

## Heritage Park

Heritage Park is a beautifully landscaped six-acre reconstructed ranch estate from the late 1800's. The Plant Conservatory building houses many plants and provides a backdrop for wedding ceremonies.

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

# CHAPTER 7

## CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

The Framework.....	COS-1
Open Space for Outdoor Recreation - Parks and Recreation Services.....	COS-2
Open Space for Natural Resource Protection.....	COS-8
Open Space for Managed Production of Resources .....	COS-11
Natural Resource Conservation.....	COS-12
Energy Conservation and Air Quality Improvements .....	COS-13
Goals and Policies .....	COS-15



**Re-Imagine**  
**Santa Fe Springs**

2040 GENERAL PLAN



### Santa Fe Springs Open Spaces

Santa Fe Springs' neighborhoods consist of tree-lined streets that contribute to the city's urban forest, open spaces for outdoor recreational opportunities.



## CHAPTER 6: CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE

### The Framework

The “springs” in Santa Fe Springs refers to a sulfur hot spring discovered in the 1870s amid the agricultural and ranch lands that covered the region. An enterprising landowner, J.E. Fulton, developed a sanitarium at the springs site where people suffering from tuberculosis, and other maladies, could benefit from the mineral springs and enjoy the amenities of Fulton’s facility, including reading rooms, bath houses, and hot and cold running sulfur water in every room.

The presence of the springs indicated another resource that would draw people to the little town: oil. Following the first successful oil well drilling in 1921, major oil companies and speculators descended upon Santa Fe Springs, extracting hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil daily in those early years. And while petroleum industry activities have significantly diminished and Santa Fe Springs has grown to become a city of almost 20,000 residents with a diverse industrial economy, its foundations as a community with unique natural resources are evident in the still-pumping oil wells tucked in among buildings and the celebration of the city’s history at Heritage Park.

Natural resources, open spaces, and cultural touchstones provide richness in a community. In Santa Fe Springs, residents enjoy 80.3 acres of parklands and other open spaces. While the community is fully urbanized with no natural open spaces, within a 15-minute drive, residents can get to trailheads in the Puente Hills or wide-open natural areas at Whittier Narrows.

This Open Space and Conservation Element addresses preservation and enhancement of the open spaces important to local community life, and the careful conservation of natural resources that contribute to a quality living environment.

Under California General Plan law, the term “open space” applies to a broad range of open space-related uses, but this element is only required to address those germane to Santa Fe Springs. With regard to conservation, planning policies and actions target:

- Energy-producing resources (oil, solar) and energy conservation
- Air quality improvements, including reductions in methane gas emissions

### Open Spaces Relevant to Santa Fe Springs



#### Open spaces for outdoor recreation:

parks, cultural landmarks, trails, publicly owned corridors such as utility easements



#### Open spaces for natural resource preservation and conservation:

groundwater, creeks and drainage channels, and urban forest



#### Open spaces for the managed production of resources:

oil extraction



## Open Spaces for Outdoor Recreation – Parks and Recreation Services

The City's Community Services Department, Parks and Recreation Services Division manage the many local park facilities, runs extensive recreation programs, and cultivates community health through a community garden. Residents of all ages participate in the programs and community events that many cite as a great reason to live in Santa Fe Springs.

In maintaining existing parks and recreation facilities and providing new amenities, the City applies the philosophy that those spaces must be:

- **Smart:** Sustainable, durable, and distinctive
- **Multipurpose:** Combining complementary uses and purposes
- **Ecological:** Open spaces and buildings that contribute to the urban ecosystem and do not harm water, soil, light, and air such
- **Universal:** Inclusive, barrier-free spaces and programming for people of varying abilities and vulnerable populations in environmental justice communities

## Context for Parks Planning

Within the city limits, parkland and open spaces encompass about 80.3 acres, or just over two percent of all land area. (Within the overall Planning Area, parks also represent about two percent of the land area.) In 2021, with a population of 18,295, Santa Fe Springs had a ratio of 4.4 park acres per 1,000 residents, a number most parks planners would consider quite healthy. (See Table COS-1 for parks descriptions and the General Plan Existing Conditions Technical Report for full descriptions of park and recreation resources.) However, urbanization has all but eliminated natural open spaces and vacant properties for new parks, and with Santa Fe Springs anticipating almost 30,000 residents at build-out (2040), attention will be directed toward strategies to create innovative recreation and public gathering spaces. In particular, opportunities for new park and recreation facilities will need to be explored around the planned transit-oriented developments on Washington Boulevard and Imperial Highway.

