city, and any land outside its boundaries which bears relation to its planning” (Government Code Section 65300). The General Plan is designed to guide the long-term physical development and conservation of the County’s land and environment through a framework of goals, policies and implementation programs. The General Plan also provides a foundation for more detailed plans and implementation programs, such as Area or Community Plans, zoning ordinances, and Specific Plans.

Los Angeles County continues to grow at an incredible pace. Careful planning by County officials is needed to maintain the physical and natural amenities that make Los Angeles County a desirable place to live. At the same time, long-range planning also allows the County to manage future development, which is necessitated by continued population and economic growth. The General Plan is the County’s blueprint for guiding these diverse and contrasting needs.

### II. General Plan Guiding Principles

The Department of Regional Planning (DRP) has spent years gathering data and meeting with communities around the County to assemble information to shape the General

Plan. From this process, a progressive list of Guiding Principles was developed to direct the creation of the General Plan update. These Guiding Principles helped shape the General Plan’s goals, policies, and implementation programs. The Guiding Principles for the General Plan are as follows:

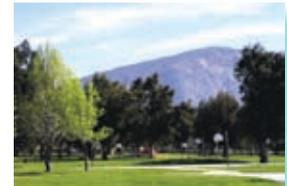
- **DYNAMIC:** The General Plan is an exciting document that accurately examines the existing social, physical, and economic conditions in the County and provides a comprehensive plan for the future.
- **FLEXIBLE:** The General Plan is adaptable to the fast-changing social, physical and economic environments of the County. To that end, the General Plan goals and policies will be re-evaluated every five (5) years or as needed.
- **ACCOUNTABLE:** The General Plan’s goals and policies are easily implemented and evaluated. It will be clear upon evaluation what the General Plan did or did not achieve.
- **INSPIRATIONAL:** The General Plan inspires all residents, businesses, and County agencies to make the County a great place to live and work.
- **INFORMATIVE:** The General Plan is thoroughly researched and easily comprehended. It is an effective communication tool for development actions throughout the County.
- **PROGRESSIVE:** The General Plan is a forward-thinking document, incorporating the newest and best practices related to technology, development sustainability, and



SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS



MARINA DEL REY



EL CARISO PARK

the environment.

### III. Public Participation

Community participation was critical in the development of the General Plan. The DRP conducted an extensive series of 31 community workshops and 10 environmental impact report (EIR) scoping meetings throughout the County to engage residents in the process of shaping the General Plan. Throughout the entire development process, DRP kept community stakeholders apprised of the status of the General Plan update through the Department’s General Plan Update Program website, as well as meetings and presentations, as needed.

### IV. General Plan Format

The General Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 Introduction
- Chapter 2 Background
- Chapter 3 Land Use Element
- Chapter 4 Circulation Element

- Chapter 5 Conservation and Open Space Element
- Chapter 6 Noise Element
- Chapter 7 Safety Element
- Chapter 8 Public Services and Facilities Element
- Chapter 9 Economic Development Element

### Companion Documents

- Technical Appendix
- Appendix I: Area and Community Plan Land Use Policy Maps
- Appendix II: Interim Land Use Plan Maps for Unincorporated Areas without a Local Plan.
- Environmental Impact Report

### V. Community Priorities

The goals and policies for the General Plan reflect the broadly expressed needs, concerns, and aspirations of County residents. Community participation and citizen feedback identified the following community priorities:



LOS ANGELES DOWNTOWN SKYLINE

- Promote a Strong and Diversified Economy
- Promote Fiscal, Environmental, Social and Logistical Sustainability
- Promote Revitalization of Urban Areas
- Provide Affordable Housing
- Provide for Adequate Community Services and Facilities
- Promote Multi-modal Transportation Alternatives and Efficient Circulation
- Improve Air Quality
- Conserve Water and Protect its Quality
- Protect the Natural Environment, Natural Resources, and Conserve Open Space
- Protect Against Natural and Man-made Hazards

#### **VI. Implementing the General Plan**

The General Plan is primarily designed to assist decision-makers and the general public with land use planning and infrastructure/service management. However, the Plan also provides direction for policy and program development throughout the County, which is planned for and implemented by a variety of departments, agencies, commissions and community groups.

An important component of the General Plan is ensuring its implementation. The General Plan puts forth several strategies and action items for the implementation of its goals and policies at the end of each Element.

While the General Plan was written by the Department of Regional Planning (DRP), the implementation of the Plan is the responsibility of the entire County governmental organization and its various departments and agencies. While writing the Implementation Program, DRP staff consulted with various County agencies to produce implementation measures that maximize collaboration and facilitate short-term action to help realize the intent of the General Plan.

## **CHAPTER II: BACKGROUND**

### ***I. County Description***

Los Angeles County is one of the largest counties in the nation with approximately 4,083 square miles. The unincorporated areas of the County cover a large geographic area and are ecologically diverse. A truly unique aspect of County planning is the non-contiguous nature of the County's jurisdiction. The unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County consisted of 124 separate, non-contiguous land areas. Figure 2.2 displays the unincorporated areas of the County.

### ***II. Population Projections***

Like most of Southern California,

unincorporated Los Angeles County is expected to continue its population growth, resulting in a 46% increase in population by the year 2025. The rate of population growth will vary greatly among each subregion. For example, the North Los Angeles County subregion is expected to grow by approximately 200,000 people (159.3%), and the Las Virgenes subregion, although dramatically lower in population, is expected to grow 65.1% by the year 2025. In contrast, the urban South Bay Cities subregion is projected to have a much lower population change of 12.4% over the same period. Table 2.1 shows the unincorporated County’s population projections based on SCAG’s forecasts for 2025.

These trends, along with household and employment trends, are important to identify so that County agencies can better prepare for future development, focus services where most needed, and address issues related to overcrowding, housing shortages, and recreational needs. DRP utilized several layers of demographic analysis to help form the strategies and programs that comprise the General Plan and provide the framework for County planning for the next 20 years.

**Table 2.1: Unincorporated Los Angeles County Population Projections**

Subregion	2000	2025	Number Change	Percent Change
Arroyo Verdugo	18,924	22,030	3,106	16.4%
City of Los Angeles	53,103	67,326	14,223	26.8%
Gateway Cities	318,212	393,482	75,270	23.7%
Las Virgenes	19,797	32,687	12,890	65.1%
North L.A. County	123,207	319,466	196,259	159.3%
San Gabriel Valley	338,510	477,058	138,548	40.9%
South Bay Cities	108,977	122,472	13,495	12.4%
Westside Cities	26,971	36,264	9,293	34.5%
Totals	1,007,701	1,470,786	463,085	46.0%

Source: 2004 SCAG RTP Projections (Adjusted by Los Angeles County DRP).

**III. Planning Assumptions**

Using the data compiled from the demographic analysis of the unincorporated County areas, and incorporating the feedback from community meetings, several planning assumptions were formulated to aid the development of the goals, policies and implementation programs contained in the General Plan Elements. The following planning assumptions represent a summary of this analysis, and the General Plan is written to address these planning challenges.

Population

- There will be continued population growth countywide with disproportionate growth being concentrated in the North County.
- The County will continue to see a complex pattern of migration and immigration that will present cultural and age-specific planning issues.

The rate of populations growth will vary greatly among each subregion. For example, the North Los Angeles County subregion is expected to grow by approximately 200,00 people (159.3%), and the Las Virgenes subregion, although dramatically lower in population, is expected to grow by 65.1% by the year 2025.



NOTE: Islands are not shown in their true locations.

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES GENERAL PLAN \* DRAFT \*

## Unincorporated Areas

Figure 2.2

### LEGEND:

National Forest

Unincorporated Area

NOTE: This map is a component of the Los Angeles County General Plan Update Program. It is a working draft subject to revision. Information within cities is for reference only. All suggestions for modifications to its contents received prior to August 30, 2007 will be considered by County staff when revising the map in preparation for public hearings by the Regional Planning Commission. Written comments and supporting documentation should be submitted to the Department of Regional Planning General Plan Development Section (address: 320 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012; fax: 213-626-0434; or e-mail: [generalplan@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:generalplan@planning.lacounty.gov)).



- Development to accommodate population growth will continue to mount pressures to convert open space areas into non-open space uses.
- The need to balance population growth with environmental concerns will be increasingly important in planning actions.

### Housing

- Housing demand, especially for affordable housing, will remain high.
- Consistent housing construction will be needed to keep pace with the County's expected rate of population growth.
- Development activities will be most aggressive in the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley Areas.
- There will be a continued decrease in land available for new housing throughout the County coupled with a continued increase in pressure to preserve open space and agricultural land.
- Higher density housing is needed to balance shortages of land for development and the increasing needs for housing and commerce.

### Employment

- Los Angeles County will continue to be a major regional economic center.
- Existing employment trends are likely to continue.
- The region will continue to lose manufacturing jobs while seeing an increase in jobs related to professional and business services and trade.
- The County will need to promote and maintain a diversified economy in order to stay competitive in the regional economy.
- Commercial and industrial activities will

continually need to be refined, improved and balanced with residential sectors.

- Infrastructure and commerce needs will continue to be important to the County and will require the attention of various County agencies and officials.
- Communities throughout unincorporated Los Angeles County face unique and diverse economic conditions and challenges.

### Environment

- The County will continue to see environmental effects from growth, transportation and economic activities.
- Development will continue to mount pressures to convert open space areas into non-open space uses.
- The need to balance growth and the environment will be increasingly important in planning decisions.
- Existing parks will be burdened by a lack of neighborhood parks and open space to serve a growing population.
- Environmental conditions will continue the pressure to introduce and utilize new technologies and green techniques, such as green-building and alternative energy sources.
- Attention to water supply and climate conditions will be critical planning issues.

## **CHAPTER III: LAND USE ELEMENT**

The way in which communities use their land within their boundaries is referred to as land use policy. The General Plan Land Use Element ensures a compatible balance of land uses to meet the diverse needs of the unincorporated communities in the County. Equally important, the Land Use Element provides planning tools, such as land use policy maps, as well as land use policy strategies, that will coordinate future development and revitalization efforts in the

County. The Element's principle intent is to be visionary and flexible.

In many ways, the Land Use Element is the most important component of the General Plan, because effective planning must utilize land use policies that can adapt to the fast-changing environmental, social, and economic conditions of the County. The General Plan Land Use Element provides the policies for the County to practice effective planning through short-term programs, long-term strategies, and comprehensive guidelines.

