

## Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element

### I. Introduction

The County's of Los Angeles plays a vital role in the protection, conservation and preservation of natural and cultural resources and open space, areas is vital as most of the natural resources and open space areas in Los Angeles County are located within the most of which are located within the unincorporated areas of the County. These include open space lands, biological and water resources, agricultural areas, mineral and energy resources, scenic landscapes, and historical, cultural, and paleontological resources. The County must act as the steward of these diverse resources, for Los Angeles County's natural resources and available open space, ensuring that areas, and conserve and protect these lands and resources they are preserved and protected from inappropriate incompatible development patterns to support their long-term sustainability, enhance climate resilience, and promote community and ecological well-being.

The Conservation and Natural Resources Element provides a long-term policy framework for the guides the long-term conservation protection and management of natural these resources. and the preservation of available open space areas. The Conservation and Natural Resources Element This element addresses the following key conservation areas: Open Space Resources; Biological Resources; Local Water Resources; Agricultural Resources; Mineral and Energy Resources; Scenic Resources; and Historic, Cultural and Paleontological Resources.

### II. Open Space Resources

This section addresses open space and natural area resources, and provides describes existing open space and natural area resources, and outlines policies for preserving and managing dedicated the preservation and management of open space and natural areas through preservation, acquisition, and conservation easements, and long-term stewardship.

#### Background

Open space resources consist of public and private lands and waters that are preserved in perpetuity or for long-term open space and recreational uses. In the unincorporated areas, existing Existing open spaces in the unincorporated areas include County parks and beaches, conservancy lands, state parklands, and federal lands, such as national forests. Additionally, Open space resources include private lands contribute to open space resources through, such as deed-restricted open space parcels areas and conservation easements. The stewardship and preservation of these resources require collaboration from various stakeholders to ensure their continued availability and sustainability. Various stakeholders share a responsibility to manage and preserve the available open space resources in the unincorporated areas.

#### Open Space Resources

Table 9.1 shows a summary of open space resources areas, by acreage and ownership category.

**Table 9.1: Unincorporated Los Angeles County Open Space Resources, in Acres**

<b>Open Space Resource <u>Ownership</u> Category</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Conservancy Lands	<del>48,271.79</del> <u>77,980.29</u>
County Lands	<del>16,834.24</del> <u>10,195.21</u>
Federal Lands	<del>679,629.58</del> <u>671,419.12</u>
Private Open Space Lands	<del>9,181.03</del> <u>23,003.65</u>
State Lands	<del>50,893.72</del> <u>40,495.67</u>
Total Open Space	<del>804,810.36</del> <u>823,093.94</u>

Source: California Protected Areas Database (CPAD), Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning - GIS Section

### **County Lands**

The County Lands category includes open space areas owned and maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR LA County Parks): These areas contain natural preserves areas, wildlife and wildflower sanctuaries, and regional parks with significant ecological and recreational value natural resources. Examples Notable examples include Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area, High Desert Wildlife Sanctuaries, Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, and Schabarum Regional Park. For a comprehensive discussion on parkland resources, please Please refer to the Parks and Recreation Element, Appendix E, and Appendix F for a full discussion on parkland resources.

### **Conservancy Lands**

The unincorporated areas of the County house include scenic areas and diverse topographic, geologic and vegetative features that provide important habitat for wildlife, but that also hold recreational value. State-created and non-profit conservancies play a critical role in preserving many of these areas through the acquisition and preservation of available open space areas. A list and descriptions of partnering conservancies and non-state public agencies can be found in Appendix E.

### **State Lands**

The State Lands category includes open space and recreation areas owned and operated by the State. The California Department of Parks and Recreation has been instrumental in providing open space and recreation areas in the unincorporated areas. State parklands preserve important natural habitat areas, while providing both passive and active recreational opportunities that attract users throughout the region. The County is committed to preserving the quality of these areas by planning for compatible uses on adjacent lands. Examples of State Lands include Malibu Creek and Topanga State Parks and the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve.

### **Federal Lands**

The Federal Lands category refers to public lands managed by the federal government including:

### ***National Forest***

The Angeles National Forest and a small portion of the Los Padres National Forest encompass nearly 650,000 acres of land within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The Angeles National Forest ~~stretches spans~~ across two major portions of the Los Angeles County, in two sections encompassing the San Gabriel and Sierra Pelona Mountain Ranges, ~~and is~~ It covers approximately 1,018 square miles, or accounting for about 25 percent of the County's total land area of Los Angeles County.

Within the Angeles National Forest lies the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, designated in 2014 to protect the area's ecological, cultural, and recreational resources. Managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Monument overlays a significant portion of the Angeles National Forest and provides additional protections for these sensitive and scenic lands.

The U.S. Forest Service is responsible for managing public forest lands. Its mission is the stewardship of forest lands and resources through programs that provide recreation, ~~and~~ multiple uses of natural resources, wilderness protection areas, and the conservation of significant habitat areas. The U.S. Forest Service prepares and periodically updates the Land and Resource Management Plan as a policy guide for the use of lands in the national forests.

Nearly 40,000 acres W-within the boundaries of the national forests, ~~nearly 40,000 acres~~ are privately-owned. For these parcels, commonly referred to as in-holdings, the County retains responsibility for land use regulation.

### ***National Recreation Area***

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is a part of the National Park System and is managed by the National Park Service. The National Recreation Area preserves natural habitats, historical and cultural sites, offers recreational opportunities, and improves the air quality for the Los Angeles basin. It is covered by chaparral, ~~oak~~-woodlands, and coastal sage scrub, and home to many sensitive species and habitats that are listed as rare, threatened, or endangered.

### ***Bureau of Land Management Land***

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owns thousands of acres of open space land in the northern portion of Los Angeles County, primarily within desert regions in the Antelope Valley. These ~~primarily desert~~ lands are managed ~~serve~~ to preserve federally-listed endangered and threatened species, and where compatible, provide recreational, agricultural, energy, and mining activities.

### ***Private Open Space***

Open space dedications are defined as privately-owned lands that have been set aside for permanent open space often as part of a ~~larger~~ land development proposal. These private open spaces can serve as important connectors to larger open space areas.

The California Open Space Easement Act of 1969 sets forth general conditions governing the creation of recognized open space easements. Agreements or contracts establishing such easements specify the standards and conditions for uses and activities permitted within the area covered. Commitment of such lands to open space use in perpetuity is typically assured through deed-restrictions or dedication of construction rights secured at the time of development permit

approval. Within dedicated open space areas, standards and conditions for use are specifically set forth as conditions of the zoning permit or subdivision tract map.

## **Climate Resilience and Co-Benefits of Open Space**

Open space areas in Los Angeles County provide vital climate resilience benefits, including carbon sequestration, biodiversity, stormwater management, heat mitigation, air quality improvement, and wildfire risk reduction. These lands function as buffers for communities from the impacts of climate change, particularly in wildfire and heat vulnerable areas. When planned in coordination with the Safety Element, open space preservation supports community safety by maintaining defensible space, limiting development in high hazard zones, and preserving natural floodplains and habitats that reduce risk exposure to natural hazards.

Strategic acquisition and management of open space resources can reduce vulnerabilities to extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, poor air quality, species extinction, and habitat loss. These open space resources are located throughout the County, not only in mountainous and desert regions, but also in urban and suburban neighborhoods as community parks, greenways, trails, and shared public spaces. Open spaces within communities can help reduce the urban heat island effect and provide everyday access to nature for residents and habitat for urban wildlife. In addition to environmental benefits, open space can offer critical health and educational benefits, including opportunities for physical activity, mental health support through nature exposure, and outdoor learning environments for youth.

Prioritizing the creation and enhancement of open spaces in underserved or environmentally burdened communities further supports climate resilience by improving access to cooling, nature, and clean air. Equitable access to open space enhances the distribution of these climate resilience benefits, ensuring that all communities can benefit from improved environmental quality, health outcomes, and recreational opportunities. Los Angeles County advances these goals through the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA) and the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+) which prioritizes conservation and restoration in underserved and environmentally burdened communities in alignment with California's statewide 30x30 initiative. For a discussion on accessibility and acquisition of parkland, please refer to the Parks and Recreation Element.

## **Open Space Resources Policy Map**

### **Figure 9.1: Unincorporated Los Angeles County Open Space Resources Policy Map**

The Open Space Resources Policy Map, Figure 9.1, aids decision-makers in identifying and maintaining open space in an undisturbed state for public recreation, scenic enjoyment, and for the protection and study of natural ecosystems. Open Space Resources are part of the County's Special Management Areas. For more information on the Special Management Areas, please refer to the Land Use Element.

## Issues

### 1. Open Space Preservation

Increased population growth and ongoing development activities continue to impact open space areas. Dedicated open space areas are vital for the recreational, scenic and wilderness opportunities they provide. However, Leapfrog development and urban sprawl affect the ability to preserve threaten the preservation of biotic diversity biodiversity and the ability to provide accessible and to provide appropriate recreational amenities. Because of sprawling development, open space areas are becoming increasingly fragmented or by causing increased fragmentation and isolated isolation, which decreases habitat connectivity and ecological functions.

### 2. Open Space Acquisition and Planning

The acquisition and preservation of open space areas is a challenging and expensive endeavor. Additionally, there is no coordinated master plan to acquire, manage and preserve available open space areas. The Los Angeles County Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+), adopted in 2022, provides a valuable data-driven foundation for identifying priority areas for conservation, restoration of degraded lands, and recreation, particularly in disadvantaged and climate vulnerable communities. Working in partnership with conservancies and other stakeholders that can purchase and acquire available open space lands remains a key component is an important part of the County's open space acquisition strategy. A coordinated and collaborative effort to manage and fund a countywide open space master plan is needed to adequately protect available open space areas. To adequately protect and enhance open space resources, coordination and collaboration efforts must continue to build on the findings of PNA+ and develop funding strategies and implementation partnerships. To strengthen climate resilience and support environmental justice, future acquisitions should build on the PNA+ by prioritizing areas that advance environmental conservation, restore degraded landscapes, and address regional open space needs, particularly in disadvantaged and climate-vulnerable communities.

## Goals and Policies for Open Space Resources

<b>Goal C/NR 1: Open space areas that meet the diverse needs of Los Angeles County.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Open Space Preservation and Conservation of Natural Areas	Policy C/NR 1.1: Implement programs and policies that enforce the responsible stewardship and preservation of dedicated open space areas.
	Policy C/NR 1.2: Protect and conserve natural resources, natural areas, and available open spaces.
	Policy C/NR 1.3: Identify and preserve wildlife corridors and natural landscape linkages that facilitate regional connectivity and species migration, in coordination with other agencies and local conservancies.
Open Space Acquisition	Policy C/NR 1.4: Support the equitable acquisition of <del>new available</del> open space areas. <del>Augment this strategy by</del> Leverage County resources in concert with the compatible open space stewardship actions of other agencies, as feasible and appropriate.
	Policy C/NR 1.5: Create, support and protect an established network of dedicated open space areas that provide regional connectivity to facilitate species movement and dispersal, <del>between the southwestern extent of the Tehachapi Mountains to the Santa Monica Mountains, and from the southwestern extent of the Mojave Desert to Puente Hills and Chino Hills.</del>
	Policy C/NR 1.6: Provide and improve equitable access to dedicated open space and natural areas for all users that considers sensitive biological resources.
	Policy C/NR 1.7: Prioritize open space acquisitions for <del>available</del> lands that contain unique ecological features, streams, watersheds, habitat types and/or offer linkages that enhance wildlife movements and genetic diversity.
<u>Ecologically Resilient Open Space Design</u>	Policy C/NR 1.8: Design and manage open space to minimize habitat fragmentation and avoid impacts to sensitive biological resources.
	Policy C/NR 1.9: Encourage the design and enhancement of open spaces and streetscapes that incorporate climate-adaptive strategies.
<b>Goal C/NR 2: Effective collaboration in open space resource preservation.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Open Space Collaboration and Financing	Policy C/NR 2.1: Establish new revenue generating mechanisms to leverage County resources to enhance and acquire available open space and natural areas.
	Policy C/NR 2.2: Encourage the development of multi-benefit dedicated open spaces.
	Policy C/NR 2.3: Improve understanding and appreciation for natural areas through preservation programs, stewardship, <u>multilingual educational efforts, and partnerships with local schools, community organizations, and other County agencies and educational facilities.</u>
	Policy C/NR 2.4: Collaborate with public, non-profit, and private organizations to <u>acquire, repurpose, and preserve available land for open space and manage open space</u> in ways that promote biodiversity and maintain ecological integrity.

### III. Biological Resources

The physical environment of the unincorporated areas is extremely diverse: elevations range from sea level to 10,000~~64~~ feet; soils vary due to prehistoric volcanic activity, marine sedimentation and river deposition; and climates ~~that are~~ varies from mild and moist temperate near the coast change to severe temperature seasonal extremes of hot and cold in the high mountains and desert. The unincorporated areas boast a treasury of natural features, including coastlines, islands, dunes, marshes, tidal flats, sea cliffs, hills, ~~mountain ranges~~ alpine and subalpine communities, freshwater ponds, rivers, streams, wetlands, woodlands, deserts, chaparral, grasslands, valleys, and plains. As a result, the unincorporated areas contain a unique and varied collection of biological resources, including habitats and species—~~some of~~ which may not be found anywhere else in the world. For example, Los Angeles County is part of the California Floristic Province, which has been designated by Conservation International as one of the world's top ~~25~~ 36 hotspots of biodiversity, ~~less the only one of only four designations~~ in the United States.

The main types of biological resources in the unincorporated areas are: regional habitat linkages; forests; coastal ~~zone~~ sage scrub; grasslands; riparian habitats, streambeds and wetlands; woodlands; chaparral; desert shrubland; alpine habitats.; Many of these resources can be found in the Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs); and Coastal Resource Areas (CRAs) zoning overlays. The General Plan works to protect and enhance these resources, and ensure that the legacy of the unique ~~biotic diversity~~ biodiversity is passed on to future generations.

In addition, there are two sites in the unincorporated areas that are controlled by the U.S. Department of Defense and ~~that~~ contain important biological resources. The resources and protections on Edwards Air Force Base in the Antelope Valley are described in detail in the Antelope Valley SEA description in Appendix E. The resources and protections on San Clemente Island are described in detail in the Coastal Zone Resources section in Appendix E.

### Background

#### Regional Habitat Linkages

Biological resources and important habitat areas in the unincorporated areas ~~are part of~~ form a greater network of habitat linkages that extends beyond Los Angeles County boundaries. Figure 9.2 maps the regional habitat linkages that connect biological resource areas in Los Angeles County with resource areas in adjacent local jurisdictions. The areas depicted are based on national forest boundaries, the County's SEAs, and a series of ~~missing~~ linkage design studies conducted by the South Coast Wildlands Project. For a detailed description of these linkages, please refer to Appendix E. The following linkages are important to ensure greater regional biodiversity, and species and habitat connectivity:

- The Puente Hills SEA is a linkage connecting the Puente Hills with the Chino Hills in Orange County.
- Linkages in the Santa Monica Mountains, Santa Susana and Simi Hills, Santa Clara River and Santa Felicia Creek SEAs connect to habitats in Ventura County and to the Tehachapi and San Gabriel Mountains.
- The San Andreas SEA is a linkage to the Santa Clara River Watershed, San Gabriel Mountains, Antelope Valley, and Tehachapi Mountains.

- The Antelope Valley SEA serves as a linkage between the San Gabriel Mountains and the Mojave Desert, and provides wildlife movement opportunities into open areas in Kern County and San Bernardino County.

## Figure 9.2: Regional Habitat Linkages Map

### National Forests

The two National Forests, Los Padres National Forest and Angeles National Forest, contain extensive biological resources. The Angeles National Forest contains the largest area of dedicated open space in Los Angeles County. A vast number of wildlife species depend on the Angeles National Forest for protection, foraging, and breeding. Two thirds of the Angeles National Forest has slopes steeper than 60 percent, with elevations ranging from 1,200 to 10,000 feet above sea level. General habitat types within the National Forests include riparian habitats, streambeds, wetlands, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and woodlands, each of which is described below. In addition to these, Angeles National Forest also supports alpine habitats which are typified by low-growing herbaceous and scrubby vegetation above the tree line.

Activities that occur in the National Forests have a potential impact on biotic resources, as well as on the quality of local water supplies and the health of major watersheds. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board's Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region states that there are 240 miles of perennial rivers and streams, as well as 19 lakes and reservoirs in the Angeles National Forest and 37 reservoirs in the Los Padres National Forest. The floor headwaters and watersheds of the National Forests allows direct rainfall and snowmelt to replenish groundwater basins, which that provides the unincorporated areas with approximately 13 percent of its their annual water supply. Surface water runoff fills streams and rivers, which support riparian habitats and which, in the case of the Angeles National Forest, flow downstream into the Santa Clara River and its tributaries (including Piru Creek, which is designated as a National Wild and Scenic River), and the channelized waterways of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and its their tributaries before reaching the Pacific Ocean. The northern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains in the Angeles National Forest discharges to the Mojave Desert and recharges the aquifer of Antelope Valley. There are many reservoirs and several recharge basins that intercept much of the water upstream of urban areas and the storm channel system. Urban communities receive relatively clean water due to intact natural conditions in the National Forest. To protect these forest functions, the U.S. Forest Service has identified two thirds of the National Forests in Los Angeles County as sensitive watershed areas.

The County is responsible for the land use regulation of the nearly 40,000 acres of privately-owned in-holdings within the National Forest boundaries. Much of this land is in remote locations, subject to a high degree of natural hazards, and lacks adequate access to paved roads and water supply. The County does not encourage development in the national forests. The challenges of overcoming biological resource constraints, as well as terrain, roads and water supply issues make development very difficult, and regulation is coordinated closely with the U.S. Forest Service.

### Coastal Zone

The biological resource value in of the coastal zone, which includes San Clemente Island, Santa Catalina Island, Marina del Rey, Ballona Wetlands and the Santa Monica Mountains, is significant. The study and management of these resource areas is more rigorous than any other area in Los

Angeles County, and any land disturbance is regulated through coastal land use plans and local coastal programs, in conjunction with the California Coastal Commission.

The Coastal Act regulates the protection of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) against any significant disruption of habitat values and only uses dependent on those resources are allowed within EHSAs. Development in areas adjacent to ESHAs is required to be designed to prevent impacts to ESHAs and compatible with the continuance of the habitat and recreation areas.

Biological resources in the Santa Monica Mountains (SMM) Coastal Zone are identified and protected through a system of resource-based categories. Sensitive Environmental Resource Areas (SERAs), ~~which contain terrestrial or marine resources that, because of their characteristics and/or vulnerability, require special protection.~~ are areas containing habitats of the highest biological significance, rarity, and sensitivity. SERAs were established to protect a special or unique collection of habitats and species from loss due to encroachment and human disturbances. SERAs are comprised of the following sub-categories: Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHAs); Significant Woodlands and Savannahs; Significant Watersheds; Malibu Cold Creek Resource Management Area; and Wildlife Migration Corridor. SERAs are not intended to function as isolated preservation areas, but as areas subject to strictly-enforced environmental resource protections and land use regulations. Land use regulation and jurisdictional authority in the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone involves many public entities. In the unincorporated areas, biological resource protection is implemented through the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program, and by both the County and the California Coastal Commission

Biological resource management and regulation on Santa Catalina Island is implemented through the Santa Catalina Island Local Coastal Program (LCP). Island resources, such as Significant Ecological Areas (SEA), are identified in the LCP and are subject to restrictive development regulations. Any changes to the SEA boundaries or associated regulations require an amendment to the LCP and certification by the California Coastal Commission. Biological resource management and regulation on Marina del Rey is also implemented through an LCP.

~~Land use regulation and jurisdictional authority in the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone involves many public entities. In the unincorporated areas, biological resource protection is implemented through the Malibu Land Use Plan and the Malibu Coastal Program District and by both the County and the California Coastal Commission.~~

Finally, resources within San Clemente Island and the Ballona Wetlands are managed by the U.S. Navy and California Department of ~~Parks and Recreation~~ Fish and Wildlife, respectively.

For more information on the biological resources in the coastal zone, please refer to Appendix E.

### **Riparian Habitats, Streambeds and Wetlands**

Riparian habitats are comprised of vegetation and other physical features that are typically found on stream banks and flood plains associated with streams, lakes, or other bodies of perennial or nearly-perennial surface water. Streambeds are the physical confines that water typically flows through, either perennially or after rain events. Riparian habitats and streambeds are of inherent value to local and regional ecosystems. They serve as important connectors to up- and downstream ecosystems or adjacent habitats; provide critical value to migratory birds; contribute to the quality of habitat linkages and wildlife corridors; and play a crucial role in maintaining surface and subsurface water quality.

Wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration that are sufficient to support vegetation, which is typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, as defined in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (1987). Examples of wetlands include swamps, marshes, bogs, vernal pools, and playa lake areas. However, wetlands can also remain dry for long periods of time (e.g., arroyos or ephemeral streams, characteristic of the American Southwest), which makes their identification and management potentially difficult. Wetlands contribute to water quality and the overall health of watersheds in several ways. They slow water flow, decrease erosion, filter water runoff, and provide habitat for many endangered plant and animal species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Emergency Wetlands Resources Act establishes a national wetlands conservation program, which requires states to include wetlands in their Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans for management and preservation. California has lost over 90 percent of its original wetland areas, and Los Angeles County has lost 95 percent. The County is dedicated to preserving its remaining wetlands and supports the wetland reclamation and conservation efforts of other public agencies and numerous non-profit organizations. In addition to County policy and regulation, projects that are subject to CEQA and located in a wetland are forwarded to applicable state and federal agencies for further review and permitting requirements.

### **Woodlands**

The County's ~~oak~~ woodlands are an important resource that provides an abundance of aesthetic, ecological, and economic benefits to residents. Oak woodland habitats are the most diverse terrestrial ecosystems in California. Similarly, riparian woodlands, California walnut, juniper, and Joshua tree woodlands provide habitat for multiple species within a concentrated area. Various types of woodlands are found in the unincorporated areas, including riparian woodlands; California walnut woodlands in the San Gabriel Valley and Puente Hills; juniper and Joshua tree woodlands in the Antelope Valley; and oak woodlands countywide.

### **Chaparral**

Chaparral ~~is a common shrub community consists~~ consisting of broad-leaved or needle-leaved, evergreen sclerophyllous (hard-leaved), medium height to tall, woody shrubs that form a dense cover on steep slopes, usually below 5,000 feet in Southern California. ~~It is a common shrub community composed of robust, mostly evergreen species.~~ Chaparral types are identified according to their dominant plant species. These may include chamise, buck brush, California lilac, scrub oak, interior live oak, or birch-leaf mountain-mahogany on north-facing exposures. Coastal occurrences of chaparral may include laurel sumac, toyon, lemonade berry, big-pod ceanothus and manzanita as dominant species. Additional species that often occur include ~~scrub oaks (several species)~~, California buckwheat, chaparral yucca, sugar bush, holly-leaved cherry, holly leaf redberry, hoary leaved ceanothus, black sage, and sawtooth goldenbush on south-facing slopes. Thick leaved yerba santa may be abundant along dirt roads and other disturbed areas. In the canyons bottoms, where groundwater levels are higher, giant rye grass, blue elderberry, sacapellote, redberry, toyon, and holly-leaved cherry may occur.

### **Coastal Sage Scrub**

Coastal sage scrub is shorter in stature than chaparral and is dominated by drought-deciduous species, including California sagebrush, bush sunflower, white sage, black sage, and California buckwheat. Other common species within this community may include woolly blue-curls, chaparral yucca, ~~black sage~~, Acton encelia (in more inland locations), ~~white sage~~, and chamise. A variety of less common associated species are also present including lance-leaved live-forever,

common tarplant, beavertail cactus, Turkish rugging, and southern California morning-glory. Disked or cleared areas that have regrown may have a dense cover of oats and bromes-grasses, California poppy, fiddleneck, several species of lupines, popcorn flower, comb-bur and other disturbance-favored-tolerant native annuals.

**Desert Scrub**

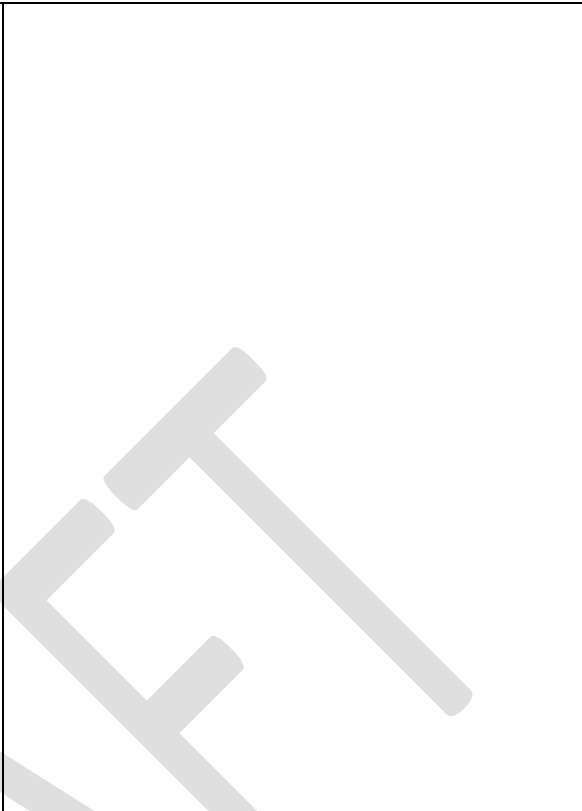
Desert scrub is a comprehensive plant assemblage term applied for a number of relatively low-stature, widely-spaced desert formations of shrubs and subshrubs, commonly occurring on open, sandy soils where groundwater is inaccessible to all but a few deep-rooted species. Dominants include Great Basin sagebrush, antelope bush, brittlebush, creosote bush, several species of saltbush, rubber rabbitbrush, cheesebush, sages, winterfat, and burrobrush, often with one or more perennial grass species.

**Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) and Coastal Resources Areas (CRAs)**

A Significant Ecological Area (SEA) designation is given to land that contains irreplaceable biological resources, as detailed in Appendix E. The designation of Coastal Resource Area (CRA) is given to those SEAs located with the coastal zone. Cumulatively, the 24 27 SEAs and nine Coastal Resource Areas (CRAs) represent the wide-ranging biodiversity of Los Angeles County, and contain its most important biological resources. Each individual SEA is sized to support sustainable populations of its component species, and includes undisturbed or lightly disturbed habitat along with linkages and corridors that ~~promote~~ facilitate species movement. Table 9.2 details the 24 27 SEAs and nine Coastal Resources Areas of the County. Note that two Coastal Resource Areas, the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone and Palos Verde Coastline, are linked to SEAs that are not entirely within Coastal Resource Areas.