Also, all Santa Fe Springs residents should be able to easily access at least one existing or planned park, with a standard metric being living within a 10-minute walk from one's home. In Santa Fe Springs, walking can be a challenge with the volumes of heavy truck traffic; thus, that 10-minute walk might be encouraged, such as sidewalks that are setback from the curb, especially



Los Nietos Park playground



**Table COS - 1: Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Facility	Type	Acres	Amenities
<b>Santa Fe Springs Recreation Facilities</b>			
<b>City Parks</b>			
Los Nietos Park	Park	11.0	Athletic fields (baseball/softball), basketball courts, children's playgrounds, equipment for use, handball/racquetball, horseshoe pits, lighted facilities, picnic areas with bbq grills, restrooms, tennis courts, wading pool, child care center
Santa Fe Springs Park	Park	10.8	Athletic fields (baseball/softball), basketball courts, children's play area (playgrounds), equipment for use, handball/racquetball, horseshoe pits, picnic areas with bbq grills, available for rent, playing fields, restrooms, wading pool, parking lot
Santa Fe Springs Athletic Fields	Park	7.0	Athletic fields (baseball/softball), playing fields, playground
Little Lake Park	Park	19.8	Athletic fields (baseball/softball), basketball courts, equipment for use, formal picnic areas, playing fields, children's play area (playgrounds), horseshoe pits, lighted facilities, picnic areas with bbq grills, sheltered picnic area available for rent, wading pool, parking lot
Lake Center Athletic Park	Park	4.5	Baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, play fields, playgrounds, picnic areas
Lakeview Park	Park	6.7	Athletic fields, basketball courts, playground, handball/racquetball, picnic areas with BBQ grills, restrooms, wading pool
<b>Parkettes</b>			
Bradwell Avenue Parkette	Parkette	0.2	Playground, turf area, and benches
Davenrich Street Parkette	Parkette	0.1	Playground, turf area, and benches
Longworth Avenue Parkette	Parkette	0.2	Playground, turf area, and benches
<b>Other City Recreational Facilities</b>			
Clark Estate	Historical Site and Events Center	6.0	Historic building, rental facilities
Friendship Park	Passive Green Space	0.2	Monument and passive space
Heritage Park	Historical Site and Passive Green Space	7.5	Carriage Barn Museum, Tankhouse Windmill Building, Plant Conservatory, special event rentals, picnic areas with BBQ grills, restrooms, parking lot, walking trail, railroad exhibit with vintage steamboat locomotive, an aviary
Santa Fe Springs Aquatics Center	Aquatics Facility	2.3	Outdoor swimming pools
Santa Fe Springs Community Garden	Community Garden	2.0	Gardening parcels for rent, equipment for use, picnic area
Soaring Dreams Plaza	Passive Green Space	2.0	Bronze statues, open lawn, and benches
<b>Santa Fe Springs (City) Total</b>		<b>80.3</b>	



Facility	Type	Acres	Amenities
<b>Other Recreation Facilities - Sphere of Influence (SOI)</b>			
Amelia Mayberry Park	Los Angeles County Park	14.4	Athletic fields (baseball/softball), basketball courts, senior center, barbecues, playgrounds, community gardens, fitness par courses, fitness zones, formal picnic areas, picnic tables, splash pads
<b>Other Recreation Facilities (SOI) Total</b>		<b>14.4</b>	



*Los Nietos Park is very accessible to the surrounding neighborhood*

along major arterials, to create more comfortable walking routes. Figure COS-1 identifies park locations and those existing and planned residential neighborhoods that are not within a 10-minute walk from a park.

Linkages might be provided along abandoned rail rights-of-way. Candidates include: 1) the La Habra Spur, a branch of the AT&SF line parallel to Florence Avenue and 2) the Whittier Branch of the Pacific Electric Railway, which has segments one block from the Whittier Greenway Trail. The La Habra Spur routes to South Whittier and over La Canada Creek, a tributary of Coyote Creek. The City is part of the planning group that adopted the Coyote Creek Watershed Management Plan in 2005. Core activities of that plan include new passive parks, habitat restoration, creek daylighting, and greenway access opportunities.

Within the Sphere of Influence, residents do not have such easy park access; nearly 80 percent of them do not live within one-half mile of a park. Notably, these neighborhoods have been identified as Disadvantaged

Neighborhoods, where residents have lower incomes and greater health challenges. Improved park access and facilities represent one step toward improving conditions.