### ***I. Land Use Policy Maps***

The unincorporated communities with localized planning documents such as Area Plans, Community Plans and Local Plans have their own land use designations and corresponding land use policy maps. These maps are contained in *Appendix I, Area, Community, and Local Land Use Policy Maps*. *Appendix II, Interim Land Use Plan Maps for Unincorporated Areas without a Local Plan*, contains 41 land use policy maps that represent the unincorporated communities in the County without a current community-based plan. The County is committed to providing community-based plans with their corresponding land use policy maps for all of the unincorporated areas of the County. The 41 interim land use policy maps will serve as the foundation for the community-based planning process for these areas.

Figure 3.1 is a generalized land use policy map for the entire unincorporated County. All localized plans and the General Plan land use categories have been merged to show general land uses in the unincorporated County. Table 3.1 provides each land use category and their corresponding intended purposes and development intensity standards.

For further information on County land use maps and other detailed maps from the General Plan, the DRP provides interactive land use maps and mapping features for use by the public through its website at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/intGisMaps.htm>.

### ***II. County Land Use Policy***

The General Plan promotes a flexible and innovative agenda for land use planning in the unincorporated County areas. DRP utilizes the most current and best-defined planning practices in order to create quality communities throughout the unincorporated County.

#### Sustainability

The primary theme of County land use policy is sustainability. Sustainability is a simple concept that involves the utilization of planning practices that ensure people's needs in the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their economic, social and environmental needs. The County is committed to utilizing land use policies that achieve sustainability, and to implementing practices that promote healthy, livable, and sustainable communities.

#### Land Use Policy Strategies

The following section outlines the policies, strategies and policy tools the County utilizes to meet its land use goals and objectives. The policies and strategies are divided into four overarching themes:

##### 1. Planned Growth

Planned growth in unincorporated Los Angeles County refers to the practice of promoting compact, sustainable, and orderly land use development and calls for using different land use strategies that will represent the best outcomes for each individual community. Land use policy strategies that are covered in the Planned Growth section include: infill development, intensification of density, mixed use development, transit-oriented development, housing development, and brownfield redevelopment. Figure 3.2 is a map that highlights areas where the County believes planned growth land use policies can be best utilized.

##### 2. Managed Development

Managed Development strategies are a strong

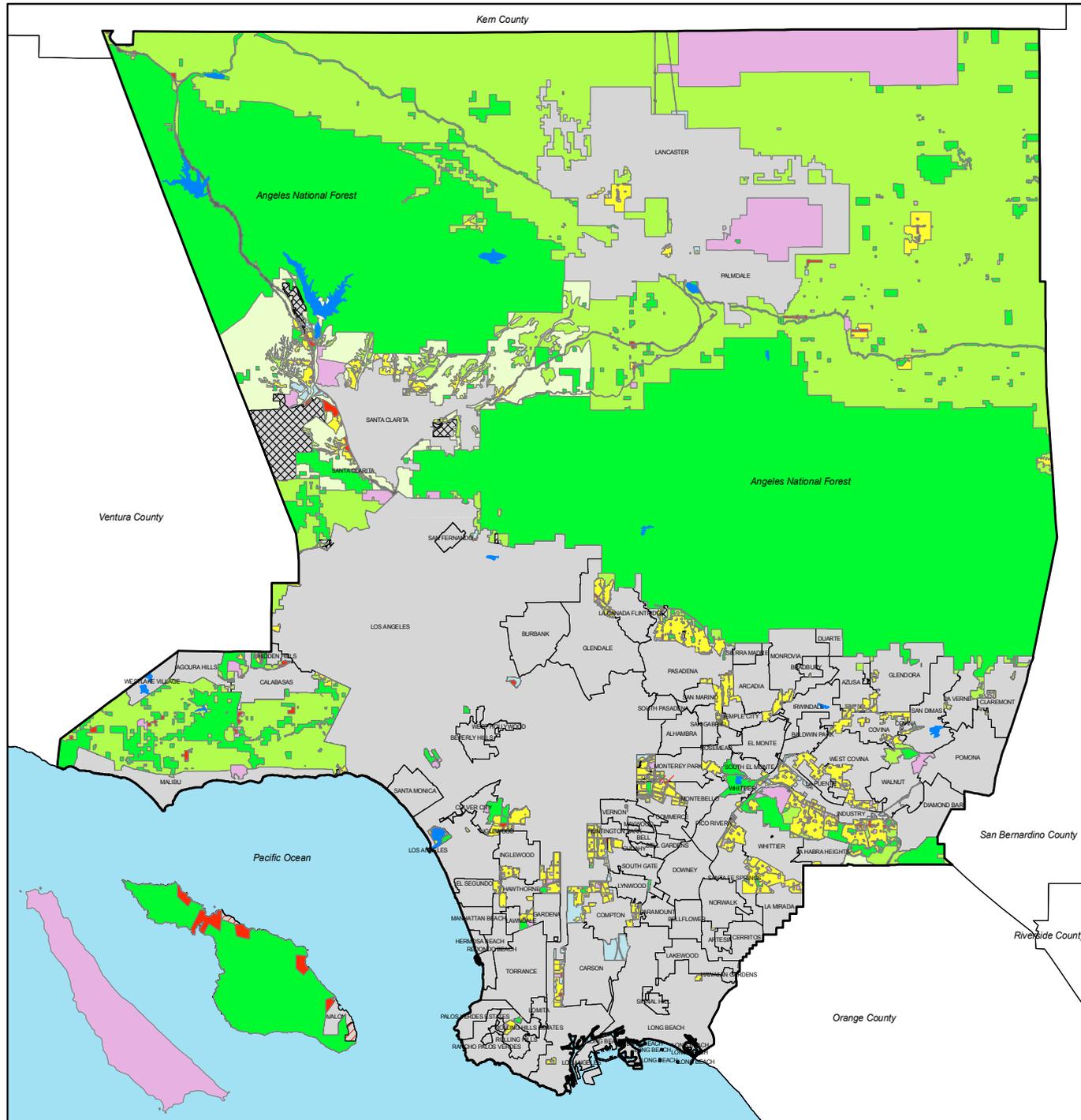
**Table 3.1: Los Angeles County Land Use Categories**

Land Use Code	Land Use Category	Dwelling and Development Densities and Intended Purposes
RL	Rural Land	Intent is to maintain the character of small communities and rural areas. Includes mountain, foothill and high desert areas not planned for urban use. Principal permitted uses are for low intensity, single-family housing, agriculture, recreation, and equestrian activities.
U	Urban	Intent is to provide for a range of housing types to meet the needs and income levels of the diverse unincorporated population. Typical types of housing include single-family detached and attached dwelling units, suburban tracts, townhomes, duplexes, condominiums, apartments and other multi-family housing, low and high-rise towers, and a range of special needs housing. Maximum Use Intensity can range from up to 9 du/1 acre up to 50 du/1 acre.
C	Commercial	Provides appropriately located areas for stores, offices, and service establishments, and the potential for mixed use developments in designated areas. Maximum Use Intensity: Floor area ratio of 1.8 times net buildable area, unless a higher FAR is granted not to exceed a maximum of 13 times net buildable area.
I	Industrial	Identifies and establishes areas suitable for industrial and light industrial activities, and the potential for non-industrial uses in designated areas. Maximum Use Intensity: Floor area ratio of 0.9 times buildable area, unless a grant allows a higher FAR not to exceed a maximum of 1.8 times buildable area.
P	Public and Semi-Public Facilities	Provides areas for the appropriate development and presence of a variety of public and semi-public facilities and infrastructure.
O	Open Space	Provides for areas for open space, parks and recreational uses and limits development in these areas and encourages the preservation and conservation of SEAs and other sensitive natural habitat.
TC	Transportation Corridor	Freeway or rail corridor right-of-way where little to no development activity is allowed.

component of the County's plan to achieve sustainable planning practices. As the County continues to grow, it is important that planning address the need to provide areas for housing development and

economic activities while simultaneously preserving the remaining natural amenities in the region. The following are land use policies the General Plan utilizes to achieve sustainable Managed Development

The primary theme of County land use policy is sustainability. Sustainability is a simple concept that involves the utilization of planning practices that ensure people's needs in the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their economic, social and environmental needs.



**Los Angeles County**  
**General Plan Update** **DRAFT**

Generalized Land Use Policy  
 For Unincorporated  
 Los Angeles County

Figure 3.1

**Legend**

**Countywide General Plan**

**Plan Categories**

- RL- Rural Land
- U - Urban
- C - Commercial
- I - Industrial
- P - Public and Semi-Public Facilities
- O - Open Space
- TC - Transportation Corridor
- SPECIFIC PLAN
- OTHER\*
- Incorporated Cities

\* Some Area, Community, Coastal, and Neighborhood Plans have special categories that are not compatible with adopted General Plan categories (such as Hillside Management, Special Use Sites, Parking Areas, Senior Citizen Density Bonus Area, etc.)

This policy map depicts generalized land use classifications, each of which is intended to describe the dominant use characteristics within the area covered. The location of planning boundaries is as accurate as can be portrayed at this scale. The information on this map represents an interpretation of the adopted Land Use Policy Map from the 1980 General Plan, including subsequent amendments and information updates.

This map is only an overview of generalized land use throughout the unincorporated county and local land use interpretation must be done by consulting local plans and maps.

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Figure 3.2: Unincorporated Los Angeles County Planned Growth Concept Map

MAP IS CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT

practices: 1) Special Management Areas, which are areas that require special attention to planning due to the presence of natural resources or hazards. These include designated Open Space Areas, Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs), Hillside Management Areas, Agricultural Opportunity Areas, National Forests, the Coastal Zone, Mineral Resource Areas, and Cultural Resource Areas; and 2) Hazard and Safety Areas, which include areas that are prone to wildland fires, flooding, and seismic activity.

3. Healthy & Livable Communities

The ultimate objective of County planning policies is to create healthy and livable communities that provide a high quality of life for the County’s residents and businesses. An important part of reaching this objective is to provide and encourage innovative and flexible planning practices that foster community development and livability while recognizing the individuality and diversity of each County community. To this end, County land use policy supports practices and strategies that ensure each community can meet its social, economic, and environmental needs. The following land use policies support the County’s objectives for healthy and livable communities: promoting green-building practices, ensuring environmental justice guides all future development, utilizing research on how land use development can improve public health, and supporting more attention to community design standards.