**Table 9.2: Significant Ecological Areas and Coastal Resource Areas**

Significant Ecological Areas	Coastal Resource Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Altadena Foothills and Arroyos</u></li> <li>• <u>Antelope Valley</u></li> <li>• <u>Baldwin Hills</u></li> <li>• <u>Colorado Lagoon</u></li> <li>• Cruzan Mesa Vernal Pools</li> <li>• East San Gabriel Valley</li> <li>• <u>El Dorado Regional Park</u></li> <li>• Griffith Park</li> <li>• Harbor Lake Regional Park</li> <li>• Joshua Tree Woodlands</li> <li>• <u>Liebre-Sierra Pelona</u></li> <li>• <u>Lower Los Angeles River</u></li> <li>• Madrona Marsh Preserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Alamitos Bay</u></li> <li>• <u>Ballona Wetlands</u></li> <li>• El Segundo Dunes</li> <li>• Malibu Coastline</li> <li>• Palos Verdes Coastline (ocean and shoreline portions)</li> <li>• Point Dume</li> <li>• Santa Catalina Island</li> <li>• Coastal Zone of the Santa Monica Mountains</li> <li>• Terminal Island (Pier 400)</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Pacoima Wash</u></li> <li>• Palos Verdes Peninsula and Coastline</li> <li>• Puente Hills</li> <li>• <del>Rio Hondo College Wildlife Sanctuary</del></li> <li>• San Andreas</li> <li>• San Dimas Canyon and San Antonio Wash</li> <li>• San Gabriel Canyon</li> <li>• <u>San Gabriel Mountains</u></li> <li>• Santa Clara River</li> <li>• <del>Santa Felicia</del></li> <li>• Santa Monica Mountains</li> <li>• <u>San Rafael Hills</u></li> <li>• Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills</li> <li>• <u>Sepulveda Basin</u></li> <li>• Tujunga Valley and Hansen Dam</li> <li>• <del>Valley Oaks Savannah</del></li> <li>• Verdugo Mountains</li> </ul>	
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**Figure 9.3 Significant Ecological Areas and Coastal Resource Areas Policy Map**

SEAs are part of the County’s Special Management Areas Policy Map (Figure 6.1) in the Land Use Element. The County’s SEA Program has a long history going back to the 1970s. The SEA Program, for those SEAs located in unincorporated areas, is administered through the General Plan goals, policies and implementation program and the SEA Ordinance. Some SEAs are located entirely or partially outside of the County’s jurisdiction in cities, along the coastline, or within national forest land. The SEAs within the jurisdiction of incorporated cities are shown on the map for reference and visual continuity, and are intended to be used for informational purposes only to indicate the continuity of natural systems over jurisdictional boundaries. SEAs within incorporated cities are for informational purposes only and not regulated by the County’s SEA Ordinance. Appendix E provides more information on the history of the SEA Program, guiding principles, criteria for designation, and detailed summaries of the biological resources contained within each SEA. The nine CRAs are included in the Significant Ecological Areas map. CRAs are located within the coastal zone and include biological resources equal in significance to SEAs. Protection of these areas must defer ultimately to the authority of the California Coastal Commission. Of particular note for the CRAs, the coastal zone of the Santa Monica Mountains and the entirety of Santa Catalina Island are regulated through their individual local coastal programs.

The objective of the SEA Program is to conserve genetic and physical diversity by designating biological resource areas that are capable of sustaining themselves into the future. However, SEAs are not wilderness preserves. Much of the land in SEAs is privately-held, used for public recreation, or abuts developed areas. The SEA Program must therefore balance the overall objective of resource preservation against other critical public needs. The General Plan goals and policies are intended to ensure that privately-held lands within the unincorporated area SEAs

retain the right of reasonable use, while avoiding activities and developments that are incompatible with the long-term survival of the SEAs.

~~Certain uses of the SEAs are compatible by definition with the long-term sustainability of biological resources. Some examples of uses that do not conflict with the goals of the SEA Program include: regulated scientific study; passive recreation, including wildlife observation and photography; and limited picnicking, riding, hiking and overnight camping. Many other uses may also be compatible with the SEA Program, or may partially or fully mitigate against potential impacts through careful site design and stewardship. In particular, the following uses may be determined compatible by scientific review or biotic surveys, or through the addition of conditions that are intended to protect against site specific and cumulative impacts to biotic resources in the SEA:~~

- ~~• Low density or clustered residential uses that are compatible with identified biotic resources present in or affected by the site.~~
- ~~• Low intensity local or visitor serving commercial uses.~~
- ~~• Essential public and semi-public uses that are necessary for health, safety and welfare, and that cannot be relocated to alternative sites.~~
- ~~• Agricultural uses that are compatible with identified biotic resources that are present on or near the site.~~
- ~~• Extractive uses, including oil and gas recovery, and rock, sand and gravel quarrying, which are compatible with identified biotic resources.~~

~~More complex or intensive types of d~~ Developments within unincorporated area SEAs is ~~are not prohibited precluded from development~~, but may require additional technical review to ensure that projects properly identify existing resources and potential impacts. The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) assumes a responsibility to assist these types of projects with site design in the early stages of the project to ensure that projects are sensitive to and compatible with the resources of the area. The process of analyzing impacts to existing biological resources and determining SEA compatibility is designed to provide careful evaluation of projects within SEAs, in order to ensure that the ecological function of the SEA is maintained.

Generally, ~~complex or intensive types of developments in the unincorporated area, SEAs that are determined to have potential for adverse impacts to biological resources~~ require an SEA Conditional Use Permit (SEA CUP). The SEA Technical Advisory Committee (SEATAC) is an expert advisory committee that assists the DRP and the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission in assessing applications for SEA CUPs by providing recommendations on the biological analyses conducted for SEA CUPs, and on the project's compatibility with SEA resources.

### **Sensitive Local Native Resources**

The County considers authoritatively defined sensitive local native resources, including species on watch lists, as important resources to identify and conserve. Examples of authoritatively compiled databases include lists on the Audubon Society's "Los Angeles County Sensitive Bird List," and those in the inventory of the California Native Plant Society. For more information, please visit the Los Angeles Audubon Society web site at: <http://losangelesaudubon.org/>, and the California Native Plant Society web site at <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/inventory/>.

## **Community Forest**

The community forest encompasses all trees in our communities, including our parks, streets, and backyards. A community forest is an ecosystem where the diversity of trees supports an even greater diversity of other plants, animals, and fungi. Trees in community forests provide a habitat for migratory species and pollinators, often serving as the biodiversity hubs of community areas. Trees or groups of trees can serve as steppingstones and corridors for plants to spread and animals to move between fragmented patches of green spaces such as parks and natural areas. The Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) is an actionable, long-term strategy to manage trees in the unincorporated communities of Los Angeles County. The CFMP covers all parts of managing the County's community forest on both private and public land, including tree planting and establishment, tree maintenance, tree protection and preservation, tree debris reuse, and community engagement and education. For more information on the CFMP, visit: <https://lacountycfmp.org/>.

## **Connectivity Movement Pathways**

Maintaining ecological connectivity is essential to the long-term function and resilience of the SEA network; however, connectivity does not always align neatly with the spatial logic of SEA designation. Many functionally important movement areas are diffuse, transient, or extend across developed landscapes where SEA designation would be impractical, overly expansive, or inconsistent with the intent of the SEA Program. In other locations, connectivity is constrained into narrow corridors or pinch points where relatively small areas play an outsized role in facilitating wildlife movement.

Given these characteristics, relying solely on SEA boundary adjustments to address connectivity would, in many cases, either fail to capture important movement areas or require a substantial expansion of SEAs into more urbanized areas that may be neither effective nor appropriate. Many intensified and channeled movement pathways occur outside existing and recommended SEA boundaries, underscoring the need for connectivity considerations to extend beyond the SEAs. Channeled movement areas are locations where wildlife movement is constrained into relatively narrow corridors, often due to surrounding development, infrastructure, or topographic barriers. These areas frequently function as critical "pinch points" in the broader connectivity network. Intensified movement areas are zones where wildlife movement is concentrated but not fully constrained into a single corridor. These areas often occur along the edges of urban development or within semi-developed landscapes where multiple pathways remain available. Core habitat and open space areas are encompassed primarily by SEAs, which support relatively intact habitat conditions and form the backbone of the regional connectivity network. The SEAs may capture portions of intensified movement pathways along their edges.

## **Figure 9.10 Connectivity Movement Pathways Policy Map**

## **Issues**

### **1. Preservation of Biotic Diversity**

Development continues to be the main cause of species decline in the Southern California region, where approximately 20 percent of the species on the federally-endangered species list are found. Although both federal and state agencies are tasked with protecting their listed species, the

County has a role to play in species survival when it decides whether or not to approve development within habitats that contain endangered and threatened species. The SEA Program balances future development and human activities against the preservation of irreplaceable biotic resources. The SEA designation does not protect or identify every individual biotic resource, and SEAs are not preserves or conservation areas; rather, SEAs are areas in which planning decisions are made with extra-increased sensitivity toward biological resources and ecosystem functions. In order to accommodate potential development pressures, the SEAs were designed as designated to encompass large-scale areas connected to regional resources, creating a with sufficient habitat and mobility areas opportunities for a wide variety of species. However, the resiliency and long-term sustainability of the SEAs is dependent upon careful land use decisions by the County to maintain core habitats and linkages.

## **2. SEA Monitoring and Status Reporting**

SEAs are large and changing dynamic areas containing evolving resources, and new science, species, or development practices Effects of climate change, new scientific advances, and increased development within SEAs may create a need for changes to the SEA Program over time. In order to meet the changing needs of the SEA Program, and assess progress in implementation, the County should periodically review the SEA Program. This periodic review may include undertaking new studies, monitoring approved uses and mitigations, disclosing impacts of development and human activities on biological resources and, when necessary, amending the SEA Ordinance, SEA boundaries and technical descriptions to address any changes required to meet the overall objective of the SEA Program.

While the SEA Program allows for development on privately-held lands within unincorporated area SEAs through a permitting process that ensures minimal impacts to sensitive biological resources, there are situations where property owners do not obtain the proper approvals prior to removing vegetation or developing the property. These unpermitted activities can result in significant impacts to SEA resources and threaten the long-term survival of the SEAs. Restoration of areas impacted by illegal development within the SEAs is costly, requires many years of monitoring, and in some cases is unlikely to succeed due to landform alteration and damage to soils and hydrology. Public education on the proper permitting process and allowable development in SEAs is provided by the County to help prevent these unpermitted activities.

## **3. Coordination of Property Rights and Environmental Protection**

The SEA Program is a method of balancing private property rights against impacts to irreplaceable biological resources. Preservation of these resources must not compromise the right of privately-held lands to be fairly used by their owners, nor burden them with excessive development costs or regulatory procedures. The SEA Program is tasked with serving the needs of property owners in SEA areas by simplifying the development process when possible, providing clear guidelines and expectations about the requirements for development in SEAs, coordinating with other regulatory agencies, and seeking out financing mechanisms that incentivize the preservation of biological resources and the acquisition of conservation areas.

## **4. Edge Effects**

Edge effects are indirect effects of development on adjacent natural areas that stem from increased human-related activities and often result in the introduction of invasive species and pathogens; altered nutrient inputs; pollutants; introduction of noise and artificial light sources; changes in disturbance type and frequency such as trampling, soil compaction, and fire; and predation and competition by domestic animals that are allowed to roam or that become feral.

Structures and impervious surfaces may contribute as well to heat-island effects. Increased recreational activity can trample plants, cause erosion, and provide avenues for establishment of invasive species deep within previously intact natural habitat. Introduced species displace native species or interact with natural processes and change conditions so that the native species are no longer well-adapted to the altered environment. Development adjacent to and within the SEAs also leads to fragmenting intact forms of habitat and affects the biodiversity found in larger blocks of habitat. The amount and variety of native species found at the edges of development tends to be less than what previously existed.

### **5. Invasive Pests and Diseases**

Invasive pest species are arriving in the Los Angeles County area at an alarming rate from ports, airports, and commercial and private vehicles. The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that invasive species cause \$120 billion in economic damage annually and have caused devastating ecological damage to urban forests, native ecosystems, and agricultural crops. Trees provide valuable ecosystem services to our community which are lost if they die. The Early Detection-Rapid Response Plan for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area states that the mortality of thousands of native oaks and riparian species resulted in the loss of over \$1 billion worth of carbon sequestration and stormwater runoff benefits. The cost of removing infested trees is also extraordinary. Over \$3 million has been dedicated to the removal and treatment of Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB) in the unincorporated community of Green Valley alone. In addition to removal and treatment, public education, outreach, and early detection has been actively conducted to prevent the further spread of invasive pests like GSOB. Collaborative efforts with residents, community groups, and forestry experts are essential to protect native oak woodlands and the biodiversity they support. Public awareness campaigns also emphasize the importance of not moving firewood or cut tree debris, which can unknowingly transport invasive pests and accelerate the spread of infestations.

### **6. Diversifying the Age Structure Among Trees in LA County**

Trees are vulnerable to different stressors at different ages. Seedlings with limited water storage capacity are more vulnerable to drought than mature trees. At other times, mature trees are more susceptible to infestation by some invasive insects such as the Goldspotted Oak Borer which targets larger trees to consume their larger supply of cambium and phloem tissue. Furthermore, the stock of trees in LA County is aging and may be reaching the end of their lifespan. A diverse age structure may increase the habitat value of the community forest, especially if native trees are selected, and spread out tree losses from natural mortality, disease, and climate impacts. Proactive and periodic planting of young trees will help develop a more diverse tree age structure that will adapt to a changing and increasingly variable climate.

### **7. Loss of Habitat and Wildlife Connectivity**

Wildlife connectivity in Los Angeles County functions within a broader regional network of large intact habitat areas of unconstrained movement opportunity, intermediate areas of rural development where connectivity is relatively open but vulnerable to edge effects, and more densely developed areas where intact habitat is limited to small remnants and movement between habitat patches is highly constrained. This network links natural areas within and beyond County boundaries. When new developments carve into natural areas, habitat is lost and wildlife corridors may be narrowed or severed, resulting in intensified and channeled connectivity movement pathways. In channeled movement areas, development proposals should be carefully evaluated to ensure that projects do not sever existing movement pathways. Creation of new barriers should be avoided, and where impacts are unavoidable, mitigation strategies should focus on maintaining

or enhancing connectivity through measures such as wildlife crossings, habitat restoration, or creation of redundant movement opportunities nearby. Planning and development in intensified movement areas should emphasize maintaining redundancy in movement routes and incorporating wildlife-friendly design features such as permeable fencing, appropriate lighting design, and preservation of vegetation corridors that facilitate continued movement across the landscape.

The consequences of habitat fragmentation include increased interactions between humans and wildlife, reduced genetic diversity that makes wildlife more susceptible to disease, and an increased likelihood of species extinctions. SEAs have generally been designated within areas of habitat capable of functioning as critical anchors within the connectivity network. Minimizing further losses of movement opportunities and maintaining what remains is essential to sustaining biodiversity, genetic exchange, and long-term species persistence across southern California. Contiguous habitat and vegetated buffers adjacent to developed areas can contribute to conditions favoring wildlife movement.

### **8. Climate Change and Biodiversity**

The California Fourth Climate Change Assessment Los Angeles County Region Report states that the increased fluctuation in temperature and precipitation is impacting the vegetation and flora of Los Angeles County. The County is experiencing more habitat conversion due to climate change and increased frequency and intensity of anthropogenic fires. Native plant communities are converted into vegetation dominated by nonnative species that are more flammable and do not provide resource value for native wildlife. Short fire-return intervals of less than 10-15 years do not allow enough time for native plant communities to recover or adapt fast enough, therefore resulting in loss of biodiversity and increase in nonnative species that provide more fuel for fires. One solution to this issue is to protect and restore natural areas to serve as potential future refugia and help facilitate species dispersal through wildlife corridors and distributed steppingstone habitats. Rewilding degraded areas can also help to increase steppingstone habitats to connect to future refugia.

## Goals and Policies for Biological Resources

<p><b>Goal C/NR 3: Permanent, sustainable preservation of genetically and physically diverse biological resources and ecological systems including: habitat linkages, forests, <del>coastal zone</del>, riparian habitats, streambeds, wetlands, woodlands, alpine habitat, chaparral, shrublands, and SEAs, and CRAs.</b></p>	
Topic	Policy
Protection of Biological Resources	Policy C/NR 3.1: Conserve and enhance the ecological function of diverse natural habitats, <del>and biological resources, and wildlife corridors.</del>
	Policy C/NR 3.2: Create and administer innovative County programs incentivizing the permanent dedication of SEAs and other important biological resources as open space areas.
	Policy C/NR 3.3: Restore upland communities and significant riparian resources, such as degraded streams, rivers, and wetlands to maintain ecological function—acknowledging the importance of incrementally restoring ecosystem values when complete restoration is not feasible.
	Policy C/NR 3.4: Conserve and sustainably manage forests and woodlands.
	Policy C/NR 3.5: Ensure compatibility of development in the National Forests <del>in conjunction</del> with the U.S. Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plan.
	Policy C/NR 3.6: Assist state and federal agencies and other agencies, as appropriate, with the preservation of special status species and their associated habitat and wildlife movement corridors through the administration of the SEAs and other programs.
	Policy C/NR 3.7: Participate in inter-jurisdictional collaborative strategies that protect, <del>conserve, and restore</del> biological resources.
	<u>Policy C/NR 3.8: Raise awareness of state and federal laws that require protection of nesting sites and habitats for native migratory and resident bird species.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 3.9: Promote the preservation of locally native species of Los Angeles County.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 3.10: Encourage the use of non-chemical methods for the control of non-native invasive species.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 3.11: Provide education on County biological resources to prevent unpermitted disturbances to soils, habitat, and woodlands.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 3.12: Promote community education and outreach to support the early detection and prevention of invasive pests and diseases, including guidance on identifying signs of infestation and understanding the risks of transporting firewood and tree debris from infested areas.</u>
Site Sensitive Design	Policy C/NR 3.8 <u>13</u> : Discourage development in areas with identified significant biological resources, such as SEAs.

Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element

	<p><del>Policy C/NR 3.914: Consider the following in the design of a project that is located within an SEA, to the greatest extent feasible: <u>Design projects that are sensitive to SEA resources, oak trees, and other important biological resources, prioritizing avoidance over minimization.</u></del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>● Preservation of biologically valuable habitats, species, wildlife corridors and linkages;</del></li> <li><del>● Protection of sensitive resources on the site within open space;</del></li> <li><del>● Protection of water sources from hydromodification in order to maintain the ecological function of riparian habitats;</del></li> <li><del>● Placement of the development in the least biologically sensitive areas on the site (prioritize the preservation or avoidance of the most sensitive biological resources onsite);</del></li> <li><del>● Design required open spaces to retain contiguous undisturbed open space that preserves the most sensitive biological resources onsite and/or serves to maintain regional connectivity;</del></li> <li><del>● Maintenance of watershed connectivity by capturing, treating, retaining, and/or infiltrating storm water flows on site; and</del></li> <li><del>● Consideration of the continuity of onsite open space with adjacent open space in project design.</del></li> </ul> <p><del>Policy C/NR 3.4015: Require environmentally superior mitigation for unavoidable impacts on biologically sensitive areas, and permanently preserve mitigation sites.</del></p> <p><del>Policy C/NR 3.4416: Discourage development in riparian habitats, streambeds, wetlands, and other native woodlands in order to maintain and support their preservation in a natural state, unaltered by grading, fill, or diversion activities.</del></p> <p><del>Policy C/NR 3.17: Encourage habitat-sensitive designs for development located on properties adjacent to SEAs, sensitive habitats, and native woodlands.</del></p> <p><del>Policy C/NR 3.18: Promote the use of locally native plant species for landscaping countywide. Prohibit the planting of invasive species in the SEAs and CRAs.</del></p> <p><del>Policy C/NR 3.19: Discourage noise pollution from impacting adjacent natural areas.</del></p> <p><del>Policy CNR 3.20: Minimize night lighting to preserve the movement, migration, and foraging behaviors of nocturnal wildlife.</del></p> <p><del>Policy C/NR 3.20: Require wildlife permeable design standards within SEAs to help facilitate movement of fauna and flora. Encourage wildlife permeable designs in intensified connectivity movement pathways.</del></p> <p><del>Policy C/NR 3.21: Consider wildlife crossings or features that facilitate safe and functional crossings when designing infrastructure projects in channeled connectivity movement pathways.</del></p> <p><del>Policy C/NR 3.22: Ensure that open space dedications for development projects prioritize the preservation of sensitive resources and are contiguous with existing open space and preserved lands.</del></p>
<p><b>Goal C/NR 4: Conserved and sustainably managed <u>trees and woodlands</u>.</b></p>	
<p><b>Topic</b></p>	<p><b>Policy</b></p>

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Woodland Preservation	Policy C/NR 4.1: <u>Preserve, and restore, and expand</u> oak woodlands and other native woodlands that are conserved in perpetuity with a goal of no net loss of existing woodlands.
	Promote a diverse age structure in oak and native woodlands to ensure ecosystem resilience, biodiversity, and sustainability.
Native Tree Preservation	Policy C/NR 4.2 <u>Preserve and maintain native tree species, especially mature trees. Encourage the planting of oak and other native trees species to diversify the age structure and provide habitat values that are unique to young trees.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 4.3: Preserve heritage-sized oak and other native tree species that provide unique habitat attributes or cultural importance.</u>
Community Forest	<u>Policy C/NR 4.4: Foster healthy community forests in parks, public rights-of-way, and on private properties to support ecological connectivity and to implement the County's Community Forest Management Plan.</u>
<b><u>Goal C/NR 5: <del>Sustainably increasing</del> Healthy biodiversity to support climate resilience and adaptation to climate-induced hazards adapt to climate change.</u></b>	
<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Policy</u></b>
Resiliency and Rewilding	<u>Policy C/NR 5.1: Monitor the health of the SEAs and undeveloped areas impacted by climate change, development patterns, and unpermitted development.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 5.2: Prevent, manage, and eradicate invasive pests and pathogens without damaging or impacting water quality and beneficial insects.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 5.3: Prevent native plant communities from becoming dominated by invasive non-native plant species that increase fire risks.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 5.4: Identify opportunities to restore, enhance, and reclaim degraded lands to expand a network of open spaces or steppingstone habitats to better link SEAs, CRAs, connectivity movement pathways, and undeveloped areas in the region.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 5.5: Encourage plant nurseries to maintain a diverse nursery stock of native plant material, collected locally, sustainably, and with proper permits or agreements with landowners, to grow a native plant industry that is representative of County's biodiversity.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 5.6: Prevent, manage, and eradicate invasive non-native plant species to protect native habitats, ecosystem functions, and watershed health.</u>

## IV. Local Water Resources

The arid and semi-arid climate and landscape of Los Angeles County require that water be managed as an invaluable resource. The County recognizes that the effective management and preservation of its local water resources are vital to preserving a high quality of life for residents and businesses, as well as for sustaining the functioning of watersheds and the natural environment and increasing local water reliability and resilience through integrated water planning and management across the natural and built water cycles.

### Background

#### Local Water The Water Cycle

The occurrence and movement of water above, on, and below the ground ~~can be explained in general terms by~~ is known as the hydrologic cycle, or water cycle. When Pprecipitation falls in natural environments, to earth, it is often intercepted by vegetation before ~~it reaches~~ reaching the ground. Water may then soaks into the soil, ~~where it infiltrates~~ into shallow and deeper groundwater zones, or flow over the land surface towards topographic lows such as creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Water drawn up by vegetation transpires into the atmosphere ~~in the form of~~ as water vapor. ~~Similarly, while~~ while water collected on surfaces and in the soil may also evaporates, ~~into the atmosphere.~~ Collectively, this process of water vapor passing into the atmosphere is called evapotranspiration.

During a storm, ~~as the soil approaches saturation and rainfall continues,~~ runoff begins to occur when soil becomes saturated and rainfall continues. Rainfall on impervious surfaces, such as pavement, falling on paved surfaces does not readily soak into the ground and instead becomes stormwater runoff. At first, the runoff gathers in small pools and minor depressions on the ground surface. ~~Once these small depressions are filled and rainfall continues, runoff increases, forming rivulets and filling streams, rivers, and lakes.~~ These processes (P-precipitation, interception, infiltration, evapotranspiration, and runoff) occur within the context of a larger system called a known as a watershed.

#### Local Water

##### *Watersheds*

A watershed is a geographic area that, due to its terrain and topography, contributes to the flow of surface water, sediments, and transported materials from the land into a common river, lake, groundwater basin, ocean, or other water body. A watershed, also known as a drainage area or catchment, can be large or small, pristine or urbanized. All land is located in a watershed of some sort. Furthermore, just as larger river systems can have smaller tributary streams, a major watershed can also have smaller sub-watersheds within it that define the tributary drainage areas. An action that occurs within an upstream watershed, therefore, can have an impact on downstream conditions.

A healthy watershed is a place where the interrelated functions of the water cycle—water movement, soil movement, and vegetative cover—unite to simultaneously provide the benefits of water supply, clean runoff, healthy microclimate, flood protection, recreation, and habitat.

The following are major watersheds in Los Angeles County, as shown in Table 9.4 and Figure 9.4. For descriptions of these major watersheds, please refer to Appendix E.

**Figure 9.4: Major Watersheds Map**

**Table 9.4: Major Watersheds**

<b>Watershed</b>	<b>Sub-Watershed</b>
Antelope Valley Watershed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amargosa Creek</li> <li>• Big Rock Creek</li> <li>• Little Rock Creek</li> </ul>
Los Angeles Harbor Watershed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dominguez Channel</li> </ul>
Los Angeles River Watershed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tujunga Wash</li> <li>• Verdugo Wash</li> <li>• Arroyo Seco</li> <li>• Rio Hondo</li> <li>• Compton Creek</li> </ul>
San Gabriel River Watershed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walnut Creek</li> <li>• Puente Creek</li> <li>• Coyote Creek</li> </ul>
Santa Clara River Watershed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soledad Canyon</li> <li>• Mint Canyon</li> <li>• Bouquet Creek</li> <li>• South Fork Santa Clara River</li> </ul>
South and North Santa Monica Bay Watershed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malibu Creek</li> <li>• Topanga Canyon</li> <li>• Santa Monica Canyon</li> <li>• Ballona Creek</li> </ul>

***Precipitation***

During the wet season, storms approach from the west or northwest, with southerly winds that continue until the weather front passes. Nearly all precipitation occurs during the months of December through March, while precipitation during summer months is infrequent, and rainless periods of several months are common. The average annual rainfall across Los Angeles County is ~~45.65~~ 15.11 inches, but the annual average varies from ~~7-8~~ 6.65 inches in the high desert, to ~~42.4~~ 11.96 inches at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) near the coast, to ~~27.5~~ 35.13 inches at Mt. Wilson. Another examination of characteristic rainfall patterns shows that 85% of all storms within Los Angeles County deposit between 3/4 inch and 1 1/4 inches or less of rain, depending on location.

Snowfall at elevations above 5,000 feet is frequently experienced during winter storms but, except on higher peaks and the northern slopes, melts rapidly. In the coastal plain and mountainous

areas, the distribution of rainfall from individual storms generally follows patterns related to elevation and terrain. This distribution is called the orographic effect.

### ***Runoff and Surface Waters***

The Pacific Ocean eventually receives the excess runoff that is generated across on the coastal plain of Los Angeles County, with the exception of the Antelope Valley in the high desert. In the Antelope Valley, Excess runoff generated in the Antelope Valley of the high desert will accumulate and eventually arrive at drains towards the dry lake bed near the border with Kern County. This region also experiences summer thunderstorms. The high desert can also experience summer thunderstorms, which cause the most serious significant flooding events in that area. Surface flows reach the dry lake bed when the storms runoff in the high desert are large enough for runoff to exceed local infiltration and transpiration capacity.