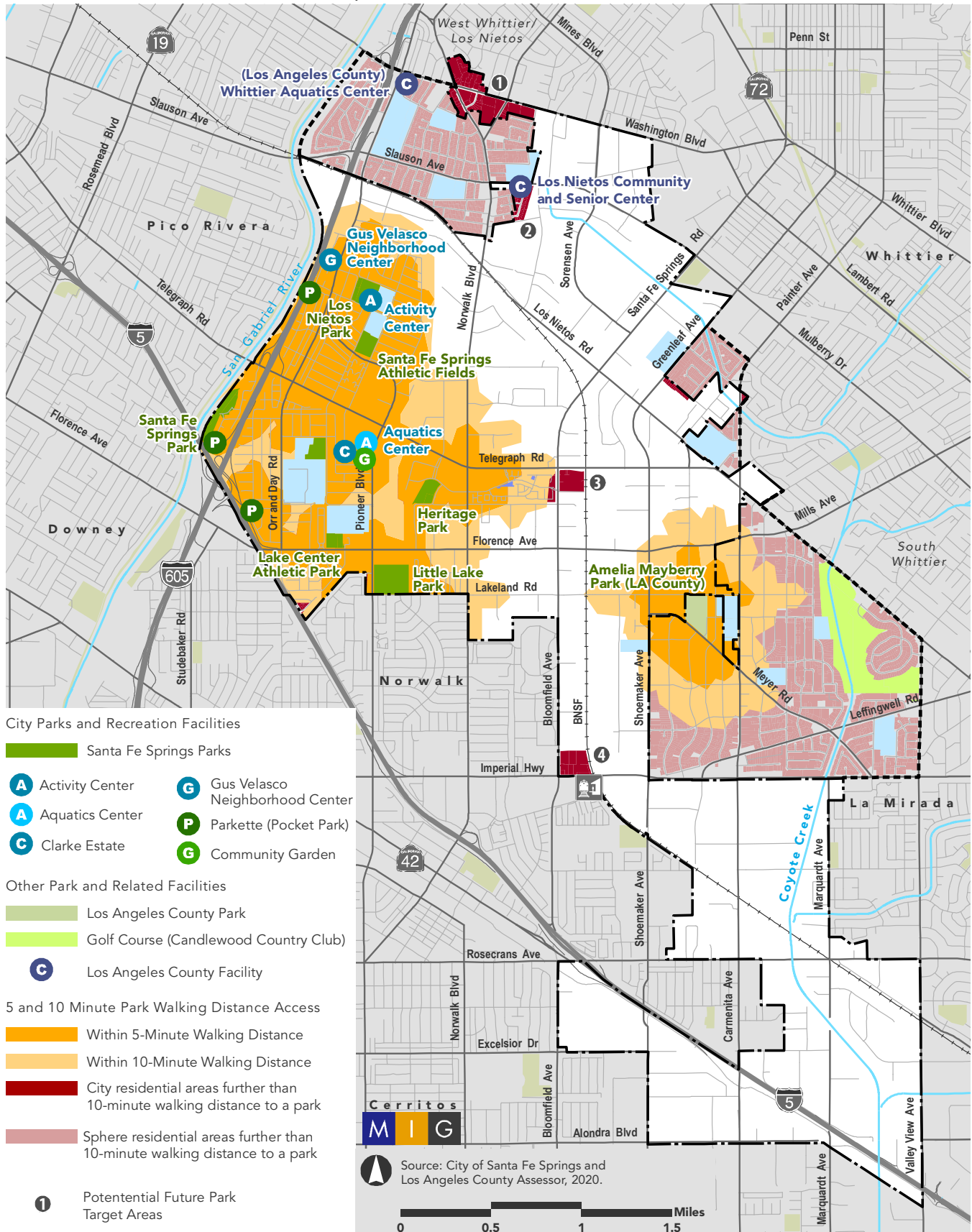
Key strategies the City has employed to increase park and recreation access—which benefit all residents within the Planning Area—include joint-use agreements with local school districts, Los Angeles County, and the cities of Whittier and Norwalk. When people visit parks, they often prefer those closest to their homes; city boundaries mean nothing. Thus, sharing maintenance costs among jurisdictions allows parks to best serve everyone.

Green park spaces are not the only places community members gather for leisure time. Recreation centers and event spaces in Santa Fe Springs are booked almost every weekend for public and private events. City residents enjoy family and friend time and make good use of City-owned and private facilities. Demand for such spaces can be expected to grow as the Santa Fe Springs resident population grows.

Figure COS-1: Parks and Recreation



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## Trails

While Santa Fe Springs does not have any natural areas with trails, residents can easily access three trailheads to the San Gabriel River Bike Trail via Telegraph Road and Davenrich Street. The bike path along Coyote Creek, which begins in the city, also provides off-road cycling opportunity. Creating comfortable street environments that connect to the trailheads from all neighborhoods is part of the City's active transportation strategy.