4. Community-Based Planning

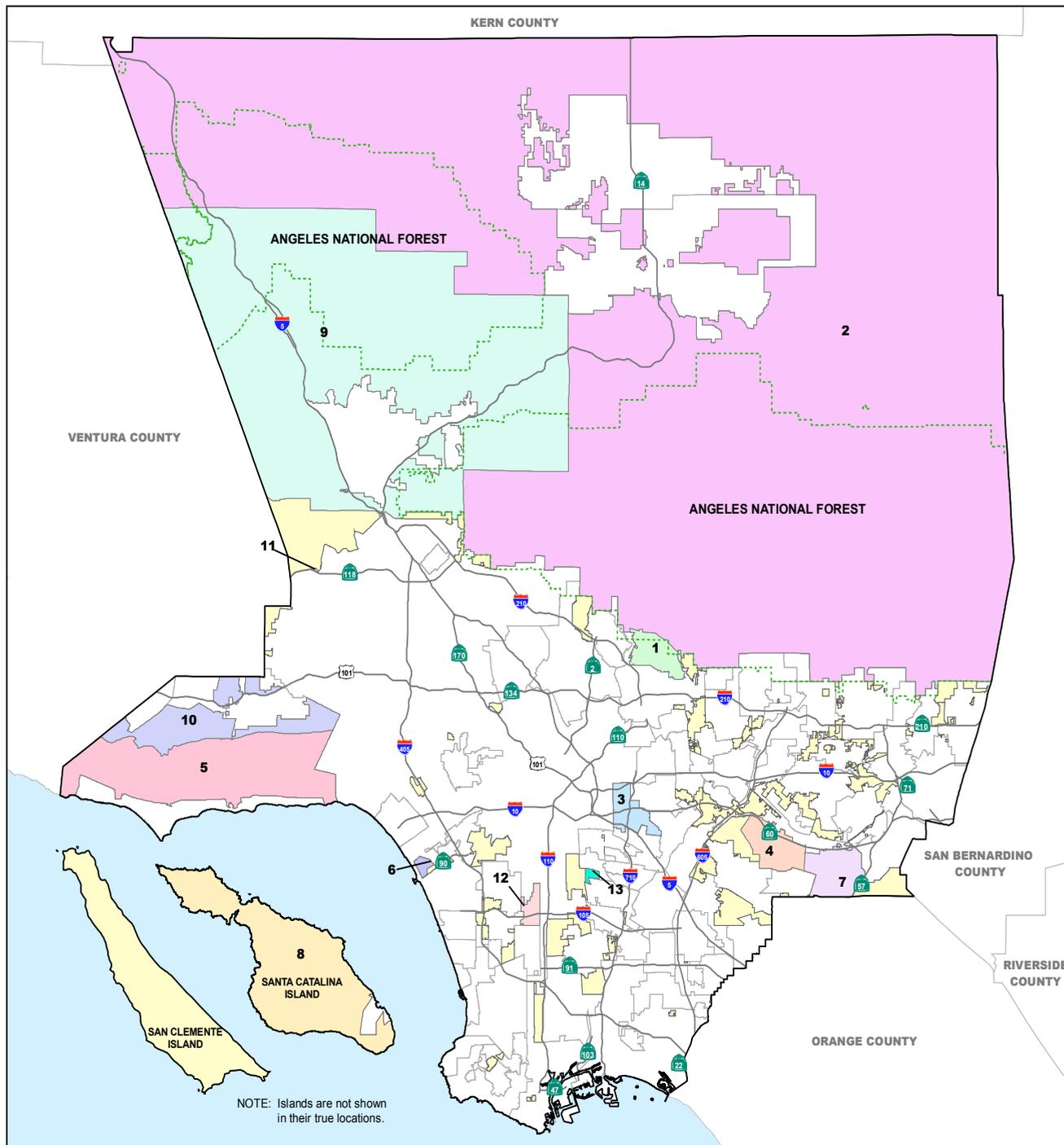
The Department of Regional Planning (DRP) is committed to a community-based planning approach. Community-based planning is founded on the idea that public participation in the planning process effectively encourages land use decisions and development patterns that reflect the consensus of the community. The ultimate objective of community-based planning is to allow residents to feel invested in their neighborhoods and be involved in a process that shapes better communities. With the General Plan as a guide, the County intends to initiate community-based planning for the unincorporated communities that currently do not have a localized plan, and to update and revise the existing community and area plans. Figure 3.7 is a map of the unincorporated areas of the County that currently have a community-based plan.

**III. Goals and Policies**

The following are the goals and polices that apply to land use in unincorporated Los Angeles County:

**Goal LU-1      Efficient and progressive land use policies that address the diverse needs of all County residents.**

- Policy LU 1.1      Encourage urban infill development on vacant or underutilized sites and brownfield areas.
- Policy LU 1.2      Promote and encourage transit oriented development (TOD) along major transportation and transit corridors.
- Policy LU 1.3      Encourage mixed use development to facilitate the linkage between housing and employment throughout the County.
- Policy LU 1.4      Promote land use practices that encourage housing to be developed in proximity to employment opportunities.
- Policy LU 1.5      Promote land use practices that enhance public health.
- Policy LU 1.6      Endorse increased residential density in appropriately designated areas.
- Policy LU 1.7      Support creative housing development that addresses mixed-income and affordable housing.
- Policy LU 1.8      Promote a diverse approach to residential development with varied



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
GENERAL PLAN \* DRAFT \*  
AREA, COMMUNITY,  
COASTAL, AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS**

**Figure 3.5**

**LEGEND:**

- 1 - Altadena Community Plan
- 2 - Antelope Valley Area Plan
- 3 - East Los Angeles Community Plan
- 4 - Hacienda Heights Community Plan
- 5 - Malibu Coastal Zone
- 6 - Marina Del Rey Land Use Plan
- 7 - Rowland Heights Community Plan
- 8 - Santa Catalina Island Land Use Plan
- 9 - Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan
- 10 - Santa Monica Mtns. North Area Plan
- 11 - Twin Lakes Community Plan
- 12 - W. Athens - Westmont Community Plan
- 13 - Walnut Park Neighborhood Plan
- Remainder of Unincorporated Area
- National Forest

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Los Angeles County Dept. of Regional Planning



TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE METRO RED LINE



NEW HOUSING SUBDIVISIONS IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

- Policy LU 1.9 housing types and densities. Support development that is energy efficient or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified.
- Policy LU 1.10 Encourage the incorporation of defensible space techniques in all development.
- Policy LU 1.11 Support land use policy that promotes environmental justice.
- Goal LU-2 Sustainable communities that conserve resources and protect the environment.**
- Policy LU 2.1 Promote and utilize “green building” principles and LEED certification in all development activities.
- Policy LU 2.2 Encourage land use conservation initiatives that minimize the consumption of resources and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Policy LU 2.3 Promote efficient community water and energy practices.
- Policy LU 2.4 Preserve and expand green spaces throughout the County.
- Policy LU 2.5 Require development to optimize the solar orientation of buildings to maximize passive and active solar design techniques in accordance with the Subdivisions Map Act.
- Goal LU-3 Development that is compatible with surrounding neighborhood character and the natural environment.**
- Policy LU 3.1 Preserve the unique character of existing communities, both urban and rural, through community design initiatives.
- Policy LU 3.2 Prohibit land use development that results in negative environmental impacts, as determined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- Policy LU 3.3 Encourage a diversity of commercial and retail services.
- Policy LU 3.4 Ensure airport operation compatibility with adjacent land uses through Airport Land Use Plans.
- Policy LU 3.5 Promote planned industrial development to avoid land use conflicts with adjacent areas.

- Policy LU 3.6 Protect major landfill and solid waste disposal sites from encroachment of incompatible uses.
- Policy LU 3.7 Ensure land use compatibility in areas adjacent to military installations and where military operations, testing and training activities occur.
- Policy LU 3.8 Utilize buffer zones to reduce the impacts of incompatible land uses where feasible.

**Goal LU-4 Effective inter-jurisdictional coordination and collaboration in all aspects of land use planning.**

- Policy LU 4.1 Encourage cities to annex small unincorporated islands that are not contained within a Local, Area or Communitywide Plan and that are within their spheres-of-influence.
- Policy LU 4.2 Encourage comprehensive planning in under planned and under served communities.
- Policy LU 4.3 Update all Local, Community and Area Plans on a regular and consistent basis.

**IV. Action Programs**

1. Develop Area, Community, Neighborhood, or Local Plans for County neighborhoods and communities without existing plans.
2. Review and update all existing Area, Community, Neighborhood, and Local Plans.
3. Establish a committee to study the inconsistencies between zoning and land use designations in the County. This committee will work toward a one map system.
4. Create a General Plan Implementation Section in the County Administrative Office (CAO) that would serve as a direct planning link between the Department of Regional Planning and the Board of Supervisors. This new Section would be responsible for coordinating the efforts of all County Departments in implementing the General Plan.
5. Conduct a demonstration project that targets an existing Transit Oriented District (TOD) for a development master plan. The plan should seek to coordinate the implementing actions of all relevant County Departments. This planning process will result in the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFPs) from developers.
6. Coordinate with local colleges and universities to partner with the County in developing plans and implementation projects. These projects could serve the County by enabling students to generate new ideas about established concepts, as well as initiate the planning process. Potential partners could include:
  - a. The USC, UCLA, UC Irvine and Cal-Poly Pomona Urban Planning or architecture departments.
  - b. Local Engineering departments.
  - c. Community college GIS classes.
7. Develop a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program where identified rural areas under development pressure can sell their development credits to established Transit Oriented Districts (TODs) or designated mixed use areas.
8. Create an infill development ordinance that focuses development on vacant or underutilized parcels. This ordinance should expedite permitting and provide incentives for development in these urban areas.
9. Create an adaptive reuse ordinance to speed the rehabilitation and redevelopment of older, sometimes historic buildings for new uses. Consider the success of the City of Los Angeles' adaptive reuse ordinance to transform old office towers in downtown Los Angeles into apartments and condominiums.
10. Organize an annual countywide planning summit to discuss inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional issues. This event will increase the awareness of contemporary planning principles and Departmental activities amongst all County Departments.



LA COUNTY METRO TRANSIT



LA COUNTY FREEWAY CONGESTION



SHARE THE ROAD WITH BICYCLES

## CHAPTER IV: CIRCULATION ELEMENT

The Circulation Element provides an overview of the transportation infrastructure and multi-modal strategies for the circulation of people and goods in and around Los Angeles County. The purpose of this element is to set the direction for the development of a coordinated multi-modal circulation system that efficiently moves people, goods and services in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

The Circulation Element includes a discussion of the planning agencies responsible for transportation and circulation in the County, along with maps that illustrate the circulation policy for freeways, rail transit, aviation and freight movement. All modes of transit and transportation infrastructure are included. Central to this element is the idea that existing and proposed transportation infrastructure can be made more efficient by curbing sprawl, encouraging transit-oriented development, promoting alternative modes of transportation and enhancing system management.

The Circulation Element also contains three major sub-elements, which establish the policies for a roadway and bikeway system in the unincorporated County that are coordinated with the networks in the County's 88 incorporated cities. The sub-elements are:

- The Los Angeles County Highway Plan;
- The Scenic Highway Plan; and
- The Bikeway Plan.

Finally, the General Plan addresses two critical topics that are closely related to transportation.