Runoff can even occur at times of no rain. In urban areas, dry weather runoff can occur as the result of the discharge of process flows and other human endeavors. Examples of process flows include treated wastewater and industrial flows. Excessive irrigation can also contribute to dry weather runoff. Dry weather discharge from natural springs and seeps can occur in mountainous areas and where high groundwater levels otherwise reach the ground surface. The amount and continuity of springs and seep flows can vary year to year, depending significantly on previous years' rainfall.

Surface waters occur in the form of streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and reservoirs. In Los Angeles County, there are over 900 miles of major river systems, 3,600 miles of smaller streams, and 25 square miles of pond, lake, and reservoir surface. Streams and rivers convey surface runoff and can be instrumental in groundwater recharge. They can also serve as corridors for fish and wildlife movement. Streams and rivers support their own habitats as well as link other habitats together.

A number of the ponds, lakes and reservoirs in Los Angeles County are human-made impoundments that serve as water storage facilities. These storage facilities receive and store rainfall and runoff, as well as imported water supplies from outside of Los Angeles County, and hold them until needed at a later time. Examples within Los Angeles County boundaries are Hollywood Reservoir, which is operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Pyramid Lake, operated by the California Department of Water Resources Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Smaller impoundments are operated by other public and private water wholesalers and retailers. Some of these facilities support fish and wildlife, and provide recreation areas for residents that are compatible with flood management and water storage operations.

Some impoundments, which are primarily operated by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, serve the dual functions of flood protection and storage. Stored runoff collected during the storm season is later released at controlled rates throughout the year for downstream groundwater recharge. For example, an array of Los Angeles County Flood Control District dams in the San Gabriel Mountains provides flood protection, while storing runoff for later release to the San Gabriel River and downstream groundwater recharge areas. These downstream facilities capture close to 80 percent of the runoff that flows from the mountains. The District's dams in the San Gabriel Mountains above the San Fernando Valley release flows to Pacoima Wash and Big Tujunga Wash and groundwater recharge facilities located along these channels. The District's array of dams in the mountains above the San Gabriel Valley release flows to several major tributaries of the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River, and to an array of groundwater recharge facilities located along these rivers and tributaries. The District's facilities capture over 90 percent

of the runoff in the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo watersheds. Water sources that originate in Los Angeles County provide approximately one third of the area's water supply.

The rate and quantity, as well as the quality, of runoff are significantly influenced by the land use within the tributary-drainage area. For example, the amount of impervious surface that accompanies development, in particular, connected impervious surfaces, dictates the volume of runoff produced by the drainage area from most storms. Furthermore, the degree to which flow paths are straightened, channelized, piped, and connected influence how soon runoff appears during a storm and the rate at which it flows. The types of land uses, ranging from open space, single family, and heavy industrial, affect the type and concentration of pollutants that may be carried in the runoff.

For flood protection and erosion control purposes, many of the larger rivers within Los Angeles County are armored with concrete lining. Some rivers, such as the Ballona Creek and Los Angeles River, are mostly lined on the bottoms as well as along the banks. Others, such as the San Gabriel River and Santa Clara River, are armored primarily along their banks.

Also located within Los Angeles County are a number of regional groundwater recharge areas called spreading grounds. Most spreading grounds are owned by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and are located in areas where the underlying soils are composed of permeable formations and are hydraulically connected to the underlying groundwater basin. Some spreading grounds are owned by the City of Los Angeles and by a few other cities. The total area of regional spreading grounds countywide is approximately 3,364-2,578 acres.

All these types of facilities are increasingly supported and expanded through Measure W, the Safe Clean Water Program, which provides dedicated funding for stormwater capture and multi-benefit projects. Measure W enables regional and local investments that improve water quality, enhance groundwater recharge, and deliver community co-benefits such as green space and climate resilience.

### ***Soils, Infiltration, and Groundwater***

Soil type and geography will influence the location and amount of rainwater and surface water infiltration. Igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rock groups are present within Los Angeles County. The San Gabriel Mountains and Verdugo Hills are composed primarily of highly fractured igneous rock, with large areas of granitic rock formation being exposed. Faulting and deep weathering have produced porous zones in the rock formation; however, rock masses have produced a comparatively shallow soil mantle due to the steepness of slopes, which is a condition that accelerates erosion of the finer material.

Surface soils that are deposited by the movement of water are termed alluvial soils. Valley and desert soils are alluvial and vary from coarse sand and gravel near canyon mouths to silty clay, clay, ~~and sand~~, and gravel in the lower valleys and coastal plain. The alluvial fill has accumulated by repeated deposition of sediments to depths as great as several thousand feet. This fill is quite porous in areas of relatively low clay content. Geologic structures and irregularities in the underlying bedrock divide the alluvium into several groundwater basins. Valley soils are generally well drained, but there are a few areas containing perched water where groundwater sits above the main aquifer separated by a relatively impermeable layer. In arid and semi-arid areas, biological soil crusts may also form on the surface of alluvial and other desert soils and contribute to soil stability, erosion control, moisture retention, and infiltration. Soils are further described in the Agricultural Resources section.

When precipitation and surface water infiltrate naturally into the ground, they first typically travel through an unsaturated soil zone until they reach the water table, which is the layer where the soil is saturated. This layer of soil saturation is called a groundwater basin, or aquifer. Aquifers can hold millions of acre-feet of water and extend for miles. There are numerous major groundwater basins, located geographically as shown in Table 9.3.

Except during times of drought, groundwater extraction accounts for nearly 1/3 of the water usage in the ~~unincorporated areas~~ Los Angeles County. In rural areas, households depend largely on private wells.

**Table 9.3: Major Groundwater Basins**

<b>Major Groundwater Basin</b>	
Coastal Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Basin</li> <li>• West Coast Basin</li> <li>• Santa Monica Basin</li> <li>• Hollywood Basin</li> </ul>
San Gabriel Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main San Gabriel Basin</li> <li>• Upper San Gabriel Canyon Basin</li> <li>• Lower San Gabriel Canyon Basin</li> <li>• Wayhill Basin</li> <li>• Foothill Basin</li> <li>• Glendora Basin</li> <li>• Claremont Heights Basin</li> <li>• Live Oak Basin</li> <li>• Chino Basin</li> <li>• San Dimas Basin</li> <li>• Pomona Basin</li> <li>• Puente and Spadra Basins</li> <li>• Raymond Basin</li> </ul>
San Fernando Valley (-also known as the Upper Los Angeles River Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• San Fernando Main Basin</li> <li>• Sylmar Basin</li> <li>• Verdugo Basin</li> <li>• Eagle Rock Basin</li> </ul>
Santa Clarita Valley	<del>N/A—Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin</del>
Antelope Valley	<del>N/A—Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin</del>

## **Water Management and Regulations**

### ***Watershed Management***

~~Watershed management is an effective and comprehensive employs methods to address water resource challenges. The County works within its jurisdiction to improve the health of rivers, streams and lesser tributaries to enhance overall water resources, runoff quality and wildlife habitat. However, because a watershed encompasses many jurisdictions, water supply, water quality, flood protection and natural resource issues are best managed at a regional or multiple-agency level. The County therefore has to participate with other stakeholders in various ways to collectively manage the function and health of watersheds.~~

The Los Angeles County Water Plan, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 5, 2023, serves as a living, regionwide roadmap for integrated water supply resilience through regional collaboration. The Plan focuses on four key focal areas: regional water supply reliability, groundwater management and quality, small at-risk system resilience and drinking water equity, and watershed sediment management. It includes specific, actionable strategies to enhance local water supply reliability, support equitable access, and strengthen regional resilience, while complementing existing local and regional efforts and helping guide collaborative action. The Los Angeles River Master Plan, adopted in 2022, further reflects this integrated, multi-benefit approach by addressing flood risk management, water quality, habitat restoration, and equitable community access along the 51-mile river corridor.

~~Watershed management integrates habitat enrichment and recreation availability with water supply, flood protection, and clean runoff.~~

~~Because a watershed encompasses many jurisdictions, water supply, water quality, flood protection and natural resource issues are best managed at a regional or multiple-agency level. The County works within its jurisdiction to improve the health of rivers, streams and lesser tributaries to enhance overall water resources, runoff quality and wildlife habitat. However, watershed integration must be a multi-jurisdictional process. The County has to participate with other stakeholders in various ways to manage the function and health of watersheds.~~

The collaborative process is the most effective way to engage local stakeholders and local jurisdictions, generate partnerships, collaborate with educational and professional institutions, and develop and implement watershed plans. Such plans should incorporate measures to protect and augment local water supplies, maintain flood protection standards, provide assistance in the event of flooding, encourage recreational opportunities, conserve habitats of native species, and improve the quality of water that flows to rivers, lakes, and the ocean.

### ***Surface Water Quality Regulations***

#### **Clean Water Act**

The federal government established the Clean Water Act (CWA) in 1972 to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters” with the goal that “wherever attainable, water quality should provide for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and provide for recreation in and on the water.” Under delegated authority from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Boards) are

responsible for implementing portions of the CWA in California, including the development of water quality standards and the implementation of regulatory programs such as the National Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). In 1949, nine California Regional Boards were established to protect the quality of receiving waters from adverse impacts of wastewater discharges. In 1969, the enactment of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (California Water Code) authorized the State Water Board to adopt, review, and revise policies for all water bodies in California. The Act also directed Regional Boards to develop regional Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) that would help protect or restore the beneficial uses of inland waterbodies.

In 1972, the State Water Board adopted the California Ocean Plan for ocean waters of California. Over the years, the Ocean Plan has been amended numerous times, with the most recent amendment in ~~2012~~ 2019. The Ocean Plan helps to protect the water quality of California's coastal ocean through the control of the discharge of waste into the ocean. The Ocean Plan identifies beneficial uses of ocean waters and establishes water quality objectives and implementation programs to protect those beneficial uses. The beneficial uses to be protected under the Ocean Plan include "industrial water supply; water contact and non-contact recreation, including aesthetic enjoyment; navigation; commercial and sport fishing; mariculture; preservation and enhancement of designated Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS); rare and endangered species; marine habitat; fish migration; fish spawning and shellfish harvesting."

In 1975, the Los Angeles Regional Board (Region 4) adopted two basin plans: one for the Santa Clara Basin and another for the Los Angeles Basin. In 1994, the Los Angeles Regional Board adopted a comprehensive Basin Plan applicable to the Los Angeles Region (encompassing Ventura and Los Angeles counties, excluding the Antelope Valley). A majority of the Antelope Valley area of Los Angeles County is under the jurisdiction of the Lahontan Regional Board (Region 6), while a small portion in the northwest corner of the Antelope Valley is under the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Board, Region 5. The Lahontan Basin Plan took effect in 1995, replacing three earlier plans. Since the 1990's, the Basin Plans have been amended numerous times. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses for inland and coastal surface waters, and establishes water quality objectives and implementation programs and policies to protect those uses. There are up to 24 beneficial uses identified and defined in the Basin. Examples of beneficial uses in the Basin Plan include: municipal and domestic supply; water contact recreation; and preservation of biological habitats. A complete list of the beneficial uses can be found in the basin plans of the Los Angeles, Lahontan and Central Valley regions.

### **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)**

In 1987, an amendment to the Clean Water Act effectively prohibited the discharge of pollutants to waters of the U.S. from stormwater, unless such discharge is in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. The NPDES is a permitting program that establishes a framework for regulating municipal, industrial, and construction stormwater discharges into surface water bodies, including stormwater channels. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Regional Board), Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board are responsible for implementing the federally-mandated NPDES program in Los Angeles County through the adoption of Orders, which are effectively the NPDES Permits for that region. An NPDES Permit defines the responsibilities of each permittee to control pollutants, including the adoption and enforcement of local ordinances and monitoring programs. Consequently, the County has a Stormwater Ordinance that requires that the discharge, deposit, or disposal of any stormwater and/or runoff to storm drains must be covered by an NPDES Stormwater Permit. For more information on the regional boards' NPDES programs, please visit the State Water Resources Control Board of

California Environmental Protection Agency web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4>, <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5>, and <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb6> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/npdes/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/).

### **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)**

As part of its NPDES Program, the Los Angeles Regional Board adopted ~~a new~~ the most recent Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit (MS4 Permit) in ~~2012~~ 2021 (MS4 Permits are also sometimes referred to as Stormwater Permits). The remainder of this section discusses the MS4 permit and some of the County's associated efforts.

~~The Los Angeles Regional Board's 2012 MS4 Permit named 84 incorporated cities, the County, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District as permittees. The Los Angeles Regional Board's 2021 MS4 Permit named the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, County of Los Angeles, 85 incorporated cities within the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles County, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, County of Ventura, and 10 incorporated cities within Ventura County as permittees.~~ The MS4 Permit imposes a number of basic programs, called Minimum Control Measures, on all permittees in order to maintain a level of acceptable runoff conditions through the implementation of practices, devices, or designs generally referred to as Best Management Practices (BMPs), that mitigate stormwater quality problems. The programs required by the MS4 Permit are: public information and participation; industrial/commercial inspection; planning and land development; development construction; public agency activities; and illicit connection/discharge abatement. For example, the planning and land development program requires the inclusion of post-construction stormwater BMPs into the design of most new public and private development at the project site level to address pollutants generated by specific activities and types of development. The development construction program requires the implementation of temporary BMPs during a project's construction phase. These construction phase BMPs protect water resources by preventing erosion, controlling runoff, protecting natural slopes and channels, storing fluids safely, managing spills quickly, and conserving natural areas. In the public agency activities program, the County and other permittees are directed to implement "good housekeeping" BMPs to eliminate runoff problems that might be associated with an agency's routine activities. These BMPs include material storage management, vehicle washing management, spill containment, and public parking lot sweeping.

The Los Angeles Regional Board's ~~2012~~ 2021 MS4 Permit offers an integrated-planning approach, called a Watershed Management Program (WMP), in which permittees can collaborate to address water quality priorities on a watershed scale. The WMP allows permittees to customize BMPs and develop multi-benefit projects that contain water quality improvement, flood protection, water conservation, and/or beautification components.

~~As a result of the Los Angeles Regional Board's 2012 MS4 Permit, in November 2013, the County's Low Impact Development (LID) and Hydromodification Ordinance was amended. More information on the County's LID requirements can be found at~~ [http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/LA\\_County\\_LID\\_Manual.pdf](http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/LA_County_LID_Manual.pdf).

As part of compliance with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's MS4 Permit, the County has adopted and updated its Low Impact Development (LID) and Hydromodification Ordinance to manage stormwater runoff and reduce pollutant loads. More information on the County's LID requirements, including design guidance and resources, is available on the LID Program website at [https://pw.lacounty.gov/wmd/dsp\\_LowImpactDevelopment.cfm](https://pw.lacounty.gov/wmd/dsp_LowImpactDevelopment.cfm).

## Coastal Waters

### **Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBSs)**

Ocean areas requiring the protection of marine species or biological communities from an undesirable alteration in natural water quality are designated by the California Water Resources Control Board as Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBSs). There are 34 areas designated as ASBS. Of those, six are located within the jurisdiction of the County. Five ASBSs are located off the coasts of the Channel Islands (one along the coastline of the San Clemente Island and four along the coastlines of Santa Catalina Island). The sixth ASBS (designated as "ASBS-24") is located along the coast of Ventura County and Los Angeles County, extending from Laguna Point to Latigo Point. About two-thirds of ASBS-24 lies along the coastline of Los Angeles County.

Federal and state policies prohibit the discharge of pollutants into areas identified as ASBS. Specifically, the Ocean Plan requires that "waste shall not be discharged to areas designated as being of special biological significance. Discharges shall be located a sufficient distance from such designated areas to assure maintenance of natural water quality conditions in these areas." The County, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, cities and other public jurisdictions, and private property owners own and maintain dozens of storm drains that discharge into ASBS-24.

### **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are areas of the ocean where certain activities are limited or restricted to protect or conserve marine life and habitats. There are ~~two~~ 13 MPAs in Los Angeles County (two along the coastline near Malibu, two along the coastline of Palos Verdes, and nine along the coastlines of Santa Catalina Island) — ~~Point Dume and Point Vicente Abalone Cove.~~ For more information, please visit: [https://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/scmpas\\_list.asp](https://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/scmpas_list.asp). <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs>.

## **Issues**

### **1. Watershed Impacts**

All development and urban activities occur in a watershed. Rivers, streams, groundwater, natural habitats, and people communities can be adversely affected by poorly designed land uses and development patterns within a watershed. ~~With~~ Urbanization ~~comes~~ often increases the percent of impervious surfaces, ~~the straightening and alters or channelizes~~ ing of water courses ways, the filling fills of wetlands, intrusion encroaches into flood plains, the loss of removes vegetation, contributes to heat island effects, compacteds soils, increases d and polluted runoff, erodes d streams, and ~~the impairment of~~ impairs surface water and groundwaters resources. The General Plan recognizes the importance of utilizing an integrated regional watershed-based planning approach as a method to protect, conserve and restore local water resources by utilizing or mimicking natural hydrologic processes supporting natural hydrologic processes or mimicking those processes through land use planning and development design. The path to improving local water resources reliability is through improving watershed functions and synchronizing agency strategies and targets.

## 2. Surface Water Impairments

The U.S. EPA has found that close to 218 million Americans live within 10 miles of a polluted lake, stream, river, or coastline, and most a large portion of Los Angeles County falls within this category. The cost of cleaning polluted water bodies is significant and requires additional funding for local agencies to implement. Water quality regulation and implementation programs are beginning to make a difference, but without major public awareness, behavioral changes, and operational changes, the clean-up process will remain an ongoing challenge.

Federal and state agencies, such as U.S. EPA and Regional Boards, are working to improve the quality of surface and groundwater by identifying contaminants, imposing clean-up efforts, and bringing enforcement actions against polluters. In order to comply with surface water quality regulations to protect existing clean water bodies and restore impaired water bodies, the County and all cities are implementing water pollution prevention programs appropriate for their jurisdiction.

Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to identify and establish a list of water bodies that do not meet applicable water quality standards. Those water bodies are considered “impaired” and are placed on the CWA Section 303(d) list. A significant number of the water bodies in Los Angeles County, including rivers, lakes, coastal estuaries, bays, and beaches, are included on the 303(d) list. More than a dozen different stormwater and wastewater pollutants including metals, nutrients, indicator bacteria, organics, pesticides, trash, and other contaminants are found in water bodies in Los Angeles County in amounts significantly above established water quality standards.

For each impaired water body, states are required to develop a total maximum daily load (TMDL). A TMDL is a tool by which water quality standards are implemented to restore impaired water bodies. It establishes the allowable pollutant loading that a water body can receive and still attain water quality standards. Any pollution above the TMDL has to be “budgeted,” meaning that the residual pollution is allocated for reduction among the various sources of the pollutant in order to regain the beneficial uses of the water body. As of 2013-2025, there are 34 the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board has adopted over 80 TMDLs developed for water bodies in Los Angeles County Region, many of which apply to water bodies within Los Angeles County. All of these TMDLs are being implemented through the NPDES Permit. More TMDLs are expected in the future for the remaining pollutants in the 303(d) list.

## 3. Groundwater Impairment and Depletion

In the more urbanized coastal basin of Los Angeles County, the natural recharge process is hampered by compacted soils and impervious surfaces associated with urbanization and development. In the open space areas of the northern portion of Los Angeles County, where substantial percolation can occur, water demand is so great that annual precipitation and groundwater recharge operations are not sufficient enough to recharge the basins.

Because approximately one-third of the Los Angeles Region’s local water supply is drawn from groundwater basins, the quantity and quality of this water source is critical. Contamination from past industrial and agricultural practices, saltwater intrusion, and underground storage tank leakage has decreased usable groundwater supplies.

In an effort to mitigate groundwater depletion, water agencies have developed strategies to recharge groundwater artificially. One strategy involves purchasing water imported from outside Los Angeles County or utilizing recycled water (highly treated wastewater or reclaimed water) and

recharging it back into the groundwater basins. Another strategy ~~diverts~~ delivers imported water to certain regional spreading grounds, where it can percolate back into the water basins. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District also ~~diverts~~ delivers a certain amount of stormwater into regional spreading grounds to replenish the groundwater supply. In addition to recharge basins and spreading ground, regional water agencies also utilize water banking programs to store imported or surplus water supplies underground during wet years, allowing for recovery during droughts.

Highly-treated, recycled waste-water is also used for recharging groundwater aquifers through Los Angeles County Flood Control District spreading operations and injection at seawater barriers to resist saltwater intrusion. This recycled water is provided to a large degree by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and to lesser degrees by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California, the City of Los Angeles, and the West Basin Municipal Water District.

In February 2009, the California State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2009-0011, which establishing ~~ed~~ a statewide Recycled Water Policy. ~~This policy that~~ encourages increased use of recycled water and local stormwater. ~~The policy and~~ requires local water, stormwater, and wastewater agencies, in coordination and other with stakeholders, to develop a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for each groundwater basin in California. The objectives of SNMPS are to facilitate basin-wide management of salts and nutrients while protecting groundwater quality from all sources in a manner that optimizes recycled water use while ensuring protection of groundwater supply. ~~The SNMP will eventually be adopted by the Regional Board as a Basin Plan Amendment. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board formally incorporated SNMP requirements into the Basin Plan through multiple Basin Plan Amendments between 2015 and 2016. In 2018, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2018-0057, which amended the Recycled Water Policy to update implementation provisions, expand monitoring and reporting requirements, and reinforce the role of SNMPS in supporting sustainable groundwater management and recycled water use.~~

#### **4. Climate Change and Water Resilience**

Climate change is altering precipitation patterns, increasing the frequency of extreme weather events, and intensifying drought conditions, all of which affect the reliability and quality of local water resources. These changes put pressure on aging water infrastructure, reduce natural groundwater recharge, and increase the potential for saltwater intrusion in coastal aquifers. The County of Los Angeles is on a path towards decreasing reliance on imported water. For example, the County's ability to capture, store, and reuse stormwater is now a central component of water resilience planning. Addressing these risks requires climate responsive strategies that include expanding multi-benefit infrastructure, enhancing flood management, and preserving open space for hydrologic and ecological functions. Prioritizing projects that address both climate resilience and community co-benefits is essential to long-term water sustainability.

The OurCounty Sustainability Plan, Community Forest Management Plan, County Water Plan, Heat Action Plan, General Plan, and Climate Action Plan are some of the many efforts occurring across the County to prioritize multi-benefit projects. Synchronizing efforts, collaborating across the region, and engaging with local federally and non-federally recognized tribes, will provide ecological and community resilience, both essential to promoting a more effective approach to optimizing our local water resources and decreasing dependence on imported water.

## Goals and Policies for Local Water Resources

<b>Goal C/NR 56: Protected and useable local surface water resources.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Surface Water Protection	Policy C/NR 56.1: Support the LID philosophy, which seeks to plan and design public and private development with hydrologic sensitivity, including limits to straightening and channelizing natural flow paths, removal of vegetative cover, compaction of soils, and distribution of naturalistic BMPs at regional, neighborhood, and parcel-level scales.
	Policy C/NR 56.2: Require compliance by all County departments with adopted Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), General Construction, and point source NPDES permits.
	Policy C/NR 56.3: Actively engage with stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of surface water preservation and restoration plans, including plans to improve impaired surface water bodies by retrofitting tributary watersheds with LID types of BMPs.
	Policy C/NR 56.4: Actively engage in implementing all approved Enhanced Watershed Management Programs/Watershed Management Programs, <del>and</del> Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Programs/Integrated Monitoring Programs <del>or</del> , <u>Watershed Planning Initiatives, and other County-involved TMDL-implementation and water quality monitoring plans.</u>
	Policy C/NR 56.5: Manage the placement and use of septic systems in order to protect nearby surface water bodies.
	Policy C/NR 56.6: Minimize point and non-point source water pollution.
	Policy C/NR 56.7: Actively support the design of new and retrofit of existing infrastructure to accommodate watershed protection goals <u>and advance multi-benefit projects</u> , such as roadway, railway, bridge, and other <del>particularly tributary street</del> and greenway interface points with channelized waterways.
	Policy C/NR 56.8: Incorporate climate-responsive water management strategies into infrastructure, including design of flood, debris, and drought resilient systems, <u>expansion of stormwater capture, and prioritization of green infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions that deliver water quality, ecological, and community resilience benefits.</u>
<b>Goal C/NR 67: Protected and usable local groundwater resources.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Groundwater Protection	Policy C/NR 67.1: Support the LID philosophy, which incorporates distributed, post-construction parcel-level stormwater infiltration as part of new development.
	Policy C/NR 67.2: Protect natural groundwater recharge areas and regional spreading grounds.
	Policy C/NR 67.3: Actively engage in stakeholder efforts to disperse rainwater and stormwater infiltration BMPs at regional, neighborhood, infrastructure, and parcel-level scales.
	Policy C/NR 67.4: Manage the placement and use of septic systems in order to protect high groundwater.

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	Policy C/NR <del>67</del> .5: Prevent stormwater infiltration where inappropriate and unsafe, such as in areas with high seasonal groundwater, on hazardous slopes, within 100 feet of drinking water wells, and in contaminated soils.
<b>Goal C/NR 78: Protected and healthy watersheds.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Watershed Protection	Policy C/NR 78.1: Support the LID philosophy, which mimics the natural hydrologic cycle using undeveloped conditions as a base, in public and private land use planning and development design.
	Policy C/NR 78.2: Support the preservation, restoration and strategic acquisition of available land for open space to preserve watershed uplands, natural streams, drainage paths, wetlands, and rivers, which are necessary for the healthy function of watersheds.
	Policy C/NR 78.3: Actively engage with stakeholders to incorporate the LID philosophy in the preparation and implementation of watershed and river master plans, ecosystem restoration projects, and other related natural resource conservation aims; and support the implementation of existing efforts, including <del>Watershed Management Programs and Enhanced Watershed Management Programs</del> WMPs, EWMPs, CIMPs, and the <del>County Water Plan</del> , and local Watershed Planning Initiatives.
	Policy C/NR 78.4: Promote the development of multi-use <del>-benefit</del> regional facilities for stormwater quality improvement, groundwater recharge, detention/attenuation, flood management, retaining non-stormwater runoff, and other compatible uses.

## V. Agricultural Resources

Agricultural land is an important resource in California and in Los Angeles County. Much of the agricultural land in Los Angeles County has been developed. Therefore, agricultural land is viewed as a non-renewable resource that needs to be protected from conversion and encroachment of incompatible uses.

### Background

According to the Los Angeles County Crop Report, Los Angeles County produced over ~~\$473~~ \$177 million in agriculture products in ~~2014~~2019. Table 9.5 summarizes the dollar value of the crops and farm products produced, where nursery products remain ~~number one~~ the highest grossing commodity.

