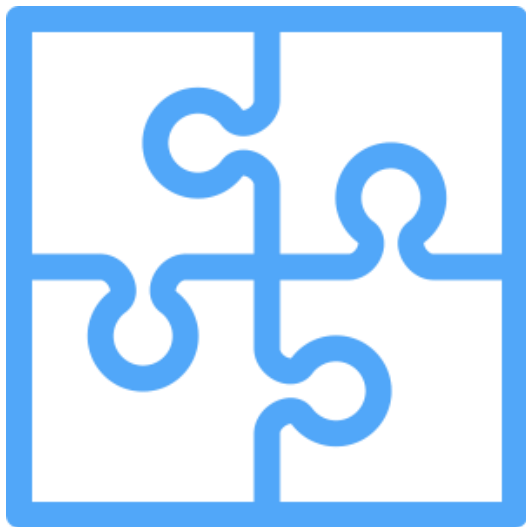


ESGVAP Planning 101

The Planning Puzzle

Planning is the process of organizing and administering the use of land. Have you ever walked down a vibrant main street, bustling with people? From where you live, are you able to walk to a park, school, or corner store? These are just a couple of examples of the types of places and activities that planners aim to help create. All types of places, from homes, main streets and parks, to roads, hospitals and factories, fit together like a puzzle. Some of these puzzle pieces usually don't fit together well, like a house and a factory. Other puzzle pieces fit together quite nicely, like schools and parks. A great community is created when the puzzle pieces come together in just the right way. These communities then become great places to live, work, and enjoy.



In order to make sure that the puzzle pieces fit just right, planners meet and work with communities to understand challenges and opportunities in the area. They take this information and develop policies (or, “courses of action”) and guidelines that will help the community grow and develop over time. These policies and guidelines, when put together in one document, is called a “plan.” A plan can cover a wide variety of topics, from housing and transportation, to industry and open space. In other words, a plan allows for community members, as well as the government, help solve the puzzle!

You are already an expert in recognizing places that are well-planned. Pleasant streets, convenient places to shop, amenities that are close by; these are all examples of good planning. The role of planners is to help figure out how a community or an area wants to look and feel like. This process is sometimes referred to as “visioning.” After the visioning process, where planners work with community members to envision the future of their community, our Department develops the tools to help make that vision a reality. The process takes time, and sometimes the community may have different visions for their future, which is why it's important to hear from everyone that lives, works, and enjoys the community. Individuals such as residents, property owners, and businesses, all have perspectives, or “stakes” in their community. Sometimes we refer to community members

as “stakeholders,” and they each have different parts of the directions to help solve the planning puzzle. When you put all of these directions together, the solution to the puzzle becomes much clearer. It’s that simple.

Planning in Los Angeles County

The East San Gabriel Valley consists of 24 unincorporated communities and 13 cities. There are many similarities between an unincorporated community and a city, and a few key differences.

Cities

Cities, or “incorporated municipalities” are self-governing entities. These cities usually consist of a city council, which is made up of elected officials. Sometimes cities will also have a mayor, which may be a part of the city council or a may be a separate elected position. These elected officials work with their constituents to develop rules, laws, and regulations that apply to how their city operates. Sometimes, cities operate their own services for their constituents, such as a police or fire department. Other times, cities will contract with the County to provide those services to them. Incorporated cities administer their own planning services.

In the East San Gabriel Valley, there are 13 cities. They are the cities of:

- Azusa
- Baldwin Park
- Claremont
- Covina
- Diamond Bar
- Glendora
- Industry
- La Puente
- La Verne
- Pomona
- San Dimas
- Walnut
- West Covina

Unincorporated Communities

Unincorporated Communities in Los Angeles County are not governed by a local municipal corporation, and are instead governed by the County itself. Community services in these areas are provided by the County, such as the Los Angeles County Fire Department, or the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. Planning services in unincorporated communities are provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. In the place of a city council or a mayor, these unincorporated areas are governed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors consists of five members, each representing the constituents of their district.

The East San Gabriel Valley is also served by two Supervisorial Districts:

- District 1, Supervisor Hilda Solis

- District 5, Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Find your district:

To find out who your District Supervisor is, you can look up your address through the website of the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. [Click here for more information.](#)

Unincorporated Communities, Cities, and the East San Gabriel Valley Area Plan

The East San Gabriel Valley Area Plan is a long-range planning and policy document that will help guide growth and development for the unincorporated areas of the planning area. Per California state law, all incorporated cities must develop and implement their own general plans. The LA County Department of Regional Planning works closely with neighboring cities to develop shared visions and goals for regional development, however the Department only has planning jurisdiction in LA County areas that are unincorporated.

Planning for a Diverse Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County is a diverse place, in more ways than one! Check out the video below (available in multiple languages) for more information on the diversity of the County, and how our Department plans with diversity in mind.

-English: <https://youtu.be/Lo42p28uvFk>

-Spanish: <https://youtu.be/ZyHay7Jw5aw>

-Chinese: <https://youtu.be/n6k7050dkOo>

-Korean: <https://youtu.be/7ijAFIB0WrY>

Planning with History in Mind

Changing Communities

When helping plan communities with stakeholders, context provided by local histories of the area are important. By understanding how a community was formed, planners and community members can use this information to gain insight as to how a community will change and grow over time. As people move into, grow, and leave communities, they bring and leave behind legacies that shape the future of where they live. This means that all communities experience change. Some communities change slowly over time, while others change quite quickly.



Aerial view of La Puente Valley and Hacienda Heights area, 1935. *

History and Planning

Historical accounts of communities provide a “roadmap” of how these places have gotten to where they are today. Not all historical accounts may include all sides to the growth of communities over time, which is why it is important to consult multiple historical sources. This historical information must also be put in context with modern ideas, such as inclusion and equity, to ensure that communities become great places for everyone. Local histories do not make up the entirety of plans, but they are an important piece of the puzzle!

Resources

Browse through some of the resources below to learn more about some of the history of the East San Gabriel Valley. As our team finds more historical information about this area, we will make sure to provide the information on this website.

- *Community Histories, County of Los Angeles Public Library*
 - [Claremont](#)
 - [La Puente Valley](#)
 - [San Dimas](#)
- [Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum](#)

*Photo from the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum

Additional Resources:

- [Urban Planning 101](#)
- [American Planning Association](#)