- Air quality, including a discussion on how the General Plan promotes policies that aim to improve air quality in the County; and
- Global warming, which is addressed at the County level through Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), which requires the County to address and plan for the reduction of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

### ***I. Goals and Policies***

The following are the goals and policies that apply to the countywide circulation networks:

**Goal C-1      An accessible circulation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods throughout the County.**

Policy C 1.1      Expand the availability of transportation options throughout the County.

- Policy C 1.2 Encourage a range of transportation services at both the regional and local levels, especially for transit dependent populations.
- Policy C 1.3 Secure an affordable countywide transportation system for all users.
- Policy C 1.4 Maintain transportation right-of-way corridors for future transportation uses.
- Goal C-2 An efficient circulation system that effectively utilizes and expands multi-modal transportation options.**
- Policy C 2.1 Support the linking of regional transportation systems.
- Policy C 2.2 Expand transportation options throughout the County.
- Policy C 2.3 Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and vehicle trips through the use of alternative modes of transportation and various mobility management practices, such as employer/institution based transit passes, regional carpooling programs, teleconferencing and telecommuting.
- Policy C 2.4 Encourage the use of a traditional grid street pattern.
- Policy C 2.5 Maximize aviation system efficiencies for the movement of people and goods.
- Goal C-3 An environmentally sensitive circulation system through the use of innovative programs and technologies.**
- Policy C 3.1 Encourage the use of emerging technologies in the development of transportation facilities and infrastructure, such as hydrogen gas stations, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and electric care plug-in ports.
- Policy C 3.2 Minimize roadway runoff through the use of permeable surface materials wherever possible.
- Goal C-4 A circulation system that ensures the safety of all County residents.**
- Policy C 4.1 Design roads and intersections that protect pedestrians and reduce motor vehicle accidents.
- Goal C-5 A financially sustainable countywide circulation system.**
- Policy C 5.1 Support dedicated funding streams for the maintenance and improvement of County transportation systems.
- Policy C 5.2 Encourage the development of innovative financial programs to fund transportation systems, such as congestion pricing.
- Goal C-6 A County that exceeds State air quality standards.**
- Policy C 6.1 Support efforts to reduce the effects of Global Warming through the participation in AB 32 (2006) programs that reduce greenhouse gas emission in the County.
- Policy C 6.2 Require the use of zero, low emission and hybrid vehicles in the County motor pool.
- Goal C-7 Effective inter-jurisdictional coordination and collaboration in all aspects of transportation planning.**
- Policy C 7.1 Expand inter-jurisdictional cooperation to ensure a seamless regional circulation system.
- Policy C 7.2 Refer to the County Highway Plan to inform circulation-related land use decisions.
- Policy C 7.3 Support the County Scenic Highway Plan to preserve resources of scenic importance.
- Policy C 7.4 Support the County Bikeway Plan and continue development of a regional coordinated system of bikeways and bikeway facilities.

## II. Action Programs

1. Review and update the Los Angeles County Highway Plan. The new Highway Plan should analyze the effects that the old Plan had on development, and seek to prevent the continuation of sprawling development along highways by reducing further highway expansions and construction.
2. Review and update the Los Angeles County Bikeway Plan. The new Bikeway Plan should include a map of all bikeways within the County and focus efforts towards linking existing bikeways and expanding bike lanes and paths where appropriate.
3. Develop a Los Angeles County Pedestrian Plan as a complementary document to the Los Angeles County Highway, Scenic Highway and Bikeway Plans. The Pedestrian Plan should study and evaluate the design guidelines and standards for sidewalks, bike lanes and roads in the County in order to make them more pedestrian friendly and walkable/bikeable.

## CHAPTER V: CONSERVATION and OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

The Conservation and Open Space Element guides the long-range preservation and conservation of open space land, and sets policy direction for the open space, natural and energy-related resources of unincorporated Los Angeles County. The open space and natural resources of the County are a vital part of maintaining a high quality of life for County residents and businesses. The County is fortunate to have an abundance of natural resources and amenities despite continued population and economic growth. The Conservation and Open Space Element's policies are based on the need to conserve natural resources while also meeting the public's desire for open space experiences and long-term use of resources.

The Conservation and Open Space Element covers the following issues and provides for policy direction for planning related to:

### 1. Open Space Resources

Open space refers to both public and private lands and waters that are preserved for long-term open space and recreational uses. Existing

open spaces in the County include national forests, state, county and city parks, nature preserves and agricultural lands. Open space can also include recreational uses such as golf courses and beaches, and other private open space lands.

### 2. Parks and Recreation Amenities

The County's vast park and recreational resources include local and regional parks, natural habitat areas, sports facilities, playgrounds, gardens, golf courses, trails and beaches.

### 3. Biological Resources

The Biological Resources section identifies the valuable biological resources within Los Angeles County and establishes the goals and policy direction to utilize and conserve these resources for existing and future generations. This section addresses the following issues: Significant Ecological Areas, species conservation, wetlands, and the National Forests.

### 4. Agricultural Resources

Los Angeles County is highly urbanized and much of the usable agrarian land has been developed. As such, the County recognizes the importance of protecting the remaining valuable agricultural resources in the County. This section: 1) Describes the process for identifying valuable agricultural land; 2) Identifies the agricultural land throughout the County; and 3) Provides policy direction for the management and protection of the County's remaining agricultural resources.

### 5. Mineral and Energy Resources

The Mineral and Energy Resources section addresses the use and management of valuable energy and mineral resources in Los Angeles County, and the increasing importance of conservation of these resources for future users. The demand for energy resources in Los Angeles County is high, and projected growth in the region will continue to strain our energy



NEW SUBDIVISIONS ARE A MAJOR CONSUMER OF THE COUNTY'S OPEN SPACES

and mineral supply. The purpose of this section is to set forth goals and policy direction that is responsive to the community's need for energy and mineral resources, while simultaneously promoting their efficient and sustainable use. This section will address: mineral resource identification; mineral resource regulation and conservation; alternative energy and oil resources; energy resources; and energy conservation.

#### 6. Scenic Resources

Los Angeles County is home to some of the most iconic and beautiful vistas in the world. The County recognizes that the coastline, mountain vistas and other scenic features of the region are a significant resource for County residents and businesses. This section of the Open Space and Conservation Element addresses the desire of the County to preserve its valuable designated scenic areas, vistas and roadways.

#### 7. Cultural and Historical Resources

Historical and cultural resources are an important part of the County's identity and

contribute to the local economy. This section sets forth goals and policy direction for the management and preservation of historical, cultural and paleontological resources in the County, and discusses cultural programs and sites in the County, and CEQA and other regulatory measures.

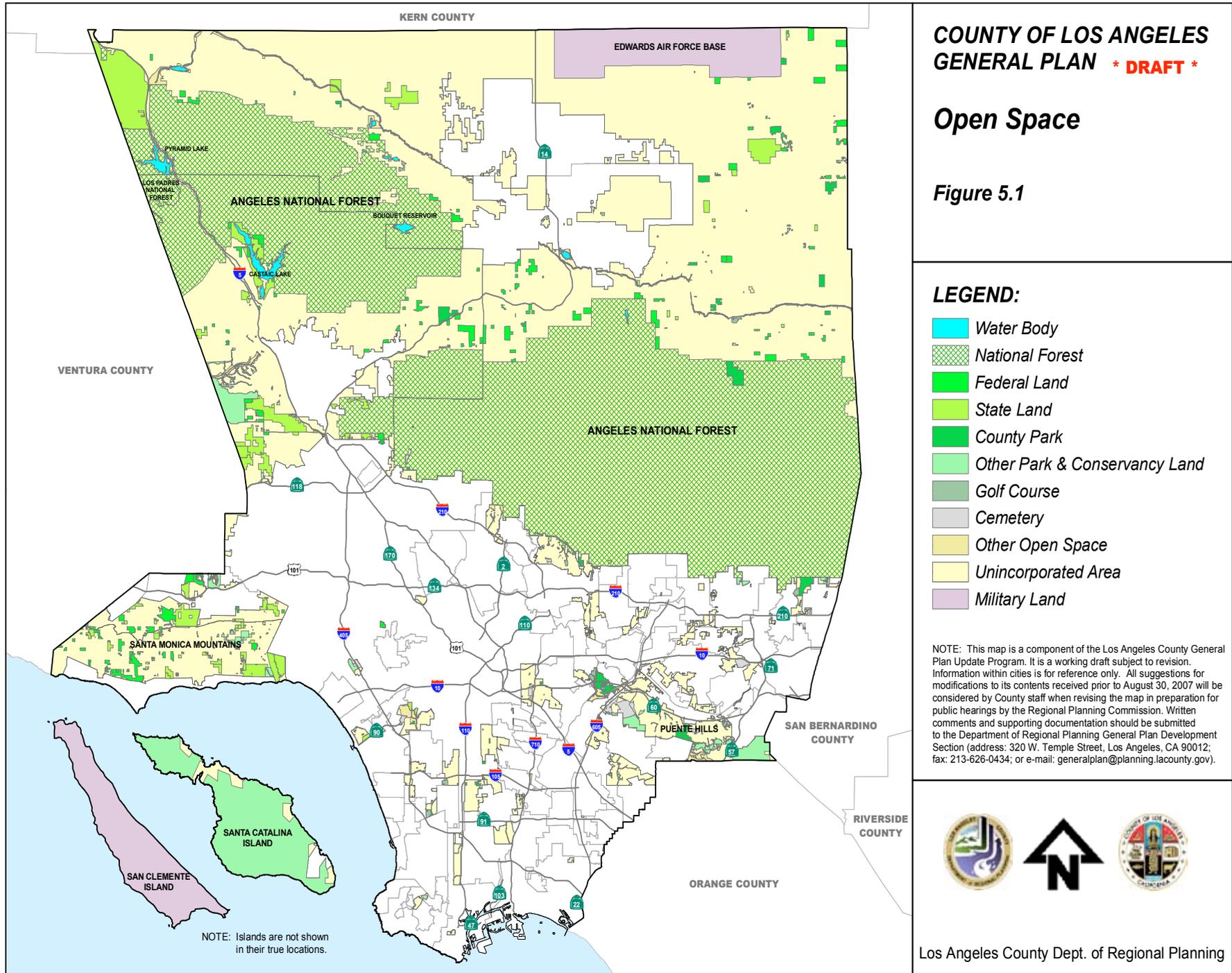
The following maps are demonstrative of many of the policy areas that are covered in the Conservation and Open Space Element.