**Table 9.5: Value of Los Angeles County Agricultural Crops and Commodities, ~~2014~~2019**

Commodity	<del>2014</del> <u>2019</u> Value
Nursery Products	<del>\$96,635,150</del> <u>\$98,440,000</u>
Flowers and Foliage	<del>\$7,774,900</del> <u>\$5,089,000</u>
Fruits and Nuts Crops	<del>\$2,999,260</del> <u>\$4,102,000</u>
Vegetable Crops	<del>\$31,956,680</del> <u>\$37,770,300</u>
Field Crops	<del>\$22,575,260</del> <u>\$12,600,000</u>
<u>Dairy &amp; Livestock Production</u>	<del>\$8,978,030</del> <u>\$13,130,000</u>
Apiary Products	<del>\$2,167,600</del> <u>\$6,479,000</u>
Forest Products	<del>\$19,170</del> <u>\$2,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><del>\$173,106,050</del><u>\$177,612,300</u></b>

Source: ~~2014~~2019 Los Angeles County Crop and Livestock Report

The trend for agriculture in Los Angeles County is ~~more farms on fewer acres of land~~ fewer farms and less agricultural land. As shown in Table E.1 of Appendix E, according to data from the U.S. Census of Agriculture, ~~1997~~ the number of farms and acres of farmland in Los Angeles County has increased; however, ~~the total acreage of land used for farming activities has continually continues to declined~~.

The ~~2007-2022~~ U.S. Census of Agriculture identified a total of ~~4,734~~ 766 farms in Los Angeles County, which represents a ~~41 percent increase~~ decrease from the ~~1997~~ 2012 Census levels. Acreage of agricultural land declined 36 percent in that same ten-year period. ~~Despite this increase, the Census shows a decrease in the total number of acres used for farming. In 2007, the total number of acres in Los Angeles County used for farming was 108,463, which is a 17 percent decrease from the 1997 Census. Similarly, data from the 2014-2019 Los Angeles County Crop Report shows that between 2010-2012 and 2014-2019, Los Angeles County saw a decreases in the acreage of fruit and nut crops, vegetable crops, and field crops, nurseries, and fruit and nut crops by 32 percent, 12 percent, and 7 9 percent, 43 percent, and 68 percent, respectively. But agriculture remains an important resource in Los Angeles County; acreage for vegetable crops grew 25 percent over that same timeframe and the number of certified farmers'~~

markets has grown to almost 170 throughout the County, which represents nearly one-quarter of all certified farmers' markets in the State of California.

~~The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service classifies soils into eight categories based on agricultural potential. This classification depends on factors, such as slope, organic matter, flooding potential, and erosion hazards. From this classification, prime soils (Class I and II soils) are identified for agricultural production. Based on this system, the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program identifies farmland that is ideally suited for agricultural use. The program does not affect local land use decisions, but is an identification tool that can be used for policy purposes by local governments.~~

### **Agricultural Resources Areas**

Agricultural Resource Areas (ARAs) are areas identified within Los Angeles County that have important agricultural resources. ARAs consist of farmlands identified designated as "important" by the California Department of Conservation, including Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance, and Unique Farmland. In addition, the ARAs include lands that have received permits from the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures for agricultural operations.

Soil type and land use data are the basis for identifying ARAs within Los Angeles County. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service classifies soils into eight categories based on agricultural potential. This Land Capability Classification depends on factors, such as slope, organic matter, flooding potential, and erosion hazards. From this classification, prime soils (Class I and II soils) are identified for agricultural production. ~~Based on this system,~~ The California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program then combines the soil classifications with land use data to identify identifies farmland that is ideally suited for agricultural use. These areas are designated in the California Important Farmland maps, which are generated every two years. The program does not affect local land use decisions, but is an identification tool that can be used for policy purposes by local governments.

~~The ARAs designation excludes farmland within the following areas: Significant Ecological Areas; approved specific plans; approved large-scale renewable energy facilities; lands outside of the Santa Clarita Valley and Antelope Valley, where farming is concentrated; and lands that are designated Public and Semi-Public (P).~~

Figure 9.5, Agricultural Resource Areas Policy Map, identifies areas where the County promotes the preservation of agricultural land.

### **Figure 9.5: Agricultural Resource Areas Policy Map**

## **Issues**

### **1. Agricultural Resources and Land Use Compatibility**

Increased population growth and accompanying development ~~will~~ continue to result in the conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses. This is most problematic in the northern portion of Los Angeles County, which contains ~~most of the~~ largest amount of agricultural land and is also experiencing the most rapid population growth. As development in the unincorporated areas expands from urban centers into agricultural areas, conflicts between land uses ~~may~~ occur.

Residents of new housing developments often voice concern over odors, dust, and pesticides from neighboring farms. Additionally, increased development can reduce farmers' ability to access acreage needed for agricultural production. For these reasons it is important to preserve existing agricultural resources and to regulate development adjacent to agricultural land to minimize these impacts.

## 2. Sustainable Agriculture

Certain agricultural practices have been identified as being major contributors to pollutants that impact air and water quality. It is important that agricultural production address air quality, water quality, water supply and other issues related to sustainability environmental health. Sustainable agricultural practices, such as organic farming, can help mitigate the potential impacts of agricultural production and improve environmental quality overall.

## 3. Community Access to Agriculture and Food

Access to affordable, locally grown fresh food is increasingly challenging for many communities, particularly as the number of farms and agricultural acreage continues to decline in Los Angeles County. Communities where it is difficult to purchase affordable, fresh food options are referred to as "food deserts". These food deserts exist in urban and rural areas and result in food insecurity for vulnerable populations. Vacant and under-utilized parcels may be utilized for community gardens and small urban farms that can help generate food and agricultural products for local consumption through efficient use of available land. Local agriculture-based business and tourism may also provide economic opportunities for communities with historical agricultural uses.

## Goals and Policies for Agricultural Resources

<b>Goal C/NR 89: Productive farmland that is protected for local food production, open space, public health, and the local economy.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Agricultural Resources	Policy C/NR 89.1: Protect ARAs, and other land identified as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance by the California Department of Conservation, from encroaching development and discourage incompatible adjacent land uses.
	Policy C/NR 89.2: <del>Discourage</del> <u>Encourage</u> land uses in ARAs, and other land identified as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance by the California Department of Conservation, <del>that are incompatible</del> <u>that are compatible</u> with agricultural activities.
	Policy C/NR 89.3: Encourage agricultural activities within ARAs.
	Policy C/NR 89.4: Provide incentives for the preservation of farmland, establishment of <u>agricultural easements, mitigation opportunities, and other activities that conserve or enhance agricultural lands.</u>
<b>Goal C/NR 910: Sustainable agricultural practices.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>

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Sustainable Agricultural Practices	Policy C/NR <del>9</del> <u>10</u> .1: Support agricultural practices that minimize and reduce soil loss, minimize pesticide use, and prevent water runoff from leaching pesticide and fertilizer into groundwater and affecting water, soil, and air quality.
	Policy C/NR <del>9</del> <u>10</u> .2: Support innovative agricultural practices that conserve resources and promote sustainability, such as drip irrigation, hydroponics, organic farming, and the use of compost.
	<del>Policy C/NR 9.3: Support farmers markets, farm stands, and community-supported agriculture.</del>
	<del>Policy C/NR 9.4: Support countywide community garden and urban farming programs.</del>
	Policy C/NR <del>9</del> <u>10</u> .53: Discourage the conversion of native vegetation to agricultural uses.
Goal C/NR 11: Community access to local agriculture and food systems.	
Community Access	Policy C/NR 11.1: Support farmers markets, farm stands, and community-supported agriculture.
	Policy C/NR 11.2: Support community gardens and urban farming.
	Policy C/NR 11.3: Support innovative agricultural land uses, practices, and businesses that improve communities' access to fresh food and agriculture-based economic opportunities.

## VI. Mineral and Energy Resources

The Mineral and Energy Resources section of the Conservation and Natural Resources Element focuses on addresses the responsible use, and management, and long-term sustainability of valuable mineral and energy energy and mineral resources in the unincorporated areas, and the importance of sustaining and maintaining these resources for future users. The demand for resources is As regional demand for these resources remains high, strategic planning is essential to ensure their availability for future generations. and projected growth in the region will continue to strain the mineral supply.

### Background

#### Mineral Resources

##### *Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ-2s)*

Mineral resources include are commercially-viable deposits of aggregates or minerals deposits, such as sand, gravel, and other essential resources used in construction aggregate. California is one of the largest consumers of sand and gravel in the country, but is also a major producer, generating approximately more than one billion dollars annually from aggregate production-worth of these mineral resources annually. The Los Angeles metropolitan area is a large producer produces and one of the largest consumers more of construction aggregate compared to than any other metropolitan area in the country. A reliable and long-term continuous supply of these aggregate materials is critical to supporting the region's for urban infrastructure is essential to and the broader Southern California economy.

The County depends on the California Geological Survey Data and Maps to identify deposits of regionally-significant aggregate resources. These clusters or belts of mineral deposits are classified and designated as Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ-2s) by the State Geologist and the State Mining and Geology Board. Mineral Resource Zone classifications range from MRZ-1 to MRZ-4, identifying the presence and significance of mineral resources.

Los Angeles County is primarily divided into three Production-Consumption (P-C) Regions, as shown in Table 9.6: Palmdale P-C Region, San Fernando Valley / Saugus Newhall P-C Region, and San Gabriel Valley P-C Region. Within these regions, there are multiple areas classified as MRZ-2 and are located in or partially within the unincorporated areas of the county. The Palmdale P-C Region and the San Gabriel Valley P-C Region are projected to contain significant deposits to provide for future demands, while the San Fernando Valley / Saugus Newhall P-C Region is nearing resource depletion of permitted aggregate reserve. Four major MRZ-2s are identified in, or partially within the unincorporated areas and are shown listed in Table 9.67: Little Rock Creek Fan, Soledad Production Area, Sun Valley Production Area, and Irwindale Production Area. The Soledad and Little Rock Creek MRZ-2s contain significant deposits that are estimated to provide for future needs through the year 2046. However, the Sun Valley MRZ-2 is near depletion, and the Irwindale MRZ-2 is expected to approach depletion in 2017. The County's MRZs are shown in Figure 9.6, the Mineral Resources Map.

**Table 9.6: Geologic Inventory of Mineral Resources in Los Angeles County**

<b>Production Region</b>	<b>Aggregate Reserves as of 1999</b>	<b>Per-Capita Consumption Rates</b>	<b>Estimated Depletion Year</b>
Irwindale Production Area	250 Million Tons	4.0 Tons	2017
Little Rock Creek Fan	250 Million Tons	12.7 Tons	2046
Soledad Production Area	160 Million Tons	9.9 Tons	2046
Sun Valley Production Area	20 Million Tons	2.4 Tons	near depletion

Source: California State Mining and Geology Board, Aggregate Resources in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, 1999

**Table 9.6: Geologic Inventory of Mineral Resources in Los Angeles County**

<b>Production -Consumption (P-C) Regions</b>	<b>Permitted Aggregate Reserves as of 2017</b>	<b>50-Year Demand</b>	<b>Estimated Years Remaining*(as of)</b>
Palmdale P-C Region	163 Million Tons	569 Million Tons	11 to 20
San Fernando Valley / Saugus-Newhall P-C Region	17 Million Tons	387 Million Tons	10 or fewer
San Gabriel Valley P-C Region	297 Million Tons	751 Million Tons	21 to 30

Source: Clinkenbeard, J. P., and Gius, F. W., 2018, Aggregate Sustainability in California: California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey Map Sheet 52.

*Note: Permitted aggregate reserves represent mineral resources available for extraction under existing permits as of 2017. Additional aggregate resources may exist within each region but are not included in these estimates unless they are located on permitted sites.*

**Figure 9.6: Mineral Resources Map**

**Mineral Resource Zone Regulation and Conservation**

The California Department of Conservation protects mineral resources to ensure adequate supplies for future production. The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) was adopted to encourage the production and conservation of mineral resources, prevent or minimize adverse effects to the environment, and protect public health and safety. An important component of SMARA requires that all surface mines be reclaimed to a productive second use upon the completion of mining (Public Resources Code, sub-sections 2712 (a), (b), and (c)).

In a joint regulatory effort, SMARA authorizes local governments to assist the State in issuing mining permits and monitoring site reclamation efforts. To manage mining resources, the County has incorporated mineral resource policies into the Conservation and Natural Resources Element. In addition to these policies, Title 22 of the County Code (~~Part 9 of Chapter 22.190-22.56~~) requires that applicants of surface mining projects submit a reclamation plan prior to receiving a permit to mine, which must describe how the excavated site will ultimately be reclaimed and transformed into another use.

### ***Oil and Natural Gas***

Mineral Resources also include areas that are appropriate suitable for the drilling for and production of oil and natural gas. Oil production still occurs in many parts of the unincorporated areas of the County, including the Baldwin Hills and the Santa Clarita Valley. These activities are and is regulated by the California Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR). DOGGR retains which holds exclusive jurisdiction over all subsurface oil and gas activities in California, including well stimulation techniques such as hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"). California Public Resources Code authorizes the County to regulate oil and gas operations, including the ability to prohibit or restrict oil and gas development and enforce regulations that exceed state standards in order to better protect public health, the environment, and the climate. These measures may include limitations on extraction methods, stricter environmental standards, and restrictions on the location of drilling activities, particularly near sensitive areas or residential communities to reduce harm and support a just transition. Additionally, the County may regulate zoning and land use to mitigate impacts from surface operations on surrounding communities.

As Los Angeles County transitions away from fossil fuel production, it is essential to plan for a just transition that supports impacted communities and workers as well as the remediation and reuse of degraded lands. This includes ensuring that historically overburdened communities are prioritized for reinvestment, providing workforce development opportunities, and advancing equitable land restoration.

Jurisdiction for offshore oil and gas production falls to the State Lands Commission and the CalGEM DOGGR for near-shore facilities on state leases and to the federal government for facilities farther offshore on federal leases. Adherence to the standards for the installation, operation, and abandonment of oil and gas production and storage facilities is important to protect public health and safety.

### **Energy Resources**

Energy in California is produced from a variety of non-renewable and renewable natural resources, including oil, natural gas, and hydrologic, wind, and solar power. ~~Although non-renewable energy resources (oil and natural gas) generate a majority of its energy,~~ California has one of the most diverse portfolios of renewable energy resources in the country. Renewable energy is derived from resources that are naturally replenished regenerative and cannot be depleted, such as wind and solar power. ~~For this reason, renewable energy sources are fundamentally different from~~ In contrast, fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gas, which are finite resources that and also produce greenhouse gases and other environmental pollutants.

Aside from existing oil and natural gas deposits, California's topography and climate ~~lend themselves~~ provide ideal conditions for expanding renewable energy to the production, of energy particularly from wind, solar, and tidal power. ~~There~~ Therefore, there are significant opportunities for the County to enhance local renewable energy production produce energy from renewable sources. Information about solar energy can be found on the County's web site at <http://lacounty.solarmap.org>.

However, as climate change accelerates, Los Angeles County's energy systems face increasing risks from extreme heat, drought, wildfire, and power disruptions. Prolonged high temperatures can stress electricity demand for cooling, while wildfire threats endanger above-ground transmission lines. Therefore, planning for energy and mineral resource infrastructure must consider climate vulnerabilities and resilience strategies to ensure long-term reliability, safety, and

environmental protection. Integrating climate resilience into energy and resource planning also supports broader County goals related to climate action, hazard mitigation, and sustainability.

## Issues

### 1. Development of Mineral Resources

Mineral Resources in Los Angeles County include existing surface mining activities and known deposits of commercially-viable minerals and aggregate resources, as well as areas used suitable for the drilling for and production of energy resources, including crude oil and natural gas. ~~Many issues~~ Issues often arise when from the incompatible land uses are developed near these resources development of land near Mineral Resources. Mineral resource extraction and production activities, and including activities related to the drilling for and production of oil and gas, can often garner can raise community concerns complaints due to perceived environmental threats risks and the potential impacts of surface operations. ~~The General Plan protects Mineral Resources, as well as the conservation and production of these resources, by encouraging compatible land uses in surrounding and adjacent areas.~~

Therefore, it is also important to work with other regulatory agencies such as the State Mining and Geology Board and State Geologist in the permitting process, as well as to coordinate with other different agencies to ensure mineral resource considerations are addressed mineral resources within through regional efforts. This includes the prioritization of Mineral Land Classifications efforts prioritizing the classification of MRZ-3 and MRZ-4 lands that are adjacent to planned new or existing freight routes, to better align with infrastructure and land use needs. ~~or addressing~~ Additionally, integrating mineral resources planning into regional strategies such as in the Sustainable Communities Strategy, per in accordance with SB 375, can support greenhouse gas reduction goals and promote more resource efficient growth.

### 2. Energy Conservation

Energy demand for transportation and non-transportation uses, including gasoline, electricity, heating, and cooling will continue to increase as Los Angeles County grows. Energy consumption patterns demonstrate that residents consume proportionally more energy for transportation than the rest of California. Low-density, automobile-dependent communities place high demands on declining energy resources. The Mobility Element promotes rail, bus, carpool, bicycle, and pedestrian modes of transportation as alternatives to the single-occupant automobile, and the Land Use Element promotes the efficient development and use of land to reduce consumptive land use patterns.

In addition, state and county building codes determine energy efficiency requirements for building construction. Changes to building codes over the years have resulted in substantial improvements in energy efficiency. This has translated into less energy required to light, cool, and heat buildings. In addition, green building techniques, such as the use of passive solar orientation, recycled building materials, improved insulation, energy star appliances, and onsite small-scale renewable energy generation have contributed to energy conservation. The Air Quality Element includes policies on energy conservation and promoting renewable energy to help the County meet its climate change goals. Additionally, the County's Climate Action Plan outlines a path to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, with energy conservation being key in reaching these targets.

## Goals and Policies for Mineral and Energy Resources

<b>Goal C/NR 4012: Locally available mineral resources to meet the needs of construction, transportation, and industry.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Mineral Resource Zone Protection	Policy C/NR 4012.1: Protect MRZ-2s <u>zones</u> and access to MRZ-2s <u>zones</u> from development and discourage incompatible adjacent land uses.
	Policy C/NR 4012.2: Prior to permitting a use that threatens the potential to extract minerals in an identified Mineral Resource Zone, the County shall prepare a statement specifying its reasons for permitting the proposed use, and shall forward a copy to the State Geologist and the State Mining and Geology Board for review, in accordance with the Public Resources Code, as applicable.
	Policy C/NR 4012.3: Recognize newly identified MRZ-2s <u>zones</u> within 12 months of transmittal of information by the State Mining and Geology Board.
	Policy C/NR 4012.4: Work collaboratively with agencies to identify Mineral Resource Zones and to prioritize mineral land use classifications in regional efforts.
	Policy C/NR 4012.5: Manage mineral resources in a manner that effectively plans for access to, development and conservation of, mineral resources for existing and future generations.
	Policy C/NR 4012.6: Require that new non-mining land uses adjacent to existing mining operations be designed to provide a buffer between the new development and the mining operations. The buffer distance shall be based on an evaluation of noise, aesthetics, drainage, operating conditions, biological resources, topography, lighting, traffic, operating hours, and air quality.
<b>Goal C/NR 4413: Mineral extraction and production activities that are conducted in a manner that minimizes impacts to the environment.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Mineral Extraction	Policy C/NR 4413.1: Require mineral resource extraction and production activities and drilling for and production of oil and natural gas to comply with County regulations and state requirements, such as SMARA, and CalGEM <del>DOGGR</del> regulations.
	Policy C/NR 4413.2: Require the reclamation of abandoned surface mines <u>and mineral extraction sites to beneficial productive second uses-, prioritizing ecological restoration, rewilding, habitat connectivity, open space, climate resilience, and compatible public co-benefits.</u>
	Policy C/NR 4413.3: Require appropriate levels of remediation for all <del>publicly-owned</del> oil and natural gas production sites based on possible future uses.
	Policy C/NR 4413.4: Require that mineral resource extraction and production operations, as well as activities related to the drilling for and production of oil and natural gas, be conducted to protect other natural resources and prevent excessive grading in hillside areas.
	Policy C/NR 4413.5: Encourage and support efforts to increase the safety of oil and gas production and processing activities, including state regulations related to well stimulation techniques such as hydraulic fracturing or “fracking.”

	<u>Policy C/NR 13.6: Encourage recycling and reuse of construction and demolition aggregate.</u>
<b>Goal C/NR 4214: Sustainable management of renewable and non-renewable energy resources.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Energy Resources	<u>Policy C/NR 4214.1: Encourage the production and safe use of renewable energy resources.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 4214.2: Encourage the effective management of energy resources, such as ensuring adequate reserves to meet peak demands.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 4214.3: Encourage distributed systems that use existing infrastructure and reduce environmental impacts.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 14.4: Support the development of renewable energy production facilities that reduce dependence on non-renewable resources while ensuring compatibility with environmental resources.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 14.5: Promote the siting and design of energy infrastructure to support climate resilience and advance multi-benefit uses in climate-vulnerable areas, while avoiding impacts to sensitive biological resources.</u>

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## VII. Scenic Resources

The County recognizes that the coastline, mountain vistas, and other scenic features of the region are a significant resource. This section of the Conservation and Natural Resources Element addresses the preservation of valuable designated scenic areas, vistas, and roadways.

### Background

Scenic resources ~~consist of designated scenic highways and corridors (or routes), and hillsides and ridgelines.~~ refer to natural features that provide high visual quality, cultural or historical value, or significant community identity. These include, but are not limited to, scenic highways and corridors (or routes), hillsides, ridgelines, rock outcrops, beaches, coastlines, and broad viewsheds.

### State Scenic Highways and Corridors

The State Scenic Highway Program was created in 1963 to protect and enhance the natural scenic beauty of California highways and adjacent corridors through special conservation treatment. The Los Angeles County Scenic Highway Plan was created to conform to the State Scenic Highway Program. According to state guidelines, a highway may be designated scenic depending upon how much of the natural landscape can be seen by travelers, the scenic quality of the landscape, and the extent to which development intrudes upon the traveler's enjoyment of the view.

To be designated as an official state scenic highway, the County must create a corridor protection program, which must be adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Each corridor protection program must contain the following five elements related to preserving the nominated scenic highway:

- Regulation of land use and density of development;
- Detailed land and site planning;
- Control of outdoor advertising;
- Careful attention to and control of earthmoving and landscaping; and
- Attention to design and appearance of structures and equipment.

For more information on nominations for official state scenic highway designations, please visit the California Department of Transportation Scenic Highway Program web site at [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic\\_highways/scenic\\_hwy.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/scenic_hwy.htm).  
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>.

The County contains ~~three~~ four state scenic highways, as seen in Table 9.7 and Figure 9.7. There may be additional scenic highways that have not been identified and that have importance to local communities. In such cases, a community-based plan may designate these areas.

**Table 9.7: State Scenic Highways**

Highway	Location
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Angeles Crest Highway/Route-2	From 2.7 miles north of I-210 to the San Bernardino County line.
Mulholland Highway (two sections)	From CA-1 to Kanan Dume Road. From West of Cornell Rd. to East of Las Virgenes Road.
Malibu Canyon–Las Virgenes Highway	From CA-1 to Lost Hills Road
<u>Topanga Canyon State Scenic Highway</u>	<u>From 1 mile north of CA-1 to 0.2 miles south of Grand View Dr.</u>

**Figure 9.7: Scenic Highways Map**

**Hillsides, Scenic Viewsheds, and Ridgelines**

Other scenic resources in the County include hillsides, scenic viewsheds, and ridgelines.

***Hillsides***

The San Gabriel Mountains, Verdugo Hills, Santa Susana Mountains, Simi Hills, Santa Monica Mountains and Puente Hills play a major role in physically defining the diverse communities in the unincorporated areas. They not only create dramatic backdrops against densely developed suburbs and communities, but also provide extensive environmental and public benefits to residents.

The vast majority of the native plant and animal species reside within the hilly and mountainous terrain. Mountain lions, bobcats, black bears and deer are among the larger animals that inhabit these areas, and serve as indicators that smaller mammals and vegetation within the food chain are stable. In addition, A a high number of heritage oak trees that are ranging from 100 to 600 years old, occur in many of the are found throughout many of the oak woodlands in the unincorporated areas, which further indicate the biological significance of these areas.

In addition to their scenic beauty, undeveloped mountains and hills serve to protect the overall health of watersheds. They provide natural drainage systems, which play a role in water quality, slope stability, stormwater runoff, erosion control and groundwater replenishment.

***Scenic Viewsheds***

A scenic viewshed provides a scenic vista from a given location, such as a highway, a park, a hiking trail, river/waterway, or even from a particular neighborhood. The boundaries of a viewshed are defined by the field of view to the nearest ridgeline. Scenic viewsheds vary by location and community and can include ridgelines, unique rock outcroppings, waterfalls, ocean views or various other unusual or scenic landforms.

***Ridgelines***

There are numerous ridgelines that provide dramatic views for the unincorporated areas. The General Plan supports the protection and preservation of ridgelines and allows individual communities to identify and regulate their ridgeline resources. As indicated in C/NR Policy 13.10, the following criteria must be considered to identify significant ridgelines:

- Topographic complexity;
- Uniqueness of character and location;

- Presence of cultural or historical landmarks;
- Visual dominance on the skyline or viewshed, such as the height and elevation of a ridgeline; and
- Environmental significance to natural ecosystems, parks, and trail systems.

Figure 9.8 identifies the County's Hillside Management and designated Ridgeline Management Areas.

### **Figure 9.8: Hillside Management Areas and Ridgeline Management Map**

## **Issues**

### **1. Protection of Scenic Resources**

Southern California has lost many of its scenic resources due to a variety of human activities. In the absence of adequate land use controls, under the development standards of the past, many scenic resources have been significantly adversely affected by unsightly development and sprawl. The visual pollution-impacts associated with the proliferation of billboards, signs, utility lines, and unsightly other visually impactful uses detracts from and often obscures many of the County's scenic resources. Another factor that significantly affects visual quality is air pollution. Man-made sources of air pollution, particularly tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks, contribute to the reduction of visibility and to the deterioration of some vegetation and wildlife.

### **2. Hillside Regulation**

The geologic instability of mountain ranges is apparent in the numerous earthquake-induced landslide and liquefaction areas in the unincorporated areas. A majority of the mountains and hilly terrain have natural slope gradients of 25 percent or steeper, with a significant portion having natural slope gradients of 50 percent or steeper. Development of steep terrain can be costly and the need to provide providing public utility and safety services and safety to these areas are costly to developers and public agencies. The best use for some mountainous terrain may be to let it remain as an airshed, watershed and natural habitat.

In addition, hillside development has the potential to change natural drainage systems and remove the native vegetation that once slowed slows water runoff. The removal of vVegetation eliminates the helps to provide natural containment of runoff. and when removed, Wwater cannot then percolate into the soil, and instead gathers velocity as it flows down the hillside, causing accelerated erosion. Erosion that is accelerated beyond its normal rate can transport silt to streams and lakes, which may adversely affect water quality.

To conserve the natural beauty and public benefit of hillsides, hillside development land use activities that may result in environmental degradation are subject to regulations and design guidelines development standards for impacts affecting, but not limited to, slope, soil erosion, natural drainage channels, and seismic and fire hazards. The Hillside Management Areas Ordinance is a regulatory vehicle to consider potential environmental degradation and hillside alteration in Hillside Management Areas (HMAs), which are areas with a natural slope gradient of 25 percent or steeper.