Figure 5.1: Los Angeles County Open Space and Other Natural Resources

Figure 5.2: Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs)

Figure 5.3: Los Angeles County Special Management Areas

Figure 5.4: Los Angeles County Ridgelines and Hillside Management Areas



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
GENERAL PLAN \* DRAFT \***

**Open Space**

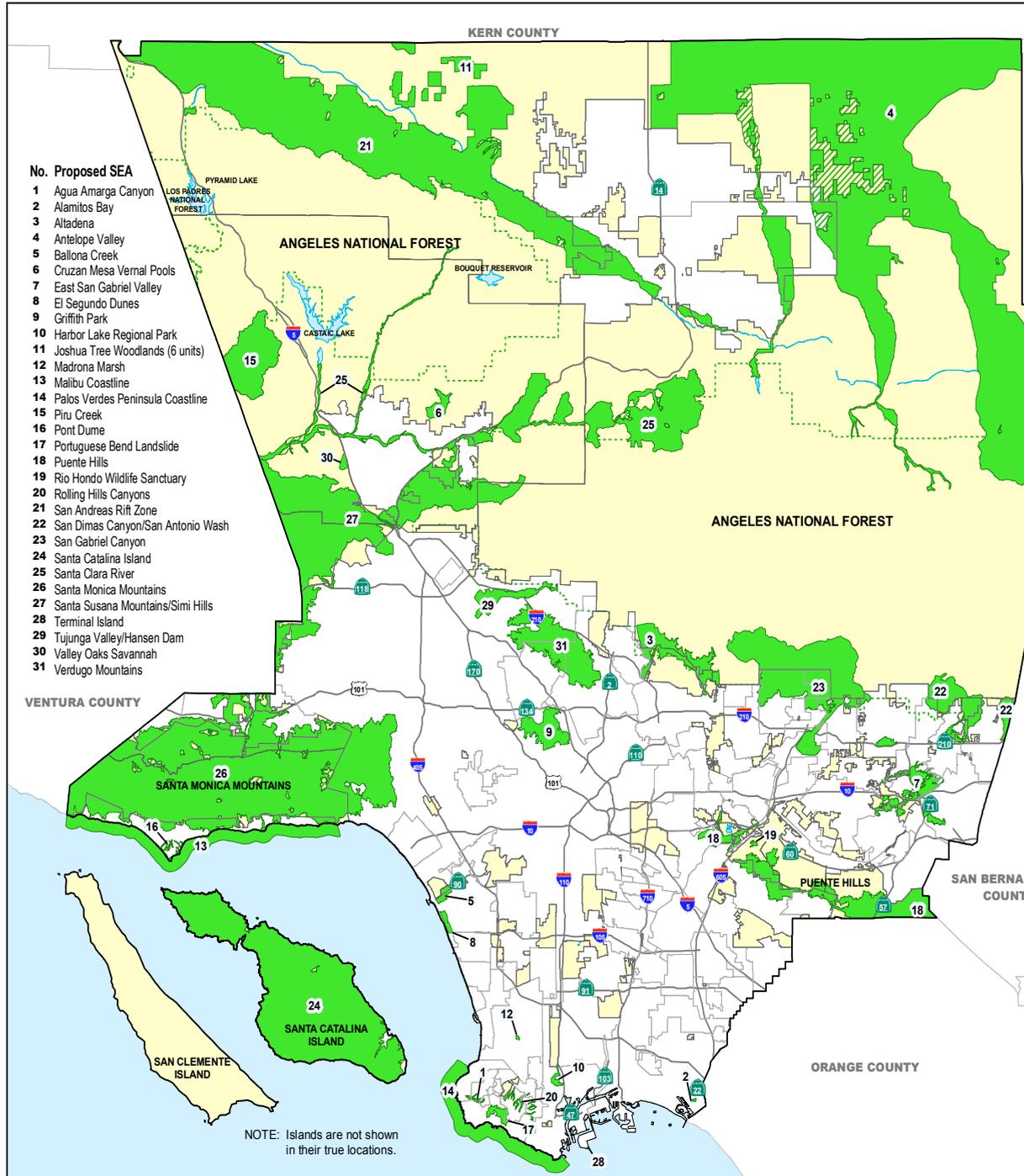
**Figure 5.1**

**LEGEND:**

-  Water Body
-  National Forest
-  Federal Land
-  State Land
-  County Park
-  Other Park & Conservancy Land
-  Golf Course
-  Cemetery
-  Other Open Space
-  Unincorporated Area
-  Military Land

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- No. Proposed SEA**
- 1 Agua Amarga Canyon
  - 2 Alamitos Bay
  - 3 Altadena
  - 4 Antelope Valley
  - 5 Ballona Creek
  - 6 Cruzan Mesa Vernal Pools
  - 7 East San Gabriel Valley
  - 8 El Segundo Dunes
  - 9 Griffith Park
  - 10 Harbor Lake Regional Park
  - 11 Joshua Tree Woodlands (6 units)
  - 12 Madrona Marsh
  - 13 Malibu Coastline
  - 14 Palos Verdes Peninsula Coastline
  - 15 Pinu Creek
  - 16 Pont Dume
  - 17 Portuguese Bend Landslide
  - 18 Puente Hills
  - 19 Rio Hondo Wildlife Sanctuary
  - 20 Rolling Hills Canyons
  - 21 San Andreas Rift Zone
  - 22 San Dimas Canyon/San Antonio Wash
  - 23 San Gabriel Canyon
  - 24 Santa Catalina Island
  - 25 Santa Clara River
  - 26 Santa Monica Mountains
  - 27 Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills
  - 28 Terminal Island
  - 29 Tujunga Valley/Hansen Dam
  - 30 Valley Oaks Savannah
  - 31 Verdugo Mountains

NOTE: Islands are not shown in their true locations.

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
GENERAL PLAN \* DRAFT \***

**Proposed Significant  
Ecological Areas**

**Figure 5.3**

**LEGEND:**

- Significant Ecological Area
- Ecological Transition Area
- Water Body
- Unincorporated Area
- National Forest

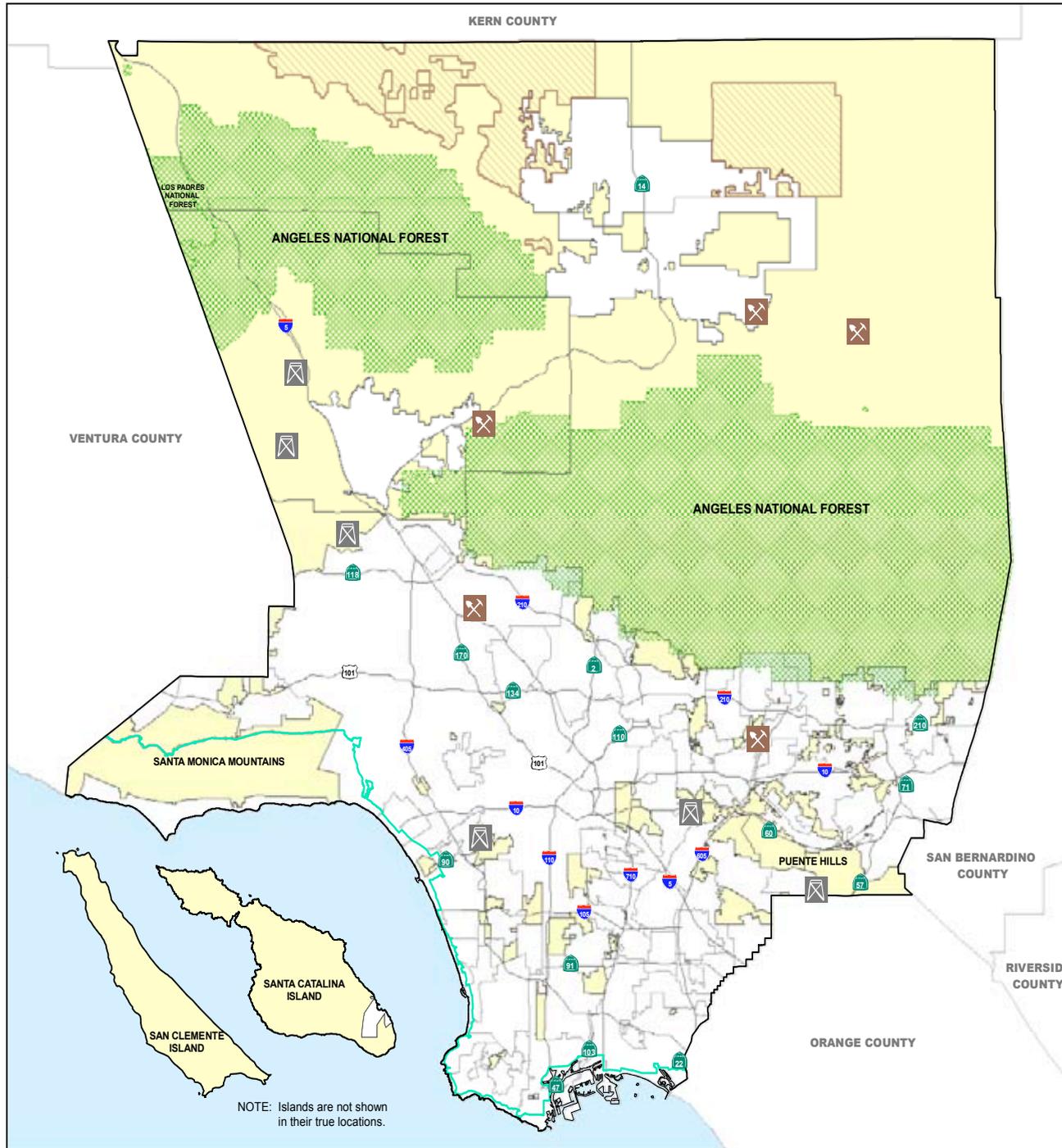
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RIVERSIDE COUNTY

ORANGE COUNTY

Los Angeles County Dept. of Regional Planning



NOTE: Islands are not shown in their true locations.

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
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**Special Management Areas**

**Figure 5.5**

**LEGEND:**

-  Mineral Resource Area
-  Oil Resource Area
-  Coastal Zone Boundary
-  Agricultural Opportunity Area
-  National Forest
-  Unincorporated Area

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## **II. Goals and Policies**

The goals and policies which apply to the Conservation and Open Space Element are:

### **Goal C/OS-1 A wide range of County open space areas.**

- Policy C/OS 1.1 Promote the acquisition and preservation of open space areas throughout the County.
- Policy C/OS 1.2 Create an established network of open space areas that provide regional connectivity, such as areas between the southwestern extent of the Tehachapi Mountains to the Santa Monica Mountains, and from the southwestern extent of the Mojave Desert to the Puente-Chino Hills.

### **Goal C/OS-2 A balanced and interconnected network of passive and active local parks, regional recreation areas and trail systems.**

- Policy C/OS 2.1 Develop and expand regional and local parkland and trail systems in the County.
- Policy C/OS 2.2 Encourage a balanced approach to the use of the Quimby Act for the development of parkland versus in lieu fees.
- Policy C/OS 2.3 Direct resources to communities that are under served by local parks.
- Policy C/OS 2.4 Improve current parks and trail systems with needed amenities.
- Policy C/OS 2.5 Design parks and trails for optimal safety and security.

### **Goal C/OS-3 Effectively managed beaches and harbors that are environmentally sensitive and accessible to the public.**

- Policy C/OS 3.2 Protect marine water quality by preserving sensitive coastal resources including marine and beach habitats and sand resources, developing pollution control measures, and requiring that all permitted uses shall comply with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the State Department of Fish and Game, and CEQA regulations.

### **Goal C/OS-4 Effective inter-jurisdictional coordination and collaboration in all aspects of park and open space planning.**

- Policy C/OS 4.1 Participate in a collaborative, inter-jurisdictional system that manages and preserves County open spaces.
- Policy C/OS 4.2 Promote joint-use agreements to increase and enhance park and recreation opportunities.

### **Goal C/OS-5 Biological resources that are preserved and protected from incompatible land uses and development.**

- Policy C/OS 5.1 Maintain and monitor the program and network of Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs).
- Policy C/OS 5.2 Encourage applicants to consult with County staff early in the development process for assistance in project designs that maximize natural features and preserve biological resources.
- Policy C/OS 5.3 Maximize the ecological function of the County's diverse natural habitats, such as the Joshua Trees, native Oak woodlands and perennial grasslands.
- Policy C/OS 5.4 Participate in inter-jurisdictional collaborative strategies that protect biological resources.
- Policy C/OS 5.5 Support the restoration and preservation of degraded areas with significant biological resources such as wetlands.
- Policy C/OS 5.6 Promote the expansion of the tree canopy throughout the County.

### **Goal C/OS-6 Productive farmland that is protected for local food production, open space,**



PARK RANGER AT THE DEVIL'S PUNCH BOWL COUNTY PARK

**public health, and the local economy.**

- Policy C/OS 6.1 Maintain Agricultural Opportunity Areas (AOAs) to identify prime agricultural land.
- Policy C/OS 6.2 Support agricultural practices that minimize and reduce soil loss and water runoff.
- Policy C/OS 6.3 Support innovative agricultural practices that conserve resources and promote sustainability, such as drip irrigation, hydroponics and organic farming.
- Policy C/OS 6.4 Encourage agricultural activity in Agricultural Opportunity Areas and under electricity transmission line easements.
- Policy C/OS 6.5 Cultivate and expand farmer's markets throughout the County.
- Policy C/OS 6.6 Encourage a countywide community garden program.

**Goal C/OS-7 Locally available mineral resources to meet the needs of construction, transportation and industrial production.**

**Goal C/OS-8 Mineral extraction activities that are conducted in a manner that protects the environment.**

- Policy C/OS 8.1 Require mineral resource extraction activities to comply with the regulations of the County Zoning Ordinance, and State laws and guidelines in accordance with provisions set forth by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) and the California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources.
- Policy C/OS 8.2 Protect Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) from urban development and discourage incompatible adjacent land uses.

**Goal C/OS-9 An optimal mix of renewable and non-renewable energy sources.**

- Policy C/OS 9.2 Expand the production and use of alternative energy resources.
- Policy C/OS 9.2 Encourage the effective management of non-renewable resources.

**Goal C/OS-10 A County that maximizes energy conservation.**

- Policy C/OS 10.1 Utilize energy conservation initiatives such as urban heat highland reduction techniques, LEED certification, and consumer education.

**Goal C/OS-11 Protected visual and scenic resources.**

- Policy C/OS 11.1 Identify and protect scenic resources, especially those threatened by potential development.



OPEN SPACES ACT AS A RESPITE FROM URBAN LIVING



OIL FIELDS, BALDWIN HILLS



LOS ANGELES COUNTY FARMER

Policy C/OS 11.2 Manage development in hillside areas to protect their natural and scenic character and minimize risks from natural hazards, such as from fire, flood, erosion, and landslides.

**Goal C/OS-12 Protected cultural heritage resources.**

- Policy C/OS 12.1 Support an inter-jurisdictional collaborative system that protects and enhances the County’s cultural heritage resources.
- Policy C/OS 12.2 Support initiatives that improve the effectiveness of the Los Angeles County Landmarks Commission and the preservation of historic buildings.
- Policy C/OS 12.3 Ensure proper notification procedures to Native American tribes in accordance with Senate Bill 18 (2004).
- Policy C/OS 12.4 Promote public awareness of the County’s cultural heritage resources.

**III. Action Programs**

1. Coordinate with Local, State, and Federal park agencies and conservancies to acquire open space for recreation and biotic preservation throughout the County. Target areas adjacent to existing parkland, within park-deficient communities and within significant ecological areas,
2. Create a Mitigation Land Banking Program to allow the purchase of land within significant ecological areas to mitigate impacts from development along the urban fringe.
3. Update the zoning, subdivision and building codes to make them compliant with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Low Impact Design (LID) or comparable standards. All buildings within the County should meet a minimum requirement for energy efficiency and environmental quality.
4. Develop a Parks Master Plan for the entire County, including unincorporated areas and all 88 incorporated cities. This plan will integrate countywide park planning goals into a single, coherent parks and recreation plan, sharing inter-jurisdictional responsibility for the provision of new parkland, continued maintenance, and joint-use agreements.
5. Evaluate the efficacy of the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the designation of historic landmarks within the unincorporated areas of the County. The Landmarks Preservation Commission needs the full power and authority of government to identify, designate and



WIND POWER TURBINE IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY

- regulate historic buildings and properties.
6. Review and create a water conservation ordinance, including provisions for the use of native plants (xeriscaping) for landscaping, with appropriate enforcement procedures and fines. Since Los Angeles County imports most of its water supply, this finite supply should be carefully distributed, used, and recycled in order to maximize efficiency and increase reliability.
  7. Initiate a County tree planting program with a goal of planting one tree for every resident in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Drought resistant and native trees should be strategically planted in designated locations along commercial strips, in blank spots along residential streets, and throughout open space areas.
  8. Evaluate the tree canopy ordinance to increase the percentage of canopy cover provided by trees in new developments from the mandated 20 percent to 30 percent. Increasing lot canopy coverage will significantly reduce the urban heat island effect, increase energy cost savings and decrease stormwater runoff.
  9. Initiate a committee to study light pollution in the County and generate recommendations to preserve the County's dark skies. Urban expansion threatens rural lifestyles by increasing the amount of direct and refracted light that enters the atmosphere, causing a perpetual day and limiting the amount and clarity of stars and planets in the night sky.
  10. Join the United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, a pact amongst local governments that seeks to act against global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to below 1990 levels. Los Angeles County should be viewed as a champion and leader in the reduction of greenhouse gases, and as such should meet than exceed all relevant precedents.
  11. Replace the existing County environmental checklist with the official California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) development checklist. The independent County checklist confuses the application process by increasing the amount of procedures to be followed in the development process. A singular checklist will speed the development process and more appropriately coordinate with the CEQA process

## CHAPTER VI: NOISE ELEMENT

The Noise Element sets the goals and policy direction for the management of noise in Los Angeles County. California planning law obligates the County to prepare (a) noise element which shall identify and appraise noise problems in the community. The purpose of the Noise Element is to limit the exposure of

The open space and resources of the County are a vital part of maintaining a high quality of life for County residents and businesses. The County is fortunate to have an abundance of natural resources and amenities despite continued population and economic growth.



AIRPLANES ARE A MAJOR GENERATOR OF NOISE IN THE COUNTY

the community to excessive noise levels. This Element includes:

- A general discussion of noise and the noise environment of the County;
- A discussion of how noise affects the residents and businesses of the County;
- The regulations and noise standards for the County; and
- The goals and policies to regulate and mitigate noise concerns.

**I. County Regulations**

The County is chiefly involved in maintaining the health and welfare of its residents in respect to noise through nuisance abatement ordinances and land use planning. The County Noise Control Ordinance was adopted by the BOS in 1977 "...to control unnecessary, excessive and annoying noise and vibration ...." It declared that County policy was to "... maintain quiet in those areas which exhibit low noise levels and to implement programs aimed at reducing noise in those areas within the county where noise levels are above acceptable values" (Section 12.08.010 of the County Code).

On August 14, 2001, BOS approved an ordinance amending Title 13 of the County Code to prohibit loud, unnecessary and unusual noise that disturbs the peace or quiet of any neighborhood or which causes discomfort or annoyance to any reasonable person of normal sensitivity residing in the area. Regulations can include requirements for sound barriers, mitigation measures for excessive noise, or the

advantageous placement and orientation of buildings, and can specify the compatibility of different uses with varying noise levels.

**II. Goals and Policies**

The goals and policies which apply to the Noise Element are:

**Goal N-1 An environment that is protected from unacceptable levels of noise.**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Policy N 1.1 | Employ effective noise abatement measures to achieve acceptable levels of noise as defined by the Los Angeles County Exterior Noise Standards. |
| Policy N 1.2 | Ensure the compatibility of land uses throughout the County to minimize excessive noise levels.  |
| Policy N 1.3 | Ensure cumulative impacts related to noise do not exceed excessive levels by utilizing development monitoring techniques.                      |

**III. Action Programs**

1. Expand local funding for sound walls and barriers along noise generating uses, especially for highways and freeways. These sound walls should be constructed to meet community design standards.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF



LOS ANGELES COUNTY HAZ-MAT CREW

## CHAPTER VII: SAFETY ELEMENT

The purpose of the Safety Element is to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries and economic damage resulting from natural and man-made hazards. The Los Angeles County Safety Element addresses the following issues:

- Natural hazards, including
  - Seismic hazards
  - Geologic hazards
  - Flood and inundation hazards
  - Wildland and urban fire hazards
- Man-made hazards, such as
  - Terrorism
  - Bioterrorism
  - Hazardous materials management, and
- County emergency and safety response services.

### I. Background

The Safety Element assesses public health and safety threats from a variety of hazards, and it recommends strategies to reduce those threats. Local jurisdictions have a degree of discretion in tailoring the Safety Element to their particular concerns. As such, the serious threat of earthquakes to Los Angeles County has influenced the emphasis on earthquake-induced hazards in the General

Plan. Fortunately, many actions that reduce the risk from earthquakes also contribute to the reduction of risks from fire, flood and other geologic hazards.

The Safety Element provides public guidance about policies and actions that can produce a safer environment. It is specifically designed to present public officials with suitable policies for decisions regarding regulations, programs and projects that further public safety and assist County agencies in meeting their public safety responsibilities. The threat of natural and man-made hazards to the County can never be totally eliminated. The implementation of the Safety Element, however, can significantly reduce the magnitude of impacts from a variety of future disaster events.