The HMA Ordinance allows clustering development at the base of the slope, limits grading, and ensures that the drainage configuration remains as natural as possible and will not adversely

impact offsite property. Hillside design guidelines are referenced during the pre-development and permit processing phases to minimize hillside alteration, conserve ridgeline silhouettes, determine traffic circulation and building placement by topography, and incorporate trails where appropriate. By imposing these design conditions, a more sensitive development will occur in hillsides in a manner that respects the natural topography and biological resources of the area. By applying these design standards, development in hillside areas can be better integrated into the natural landscape, respecting its topography and minimizing visual and ecological impacts.

The HMA Ordinance directs development to minimize disturbance of natural terrain by encouraging site design that responds to topography, including clustering development in less constrained areas where feasible, limiting grading, and maintaining natural drainage patterns to avoid adverse impacts to off-site properties. The ordinance establishes development standards that regulate grading, siting, circulation, design, open space, and landscaping to reduce alteration of hillsides, protect ridgelines, and minimize visual impacts. Through these development standards, development in HMAs is more effectively integrated into the natural landscape, minimizing visual, environmental, and hazard-related impacts. The ordinance also works in coordination with wildfire regulations to ensure that site design balances resource protection with defensible space and emergency access requirements.

## Goals and Policies for Scenic Resources

<b>Goal C/NR 4315: Protected visual and scenic resources.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Scenic Resource Protection	Policy C/NR 4315.1: Protect scenic resources through land use regulations that mitigate development impacts.
	Policy C/NR 4315.2: Protect ridgelines from incompatible development that diminishes their scenic value.
	Policy C/NR 4315.3: Reduce light trespass, light pollution, and other threats to scenic resources by promoting dark sky compliant lighting practices that preserve visibility of the natural night sky.
	Policy C/NR 4315.4: Encourage developments to be designed to <del>create a consistent visual relationship</del> blend with the natural terrain and vegetation.
	Policy C/NR 4315.5: Encourage required grading to be compatible with the existing terrain.
	Policy C/NR 4315.6: Prohibit outdoor advertising and billboards along scenic routes, corridors, waterways, and other scenic areas.
	Policy C/NR 4315.7: Encourage the incorporation of roadside rest stops, vista points, and interpretive displays into projects in scenic areas.
	Policy C/NR 15.8: Support the undergrounding of transmission lines and other utility infrastructure throughout the County to protect scenic resources and preserve community character, while avoiding impacts to sensitive habitats.
Hillside Management	Policy C/NR 4315.98: Manage development in HMAs to protect their natural and scenic character and minimize risks from natural hazards, such as fire, flood, erosion, and landslides.

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	<p>Policy C/NR <del>1315.109</del><u>1315.109</u>: Consider the following in the design of a project that is located within an HMA, to the greatest extent feasible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public safety and the protection of hillside resources through the application of safety and conservation design standards;</li><li>• Maintenance of large contiguous open areas that limit exposure to landslide, liquefaction and fire hazards and protect natural features, such as significant ridgelines, watercourses and SEAs.</li></ul>
	<p>Policy C/NR <del>1315.1140</del><u>1315.1140</u>: To identify significant ridgelines, the following criteria must be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Topographic complexity;</li><li>• Uniqueness of character and location;</li><li>• Presence of cultural or historical landmarks;</li><li>• Visual dominance on the skyline or viewshed, such as the height and elevation of a ridgeline; and</li><li>• Environmental significance to natural ecosystems, parks, and trail systems.</li></ul>

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## VIII. Historic, Cultural, and Paleontological Resources

Historic, cultural, and paleontological resources are an important part of Los Angeles County's identity. This section sets forth goals and policies for the management and preservation of historic, cultural, and paleontological resources in the unincorporated areas.

### Background

The resources described in this section include historic buildings, structures, artifacts, sites, landscapes, and districts of historic, architectural, archaeological, or paleontological significance. They may be locations of important events that were turning points in the history, or be unique structures or groups of structures possessing distinct architectural features that depict a historic period.

Historic, cultural, and paleontological resources are non-renewable and irreplaceable. The County aims to promote public awareness of their value, and their public enjoyment should be fostered whenever possible. To this end, the County promotes cooperative efforts between public and private organizations to identify, restore, and conserve these resources.

### Legislative Tools

The County embraces the importance of protecting historic, cultural, and paleontological resources and is guided in development decisions by federal, state, and local programs that officially recognize these resources. The following legislative tools improve the protection and enhancement of historic and cultural structures:

#### *Local*

- Los Angeles County Historical Landmarks and Records Commission reviews and recommends cultural heritage resources in the unincorporated areas for inclusion in the State Historic Resources Inventory. The County's Historic Preservation Ordinance seeks to preserve, conserve and protect buildings, objects, landscapes and other artifacts of historical and cultural significance through established criteria and procedures for the designation, preservation, and maintenance of landmarks and historic districts.

#### *State*

- The California State Parks Department's Office of Historic Preservation maintains the State Historic Resources Inventory, which is a compilation of all resources formally determined eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources or designated as State Historical Landmarks or Points of Historical Interest.
- CEQA provides guidelines for the identification and protection of archaeological sites, artifacts, and paleontological resources. If a project threatens an archaeological or paleontological resource, the project is required to provide mitigation measures to protect the site or enable study and documentation of the site. Assessment of these resources requires a survey prepared by a qualified archaeologist or paleontologist. For discretionary projects on sites containing Native American resources, CEQA also requires a monitor if warranted.
- The State Historical Building Code (SHBC) is a set of regulations adopted in 1979 that was created to improve the protection and enhancement of historic structures. The intent of SHBC

is to protect California's architectural heritage by recognizing the unique construction problems inherent in historic buildings and offering an alternative code to deal with these problems. The SHBC provides alternative building regulations for the rehabilitation, preservation, restoration, or relocation of structures designated as historic buildings. SHBC regulations are intended to facilitate restoration or accommodate change of occupancy to conserve a historic structure's original or restored architectural elements and features.

### ***Federal***

- The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 protects archaeological resources and provides requirements for permit issuance to excavate or remove archaeological resources.
- The Native American Heritage Act of 1992 provides guidelines for the protection of Native American remains and artifacts.
- The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the country's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect the country's historic and archeological resources.
- National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the U.S. Today, ~~fewer than 2,500~~ over 2,600 historic places bear this national distinction.

### **Historic Resource Sites**

The State designates historic resources as Historical Landmarks or Points of Historical Interest and lists them in the California Register of Historical Resources. Historical Landmarks are resources of statewide significance, and Points of Historical Interest are resources of local significance. Many of the resources listed in the California Register are also of national significance and are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service maintains the National Register on its website at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister>.

~~The County has many Historical Landmarks and Points of Historical Interest in its jurisdiction, including the remnants of vast ranchos, routes of early explorers, historic railroad lines, and the homes of prominent people who shaped local history. The State Historical Resources Commission administers the California Register, which lists over 500 historic resources throughout Los Angeles County. While the great majority of these resources are located in cities, 31 are located in the unincorporated areas. They include the remnants of vast ranchos, routes of early explorers, historic railroad lines, and the homes of prominent people who shaped local history. California State Parks maintains the California Register on its website at <https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/listedresources/>. Table 9.8 and Figure 9.9 display the location and designation of the 31 historic resources in the unincorporated areas and County-owned areas in incorporated areas.~~

The County Historical Landmarks and Records Commission (HLRC) administers the County Register of Landmarks and Historic Districts which, upon designation by the Board of Supervisors, lists resources determined to contribute to the County's distinctive historic, architectural, and landscape characteristics that are part of the County's cultural, social, economic, political, and

architectural history. The HLRC maintains the County Register on its website at <https://hlrc.lacounty.gov>.

National, State, and County historic resources are mapped on the “Historic Resources” Layer of GIS-NET Public, an interactive mapping application available on DRP’s website at <https://planning.lacounty.gov/maps-and-gis/gis-net-public/>.

Figure 9.9 displays the location and designation historic resources in the unincorporated areas and County-owned areas in incorporated areas.

**Figure 9.9: Historic Resource Sites Policy Map**

**Table 9.8: Historic Resource Sites in the Unincorporated Areas**

Altadena Town & Country Club	Lang Southern Pacific Station	Scripps Hall
Andrew McNally House	Maravilla Handball Court and El Centro Grocery Store	Site of Llano Del Rio Cooperative Colony
Antelope Valley Indian Museum	Mentryville	Soledad Acton Schoolhouse
Bassett Elementary School	Mount Lowe Railway	St. Francis Dam Disaster Site
Christmas Tree Lane	Oak of the Golden Dream	Sylvia Park Country Club Clubhouse
Clear Creek Vista Point	Old Ridge Route	Topanga Christian Fellowship Church
Crank House	Old Short Cut	Vasquez Rocks
Dominguez Adobe Ranch House	Pacific Electric Railway Company Substation No. 8	Woodbury Story House
General Charles S. Farnsworth County Park	Pico Canyon Oil Field Well No. 4	Zane Grey Estate
Golden Gate Theater	Pomona Water Powerplant	
Keyes Bungalow	Rancho San Francisco	

### Archaeological Resources

Archaeological resources refer to any material remains of past human life or activities, or cultural artifacts that are of archaeological interest, including, but not be limited to: pottery, basketry, bottles, weapons, weapon projectiles, tools, structures or portions of structures, pit houses, rock paintings, rock carvings, intaglios, graves, and human skeletal materials.

The indigenous Chumash and Gabrieliño/Tongva peoples, two of the most populous and sophisticated native cultures, have occupied land within Los Angeles County since prehistoric times. Unfortunately, many of the known archaeological, paleontological and historic cultural sites in the region have been disturbed to some extent by both human activity, such as and development, occupation, and use, and natural occurrences, such as erosion that results from earthquakes, fire, and flood. In some instances, historic and prehistoric artifacts such as stone tools, antique nails, and equipment parts have been picked up or even destroyed by visitors or residents. Native American tribes now keep the locations of historical and cultural artifacts confidential for protection and preservation due to theft and vandalism.

### Significant General Fossil Localities

Paleontological resources, or fossils, are the remains of ancient animals and plants, as well as trace fossils such as burrows, which can provide scientifically-significant information on the history of life on Earth.

Over 1,000 fossil localities have been recorded and in excess of a million specimens have been collected in Los Angeles County. Numerous places countywide have yielded fossils, especially in the Santa Monica Mountains and in the vicinity of Rancho La Brea.

Eleven significant general fossil localities have been identified in the County, as shown in Table 9.9. Fossils continue to be discovered in Los Angeles County in association with ground-disturbing activities in fossil-rich areas.

**Table 9.9: Significant General Fossil Localities in Los Angeles County**

Location	Fossil Type	Formations
La Brea Tar Pits	N/A	N/A
Palos Verdes Peninsula	Mastadon, mammoth, horse, camel, sloth	Palos Verdes Sand
Palos Verdes Peninsula	Grey whale	San Pedro
Palos Verdes Peninsula	Fish, birds, sea lion, plants, baleen whale, horse, sloth, sea otter, mammoth, mastodon, bison, camel, tapir	Monterey Shale
Palos Verdes Peninsula	Dolphin	Monterey Shale
Santa Monica Mountains (Topanga Canyon)	Cypraeid gastropod	Topanga
Santa Monica Mountains (Old Topanga Canyon Road, Piuma Road)	Multiple	Topanga
Mint Canyon	Oldest hawk in California	Tick Canyon
Mint Canyon	Horse, elephant, camel	Mint Canyon
Puente Hills (Hacienda Heights)	Fish	Puente
Puente Hills (Diamond Bar)	Fish and leaves	Puente

### Issues

#### Land Use Compatibility and the Importance of a Local Process

The primary threats to historic, cultural, and paleontological resources are incompatible land uses and development on or adjacent to resources, a lack of a local registry, and the limitations of state and federal programs to protect resources.

Incompatible land uses and development can adversely affect resources by degrading the historic nature of the site through incompatible and inappropriate design features, allowing development that blocks views or hinders the public’s enjoyment of a particular cultural site, or development that removes or demolishes significant historical features on existing buildings.

Officially-recognized resources are integral parts of the built and natural environments, as well as landscape configuration, and are important considerations in County land use actions. There may be other sites and structures that have not been identified and that have importance to local communities. A community-based plan may serve as an opportunity to comprehensively identify locally significant sites or structures.

## Goals and Policies for Historic, Cultural, and Paleontological Resources

<b>Goal C/NR 4416: Protected historic, cultural, and paleontological resources.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Historic, Cultural, and Paleontological Resource Protection	<del>Policy C/NR 4416.1: Mitigate-Discourage all impacts from new development on or adjacent to historic, cultural, and paleontological resources to the greatest extent feasible.</del>
	Policy C/NR 4416.2: Support an inter-jurisdictional collaborative system that protects and enhances historic, cultural, and paleontological resources.
	Policy C/NR 4416.3: Support the preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings.
	Policy C/NR 4416.4: Ensure proper notification procedures to Native American tribes in accordance with Senate Bill 18 (2004) and Assembly Bill 52 (2014).
	Policy C/NR 4416.5: Promote public awareness of historic, cultural, and paleontological resources.
	Policy C/NR 4416.6: Ensure proper notification and recovery processes are carried out for development on or near historic, cultural, and paleontological resources.
	<u>Policy C/NR 16.7: Preserve and protect cultural resources and traditions that are of importance to local Native Americans tribes.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 16.8: Coordinate with local Native American tribes and commissions to protect tribal cultural resources, establish and maintain effective and consistent government-to-government relationships, and engage in meaningful consultation.</u>
	<u>Policy C/NR 16.9: Support the designation of landmarks and historic districts that protect the historic and cultural resources of local communities.</u>

## IX. Conservation and Natural Resources Element Implementation Programs

- SEA Preservation Program
- ~~SEA Ordinance—Private Open Space Easement Inventory~~
- Mitigation Land Banking Program/Open Space Master Plan
- Oak Woodlands Conservation Management Plan Implementation
- Native Woodlands Conservation Management Plan
- Scenic Resources Ordinance
- Agricultural Resource Areas Ordinance
- Mineral Resource Areas Ordinance
- Habitat Conservation Plan
- Water Quality Initiatives
- Watershed and Rivers Master Plans
- Urban Greening Program
- Open Space Land Acquisition Strategy
- Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems Ordinance
- ~~Solar Energy Orientation Study~~

For descriptions of these programs, please refer to Chapter 16: General Plan Implementation Programs.

[Text Boxes]

### **Dark Skies**

Regulation of night lighting and providing places where residents can see the stars is a key element in resource conservation. The Rural Outdoor Lighting Districts in the Zoning Code establish regulations that conserve energy and resources and promote dark skies for the enjoyment and health of humans and wildlife, while permitting reasonable uses of outdoor lighting for nighttime safety and security. The Districts include limitations on allowable light trespass, fully shielding outdoor lighting, and imposes maximum heights of fixtures.

### **Oak Woodlands**

As defined by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, an oak woodland is an oak stand with a greater than 10 percent canopy cover or that may have historically supported greater than 10 percent

canopy cover. Associated with that canopy cover and connectivity are over 300 vertebrate species and more than 5,000 invertebrates, as well as hundreds of native understory plant species. In August 2011, the County adopted Part 1 of the Oak Woodlands Conservation Management Plan through the provision of technical advice from the Fire Department and DRP. As an implementation tool for the Oak Woodlands Conservation Management Plan, the Department of Regional Planning completed and published a Plan Guide on its website in April 2014. The Plan Guide is available at [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/oakwoodlands\\_conservation-management-plan-guide.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/oakwoodlands_conservation-management-plan-guide.pdf) — [https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/oakwoodlands\\_conservation-management-plan-guide-20141204.pdf](https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/oakwoodlands_conservation-management-plan-guide-20141204.pdf).

### **Low Impact Development (LID)**

LID is a stormwater quality management strategy that seeks to mitigate the increase in pollution that enters into storm drains due to the development of urban hardscapes. Urban and storm runoff conveyed through municipal storm drain systems is one of the causes of poor water quality at discharge locations of urban areas. LID seeks to mimic the hydrologic cycle of pre-development conditions by implementing various site designs, materials, and design structures that can slow, infiltrate, filter, store, or detain stormwater runoff close to its source and reduce the amount of runoff. These design techniques may include maintaining recharge areas, buffer zones, open spaces, and drainage courses. LID may also utilize infiltration swales, grading strategies, and open drainage systems to promote the percolation of stormwater at the source location. Although LID practices can reduce the amount of storm runoff, they are not intended as flood protection measures and do not replace traditional flood management practices.

### **Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP's)**

Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP's) define a clear vision and strategy for the sustainable management of water resources within a specific region delineated by one or more watersheds. IRWMP's generally contain an assessment of current and future water demand, water supply, water quality, and environmental needs. They address the challenges for delivering a stable and clean supply of water for the public, addressing stormwater and urban runoff water quality, providing flood protection, meeting water infrastructure needs, maximizing the use of reclaimed water, enhancing water conservation, and promoting environmental stewardship.

During the planning process, all stakeholders, including water distributors and purveyors, regional waterworks and sanitation districts, local public works departments, environmental organizations, non-profits, and other vested interests work together to develop common goals, objectives, and strategies. Since water related issues are addressed on a regional, watershed basis, these plans are instrumental in building consensus amongst the various stakeholders in the development and prioritization of an action plan that is complementary and leverages inter-jurisdictional cooperation, resources, and available funding. There are four IRWMP regions in Los Angeles County:

- Antelope Valley IRWMP;
- Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP;
- Greater Los Angeles County IRWMP; and
- Los Angeles Gateway Region.

For more information on the IRWMP's, please go to <http://www.avwaterplan.org>, <http://www.scrwaterplan.org>, or <http://www.lawaterplan.org>, respectively.

### **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA)**

On September 16, 2014, the Governor signed three bills – AB 1739 and Senate Bills 1168 and 1319, collectively referred to as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA)– to create a framework for sustainable, local groundwater management. The legislation allows local agencies to tailor sustainable groundwater plans to their regional economic and environmental needs. The bills

establish a definition of sustainable groundwater management and require local agencies to adopt management plans for the state's most important groundwater basins. The legislation prioritizes groundwater basins that are currently overdrafted and sets a timeline for implementation:

- By 2017, local groundwater management agencies must be identified;
- By 2020, overdrafted groundwater basins must have sustainability plans;
- By 2022, other high and medium priority basins not currently in overdraft must have sustainability plans; and
- By 2040, all high and medium priority groundwater basins must achieve sustainability.

Additionally, the legislation provides measurable objectives and milestones to reach sustainability and a state role of limited intervention when local agencies fail to adopt sustainable management plans. Local water agencies and the County will work together to ensure compliance with this legislation.

## Hydromodification

Hydromodification is one of the leading sources of impairment in streams, lakes, estuaries, aquifers, and other water bodies in the country. Three major types of hydromodification activities—channelization and channel modification, dams, and stream bank and shoreline erosion—change a water body's physical structure as well as its natural function. These changes can cause problems, such as changes in flow, increased sedimentation, higher water temperature, lower dissolved oxygen, degradation of aquatic habitat structure, loss of fish and other aquatic populations, and decreased water quality. It is important to properly manage hydromodification activities to reduce non-point source pollution in surface and groundwater.

## Sustainable Food Systems: Organic Farming, Urban Farming, and Community Gardens

Sustainable agriculture refers to the production of food without the depletion of the Earth's resources or polluting of the environment. Sustainable agriculture addresses the social, economic, and environmental effects of farming. For more information on organic farming practices, please visit the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service web site at <http://www.attra.org>.

Organic farming is a form of agricultural production that avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, plant growth regulators and livestock feed additives. Organic farmers use crop rotation, crop residues, animal manures, other beneficial organisms, and mechanical cultivation to maintain soil productivity and control pests. Organic farming is considered environmentally responsible in that the exclusion of chemicals prevents the spread of these toxins into the air, water, soil, and food stuffs. There are an estimated ~~75-240~~ million acres of organic farmland in the world. In the U.S., "organic" foods must be certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Any food that claims it is organic or organically produced must attain this certification. In Los Angeles County, ~~there is a limited amount of organic farming, reaching only 111 acres in 2006~~ organic farming has expanded in recent years, with 55 certified organic farms covering approximately 1,567 acres as of 2019.

Urban farming refers to the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in, or around a village, town or city. Urban farming can be practiced as a food producing activity, for income, and in some cases simply for recreation. However, urban farming contributes to food security and food safety in two ways: it increases the amount of food available to people living in cities; and, it allows fresh vegetables and fruits and meat products to be made available to urban consumers. Because urban farming promotes local food production and distribution, urban farming activities are generally seen as sustainable practices. For more information on urban farming, please visit <http://www.urbanfarming.org>.

The American Community Garden Association allows a broad definition of what a community garden entails. Community gardens have been shown to provide a catalyst for neighborhood and community development, beautify neighborhoods, preserve or create urban green space, and create income opportunities and economic development. For more information on community gardens, please visit <http://www.communitygarden.org/>.

**Senate Bill (SB) 18**

Senate Bill 18 (2004) requires California cities and counties to contact and consult with California Native American tribes prior to amending or adopting a general plan or specific plan, or designating land as open space. SB 18 requires city and county governments to consult with California Native American tribes to aid in the protection of traditional tribal cultural places through local land use planning. SB 18 provides California Native American tribes an opportunity to participate in local land use decisions at an early stage in the planning process for the purpose of protecting, or mitigating, impacts to sites of cultural significance. Involving tribes early allows for ample consideration of cultural places in the context of broad local land use policy, before individual site specific, project level land use decisions are made by a local government.

**Assembly Bill (AB) 52**

Assembly Bill 52 (2014) requires cities and counties to consult with California Native American tribes during the CEQA process when a project may affect tribal cultural resources. To implement AB 52, Los Angeles County maintains a list of tribes that have requested notification, provides early notice of applicable projects, and engages in good-faith consultation to identify, avoid, or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources. This process supports the protection of culturally significant sites and strengthens government-to-government relationships with tribes through inclusive and respectful environmental planning.

## Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element

### I. Introduction

The parks and recreational facilities of Los Angeles County play a vital role in maintaining a high quality of life for residents. The County owns and operates parks and recreational facilities in both unincorporated areas and cities in Los Angeles County. These facilities serve the local needs of communities in the unincorporated areas, as well as regional needs countywide.

The Parks and Recreation Element provides policy direction for the maintenance and expansion of the County's parks and recreation system. The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Element is to plan and provide for an integrated parks and recreation system that meets the needs of residents. The goals and policies set forth in this Element address the growing and diverse recreation needs of the communities served by the County.

#### **Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA)**

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors in July, 2016, the Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA) established a modern policy framework for parks, recreation, and open space within Los Angeles County. The PNA positioned parks and recreation facilities as essential public infrastructure necessary to support community health, safety, environmental quality, and overall quality of life. The PNA advanced a data-driven approach to park planning and investment by applying objective metrics to quantify and map park needs, and support both community-identified priorities and deferred maintenance of existing facilities. Through adoption of the PNA, the Board of Supervisors affirmed that parks are vital public assets. As essential infrastructure, parks improve public health outcomes, community identity and cohesion, environmental resilience, and local economic vitality.

#### **Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+)**

In December 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+), establishing a national model for park equity and comprehensive regional planning. While the 2016 PNA focuses on local park needs, determining levels of park need in large part based on population density, the PNA+ expands that framework and analysis by assessing needs related to environmental conservation and restoration of degraded lands, regional recreation, and rural recreation. The PNA+ provides a more nuanced understanding of the distribution of environmental benefits and burdens across the County, as well as park and recreation needs unique to rural areas.

PNA+ calls for a more holistic approach to conservation that includes both the protection of existing natural lands and the restoration of degraded urban lands, forming the foundation for the County's strategy to conserve at least 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030 (30x30). It identifies priority areas for regional and rural recreation using indicators such as population vulnerability, access to recreation by multiple modes of travel, availability of park facilities, and the types of amenities offered.

Building on the needs and priorities identified in the PNA and PNA+, the County will articulate goals, strategies, actions, priority sites, and opportunity areas to guide implementation. This includes focusing on the highest-need areas; advancing multi-benefit park investments that

address personal, social, economic, and environmental needs; restoring degraded lands to create new parks and open space; and providing diverse amenities that support equitable distribution and prioritize underserved communities.

## II. Parkland Classifications

For planning purposes, parks are classified based on the size, use, and physical characteristics of the land. In addition, the traditional template of local and regional parks has been expanded to capture diverse opportunities for acquisition and development of parkland. The County’s park system, including facilities that are owned, operated, and maintained by the County, totals approximately ~~70,000~~ 27,906 acres. Table 10.1 summarizes the acreage of local and regional parkland, by Planning Area. A complete inventory of the parks operated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County Parks) -DPR- can be found in Appendix F.

**Table 10.1: Existing County Parkland, by Planning Area**

Planning Area	Parkland, in Acres		
	Local	Regional	Total
Antelope Valley	<del>50</del> <u>55</u>	<del>3,870</del> <u>3,946</u>	<del>3,920</del> <u>4,001</u>
Coastal Islands	0	<del>41,000</del> <u>0</u>	<del>41,000</del> <u>0</u>
East San Gabriel Valley	<del>220</del> <u>258</u>	<del>3,440</del> <u>3,394</u>	<del>3,660</del> <u>3,652</u>
Gateway	<del>54</del> <u>45</u>	<del>846</del> <u>519</u>	<del>867</del> <u>564</u>
Metro	<del>414</del> <u>141</u>	<del>398</del> <u>397</u>	<del>509</del> <u>538</u>
Santa Clarita Valley	<del>74</del> <u>55</u>	<del>14,425</del> <u>14,082</u>	<del>14,497</del> <u>14,137</u>
San Fernando Valley	<del>4</del> <u>40</u>	<del>565</del> <u>464</u>	<del>566</del> <u>504</u>
Santa Monica Mountains	0	0	0
South Bay	<del>26</del> <u>34</u>	<del>593</del> <u>763</u>	<del>618</del> <u>797</u>
West San Gabriel Valley	<del>56</del> <u>34</u>	<del>3,465</del> <u>3,222</u>	<del>3,521</del> <u>3,256</u>
Westside	22	<del>414</del> <u>434</u>	<del>436</del> <u>456</u>
Total	<del>608</del> <u>684</u>	<del>68,986</del> <u>27,221</u>	<del>69,594</del> <u>27,905</u>

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, ~~July 2013~~ September 2025.

The County offers a wide variety of parks and recreation resources, which generally fall under two systems: local park system and regional park system.

### Local Park System

The local park system consists of parks of varying sizes that meet local needs and offer opportunities for daily recreation. This system includes community parks, neighborhood parks, pocket parks, and park nodes, and is summarized in Table 10.2.

### ***Community Parks***

Community parks are typically 10 to 20 acres, and serve several neighborhoods within a 1-to-2 mile radius of the park. Community parks that are located in residential neighborhoods serve both the needs of the community park service radius and neighborhood park service radius. Community parks provide opportunities for a wide variety of active and passive recreation activities. The amenities programmed into a community park are focused on meeting the needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community. They allow for group activities and recreational opportunities that may not be feasible in neighborhood parks. Amenities for community parks can include informal open play areas, children's play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues, lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts, public restrooms, concession buildings, maintenance buildings, onsite parking and information kiosks.

### ***Neighborhood Parks***

Neighborhood parks are typically 3 to 10 acres, and serve residents living within a half mile radius of the park. Neighborhood parks provide space, programs and recreation activities to create healthy social networks within residential communities. The common objective of all neighborhood parks is to bring people together to recreate and socialize close to home. Ease of access and walking distance uninterrupted by major roads and other physical barriers are important factors in locating neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks should be well-connected to other public facilities, such as schools and libraries. Amenities for neighborhood parks can include informal open play areas, children's play apparatus, picnic tables, picnic shelters, barbecues, practice sports fields, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, public restrooms, information kiosks, recreation offices, and onsite parking.

### ***Pocket Parks***

Pocket parks are less than three acres in size, and serve residential or business areas within a quarter mile radius or within walking distance. They are best used to meet limited or specialized recreational needs. Pocket parks can provide landscaped public use areas in industrial and commercial areas, scenic overlooks, linkage to a community pathway system, and urban infill sites in park poor communities. Pocket parks generally do not have onsite parking. Amenities for pocket parks can include both active and passive features, depending on the community's setting and needs, such as children's play apparatus, picnic areas, fountains and seating areas. Due to the limited amenities included in pocket parks, they are typically not included in the service radius analysis.

### ***Park Nodes***

Park nodes are small pieces of open space that serve as public destinations, connections, and community defining spaces. Nodes provide physical and visual breaks to the urban landscape and connect various spaces, such as waterways, streets, trails, and greenways. Park nodes are used as gathering and rest areas, and serve as opportunities for social and cultural exchange. Examples of park nodes include equestrian and hiking trail heads, bike rest stops and stations with lockers and repair areas, neighborhood focal points, and passive amenities, such as plazas, rest areas, playgrounds, landmarks, and public art installations.

### **Table 10.2: Local Park System Summary**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Typical Park Features and Amenities</b>
<p><b>Community Park</b>                      Acres Per Thousand Population: 4/1,000                      Suggested Acreage: 10 to 20 acres                      Service Area: 1 to 2 miles</p>	<p>Passive park amenities including but not limited to: informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, family and group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues.</p> <p>Active sports activities including but not limited to: lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts. Additional amenities may include aquatics complex, skate park, arena soccer, roller hockey, community gardens, and dog parks.</p> <p>Park facilities including but not limited to: public restrooms, concession building, community buildings, maintenance building and onsite parking and information kiosks.</p>
<p><b>Neighborhood Park</b>                      Acres Per Thousand Population: 4/1,000                      Suggested Acreage: 3 to 10 acres                      Service Area: 1/2 mile</p>	<p>Passive park amenities including but not limited to: informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues.</p> <p>Active park amenities including but not limited to: practice sports fields, basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts. Park facilities including but not limited to: public restroom, onsite parking and information kiosks.</p>
<p><b>Pocket Park</b>                      Acres Per Thousand Population: 4/1,000                      Suggested Acreage: less than 3 acres                      Service Area: 1/4 mile</p>	<p>Passive park amenities including but not limited to: picnic areas and seating areas.</p> <p>Active park amenities including but not limited to: children’s play apparatus.</p>
<p><b>Park Node</b>                      Acres Per Thousand Population: 4/1,000                      Suggested Acreage: 1/4 acre or less                      No service radius area</p>	<p>Varies; can include: plazas, rest areas, playgrounds, landmarks and public art installations</p>

**Regional Park System**

The regional park system is intended to meet the park and recreation needs of residents and visitors throughout Los Angeles County. This system consists of community regional parks, regional parks, and special use facilities, and is summarized in Table 10.3.

***Community Regional Parks***

Community regional parks are typically 20 to 100 acres, and have a service radius of 20 miles. Community regional parks protect and conserve natural resources, preserve open spaces, and provide recreational facilities that are not available in neighborhood or community parks. Amenities for community regional parks can include a jogging exercise course, informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues, lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts, information kiosks, public restrooms, concession building, recreation offices, maintenance buildings, and onsite parking. Community regional parks

may also have one or more of the following features: multiple sports facilities, aquatics center, fishing lake, community building and gymnasium, and scenic views and vistas.

***Regional Parks***

Regional parks are typically greater than 100 acres in size, and have a service radius of 25 miles or more. They include unique areas such as lakes, wetlands, auditoriums, water bodies, and campgrounds, in addition to the active recreational facilities offered in community and community regional parks. Many of the recreation activities are associated with experiencing the natural environment. A regional park may also perform important ecological and environmental functions, including serving as wildlife habitats, providing a multi-benefit park experience for communities. The connection of these parks to natural areas is often vital to ensuring a healthy ecological system. Amenities for regional parks can include picnic areas, nature centers, trail systems, scenic drives, campgrounds, water areas for swimming, fishing and boating, and in some cases, sport fields.

***Special Use Facilities***

Special use facilities are generally single purpose facilities that serve greater regional recreational or cultural needs. One notable example is the Hollywood Bowl. Special use facilities require adequate public access and sufficient buffers to protect adjacent residential users and to insulate the park from commercial or industrial development. Special use facilities can meet both passive (e.g., historic and cultural facilities, natural areas, habitat preservation areas, arboreta and botanical gardens, and nature centers) and active (e.g., golf courses and driving ranges, equestrian centers, off-highway vehicle parks, water parks) needs within the region. There are no size criteria or service radius areas associated with special use facilities.

***Urban Natureways***

Urban Natureways are regional linear parks that leverage existing public infrastructure, such as flood control channels and utility corridors, into multi-benefit greenways that integrate recreation, active transportation, and habitat restoration. These corridors strengthen ecological connectivity, biodiversity, climate resilience, social equity, and local economic opportunity. Urban Natureways reimagine publicly owned spaces as inclusive public assets, linking communities, parks, schools, and cultural destinations, and advance environmental justice by bringing nature into underserved areas while converting infrastructure that once divided neighborhoods into corridors that reconnect and revitalize them. Amenities for Urban Natureways can include multi-use paths and trails, shade trees, native and drought-tolerant landscaping, habitat areas, lighting, seating, interpretive signage, and community gathering spaces. There are no size criteria or service radius areas associated with Urban Natureways.

**Table 10.3: Regional Park System Summary**

Facility	Typical Park Features and Amenities
<p><b>Community Regional Park</b></p> <p>Acres Per Thousand Population: 6/1,000 Suggested Acreage: 20 to 100 acres Service Area: up to 20 miles</p>	<p>Passive park amenities including but not limited to: informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues. Active sports activities including but not limited</p>

	<p>to: lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts.</p> <p>Additional amenities may include one or more of the following features: multiple sports facilities, aquatics center, fishing lake, community building and gymnasium, and scenic views and vistas.</p> <p>Park facilities including but not limited to: public restrooms, concession building, community buildings, maintenance building and onsite parking and information kiosks.</p>
<p><b>Regional Park</b></p> <p>Acres Per Thousand Population: 6/1,000 Suggested Acreage: greater than 100 acres Service Area: 25+ miles</p>	<p>Passive park amenities including but not limited to: group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues.</p> <p>Additional amenities may include one or more of the following features: lakes, wetlands, auditoriums, water bodies for swimming, fishing and boating, and sports fields.</p>
<p><b>Special Use Facility</b></p> <p>Acres Per Thousand Population: 6/1,000 No size criteria No assigned service radius area</p>	<p>Generally, single purpose facilities. Can include passive features such as: wilderness parks, nature preserves, botanical gardens and nature centers.</p> <p>Active uses can include: performing arts, water parks, golf driving ranges and golf courses.</p>
<p><b>Urban Natureways</b></p> <p><u>Acres Per Thousand Population: n/a</u> <u>No size criteria</u> <u>No assigned service radius area</u></p>	<p><u>Linear in form, often following natural or built infrastructure corridors. Designed to integrate ecological, recreational, and cultural features.</u></p> <p><u>May include paved or unpaved trails, native and/or drought tolerant trees and landscaping, educational and wayfinding signage, civic art, gathering areas, shade structures, and vendor or small business spaces. Prioritizes multi-agency coordination and community co-governance to ensure long-term stewardship and equitable access.</u></p>

## Trails

The County offers unique trail user opportunities that showcase its diverse scenery and provide connectivity to parks, open spaces, cultural resources, and wilderness areas. Los Angeles County has an ideal climate for trail user activities on most days of the year.

Typical trail uses range from hiking and walking, to mountain biking and horseback riding, with many users participating in more than one activity. The quality of the trail experience is directly proportional to the state of the visual, natural, and educational environment through which the trail passes. The wide variety of experiences, include but are not limited to: exercise, solitude, spiritual practices, physical and mental well-being, building social networks, testing athletic skills, and experiencing nature. The County strives to make all trails multi-use and accessible to all non-motorized users including pedestrians, equestrians, and mountain bicyclists, where appropriate.

In May 2011, the Board of Supervisors adopted the County of Los Angeles Trails Manual, which provides County staff and developers with guidelines and standards for trail planning, design, development, and maintenance of County trails. The purpose of the Trails Manual is to provide guidance to County departments that interface with trail planning, design, development and maintenance of hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking recreational trails, while addressing physical and social constraints and opportunities associated with the diverse topographic and social conditions that occur in the unincorporated areas.

Figure 10.1 depicts the County's regional trail system.

### **Figure 10.1: Regional Trail System Map**

#### **Other Recreation Facilities**

In addition to local and regional parks and trails, residents are served by the following types of recreation facilities: multi-benefit parks, school sites, city parks and facilities, private recreational facilities, and greenways.

##### ***Multi-Benefit Parks***

Multi-benefit parks and open spaces are created through collaborative efforts among city, county, state, and federal agencies; private organizations; schools; private landowners; and industries. These parks are characterized as having more than one function and contributing to multiple program goals, provided the introduced functions are compatible with and do not reduce the original function of the underlying facility. There are a number of applications of multi-benefit parks including: utility corridors and flood protection basins that can serve as areas for active or passive recreation; school sites located adjacent to parks that can share facilities, such as parking and park amenities; watershed areas that can protect critical wildlife habitats, preserve open space, provide trails for recreation, and contribute to water conservation objectives; ~~and water districts, where trails can be located adjacent to flood protection channels and trailhead parks.~~

##### ***School Sites***

The County works with school districts to organize, promote, and conduct joint recreational and educational programs. These community recreation agreements are a form of joint-use agreement, where either a school or park facility may be put to some recreational use by the other party in exchange for some facility improvement and/or maintenance. A park does not have to be adjacent to a school (i.e., share a common boundary) for an agreement to be viable.

Many school campuses in Los Angeles County are dominated by asphalt with little to no vegetation, limiting physical activity, play options, and children's connection to nature. These sites offer significant opportunities for improvement through pavement removal and the addition of trees, gardens, outdoor classrooms, stormwater features, art, and other park-like amenities. By greening schoolyards and establishing shared or joint use agreements, schools can serve as neighborhood parks during non-school hours, expanding access to safe, high-quality outdoor spaces for surrounding communities.

##### ***City Parks and Facilities***

City parks and facilities that are located close to the borders of the unincorporated areas are enjoyed by city and County residents alike. Similarly, local County parks that are located within or close to the borders of cities provide recreational amenities for both populations. This overlap

in local park service radius is an important factor to consider in the placement of new local County parks.

### ***Private Recreational Facilities***

Private recreational facilities play an important role in meeting recreational needs. The network of private recreational facilities consists of churches, health and fitness clubs, and other organizations that offer a variety of programs and facilities. This Element does not include an inventory of private recreational facilities, and as the County does not control, maintain, or program private recreational facilities, these resources are not credited toward the County's acreage goals for public parks.

### ***Greenways***

Greenways provide a linear area along natural corridors, and often follow features such as rivers, man-made waterways, drainage channels, and utility easements. Greenways can accommodate various modes of uninterrupted pedestrian travel on pathways, including walking, jogging, and bicycling, and can include recreation areas and natural landscape features.

## **Recreation Programs**

Along with access to parks and recreation facilities, the availability of a wide range of recreation programs is critical to the quality of life in any community. A comprehensive offering of effective recreation programs benefit individuals, neighborhoods, and households of all ages, income levels, cultures and abilities by:

- Offering opportunities to play, grow, and learn;
- Providing a sense of place and of belonging;
- Promoting health and wellness, including obesity prevention;
- Improving neighborhood and community connections, and problem-solving;
- Enhancing community cohesiveness while honoring diversity;
- Helping protect natural environments and promote biodiversity; and
- Providing positive youth development opportunities.

Recreation programs can range from organized sports, tournaments, scheduled classes, and special events, to more individualized, casual leisure activities such as picnics and walking. Effective recreation programs promote the constructive use of leisure time and a lifelong commitment to a healthy lifestyle.

DPR [LA County Parks](#) offers a wide variety of recreation programs to meet the diverse needs of residents. These programs serve a diverse group of stakeholders including, but not limited to: preschool-aged children, elementary school-aged youth, middle school-aged youth, high school-aged youth, adults, seniors and households.

## **Parkland Dedication and Funding**

As specified in P/R Policy 3.1, the County standard for the provision of parkland is 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents of the population in the unincorporated areas, and 6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the total population of Los Angeles County. This section describes the County's parkland dedication requirements, as well as funding mechanisms for the planning and development of parks and recreation facilities.

### **Quimby Act**

The California Quimby Act, which is part of the Subdivision Map Act, applies to residential subdivisions and permits the County, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land or payment of fees for park and recreational purposes. As part of its approval of a subdivision, the County may require the subdivider to provide land to serve the park and recreational needs of future residents of the subdivision.

The Quimby Act establishes a standard of dedicating 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for subdivisions. Quimby fees may be used to acquire land for local park purposes, improve local parkland (including existing local parks), or both acquire and develop local parkland. To convert a Quimby obligation inland (acres) into the Quimby fee, the land obligation is multiplied by the Representative Land Value (RLV) per acre for the Park Planning Area (PPA) in which the subdivision is located. RLVs are adjusted annually based upon changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Because of the need for usable public parkland for active recreation purposes, DPR LA County Parks rarely gives any Quimby credit for parkland exceeding a slope of three percent and instead gives credit for the "net" park acreage (maximum slope of three percent) the County receives. As specified in P/R Policy 3.10, DPR LA County Parks does not accept undeveloped park sites from developers. This means that the developer is required to provide a developed park to the County on a "turn-key" basis and receives credit for the costs of developing the public park up to and against any remaining Quimby obligation, after accounting for the net acreage dedicated to the County.

For the purposes of the County's Quimby Act Ordinance, the unincorporated areas are divided into 47 PPAs, based on location and neighborhood characteristics. The Quimby fees generated in one PPA may not be spent in another area.

### **Proposition Measure A Funds**

Since 1992, Proposition A Funds have supported the acquisition, development, may be used to fund the development, acquisition, improvement, restoration and maintenance of parks; recreational, cultural and community facilities; and open space lands. These funds are administered by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District. The Open Space District was created established following voter approval of when voters approved Proposition A in 1992. In 1996, voters approved another Proposition A to fund parks and recreation projects and additional funds for maintenance and to service those projects. This assessment expired in June of 2019.

To ensure the continuation of local park funding, Los Angeles County voters approved Measure A in November 2016. Revenue generated through Proposition A and Measure A has supported a wide range of initiatives, including public safety enhancements at existing parks, recreation and beach facilities; acquisition and development of new parkland and open space, construction of senior centers and facilities serving at risk youth; trail development; river and stream restoration; graffiti prevention; tree planting; and other park and recreation improvements.

~~Proposition A authorized an annual assessment on nearly all of the 2.25 million parcels of real property. Proposition A funded \$540 million for the acquisition, restoration or rehabilitation of real property for parks and park safety, senior recreation facilities, gang prevention, beaches, recreation, community or cultural facilities, trails, wildlife habitats, or natural lands, and maintenance and servicing of those projects. In 1996, voters approved another Proposition A to fund an additional \$319 million for parks and recreation projects and additional funds for maintenance and to service those projects.~~

### **Landscaping and Lighting Districts**

~~The California Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 authorizes local legislative bodies to establish benefit related assessment districts, or Landscaping and Lighting Districts (LLADs), and to levy assessments for the construction, installation, and maintenance of certain public landscaping and lighting improvements. LLADs may be established to maintain local public parks.~~

### **Mello-Roos Community Facilities District**

A developer may apply to the County to form a Mello-Roos Community Facilities District pursuant to the California Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to develop and maintain park improvements. ~~Pursuant to County guidelines, the parks should be regional in nature, and have an impact or benefit beyond the associated subdivision.~~ These Community Facilities Districts (CFDs) are a financing mechanism used to fund infrastructure improvements, including parks and related services associated with subdivision development.

## **III. Issues**

### **1. Park Planning For a Diversity of Needs**

Parks and recreation facilities are used for various purposes by a wide range of users. Because the needs of park users are diverse, no individual park or recreational facility can meet the needs of all users. Therefore, a diverse and comprehensive system of facilities is needed to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities.

A mistaken assumption is that parks and recreation planning only involves looking at population projections and then providing more of what already exists. Numerous studies have shown that parks and recreation needs and preferences vary by age, race and ethnicity, and other factors. In addition, the physical distribution of parkland and park accessibility by underrepresented groups and underserved populations, including low-income and transit-dependent communities, are important considerations. The County must understand and plan for these diverse park and recreation needs.

Based on data from a wide variety of sources, outdoor recreation activities with learning components, trail related experiences, and water recreation will increase. Motorized recreation, augmented with navigational equipment, will also continue to grow. As the population evolves and changes, there will be many new supporters and advocates for outdoor recreation and opportunities for partners to contribute to a better quality of life. Cooperation and partnerships between public, private, and nongovernmental service providers can ensure a seamless and comprehensive system of outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences.

Enhanced collaboration refers to the idea of providing more and improved park and recreation services through multiple use facilities and partnerships with other public, non-profit, and private

organizations. The County must work with other agencies to leverage financial, land, and other resources to meet the growing and diverse recreation needs of residents.

## 2. Acquisition and Development of Additional Parkland

~~There are large areas that are underserved by parks and recreational facilities. Nearly two out of three children do not live within walking distance (one quarter mile) of a park, playground, or open space.~~

~~DPR conducted a preliminary gap analysis to determine the need for additional parks and to identify park poor areas. Using the County's goals for 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents in the unincorporated areas, and 6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents, the Gap Analysis Study shows that the unincorporated areas face a significant deficit in local parkland: 3,719 acres, as shown in Table 10.4.. Also noteworthy is the fact that 9 of the 11 Planning Areas have deficits in regional parkland. Based on population projections, the unincorporated areas would have deficits of 5,987 acres in local parkland and 5,046 acres in regional parkland by the year 2035 if no new parks are created.~~

~~The Gap Analysis Study represents a first step toward identifying park deficient neighborhoods in the unincorporated areas. Figures 10.2 and 10.3 show the service radius for local and regional parks. Areas that do not lie within the service radius are considered underserved by parks and recreation facilities.~~

The 2016 Parks Needs Assessment (PNA) was grounded in a simple principle: all residents should have access to a park, ideally within a 10-minute walk. While earlier planning efforts often emphasized acreage deficits, the PNA marked a deliberate shift toward measuring park access—specifically, the percentage of residents living within one-half mile of a park—as a more meaningful indicator of equity and quality of life. Since the release of the PNA, access to local parks has improved measurably: 62 percent of County residents now live within walking distance of a park, up from 49 percent in 2016. This progress reflects targeted investments and policy alignment around proximity and neighborhood-scale access rather than aggregate park acreage alone. However, the data also underscores the work that remains, as 38 percent of residents still lack nearby park access. The PNA+ reinforced and deepened this access-based framework, confirming that inequities persist along racial, ethnic, and environmental lines. Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities are disproportionately underserved by parks and simultaneously face higher environmental burdens, including exposure to degraded lands and limited green infrastructure. Notably, 84 percent of residents living in priority areas for restoring degraded lands are people of color, highlighting the intersection of park access, environmental justice, and public health. Together, the PNA and PNA+ provide a data-driven framework that centers access over acreage, guiding investments toward closing gaps and advancing more equitable park outcomes across Los Angeles County.

**Figure 10.2: Community Regional and Regional Park Service Radius Map**

**Figure 10.3: Community, Neighborhood and Pocket Park Service Radius Map**

**Table 10.4: Existing County Parkland by Planning Area, Year 202040**

Planning Areas	Local Parkland Goal 4 Acres / 1,000 Population			Regional Parkland Goal 6 Acres / 1,000 Population		
	Unincorporated Population 202040	Parkland Acreage	Surplus / Deficit Acreage	Countywide Population 202040	Parkland Acreage	Surplus / Deficit Acreage
Antelope Valley	<del>73,488</del> 74,299	<del>50</del> 55	<del>-244</del> -242	<del>382,868</del> 416,568	<del>3,870</del> 3,946	<del>1,573</del> 1,447
Coastal Islands	368	0	-1 0	4,096	41,000 0	40,975 0
East San Gabriel Valley	<del>234,251</del> 238,436	<del>220</del> 258	<del>-717</del> -696	<del>933,116</del> 945,510	<del>3,440</del> 3,394	<del>-2,159</del> - 2,279
Gateway	<del>103,094</del> 97,568	<del>51</del> 45	<del>-361</del> -345	<del>1,666,588</del> 1,670,272	<del>816</del> 519	<del>-9,183</del> - 9,503
Metro	<del>306,768</del> 283,395	<del>111</del> 141	<del>-1,116</del> -993	<del>1,819,084</del> 1,824,265	<del>398</del> 397	<del>-10,517</del> - 10,567
Santa Clarita Valley	<del>94,907</del> 71,393	<del>71</del> 55	<del>-308</del> -231	<del>271,227</del> 292,410	<del>14,425</del> 14,082	<del>12,798</del> 12,328
San Fernando Valley	<del>5,137</del> 12,945	<del>1</del> 40	<del>-20</del> -12	<del>1,749,325</del> 1,812,626	<del>565</del> 464	<del>-9,931</del> - 10,412
Santa Monica Mountains	<del>19,222</del> 33,528	0	<del>-77</del> -134	<del>85,785</del> 82,337	0	<del>-515</del> -494
South Bay	<del>69,612</del> 66,338	<del>26</del> 34	<del>-253</del> -231	<del>1,016,674</del> 1,034,740	<del>593</del> 763	<del>-5,507</del> - 5,445
West San Gabriel Valley	<del>122,834</del> 121,183	<del>56</del> 34	<del>-435</del> -451	<del>915,196</del> 915,662	<del>3,465</del> 3,222	<del>-2,026</del> - 2,272
Westside	<del>27,407</del> 19,522	22	<del>-87</del> -56	<del>974,646</del> 1,013,297	<del>414</del> 434	<del>-5,434</del> - 5,646
<b>Total</b>	<del>1,057,088</del> <b>1,018,607</b>	<del>608</del> <b>684</b>	<del>-3,719</del> - <b>3,391</b>	<del>9,818,605</del> <b>10,010,687</b>	<del>68,986</del> <b>27,221</b>	<del>-6,522</del> - <b>32,843</b>

Sources: 202040 U.S. Census and Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, July 2013 September 2025.

**Table 10.5: Projected Future County Parkland Need, Year 2035**

	Local Parkland Goal 4 Acres / 1,000 Population			Regional Parkland Goal 6 Acres / 1,000 Population		
	Unincorporated Population Projection 2035	Current Local Parkland Acreage	Surplus / Deficit Acreage	Countywide Population Projection 2035	Current Regional Parkland Acreage	Surplus / Deficit Acreage
<b>Total</b>	1,648,695 1,399,500	608 684	-5,987 4,914	12,338,623 11,353,000	68,986 27,221	-5,046 40,897

Source: 2008 SCAG RTP and Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, July 2013; 2020 U.S. Census, SCAG 2012-2035 RTP/SCS, and Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, September 2025.

The County’s approach to evaluating the quality, distribution, and adequacy of parks and recreation resources is guided by the Parks Needs Assessment (PNA) and the Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+), which together serve as the County’s master planning framework for identifying park needs and investment priorities. Rather than relying solely on acreage-based standards, the PNA and PNA+ apply a comprehensive, data-driven methodology that evaluates park access, park pressure, condition and quality of park amenities and acres of parkland per 1,000 people alongside indicators of environmental and public health vulnerability. This approach enables the County to assess how well the park system serves residents across diverse communities and to identify areas that need parks the most.

The PNA+ further expands this framework by integrating data related to environmental degradation, climate exposure, and health burdens to identify priority areas for conservation, restoration, and reinvestment. Together, the PNA and PNA+ provide an ongoing, countywide approach to monitoring park system performance and guiding equitable park planning, policy development, and capital investment. This framework informs policies and implementation programs by directing resources toward communities with the greatest need and by ensuring that park planning responds to evolving demographic, environmental, and public health conditions.

~~A good community parks and recreation system is based on the quality of facilities and services provided, as well as the ability to anticipate and respond to changing trends. According to the report, *Park and Recreation Trends in California 2005*, changes in the size and composition of State’s population will drive the impacts on the delivery of parks and recreation services in the future.~~

~~A more in-depth gap analysis will be conducted as part of the County’s future Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This analysis will involve a detailed review of topics such as demographic, geographic, land use, and transportation data for each Planning Area to determine its park deficiencies in terms of acreage, accessibility, and suitability. For more information on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, please refer to Chapter 16: General Plan Implementation Programs.~~

### **3. Improved Trail Systems**

Trails offer opportunities for people to hike, walk, run or ride, and encourage people to connect with nature. As linear parks, trails help make the region more livable and provide communities

with access to increased health and fitness activities. Trails can also promote increased activity with smaller amounts of land than large parks, and can often use leftover or unwanted land.

As the population continues to grow and the region becomes increasingly urbanized, the demand for outdoor recreation opportunities and trails will increase. One way to meet this demand is to create and maintain an adequate multi-use trail system that is accessible to all residents and to provide continuous enjoyment through increased and expanded connectivity. Additional trails are also needed closer to population centers in the central and southwestern portions of Los Angeles County, where more residents could conveniently access and reap the recreation, health, and mobility benefits of trails.

Multi-use trails are used by equestrians, cyclists, hikers, and runners. As the amount of public land continues to decrease, the need for multi-use trails will continue to grow, as well as the need to find solutions to possible user and safety conflicts. An expanded multi-use trail system can alleviate user conflicts, while also providing increased access to this important health and fitness system.

#### **4. Protection of Historical and Natural Resources on County Park Properties**

Many County parks contain important historical and natural resources that must be protected. Historic resources on County park properties include buildings, collections, landscapes (including historic sites, vernacular landscapes, historic designed landscape, ethnographic landscapes), bridges, and other physical features. The maintenance, repair, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of historical resources are carried out in a manner that is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.

Natural resources include natural areas, sanctuaries, and open space preserves. There is a need to establish linkages that will promote connectivity to enhance the movement of wildlife and promote genetic health among native species of plants and animals. Continuous efforts to expand the regional park system are necessary to protect and conserve natural resources regardless of the required park acreage based upon park standards. Open space areas that are established for conservation purposes, such as wildlife sanctuaries, provide a greater benefit than the relative location of the site to populated areas. In the regional park system, a key consideration is the ecological health and biodiversity of natural environments. Accessibility to regional facilities is also important. Access may be enhanced by providing improved public transportation to connect population centers with regional parks.