The following maps display the identified hazard areas in Los Angeles County.

Figure 7.1: Los Angeles County Seismic Hazard Map

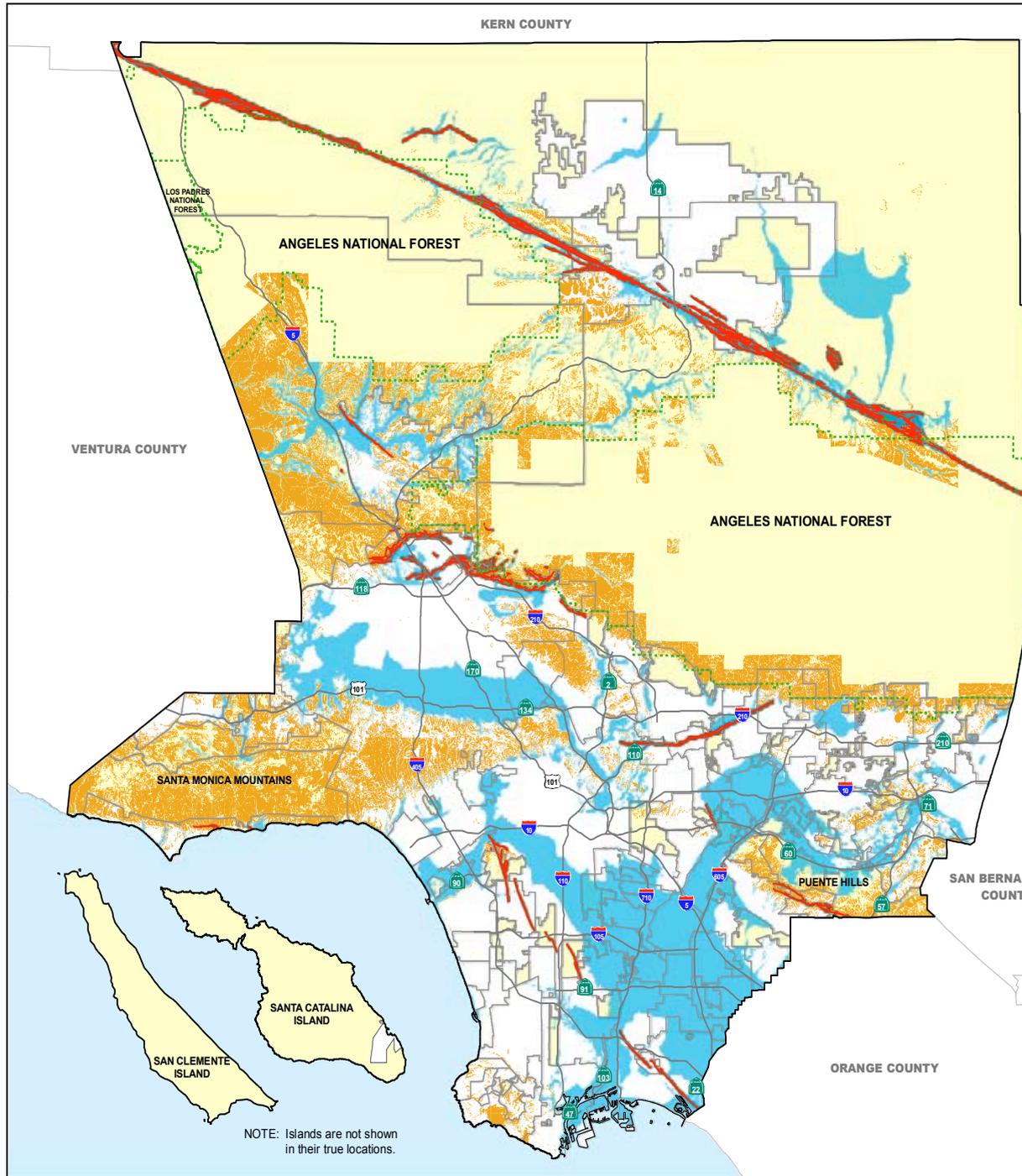
Figure 7.2: Los Angeles County Flood Zone Map

Figure 7.3: Los Angeles County Fire Hazards Map

### II. Goals and Policies

The goals and policies which apply to the Noise Element are:

#### Goal S-1 An effective regulatory



NOTE: Islands are not shown in their true locations.

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
GENERAL PLAN \* DRAFT \***

**Seismic Hazard  
Zones Map**

Figure 7.1

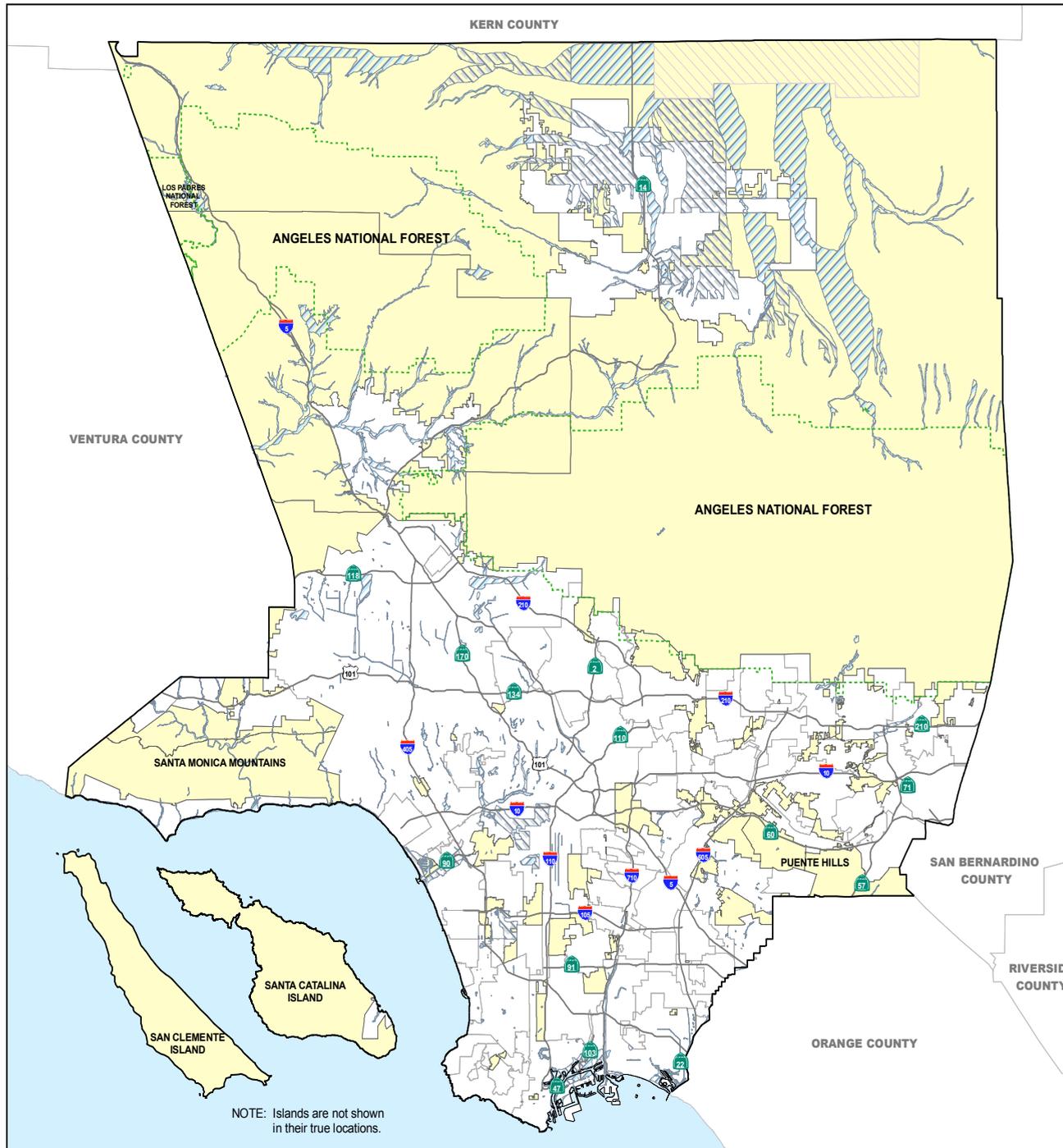
**LEGEND:**

- Fault Trace
- Seismic Zone \*
- Liquefaction Zone \*
- Landslide Zone \*\*
- Unincorporated Area
- National Forest

\* Source - California Geological Survey, current as of 2003/2004.  
\*\* Source - California Geological Survey, current as of 2003/2004. Landslide zone data for the majority of the National Forest areas is not available as of February 2007.

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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
GENERAL PLAN \* DRAFT \***

**Flood Zones**

**Figure 7.2**

**LEGEND:**

-  100-Year Flood Plain \*
-  500-Year Flood Plain \*
-  Unincorporated Area
-  National Forest
-  Military Land

\* Source - Flood Plain data was taken from FEMA and is current as of 2003.

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Los Angeles County Dept. of Regional Planning



LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY, CASTAIC LAKE



A WILDFIRE BURNS IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

**system that prevents or minimizes personal injury, loss of life, property damage and economic dislocation due to natural or man-made disasters.**

- Policy S 1.1 Enforce stringent site investigations for factors related to hazards.
- Policy S 1.2 Implement mitigation measures for development projects in high hazard areas such as floodplains, high fire hazard areas and seismic hazard zones.
- Policy S 1.3 Facilitate the safe transportation, use and storage of hazardous materials in the County.
- Policy S 1.4 Encourage the reduction or elimination of the use of hazardous materials.
- Policy S 1.5 Encourage lead paint abatement efforts.
- Policy S 1.6 Encourage the purchase of homes on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Repeat Hazard List and designate the land as open space.

**Goal S-2 Effective County emergency response management capabilities.**

- Policy S-2.1 Participate in the emergency planning activities of the County Office of Emergency Management, the County Fire and Sheriff's Departments, and other County departments.
- Policy S-2.2 Encourage the development of an early warning system for tsunamis, floods and wildfires.

**III. Action Programs**

1. Develop a traffic calming initiative to increase the safety and use of alternative modes of transportation that targets intersection improvements and residential streets. Many existing streets were designed and built in accordance with an automobile-oriented mentality, and with this new focus on alternative modes of transportation and reducing vehicle trips and miles traveled in the County, the roadway system should respond.
2. Create a floodplain management and development ordinance. A floodplain management ordinance would reduce the loss of life or property damage during inundation, increase the natural recharge areas for groundwater, and provide more open space for recreation along the County's waterways.

**CHAPTER VIII: PUBLIC SERVICES and FACILITIES ELEMENT**

The Los Angeles County General Plan contains a Public Services and Facilities Element because the County believes that the orderly and efficient planning of public services is an important component of successful land use development and growth. The purpose of this element is to provide a summary of the public services and facilities that serve the County, and to establish





WATER PIPE



SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL



PERMEABLE SERVICES REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF

a general set of policy goals that will guide public services in conjunction with the County’s projected growth.

The Public Services and Facilities Element primarily focuses on services and facilities that are publicly managed and are the most impacted by County growth and development. The General Plan recognizes that as the County continues to develop, public services will experience increasing demand. This element provides a framework for encouraging land use development and growth that is planned in conjunction with ensuring adequate public services and facilities. The Department of Regional Planning will continue to support service providers by providing project data that is necessary to determine the cumulative impacts of development on public services and facilities.

The Public Services and facilities Element covers the following topics:

- Water;
- Wastewater (Sewer);
- Solid waste;
- Utilities and telecommunications;
- Fire;
- Police;
- Education; and
- Libraries.

***I. Goals and Policies***

The goals and policies which apply to the Public Services and Facilities Element are:

<b>Goal PS-1</b>	<b>A reliable and equitable network of public services and facilities throughout the County.</b>
Policy PS 1.1	Encourage the coordination of the provision of public services and facilities with development.
Policy PS 1.2	Ensure the equitable distribution of community social services countywide, such as child care centers, and elder care.
Policy PS 1.3	Promote phased development whereby beneficial public facilities such as infrastructure, schools, parks, fire protection and law enforcement are developed in conjunction with land use proposals.
Policy PS 1.4	Encourage the equitable distribution of public facilities throughout the



FLOOD CONTROL



LOS ANGELES COUNTY LIBRARIES



COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION, ALTADENA

County.  
 Policy PS 1.5 Ensure impacts to County services are mitigated through impact fees or other programs.

**Goal PS-2 A protected supply of County water resources.**

- Policy PS 2.1 Support preservation, restoration and strategic acquisition of open space to preserve natural streams, drainage channels, wetlands, and rivers, which are necessary for the healthy function of watersheds.
- Policy PS 2.2 Protect natural groundwater recharge areas and artificial spreading grounds.
- Policy PS 2.3 Effectively manage watersheds to balance growth and development with resource conservation and flood hazard mitigation.
- Policy PS 2.4 Support the preparation and implementation of watershed and river master plans.
- Policy PS 2.5 Promote the development and use of new and improved water and flood management technologies and infrastructure.
- Policy PS 2.6 Maximize the conservation of water throughout the County.

**Goal PS-3 A clean supply of water to satisfy current and projected demand.**

- Policy PS 3.1 Support measures to improve the quality of imported and local water, groundwater supplies, stormwater runoff and desalinated water.
- Policy PS 3.2 Encourage all development to provide a guaranteed supply of water.
- Policy PS 3.3 Eliminate point and non-point source water pollution.
- Policy PS 3.4 Restrict the use of septic systems adjacent to aqueducts to eliminate the possibility of wastewater intrusion into the water supply.
- Policy PS 3.5 Encourage the production and use of recycled water to provide for irrigation, groundwater recharge, saltwater intrusion barriers and other beneficial uses.

**Goal PS-4 An updated and reliable network of wastewater systems in the County.**

- Policy PS 4.1 Encourage the planning and continued development of countywide wastewater systems.
- Policy PS 4.2 Promote innovative programs and techniques in wastewater management.

**Goal PS-5 Minimal waste and pollution in the County.**

- Policy PS 5.1 Maintain an efficient, safe and responsive waste management system that facilitates waste reduction while protecting the health and safety of the public.
- Policy PS 5.2 Reduce dependence on landfills by encouraging solid waste management facilities that utilize conversion technologies and waste to energy facilities.
- Policy PS 5.3 Increase to 100 percent the recycling of all recyclable materials in the

- County.
- Policy PS 5.4 Encourage the use and procurement of recyclable and biodegradable materials throughout the County.
- Policy PS 5.5 Encourage recycling of construction and demolition debris generated by public and private projects.
- Policy PS 5.6 Participate in a collaborative inter-agency effort to minimize waste and pollution in the County.
- Policy PS 5.7 Ensure adequate trash collection.

**Goal PS-6 A reliable and safe public utilities and telecommunications network throughout the County.**

- Policy PS 6.1 Ensure efficient and cost effective utilities that serve existing and future needs.
- Policy PS 6.2 Improve telecommunications infrastructure and expand access to community technology networks.

**Goal PS-7 A County with reliable and satisfactory fire protection services and facilities.**

- Policy PS 7.1 Promote phased development, whereby land use proposals are developed in conjunction with approved fire protection capabilities.
- Policy PS 7.2 Support the expansion of fire protection facilities where needed.
- Policy PS 7.3 Encourage ongoing evaluation of fire protection funding sources.

**Goal PS-8 A County with reliable and satisfactory law enforcement protection services and facilities.**

- Policy PS 8.1 Promote phased development, whereby land use proposals are developed in conjunction with approved law enforcement capabilities.
- Policy PS 8.2 Support the expansion of law enforcement facilities where needed.
- Policy PS 8.3 Encourage ongoing evaluation of law enforcement funding sources.

**Goal PS-9 A thriving and well-funded network of school districts and education providers throughout the County.**

- Policy PS 9.1 Ensure a desired level of educational facilities through land use and facility planning.

**Goal PS-10 A County with a comprehensive public library system.**

- Policy PS 10.1 Ensure a desired level of library service through coordinated land use and facility planning.
- Policy PS 10.2 Support phased development and mitigation fees for library facilities and services.

**II. Action Programs**

1. Study and evaluate the creation of a standardized mitigation fee to be placed on all development for the provision of all public services and facilities including parks, libraries, schools, sewers, water, stormwater management, transportation and police and fire protection. A standardized tax-deductible mitigation fee will simplify and expedite the development process while providing a secure stream of funding for much needed community facilities. This will also cause a better coordination of private development and public infrastructure investment in new and expanding communities. (The fee is passed onto the home buyer so in an effort to keep housing more affordable make it tax-deductible like the Community Facilities District tax.



STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS, EAST LOS ANGELES



LOS ANGELES COUNTY GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

**CHAPTER 9: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT**

The Economic Development Element provides a foundation from which to view unincorporated Los Angeles County’s place in the regional economy, and to serve as a first step in supporting economic strategies and policies that contribute to the financial well-being of County residents and businesses. The County is a major economic center and possesses a dynamic and fast-changing economic environment. The County recognizes that the structure and performance of the economy play an important role in how the planning, land use and development of the County will be implemented. The goals and policies of this section are based upon the idea that economic development will be important in maintaining the quality of the County’s physical and social environments.

The Economic Development Element supports County agencies in expanding the local economy and in directing resources to communities and neighborhoods most in need of economic development. The State does not mandate that a General

Plan discuss economic development. However, the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) recognizes its importance in land use planning, and as such, has opted to include an Economic Development Element.

**II. Goals and Policies**

The following goals and policies related to economic development are:

**Goal ED-1 A growing and balanced economic base.**

- Policy ED 1.1 Provide a diverse mix of industries and services in each geographic area.
- Policy ED 1.2 Encourage a collaborative inter-agency environment for economic development and information sharing on economic trends, business cycles and resources.
- Policy ED 1.3 Expand the economic infrastructure of the County to accommodate new industries and growth.

- Policy ED 1.4 Assist in the retention and recruitment of high-wage and clean industries.
- Policy ED 1.5 Improve, expand and promote the tourist economy in the County.
- Policy ED 1.6 Encourage and foster the development of the green economic sector, such as the renewable energy industry.

**Goal ED-2 A skilled and well-educated work force.**

- Policy ED2.1 Support a quality education system through regulatory and financial policies.
- Policy ED 2.2 Create collaborative educational programs that address specific under-employed populations.
- Policy ED 2.3 Initiate a variety of vocational training programs across the County.
- Policy ED 2.4 Work with the employment sector to identify growing work force needs and training opportunities.

**Goal ED-3 A range of financial incentives and programs that encourage development and business growth.**

- Policy ED 3.1 Develop and implement an incentive program to retain commercial and industrial activities and promote infill development.
- Policy ED 3.2 Assist development and operations of businesses with innovative and targeted financial programs.
- Policy ED 3.3 Establish Enterprise Zones, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), Tax Increment Financing (TIFs) and other innovative financing programs that facilitate community development and rehabilitation.
- Policy ED 3.4 Pursue innovative financing programs to pay for new programs, such as impact fees and assessment districts.

**Goal ED-4 High standards of development and environmental protection in economic activities.**

- Policy ED 4.1 Fund transportation infrastructure and multi-modal systems that make economic activities more efficient and energy conscious.
- Policy ED 4.2 Encourage infill development of vacant, underutilized and brownfield sites throughout the County.
- Policy ED 4.3 Direct development away from the urban fringe and along existing transportation corridors in accordance with the Southern California Association of Governments' Compass Blueprint 2% Strategy.
- Policy ED 4.4 Encourage development around existing and planned transportation hubs.

**Goal ED-5 Targeted economic development and redevelopment activities.**

- Policy ED 5.1 Analyze emerging trends for policy modification, such as how to reuse abandoned industrial spaces.
- Policy ED 5.2 Direct resources to areas targeted as blighted or identified as economically depressed.
- Policy ED 5.3 Continue capital improvements planning and prioritization of infrastructure investments.

**II. Action Programs**

1. Develop an economic development incentives program for green buildings, infill development, brownfield remediation and alternative energy production, focusing on market-based incentives that supplement the regulating policy within the General Plan.
2. Develop incentive policies and programs that utilize and promote the use of economic

development strategies, such as Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts, California State Enterprise Zones and the recruitment of green businesses to the County.

3. Develop a neighborhood beautification pilot program that emphasizes small but proven steps such as façade restorations, landscaping, streetscape improvements, murals or community banners in a targeted area. If the program goals are achieved, use this demonstration project as a model for other distressed areas of the County.
4. Inventory County resources, including industrial sites, alternative energy sites (e.g. wind and solar farms, tidal power plants), County owned-land that could be developed, redeveloped or revitalized, and strip malls for possible conversions or increased densities. With an accurate inventory of these specified resources, the County can better develop policies to protect and enhance these resources and their surrounding communities.
5. Develop a corporate sponsorship program to increase public awareness and consumer education for development related issues, such as on-site alternative energy generation, water and energy conservation measures, xeriscaping, tree planting and public health.
6. Produce visual marketing and public relations materials that promote and advertise County policies that will facilitate in-fill development and smart growth. Examples include:
  - Mixed Use Development Ordinance
  - TOD Development
  - Density Bonuses