Threats to these resources include both intentional and unintentional acts, such as deferred maintenance, renovation or improvements that significantly alter or damage the resource, acts of vandalism and theft, or overuse by park users. Other threats to natural resource areas include emergent invasive species, pests, and diseases (examples include sudden oak death, oak borers, blights, canker, fungal diseases).

#### **5. Sustainable Parks**

It is important for County park properties to contribute to the County's goals of sustainability goals, carbon footprint reduction, water conservation, and energy conservation with a particular focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving water, and increasing energy efficiency.

Sustainable design and management are necessary to promote responsible environmental practices, enhance social benefits, and reduce the long-term costs of ownership and ~~management~~ maintenance.

All park projects must be considered within their surrounding context. Landscapes need to be treated as interdependent and interconnected spaces that share systems of soil, topography, vegetation, and water. By understanding these larger patterns and employing a comprehensive approach, parks can be designed in a way that helps ~~repair and~~ restore and regenerate ecosystems rather than detract from them. For example, designing a park to take advantage of natural processes is one way to achieve sustainability through site design.

Funding is the main challenge facing the design and implementation of sustainable strategies. However, sustainable design and management practices will help reduce operation and maintenance costs in the long run. In addition, regular maintenance and preventative measures can prolong the life of existing buildings and facilities on County park properties, and reduce the need for new or expanded facilities.

## IV. Goals and Policies

<b>Goal P/R 1: Enhanced active and passive park and recreation opportunities for all users.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Park Programming	Policy P/R 1.1: Provide opportunities for public participation in designing and planning parks and recreation programs.
	Policy P/R 1.2: Provide additional active and passive recreation opportunities based on <u>a community's setting, safety concerns, and recreational needs and preferences.</u>
	Policy P/R 1.3: Consider emerging trends in parks and recreation when planning for new parks and recreation programs.
	Policy P/R 1.4: Promote efficiency by building on existing recreation programs.
	Policy P/R 1.5: <u>Collaborate with Native American tribes and Indigenous stakeholders to remove barriers to cultural, religious, and traditional practices on ancestral lands.</u>
Park Management	Policy P/R 1.5: Ensure that County parks and recreational facilities are clean, safe, inviting, usable and accessible.
	Policy P/R 1.6: Improve existing parks with <del>needed</del> <u>an expanded range of needed amenities and address deficiencies identified through the <del>park facility inventories</del> PNA and PNA+.</u>
	Policy P/R 1.7: Ensure adequate staffing, funding, and other resources to maintain satisfactory service levels at all County parks and recreational facilities.
	Policy P/R 1.8: Enhance existing parks to offer balanced passive and active recreation opportunities through more efficient use of space and the addition of new amenities.
	Policy P/R 1.9: Offer more lighted playing fields using energy efficient light fixtures to extend playing time, where appropriate (e.g., not in areas adjacent to open space or natural areas that can be impacted by spillover lighting).
	Policy P/R 1.10: Ensure a balance of passive and recreational activities in the development of new park facilities.

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	Policy P/R 1.11: Provide access to parks by creating pedestrian and bicycle-friendly paths, transit connections, and signage regarding park locations and distances.
Park Access	<u>Policy P/R 1.12: Plan for parks through an equity-driven, community-focused, and data-informed approach by incorporating environmental justice considerations and prioritizing investments in underserved communities and areas identified as High or Very High Park Need in the PNA and PNA+.</u>
	<u>Policy P/R 1.13: Promote active, affordable, and equitable access to parks by supporting transportation planning that provides safe and convenient walking, biking, transit, and other mobility options, particularly in underserved communities.</u>
<b>Goal P/R 2: Enhanced multi-agency collaboration to leverage resources.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Collaboration and Financing	Policy P/R 2.1: Develop joint-use agreements with other public agencies to expand recreation services.
	Policy P/R 2.2: Establish new revenue generating mechanisms to leverage County resources to enhance existing recreational facilities and programs.
	Policy P/R 2.3: Build multi-agency collaborations with schools, libraries, non-profit, private, and other public organizations to leverage capital and operational resources.
	Policy P/R 2.4: Utilize school and library facilities for County sponsored and community sponsored recreational programs and activities.
	Policy P/R 2.5: Support the development of multi-benefit parks and open spaces through collaborative efforts among entities such as cities, the County, state, and federal agencies, <u>conservancies</u> , private groups, schools, private landowners, and other organizations.
	Policy P/R 2.6: Participate in joint powers authorities (JPAs) to develop multi-benefit parks, <u>transform degraded lands into usable community spaces, and create as well as regional recreational facilities.</u>
	Policy P/R 2.7: Increase communication and partnerships with local law enforcement, neighborhood watch groups, and public agencies to improve safety in parks.
Mass Care and Shelters	Policy P/R 2.8: Evaluate and enhance facilities and amenities with respect to alternative use of parks to carry out Mass Care and Shelter operations in the wake of a disaster.
<b>Goal P/R 3: Acquisition and development of additional parkland.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Parkland Acquisition and Dedication	Policy P/R 3.1: Acquire and develop local and regional parkland to meet the following County goals: 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents in the unincorporated areas and 6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the total population of Los Angeles County.
	Policy P/R 3.2: For projects that require zone change approvals, general plan amendments, specific plans, or development agreements, work with developers to provide for local and regional parkland above and beyond their Quimby obligations.

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	<p>Policy P/R 3.3: Provide additional parks in communities with insufficient local parkland as identified through the <del>gap analysis</del> <u>Parks Needs Assessment and Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA and PNA+)</u>, including <u>gaps in access, park quality, and recreational opportunities</u>.</p> <p>Policy P/R 3.4: Expand the supply of regional parks by acquiring land that would: 1) provide a buffer from potential threats that would diminish the quality of the recreational experience; 2) protect watersheds; <del>and</del> 3) offer linkages that enhance wildlife movements and biodiversity; <del>and</del> 4) allow for more equitable geographic distribution of regional park facilities across the County.</p> <p><u>Policy P/R 3.5: Prioritize the restoration of degraded lands (such as brownfields, landfills, oil fields) for transformation into parks and open space, particularly within PNA+ Priority Areas for environmental restoration.</u></p> <p>Policy P/R 3.56: Collaborate with other public, non-profit, and private organizations to acquire land for parks.</p> <p>Policy P/R 3.67: Pursue a variety of opportunities to secure property for parks and recreational facilities, including purchase, grant funding, private donation, easements, surplus public lands for park use, and dedication of private land as part of the development review process.</p>
Parkland Development	<p>Policy P/R 3.78: Mitigate impacts from freeways to new parks to the extent feasible.</p> <p>Policy P/R 3.89: Site new parks near schools, libraries, senior centers and other community facilities where possible <u>and in communities with High and Very High Park Need as identified in the PNA.</u></p> <p>Policy P/R 3.910: The Department of Parks and Recreation does not accept undeveloped park sites from developers. Developers are required to provide a developed park to the County on a “turn-key” basis and receive credit for the costs of developing the public park up to and against any remaining Quimby obligation, after accounting for the net acreage dedicated to the County.</p>
<p><b>Goal P/R 4: Improved accessibility and connectivity to a comprehensive trail system including rivers, greenways, and community linkages.</b></p>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Trail System	Policy P/R 4.1: Create multi-use trails to accommodate all users, <u>where feasible.</u>
	Policy P/R 4.2: Develop staging areas and trail heads at strategic locations to accommodate multi-use trail users.
	Policy P/R 4.3: Develop a network of feeder trails into regional trails.
	Policy P/R 4.4: Maintain and design multi-purpose trails in ways that minimize circulation conflicts among trail users.
	Policy P/R 4.5: Collaborate with other public, non-profit, and private organizations in the development of a comprehensive trail system.
	Policy P/R 4.6: Create new multi-use trails <u>and urban natureways</u> that <u>enhance connectivity between link community and regional destinations</u> including parks, schools, <del>and</del> libraries, <u>and regional watersheds.</u>
<p><b>Goal P/R 5: Protection of historical and natural resources on County park properties.</b></p>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>

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Park Resource Preservation	Policy P/R 5.1: Preserve historic resources on County park properties, including buildings, collections, landscapes, bridges, and other physical features.
	Policy P/R 5.2: Expand the collection of historical resources under the jurisdiction of the County, where appropriate.
	Policy P/R 5.3: Protect and conserve natural resources on County park properties, including natural areas, sanctuaries, and open space preserves.
	Policy P/R 5.4: Ensure maintenance, repair, <u>preservation</u> , rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of historical resources in County parks and recreational facilities are carried out in a manner consistent with the most current <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i> .
Education and Programming	Policy P/R 5.5: Preserve and develop facilities that serve as educational resources that improve community understanding of and appreciation for natural areas <u>that foster biodiversity and habitat conservation</u> , including watersheds.
	Policy P/R 5.6: Promote the use of County parks and recreational facilities for educational purposes, including a variety of classes and after school programs.
	Policy P/R 5.7: Integrate a range of cultural arts programs into existing activities, and partner with multicultural vendors and organizations.
	<u>Policy P/R 5.8: Support career pathway programs, mentorships, and job training for youth (specifically in high-need communities) focusing on fields such as nature education, resource protection, conservation, and outdoor recreation management.</u>
<b>Goal P/R 6: A sustainable parks and recreation system.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Sustainable Parks System	Policy P/R 6.1: Support the use of recycled water for landscape irrigation in County parks.
	Policy P/R 6.2: Support the use of alternative sources of energy, such as wind and solar sources to reduce the use of energy at existing parks.
	Policy P/R 6.3: Prolong the life of existing buildings and facilities on County park properties through preventative maintenance programs and procedures.
	Policy P/R 6.4: Ensure that new buildings on County park properties <u>and new parklands</u> are environmentally sustainable by reducing carbon footprints, and conserving water and energy.
	Policy P/R 6.5: Ensure the routine maintenance and operations of County parks and recreational facilities to optimize water and energy conservation.
<u>Climate Resilience and Nature-Based Solutions</u>	<u>Policy P/R 6.6: Enhance park resilience to climate impacts through nature-based infrastructure and targeted heat mitigation strategies, particularly in rural and urban areas with high excessive heat days and limited shade.</u>

## V. Park and Recreation Element Implementation Program

- County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
  - County Comprehensive Park Needs Assessment and Park Needs Assessment Plus
- Trails Program
- Parks Sustainability Program

For descriptions of these programs, please refer to Chapter 16: General Plan Implementation Programs.

[Text Boxes]

### **Parks, Playgrounds, and Beaches in the Los Angeles Region (1930)**

The Olmsted Brothers and Bartholomew report entitled *Parks, Playgrounds, and Beaches in the Los Angeles Region* was the first comprehensive parks and open space plan for the greater Los Angeles area. The report proposed a system of parks, parkways, children's playgrounds, and public beaches. It was a model of ambitious, intelligent, and sensitive planning commissioned at a time when land was available. However, only segments of the report have been implemented to date. Through its planning efforts and collaboration with other agencies and jurisdictions, the DPR hopes to revive and fulfill the Olmsted and Bartholomew vision to the maximum extent possible.

### **Green Visions Plan (2007)**

Green Visions is a joint venture between the University of Southern California and the region's land conservancies, including the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy, and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. The Green Visions Plan offers a guide to habitat conservation, watershed health and recreational open space for the Los Angeles metropolitan region. The electronic tools and data developed as part of Green Visions are intended to expand the analytic and planning capabilities of local agencies and organizations to, among other things, reduce the fragmented, piecemeal approach to regional resource planning.

### **Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (2013)**

The 2013 Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) addresses water resource issues of the Los Angeles region in an integrated and collaborative manner. Recreation and open space are important components of the IRWMP, with priority projects providing open space, habitat, and recreational benefits. The IRWMP also recommends that new parkland be acquired to keep pace with population growth.

### **SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan (2008)**

In 2008, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) completed the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) as a vision of how Southern California can balance resource conservation, economic vitality, and quality of life. The RCP presents a visionary, regionwide approach to coordinate and facilitate the preservation of open space in Southern California. Specifically, the Plan includes an "Open Space and Habitat" chapter, which focuses on community open space, natural lands, and farmlands. Community open space includes areas that enhance the quality of life and completes

## Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element

interconnected networks of parks, trails, greenbelts, community gardens, and urban forests serving the region's communities.

## Chapter 16: General Plan Implementation Programs

### **I. Introduction**

The Government Code requires that upon adoption of a general plan, a planning agency shall “investigate and make recommendations to the legislative body regarding reasonable and practical means for implementing the general plan.”

### **II. Organization**

The General Plan programs, outlined below, are organized by General Plan element and are designed to address the overall policy objectives identified in the General Plan. Each program identifies lead and partner agencies; however, they are not exclusive, and new partners can be added, as needed. The programs also include a timeframe and are categorized based on level of priority. The highest priority programs should be initiated within the first two years of the adoption of the General Plan. Programs that are designated as ongoing represent actions that must be addressed on a regular basis for General Plan implementation.

### **III. Funding**

The General Plan programs guide the development of work programs for County departments. They also inform the budget process and will be used to set funding priorities. The schedules and tasks listed in the implementation program are based on adequate funding being secured through a joint effort undertaken by all departments and agencies. If funding is not secured, the implementation steps and/or timeframes may need to be modified. To supplement department budgets, County staff will also work to secure grants, as needed, for program implementation.

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Program No.	Program Description	General Plan Goals and Policies	Lead and Partner Agencies	Timeframe
LU-1	<p><b>Planning Areas Framework Program</b></p> <p>The General Plan serves as the foundation for all community-based plans, such as area plans, community plans, and coastal land use plans. Area plans focus on land use and other policy issues that are specific to the Planning Area. The Planning Areas Framework Program shall entail the completion of an area plan for each of the 11 Planning Areas.</p> <p>Area plans will be tailored toward the unique geographic, demographic, and social diversity of each Planning Area; however, at a minimum, area plans shall be developed using the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve major stakeholders, including but not limited to residents, businesses, property owners, County departments, regional agencies, and adjacent cities.</li> <li>• Explore the role of arts and culture, and consider beautification efforts.</li> <li>• Analyze the transportation network, and assess the transportation and community improvement needs. Utilize the street design considerations outlined in the Mobility Element as a tool for street improvements that meet the needs of all potential users, promote active transportation, and address the unique characteristics of the Planning Area.</li> <li>• Review and consider the identified opportunity areas, as applicable.</li> <li>• Develop a land use policy map that considers the local context, existing neighborhood character, and the General Plan Hazard, Environmental and Resource Constraints Map.</li> <li>• Consider the concurrent development of areawide zoning tools.</li> <li>• Update specific plans and zoning ordinances, as needed, to ensure consistency and plan implementation.</li> </ul> <p>At a minimum, each area plan shall consist of the following components: 1) a comprehensive policy document with area-specific elements, as needed, that incorporates community-based plans as chapters; 2) a land use policy map that utilizes the General Plan Land Use Legend; 3) a zoning map that is consistent with the area plan; 4) a capital improvement plan</p>	Land Use Element: Goal LU 2	Lead: DRP  Partners: DPW, CEO, DPH, CDC, DPR, Arts Commission, Fire	Years 1-2

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	<p>developed in partnership with the Department of Public Works (see Planning Area Capital Improvement Plans Program); and 5) an environmental review document that uses the General Plan Programmatic EIR as a starting point to assess the environmental impacts of the area plan.</p> <p>The creation of new community plans will be reserved for those communities in the unincorporated areas that are identified through the area plan process as having planning needs that go beyond the scope of the area plan. Community plans, as well as coastal land use plans, shall be incorporated as chapters of area plans.</p>			
<p>LU-2</p>	<p><b>Transit Oriented District Program</b></p> <p>Prepare a TOD specific plan, or similar mechanism, for each TOD. The goals of TOD specific plans are to: 1) increase walking, bicycling, and transit ridership and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMTs); 2) facilitate compact, mixed use development; 3) increase economic activity; 4) facilitate the public investment of infrastructure improvements; and 5) streamline the environmental review process for future infill development projects.</p> <p>The implementation of the TOD Program should, include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary Research and Analysis: The TOD plans will be informed by the completion of preliminary research and analysis that will analyze existing conditions, parking supply and demand, and infrastructure supply and demand.</li> <li>• Stakeholder Outreach: In addition to the background research and analyses, the TOD plan will be informed by a comprehensive stakeholder outreach strategy. This strategy should consider input from residents and County staff and set priorities for transportation, housing, open space, and public safety. The TOD plan should also consider the local context and existing neighborhood character.</li> <li>• Informed by the preliminary research and stakeholder outreach, the TOD plan should, at a minimum, include the following:</li> <li>• General Plan Land Use Policy Map: Land uses within TODs should support active transportation, discourage automobile use, strategically focus compact development, and encourage a mix of housing types and commercial uses.</li> <li>• TOD plan, which will include:</li> </ul>	<p>Land Use Element: Goals LU 4, LU 5; Policies 1.11, 1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15.</p> <p>Mobility Element: Goal M 5</p> <p>Public Services and Facilities Element: Policy 1.5</p> <p>Economic Development Element: Policies: 2.5, 2.7, 3.1, 4.4</p>	<p>Lead: DRP</p> <p>Partners: DPW, Metro, Arts Commission, CDC</p>	<p>Years 1-2</p>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Zoning Amendments: Prepare a zoning consistency analysis and consider both map and text amendments to ensure consistency with the land use policy map.</li> <li>2. Design Guidelines: Incorporate guidelines applicable to the built environment that promote livability.</li> <li>3. Mobility Strategy: Identify pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile routes and multimodal connections, particularly the first-last mile connections to the transit stop. Street infrastructure improvements should examine the street design considerations outlined in the Mobility Element. The strategy may also include new cross-sections to encourage active transportation and ensure the safety of all users. This strategy should also incorporate a strategy for parking management, such as the reduction or removal of minimum parking requirements for specific areas and the exploration of shared parking opportunities or parking benefit districts. Lastly, explore opportunities to better coordinate light rail, bus, and County shuttle transit services.</li> <li>4. Economic Development Strategy: Develop a strategy to promote economic development and redevelopment. This should include working with the CDC to attract needed industries and services.</li> <li>5. Capital Improvement Plan: Identify specific infrastructure improvements (i.e., sewer, transportation, waste management, stormwater, public water, and open space) and outline a financing plan.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Document: Complete the appropriate CEQA document that will substantially reduce the environmental review needed for subsequent projects, in particular future infill development and public infrastructure projects in the TOD.</li> </ul>			
LU-3	<p><b>Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans</b> Develop the County's airport land use compatibility plans.</p>	Land Use Element: Policy LU 7.6	Lead: DRP Partner: DPW	Years 1-2
LU-4	<p><b>Growth Management Program</b> Develop a growth management program for the unincorporated areas that does the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the feasibility of implementing a program that uses infrastructure and service levels as a threshold for development and permitting; and</li> </ul>	Land Use Element: Goal LU 3	Lead: DRP Partners: DPW	Years 1-2

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the feasibility of establishing greenbelts or other growth management strategies in urbanized areas.</li> </ul>			
LU-5	<p><b>Civic Art Program</b></p> <p>The County Civic Art Policy requires certain capital development projects, either wholly or partially funded by the County, to dedicate one percent of the design and construction cost to public art projects on the site. Explore the expansion of this policy, including the cost implications to County capital projects, and support the management of the County’s art collection.</p>	Land Use Element: Goal LU 10	Lead: Arts Commission Partner: CEO	Year 1-2
LU-6	<p><b>Transfer of Development Rights Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the feasibility of a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program in order to direct growth and development away from valuable open space areas to identified infill areas.</li> <li>Identify natural resource, rural and agricultural areas, including Agricultural Resource Areas (ARAs), and portions of the Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) with high priority resources as sending areas.</li> <li>Identify potential receiving areas, such as TODs and vacant and underutilized sites, in urban areas.</li> <li>Consider partnering with other local jurisdictions to expand the scope of the TDR Program. Consider establishing a pilot program with the City of Santa Clarita.</li> <li>Prepare an ordinance that outlines applicability and procedures for the TDR Program.</li> <li>Establish or identify a County entity to coordinate the sales and transactions of TDR.</li> </ul>	Land Use Element: Goals LU 3, LU 4	Lead: DRP Partners: CEO, DPR, Assessor, DPW	Years 1-2
LU-7	<p><b>Adaptive Reuse Ordinance</b></p> <p>Prepare an Adaptive Reuse Ordinance within the context of, and in compliance with, existing building codes that considers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The conversion of older, economically distressed or historically-significant buildings into multifamily residential developments, live-and-work units, mixed use developments, or commercial uses.</li> <li>Incentives to expedite the rehabilitation and redevelopment of structures in older communities, and reduce vacant space in commercial areas.</li> </ul>	Land Use Element: Policies LU 4.1, LU 4.2  Economic Development Element: Policies ED 4.4, 4.5	Lead: DRP Partner: DPW	Years 3-5

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<p>LU-8</p>	<p><b>Art and Cultural Resources Program</b> Explore the feasibility of provisions for incorporating public art and other cultural amenities in new private development. Also examine the development of an in-lieu fee option.</p>	<p>Land Use Element: Goals LU 10</p>	<p>Lead: DRP Partner: Arts Commission</p>	<p>Year 3-5</p>
<p>LU-9</p>	<p><b>Community Design Guidelines</b> Create design guidelines to preserve and enhance the character-defining features of all unincorporated communities.</p>	<p>Land Use Element: Goals LU 10</p>	<p>Lead: DRP Partners: DPW, Arts Commission</p>	<p>Years 6-10</p>
<p>LU-10</p>	<p><b>Early Care and Education Program</b> In conjunction with the goals, strategies and objectives of the Strategic Plan for Child Care and Development for Los Angeles County, as adopted by the County Child Care Planning Committee, and the Child Care Policy Framework, as adopted by the Board of Supervisors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare an ordinance that considers the following within the unincorporated areas:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Barriers due to zoning regulations and costly permit fees.</li> <li>2. Regulatory and other incentives, based on the conclusions and recommendations of the County’s Child Care Planning Committee and other agencies in <i>The Economic Impact of the Early Care and Education Industry in Los Angeles County</i>, January 2008. These could include incentives to developers, such as fee reductions, waiver or modification to development standards, and streamlined permit review, to include child care within their projects, particularly within affordable housing developments, mixed use developments and projects that connect child care services to transit corridors.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Develop an education program that includes:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engagement with the development community about the need/demand for child care services.</li> <li>2. Technical assistance and training to child care providers on the development of child care facilities.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p>Land Use Element: Policies LU 5.4, 5.5, 5.6  Public Services and Facilities Element: Policies 7.1, 7.2, 7.3  Economic Development Element: Policy ED 2.6</p>	<p>Lead: CEO, Office of Child Care  Partners: DRP, LACOE</p>	<p>Years 6-10</p>
<p>LU-11</p>	<p><b>Military Influence Areas Overlay Ordinance</b> Prepare an ordinance to identify, coordinate and assist in resolving potential land use conflicts within Military Operation Areas (MOAs) and High Risk of Adverse Impact Zones (HRAIZs) to ensure that new development is compatible with military</p>	<p>Land Use Element: Goal LU 8</p>	<p>Lead: DRP</p>	<p>Years 6-10</p>

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	<p>operations, safeguard mission training and testing requirements, support military readiness, and enhance safety for military personnel and persons on the ground. The ordinance should consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The establishment of an MOA and HRAIZ Overlay in which proposed developments are regulated;</li> <li>• Provisions to ensure that all uses are compatible with military operations within the MOA and/or HRAIZ Overlay;</li> <li>• Review procedures for all proposed development projects within the MOAs and/or HRAIZs that could impact military operations, such as uses that produce electromagnetic interference, frequency spectrum interference, height obstructions, glare, smoke, dust, and steam.</li> </ul>			
M-1	<p><b>Parking Ordinance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a study that assesses the applicability of parking requirements in all unincorporated areas, provides an overview of best practices, and identifies amendments, as needed.</li> <li>• Consider amendments to the Zoning Code to reflect the best new practices in land use and parking requirements.</li> </ul>	Mobility Element: Policies M 5.2	Lead: DRP	Years 1-2
M-2	<p><b>Community Pedestrian Plans</b></p> <p>Prepare Community Pedestrian Plans that consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The adequacy of pedestrian routes, accommodations, and the need for improvements or additional infrastructure, given the current or future context of particular neighborhoods.</li> <li>• Design guidelines for streets and walking paths in public and private developments.</li> <li>• Connectivity of pedestrian paths to and from schools, public transportation, major employment centers, shopping centers, and government buildings, in order to eliminate gaps in the transportation system.</li> <li>• Special needs populations, including seniors and people with disabilities.</li> <li>• A framework for the development and implementation of Community Pedestrian Plans in the unincorporated areas that considers safety, design, connectivity, and the needs of all users.</li> </ul>	Mobility Element: Goal M 1, M 2, M 3	Lead: DPW Partner: DRP	Years 1-2

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with the development of the Planning Areas Framework Program and the TOD Program to ensure planning consistency and to promote intermodal transportation connectivity and community livability.</li> <li>• The identification of unincorporated communities with a substantial absence of, and need for, sidewalks.</li> <li>• Construction of pedestrian improvements through the annual road construction program.</li> <li>• The securing of grant program funding to construct pedestrian plan improvements.</li> </ul>			
M-3	<p><b>Safe Routes to School Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Safe Routes to School programs that address pedestrian and bicycle safety for a two-mile radius around all elementary, middle and high school facilities.</li> <li>• Identify low income communities and/or communities with high rates of bike/pedestrian injury and prioritize these for Safe Routes to Schools grants.</li> <li>• Within high priority areas, identify schools in great need of bike/pedestrian improvements.</li> <li>• Submit grant proposals for high priority schools/areas.</li> </ul>	Mobility Element: Goal M 1, M 2	Lead: DPW Partner: DPH	Years 3-5
M-4	<p><b>Multimodal Transportation Planning Function</b></p> <p>Develop a multimodal transportation planning function for the County. This planning function will be based on traffic modeling activities, which integrate the Highway Plan, Bikeway Master Plan, and future Community Pedestrian Plans. The modeling effort will allow the County to plan, design, and maintain transportation facilities in the unincorporated areas, which provide safe and efficient mobility for all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit vehicles, trucks, and motorists. It will also incorporate traffic analysis guidelines, per SB 743.</p>	Mobility Element: Goal M 4	Lead: DPW Partner: DRP	Years 1-2
AQ-1	<p><b>Efficient Goods Movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with SCAG to facilitate implementation of a region-wide goods movement strategy.</li> <li>• Support SCAG and LA Metro on the evaluation of truck routes throughout the County to identify and target areas for improvement.</li> </ul>	Air Quality Element: Goal AQ 2	Lead: PW Partner: DRP	Ongoing

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C/NR-1	<p><b>SEA Preservation Program</b></p> <p>Coordinate with programs for the preservation of natural resources, especially programs that identify financial incentives for the acquisition of SEA lands. Focus on targeting the following implementation actions to ensure that SEAs are specifically included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer of Development Rights Program</li> <li>• Habitat Conservation Plan</li> <li>• Mitigation Land Banking Program/Open Space Master Plan</li> <li>• Open Space Land Acquisition Strategy</li> <li>• <u>SEA Ordinance Maintenance</u></li> </ul>	Conservation and Natural Resources Element: Goal C/NR 3, Policy C/NR 3.2	Lead: DRP	Years 1-2
C/NR-2	<p><b>SEA Ordinance</b></p> <p><del>Update the Significant Ecological Areas Ordinance to implement the SEA Program in the General Plan.</del></p>	<del>Conservation and Natural Resources Element: Goal C/NR 3, Policy C/NR 3.1-12</del>	<del>Lead: DRP</del>	<del>Years 1-2</del>
C/NR-2	<p><b><u>Private Open Space Easement Inventory</u></b></p> <p><u>Create a GIS map-based inventory of private open space areas preserved through conservation easements, deed restrictions, and similar agreements, to inform regional open space connectivity and habitat linkages.</u></p>	Goal C/NR 1, Policy C/NR 1.2, C/NR 1.3, C/NR 1.5	Lead: DRP	Years 1-2
C/NR-3	<p><b>Mitigation Land Banking Program/Open Space Master Plan</b></p> <p>Study the feasibility of creating a Mitigation Land Banking Program and an Open Space Master Plan with appropriate standards and criteria to allow eligible projects to purchase land within SEAs or other biologically sensitive areas as a mitigation measure for development in areas outside of SEAs. Encourage mitigation banking across watershed and jurisdictional boundaries to provide more opportunities for mitigation, and avoid the creation of “orphan mitigation banks.”</p>	Conservation and Natural Resources Element: Goal C/NR 3, Policy C/NR 3.2	Lead: DRP Partner: CEO, DPR, DPW, DPH, DBH, Agricultural Commissioner	Years 1-2
C/NR-4	<p><b>Oak Woodlands Conservation Management Plan Implementation</b></p> <p>Implement the County’s Oak Woodlands Conservation Management Plan through the following actions:</p>	Conservation and Natural Resources Element: Goal C/NR	Lead: DRP Partners: DPW, Fire	Years 1-2

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a process for documenting oaks that are added by a property owner (“<del>volunteer landscape oaks trees</del>”) as part of the Zoning Ordinance Update Program; and</li> <li>Work with the Los Angeles Region Imagery Acquisition Consortium to lobby for the inclusion of infrared imagery acquisition that will help document existing oak woodlands.</li> </ul>	<p>4, Policies C/NR 3.4, C/NR 4.1</p> <p>Safety Element: Goal S 3, Policy S-34.10</p>		
C/NR-5	<p><b>Native Woodlands Conservation Management Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a conservation management plan, guidance document, and implementation ordinance for woodlands (other than oak) in <u>unincorporated</u> Los Angeles County that are rare. Woodland types in need of conservation include but are not limited to: juniper woodlands; walnut woodlands; cherry woodlands; bay tree woodlands; willow woodlands; mixed riparian woodlands with willow, cottonwood, and sycamore components; California buckeye woodlands, and Joshua tree woodlands.</li> <li>Work with the Los Angeles Region Imagery Acquisition Consortium for the inclusion of infrared imagery acquisition that will help document existing woodlands (other than oak).</li> </ul>	<p>Conservation and Natural Resources Element: Goal C/NR 4</p>	Lead: DRP	Years 3-5
C/NR-6	<p><b>Scenic Resources Ordinance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a Scenic Resources Ordinance that creates a scenic corridor, scenic viewshed, and significant ridgeline program and/or ordinance to protect remaining scenic resources.</li> <li>Develop countywide ridgeline protection regulations and a countywide ridgeline map.</li> </ul>	<p>Conservation and Natural Resources Element: Goal C/NR 4<u>315</u></p>	Lead: DRP	Years 1-2
C/NR-7	<p><b>Agricultural Resource Areas Ordinance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare an Agricultural Resource Areas Ordinance in order to encourage the retention and sustainable utilization of agricultural land for agricultural uses.</li> <li>Analyze the feasibility of offering incentives, such as density bonuses and/or conservation subdivisions, that deed-restrict a certain percentage of the project site for open space and agricultural uses only.</li> <li>Ensure compatibility between agricultural and non-agricultural land uses through buffering, development standards, and design requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>Conservation and Natural Resources Element: Goal C/NR 8<u>9</u></p> <p>Economic Development Element: Policy ED 1.4 and Policy ED 2.9</p>	Lead: DRP	Years 1-2

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C/NR-8	<p><b>Mineral Resource Areas Ordinance</b></p> <p>Prepare a Mineral Resource Areas Ordinance that considers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop regulations for development in Mineral Resource Areas to ensure that development projects are compatible with existing or potential mineral resource areas, and are designed to maintain the future development of extractive, surface mining or energy production. Consider the role of design and the use of buffers between new development and the mining operations, based on an evaluation of noise, aesthetics, drainage, operating conditions biological resources, topography, lighting, traffic, operating hours and air quality.</li> <li>• Develop standards and conditions for extractive surface mining facilities.</li> </ul>	Conservation and Natural Resources Element: Goals C/NR 40 <u>12</u> , C/NR 44 <u>13</u>	Lead: DRP	Years 1-2
C/NR-9	<p><b>Habitat Conservation Plan</b></p> <p>Prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan to identify and preserve biologically sensitive land and natural resources, including SEAs. The Habitat Conservation Plan shall include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review of best practices in Habitat Conservation Plans in other local jurisdictions; and</li> <li>• A dedicated permanent source of funding for natural area conservation and preservation related efforts, including the routine study of biological resources.</li> </ul>	Conservation and Natural Resources Element: Goal C/NR 3	Lead: DRP Partner: CEO, DPR, DPW, DPH, DBH, Agricultural Commissioner	Years <del>3-5</del> - <u>6-10</u>
C/NR-10	<p><b>Water Quality Initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support multi-benefit outcomes, such as water quality benefits arising from ecosystem restoration efforts, and identify, attract, and create funds and resources to implement this initiative.</li> <li>• Participate in Enhanced Watershed Management Programs and Watershed Management Programs in coordination with other agencies throughout Los Angeles County.</li> <li>• Participate in Coordinated Integrated Watershed Monitoring Plans in coordination with other agencies throughout Los Angeles County.</li> </ul>	Conservation and Natural Resources Element: Goals C/NR 56, C/NR 67, C/NR 78	Lead: DPW Partners: DPH, DBH	Years 3-5
C/NR-11	<p><b>Watershed and Rivers Master Plans</b></p>	Conservation and Natural Resources	Lead: DPW Partner: DBH, DPR, CEO	Years 3-5

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate with stakeholders in the preparation of Watershed Management Plans in response to the NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permit by promoting multi-benefit outcomes, including, but not limited to new public access to natural resources, new recreational opportunities, enhanced aquatic habitats, and restored natural features, where appropriate, while maintaining necessary levels of flood protection.</li> <li>Identify, attract, and create funds and resources to implement these plans.</li> </ul>	Element: Goals C/NR 56, C/NR 67, C/NR 78		
C/NR-12	<p><b>Urban Greening Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the CDC and other stakeholders to expand community garden programs, and to identify County-owned parcels and other potential sites for community gardens.</li> <li>Create and implement an urban farming program.</li> <li><u>Implement the actions identified in the Community Forest Management Plan to achieve the goals of creating equitable access to co-benefits from trees, promoting climate-resilient urban biodiversity, and coordinating a regional network of community forests in Los Angeles County.</u></li> <li><del>Conduct a tree inventory to identify tree deficient neighborhoods and target these areas for tree distribution and planting.</del></li> <li><del>Adopt tree planting requirements for new developments, as described in the Community Climate Action Plan.</del></li> <li><del>Explore joint-use agreements for green amenities for land under major utility corridor line easements.</del></li> <li><del>Amend the County Code, as applicable, to require 30 percent tree canopy coverage, at maturity, on new development to shade parking lots and structures in a manner that will reduce the urban heat island effect.</del></li> <li><del>Work with other jurisdictions to leverage County resources in ways that facilitate environmental improvements consistent with natural landscape characteristics.</del></li> </ul>	<p>Mobility Element: Policy M 2.9</p> <p>Air Quality Element: Policy AQ 3.7</p> <p>Conservation and Natural Resources Element: Policy C/NR 9.411.2</p>	<p>Lead: <u>DRP, CSO</u></p> <p>Partners: DPW, DPR, <u>DPH, CDC,</u> Fire, <u>Agricultural Commissioner CEO, Utilities, UC Cooperative Extension</u></p>	Years 3-5
C/NR-13	<p><b>Open Space Land Acquisition Strategy</b></p>	Conservation and Natural Resources	<p>Lead: DPR</p> <p>Partner: <u>DRP, DPW, CEO</u></p>	Years 6-10

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	<p>Develop an open space land acquisition strategy that incorporates collaborative partners; identifies multi-use sites; explores all means of open space acquisition and preservation, such as inter-jurisdictional land swaps, mitigation banking, and other partnerships; and implements legal protections, such as deed-restrictions and easements.</p> <p>Develop programs to improve education, awareness, and stewardship of open spaces, natural areas and SEAs, recognizing and prioritizing opportunities to leverage County resources with those of other jurisdictions (such as when environmental improvements cross jurisdictions, but result in amplified improvements consistent with natural landscape boundaries/characteristics).</p>	Element: Goals C/NR 1, C/NR 2		
C/NR-14	<p><b>Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems Ordinance</b></p> <p>Perform an assessment of the food system in unincorporated areas to identify communities that lack access to healthy foods, barriers to the development of markets that support healthy food access, and opportunities to promote greater connectivity between local food sources and communities.</p> <p><del>Analyze the feasibility of Promote and support the implementation of urban agriculture incentive zones, which would provide a property tax incentive for dedication of to encourage the use of vacant, unimproved, or blighted underutilized properties to for agriculture purposes for a specified period.</del></p> <p>Prepare a Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems Ordinance that considers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incentives to promote healthy and sustainable farming practices, such as organic farming and hydroponics.</li> <li>• Identification and implementation of strategies and incentives to increase the availability of healthy and local foods in communities, especially those with limited access to fresh produce.</li> </ul>	Conservation and Natural Resources Element: Goals C/NR 89, C/NR 910	Lead: DRP Partner: DPH, Agricultural Commissioner, UC Cooperative Extension	Years 6-10
C/NR-15	<p><del><b>Solar Energy Orientation Study</b></del></p> <p><del>Prepare a Solar Energy Orientation Study that includes the following:</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• The feasibility of requiring the optimization of solar orientation in developments to maximize passive and active solar techniques,</del></li> <li><del>• Guidelines for reducing the urban heat island effect in new and existing development.</del></li> </ul>	<del>Land Use Element: Goal LU 11 Air Quality Element: Policy AQ 3.1.</del>	Lead: DRP	Years 6-10

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>A solar energy subdivision design manual that depicts passive and active solar energy design guidelines.</del></li> </ul>			
C/NR-15	<p><b><u>Wildlife Connectivity Ordinance</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Assess Title 22 (Zoning Code) for existing development and design standards that may permanently inhibit wildlife movement.</u></li> <li>• <u>Develop an ordinance to regulate wildlife permeable design standards in areas that are considered intensified and channeled movement pathways.</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>Conservation and Natural Resources</u>  <u>Element: Goals C/NR 3, C/NR 5</u></p>	<p><u>Lead: DRP</u></p>	<p><u>Years 1-2</u></p>
P/R-1	<p><b>County Parks and Recreation Master Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a comprehensive Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Master Plan in collaboration with partner agencies, community groups and other stakeholders. The Master Plan will include a needs and demands analysis, in-depth gap analysis, evaluation of existing facilities and programs, asset management strategies, and implementation actions, including:</li> <li>• Park Inventories: Carry out repairs and improvements to existing parks based on the priority established in the park facility inventories. Access related improvements, including upgrades to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), are a priority. As County parks may be used to operate Mass Care Shelters in a major disaster, these shelters must be accessible to persons with disabilities. Compile an inventory of historical resources at all County parks and recreational facilities, including facilities that are listed or eligible to be included on the state and/or national Register of Historic Places. Improve and enhance educational, informational, and regulatory signage at County parks and recreational facilities, as appropriate.</li> <li>• New Park Opportunities: Identify properties that may be suitable for the development of new parks and expansion of existing parks. Study the possibility of developing multi-benefit parks and trails in areas, such as floodway channels, powerline alignments, major water and sewer easements, flood basins and impoundment areas, and transportation rights of way. In addition, evaluate opportunities to develop parks and recreation facilities on brownfields following appropriate cleanup and remediation.</li> <li>• Policy Development: Draft a countywide policy to require developers of large residential projects to develop new public parks. Survey and mark the boundaries of County-owned wildlife and wildflower sanctuaries to address</li> </ul>	<p>Parks and Recreation  Element: Goals P/R 1, P/R 2, P/R 3</p>	<p>Lead: DPR  Partner: DRP</p>	<p>Years 1-2</p>

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	<p>encroachment by adjacent property owners. Pursue local, state, and/or federal historical registration and/or museum accreditation of additional County parks and recreational facilities, where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Acquisition Strategy: Develop a land acquisition strategy as a component of the Master Plan that will establish a framework for evaluating land acquisition priorities, identify funding options for acquisitions, and provide a five-year implementation plan for land acquisition.</li> <li>• Program Development: Expand the park volunteer program and actively recruit more youth and seniors to conduct recreation programs and services, and identify additional facilities where historical and natural resource programs may be offered.</li> <li>• Parks Maintenance Master Plan: Develop a Parks Maintenance Master Plan and a computerized maintenance reporting and tracking system to ensure that routine maintenance and operations of County parks and recreational facilities are carried out in a timely, efficient, and sustainable manner. The Maintenance Master Plan will establish benchmarks for all routine park maintenance tasks and future goals based on national standards.</li> <li>• Revenue Enhancement: Pursue a variety of initiatives to generate additional revenues for parks and recreation including: expanding the Adopt-a-Park program, soliciting donations and sponsorships, applying for grants, and holding more fundraising activities and events.</li> </ul>			
P/R-2	<p><b>Trails Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Trails Master Plan as a component of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in collaboration with other public, non-profit, and private organizations. As part of the Master Plan, create a GIS layer of existing and proposed city, County, regional, state, and federal trails and trail segments to identify gaps and opportunities for linkages.</li> <li>• Collaborate with state and federal park agencies to develop uniform trail maintenance standards and trail use regulations.</li> <li>• Prepare and release an official map of County multi-use trails for all users.</li> <li>• Design and develop a new countywide uniform trail signage program that provides identification, by creating an overall branding to unify DPR's signs, along with directional and regulatory information.</li> </ul>	Parks and Recreation Element: Goal P/R 4	Lead: DPR Partner: DRP	Years 1-2
P/R-3	<p><b>Parks Sustainability Program</b></p>	Parks and Recreation Element: Goal P/R 6	Lead: DPR	Years 3-5

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	<p>Implement the County's Energy and Environmental Policy at County parks, including the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification (or other equivalent energy certified ratings) for all new buildings of 10,000 square feet, which is the County's Board-approved policy. DPR will also pursue LEED-EB (Existing Buildings) certification for certain existing buildings on park properties by addressing whole building cleaning and maintenance issues (including chemical use), recycling programs, exterior maintenance programs, and systems upgrades.</li> <li>• Energy and Water Efficiency Program: This program seeks to further reduce energy and water consumption at County parks by establishing specific reduction targets and a formal reporting process to measure DPR's progress towards these targets. Recommended initiatives include the implementation of conservation monitoring practices, and energy and water efficiency projects in existing County parks.</li> <li>• Environmental Stewardship Program: Aims to reduce DPR's environmental footprint including, among other impacts, air pollutants that are produced through direct and indirect DPR operations, increase the use of environmentally-friendly products, and expand its recycling, composting, and mulching programs.</li> <li>• Sustainable Design Program: Provides for the integration of sustainable, green building technologies into the designs of park improvement and refurbishment projects, seeks to extend the life cycle or useful life of buildings on County parks, and maximize energy and water use efficiency.</li> </ul> <p>Establish and implement guidelines for the operation, design, and development of existing and new park facilities that will meet the needs of communities, while minimizing impacts to the natural environment. The guidelines will address a variety of issues, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systems design that promotes efficient use of water and energy;</li> <li>• Landscape design that uses drought-tolerant plants and native plants, where appropriate;</li> <li>• The use of construction material with recycled content;</li> <li>• The reduction of waste during construction and occupancy;</li> <li>• The use of construction materials with reduced or no release of harmful gases;</li> </ul>		<p>Partner: ISD</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building design and operation which promote indoor air quality and users' comfort level and productivity;</li> <li>• The installation of efficient plumbing fixtures to reduce potable water use and lower production of waste water; and</li> <li>• The purchase of sustainable cleaning materials and building maintenance products.</li> </ul>			
N-1	<p><b>Countywide Noise Assessment Survey/County Noise Ordinance Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify major sources of noise and noise issues in the County (Countywide Assessment Survey)</li> <li>• Revise the County's Noise Ordinance, update the vibration standard.</li> </ul>	Noise Element: Goal N 1	Lead: DPH Partner: DRP, DPW	Years 1-2
N-2	<p><b>Countywide Noise Mapping</b></p> <p>If determined to be feasible, prepare a map of detailed noise contours and associated land uses within the County.</p>	Noise Element: Goal N 1	Lead: DPH Partner: DRP	Years 6-10
N-3	<p><b>Noise Abatement Program</b></p> <p>Create guidelines to mitigate noise issues in development projects and at a countywide level.</p> <p>Plan transportation/parking features to have minimal noise impacts to natural resources.</p>	Noise Element: Goal N 1	Lead: DPH Partner: DRP	Years 6-10
S-1	<p><b>Mass Debris Management Plan Implementation and Update</b></p> <p>Update the Mass Debris Management Plan based on organizational changes, new policies and guidance, and lessons learned from actual debris events to address the mass removal of debris that resulted from major disasters.</p>	Safety Element: Goal S 7	Lead: PW and OEM Partner: CEO	Years 3-5 Ongoing
S-2	<p><b>At-Risk Properties Hazard Fund and Strategies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify at-risk properties in hazard areas, such as those on FEMA's repetitive loss properties list.</li> <li>• Research available funding sources to retrofit existing structures that are located in hazard areas.</li> </ul>	Safety Element: Goals S 1, S 3, S 4	Lead: PW Partner: CEO, DRP, DPH	Years 6-10
S-3	<p><b>Floodplain Management Plan Implementation and Update</b></p>	Safety Element: Goal S 3	Lead: PW	Ongoing

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute and advocate the County’s Floodplain Management Plan, which focuses on flood hazard information and mitigation strategies for repetitive loss properties and properties in severe flood hazard areas in the County’s unincorporated areas.</li> <li>Update the Floodplain Management Plan and the Repetitive Loss Area Analysis on their five-year cycle to address any additional or reduction of repetitive loss properties and properties in severe flood hazard areas.</li> </ul>			
S-4	<p><b>Climate-Adapted Landscape Program</b></p> <p>Develop model landscape design strategies for development projects that specify climate-adapted plants to appropriately address hazards while also supporting local biodiversity.</p>	Safety Element: Goal S 2, S 4, S 5	Lead: DRP Partner: PW, Fire	Years 3-5
S-5	<p><b>Community Capacity and Resilience Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an education campaign to engage communities on actions and resources for adapting and increasing resilience to climate impacts.</li> <li>Collaborate with community-based organizations on strategies best suited for communities in areas with high vulnerability to climate impacts by supplying easily distributable information in a range of media platforms.</li> <li>Develop a resource prioritization plan for funding allocation to frontline communities containing socially vulnerable populations as identified in the Los Angeles County Climate Vulnerability Assessment.</li> </ul>	Safety Element: Goal S 2, S 3, S 4, S 5	Lead: DRP Partner: CEO, PW, DPH	Ongoing

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S-6	<p><b>Shaded Corridors Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify corridors, particularly pedestrian pathways and bikeways that connect transit stations to nearby residential areas and public spaces, in extreme heat hazard overlay zones with the greatest need for shade.</li> <li>Incorporate features, such as galleries, arcades, pergolas, awnings, and/or tree allées into development guidelines, where feasible and in compliance with fire regulations.</li> <li>Coordinate with Public Works' Green Street Master Plan, which incorporates design strategies to mitigate climate change impacts.</li> <li>Prioritize shading of pathways in disadvantaged communities in areas with high vulnerability to extreme heat.</li> </ul>	Safety Element: Goal S 2, S 5	Lead: DRP Partner: PW	Ongoing
S-7	<p><b>Oil and Gas Operation Strategy</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an ordinance that reflects best practices and current mitigation methods, minimize environmental impacts, and protect sensitive uses and populations.</li> <li>Conduct an amortization study of oil and gas drill sites in unincorporated Los Angeles County to determine the most accelerated phase out period and recommendations to guide a phase-out process.</li> <li>Develop a framework for an Oil Well Cleanup Pilot Program to plug and abandon idle oil wells, improve environmental conditions for affected communities and maximize local, high-road jobs.</li> </ol>	Safety Element: Goal S 6	Lead: DRP Partner: DPH, PW	Years 1-3
S-8	<p><b>OurCounty Sustainability Plan</b></p> <p>Implement the hazard and climate-impact related actions identified in the OurCounty Sustainability Plan. Programs include an urban forest management plan, heat island reduction plan, and resilient integrated water system.</p>	Safety Element: Goal S 2	Lead: CEO, DPH, DRP, ISD, PW DPR, Fire, OEM,	Ongoing

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S-9	<p><b>Reduce Damage from Wildfire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amend Title 21 with development standards that could reduce the risk of personal injury or property damage in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZs).</li> <li>Amend Title 22 to support the proposed changes in Title 21, and to further reduce the risks of personal injury and property damage in VHFHSZs.</li> </ul>	Safety Element: Goal S 4	Lead: DRP Partner: Fire	Years 1-3
PS/F-1	<p><b>Planning Area Capital Improvement Plans</b></p> <p>DRP and DPW to jointly secure sources of funding and set priorities for preparing studies to assess infrastructure needs for the 11 Planning Areas.</p> <p>Once funding has been secured and priorities have been set, prepare a Capital Improvement Plan for each of the 11 Planning Areas (see also Planning Areas Framework Program). Each Capital Improvement Plan shall include the following as needed: Sewer Capacity Study; Transportation System Capacity Study; Waste Management Study; Stormwater System Study; Public Water System Study; list of necessary infrastructure improvements; Implementation Program; and Financing Plan.</p> <p>As applicable, studies related to water, sewer, traffic and stormwater management should specifically address the needs of the unincorporated legacy communities identified in the Land Use Element.</p>	<p>Mobility Element: Goal M 3</p> <p>Public Services and Facilities Element: Goal PS/F 1</p> <p>Economic Development Element: Policy ED 3.1</p>	Leads: DPW and DRP	Years 1-2
PS/F-2	<p><b>Water Conservation Ordinance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continually review and update the County’s water conservation ordinance with appropriate enforcement procedures, such as instituting a water conservation hotline and other measures.</li> </ul>	Public Services and Facilities Element: Goals PS/F 2, PS/F 3	Lead: DPH	Years 1-2
PS/F-3	<p><b>Agricultural Water Conservation Program</b></p> <p>Study the feasibility of creating an agricultural water conservation program, which will increase crop water use efficiency, and reduce water use through conservation and technological advancement in water management.</p>	Public Services and Facilities Element: Goals PS/F 2, PS/F 3	Lead: DRP Partner: Agricultural Commissioner	Years 6-10

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<p>ED-1</p>	<p><b>Economic Development Incentives Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop business incentives for infill development, brownfield remediation, and alternative energy production.</li> <li>• Identify federal, state, and local resources to create economic and regulatory incentives in order to attract targeted industries and to promote sustainable development policies.</li> <li>• Create incentives and programs, and seek and apply for grant funding to rehabilitate and upgrade commercial and industrial districts.</li> <li>• Expand and renew the County’s incentive zones and districts to better address the need for economic development throughout the County’s industrial and commercial areas.</li> <li>• Incentivize services and employment opportunities to revitalize economically distressed areas.</li> </ul>	<p>Economic Development Element: Policies ED 1.3, 1.4, 1.7, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.3, 4.8</p>	<p>Lead: CDC Partner: DRP, CEO, LAEDC</p>	<p>Years 1-2</p>
<p>ED-2</p>	<p><b>Economic Development Outreach and Coordination Initiative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect information and develop a benchmarking mechanism on economic and business trends and conditions, in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), real estate professionals, site locator service providers, and economic development professionals. Determine needs and respond to changes using this information.</li> <li>• Create a web site and related materials that guide developers and the business community through the County planning and permitting process, include information on policies that facilitate infill development and smart growth, and regularly update a site inventory of public land that is available for economic investment and redevelopment opportunities.</li> <li>• Develop sector strategies that emphasize the sustainability of sector-based training initiatives in targeted high growth industries, in conjunction with Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Boards, LAEDC, the state Employment Development Department, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles Community College District, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, and other partners. Inventory existing workforce development programs throughout the County and promote them via the County, Workforce Investment Board, LAEDC, local government, community-based organization and other web sites.</li> </ul>	<p>Economic Development Element: Policies ED 1.3, 1.4, 1.9, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, 5.11, 5.12, 5.13, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3</p>	<p>Lead: CDC Partners: CEO, DRP, LAEDC</p>	<p>Years 6-10</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead the implementation of coordinated “one-stop” centers (America’s Job Centers of California) that integrate state EDD programs and other county services, while leveraging varied partners to provide a seamless and diversified experience for job-seekers.</li> <li>• Utilize Sector Intermediaries to ensure the County’s workforce services meet the needs of employers in high-growth industry sectors, thereby increasing the number of job-seekers placed into new and living wage occupations and careers.</li> <li>• Support in-school County youth by expanding the number who complete introductory STEM curricula (science, technology, engineering and math) and participate in the Summer Youth Employment Program, while ensuring out-of-school youth receive comprehensive services through AJCCs.</li> <li>• Participate in regional collaborative efforts around economic development between business and universities, colleges, and private training institutes and service providers.</li> <li>• Develop a promotional campaign that targets foreign-owned enterprises in specific industries in order to attract them to establish operations in Los Angeles County. Collaborate with entities, such as the World Trade Association.</li> </ul>			
ED-3	<p><b>Economic Development Land Use Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an economic development land use strategy that does the following:</li> <li>• Ensure that the unincorporated areas is competitive for business establishment and expansion, by identifying and addressing regulatory barriers.</li> <li>• Make the planning and entitlement process for economic development activities timely, accountable, customer-driven, and predictable.</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to relocate current residential uses, where feasible, that are surrounded by industrial uses in Employment Protection Districts.</li> <li>• Consider amendments to Title 22 to add development standards to buffer residential and industrial uses.</li> <li>• In key industrial areas, consider the allowance of flexibility in land uses and permitting requirements as a way to incentivize redevelopment of these areas, and establish clear guidelines for development to ensure compatibility.</li> </ul>	<p>Land Use Element: Policy 5.9, 5.10, 6.2</p> <p>Economic Development Element: Policy ED 1.5, 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.8</p>	<p>Lead: DRP Partner: CDC, CEO, LAEDC</p>	<p>Years 1-2</p>