## Funding and Financing

A parks master plan will ensure a more refined assessment of future needs and project prioritizations—and will set the City up to best qualify for grants. County and State grants can be bolstered through partnerships with schools, utility providers, and public transportation agencies such as Caltrans, Metro, and Metrolink. New development will be required to fund new park facilities in underserved neighborhoods.

## Recreation Programming

The City's Parks and Recreation Services Division offers a wide range of park and recreation programs for community members of all age groups, including community events, aquatics programs, and active, artistic,

and educational classes. The City hosts free and low-cost events year round and promotes them across multiple communications channels. Commitment to these programs remains high, as the programs encourage residents to engage in healthful exercise, advance their education, explore their creative selves, and overall, be active participants in community life.

## Unique Open Spaces and Sites

Santa Fe Springs' history dating from the first settlement by persons of European heritage is well preserved and presented in the Clarke Estate and Heritage Park facilities. First developed as a rancho during the early Spanish land grants, the Santa Fe Springs area attracted people first for the sulfur springs and then oil. One of the earliest grand homes in the growing community was built in 1919 for Chauncy and Marie Rankin Clarke by famed architect Irving Gill. The home remained in the Clarke family until 1986, when it was purchased by the City and extensively renovated. The City now rents out the estate for weddings, receptions, and other events.

At Heritage Park, the City has preserved and recreated reminders of earlier eras: the 1880s Victorian ranch



*San Gabriel River Trail is accessible to Santa Fe Springs residents via three trailheads*





estate of a Mr. Hawkins and the adobe home of Patricio Ontiveros, a resident in the 1700s. Using old photographs, the City rebuilt the Hawkins carriage barn. The cobblestone foundation of the adobe home can be seen in the park as well. These unique open spaces educate, provide places to wander, and provide public event facilities.

Three cemeteries, Paradise Memorial Park, Little Lake Cemetery, and Olive Grove (Old German Church) also represent unique open spaces for cultural and historic reasons. Little Lake Cemetery (6.83 acres), on Lakeland Road, started receiving burials in 1872 and is governed by the Little Lake Cemetery District serving the residents of Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk and portions of La Mirada, Bellflower, and Downey. Olive Grove Cemetery (0.51 acres) on Painter Avenue is associated with congregants of the Old German Baptist Brethren established in 1893. It is now gated, but still publicly accessible with no known caretakers. Paradise Memorial Park (9.63 acres), on Florence Avenue, has a history of poor management. These cemeteries, which generally are at capacity, provide opportunities for historical and genealogical research, as well as quiet places to sit and reflect.

## Art in Public Places

The City's Community Services Department also manages the Heritage Art in Public Places Program, the purposes of which is to:

- Provide a collection of nationally recognized permanent and temporary artwork throughout the city to be of public benefit. The program is designed to expand the opportunities for residents and visitors to experience artistic, historic, and cultural aspects of Santa Fe Springs through the placement of artwork in public places that may feature but is not limited to the historic periods of Native American, Spanish, Mexican, Turn of the Century Ranching, and Industrial/Modern; and
- Generate funding to support a range of artistic and cultural activities and venues that may include, but are not limited to, youth-oriented public art events, live theatre, music and dance festivals, museum activities, arts education, and facilities that support the creation, performance, and exhibition of art.

Access to art in the outdoor environment encourages residents and local employees to get outside. For example, at the Soaring Dreams Plaza within the Town Center, visitors can use the space to enjoy the art and use the plaza for picnicking and exercising. The plaza has been adapted for universal access in light of the City's commitment to universal design.



*A sculpture of a family provides a picturesque scenery amongst the landscaping at the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center*



## Open Spaces for Natural Resource Preservation

### Surface Water and Groundwater Resources

Santa Fe Springs borders the east bank of the San Gabriel River. As part of a large-scale engineering enterprise to provide flood protection throughout Los Angeles County, the San Gabriel River was channelized and spreading basins established both to control devastating floods and create opportunities to recharge groundwater supplies in the growing region.

The river connects Santa Fe Springs to the wider ecosystem of the San Gabriel River Watershed. Coyote Creek is the largest tributary of the San Gabriel River, with headwaters that originate in Puente Hills and Coyote Hills and run in a concrete channel along the city's eastern boundary. Surface waters that originate in the San Gabriel Mountains recharge the Central Basin beneath the city; these are the primary source of its domestic water supply. (Other water agencies that serve small portions of the city and sphere areas obtain water from other basins and more distant sources provided by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.)

Regional and multi-jurisdictional planning has guided the health of the watershed and its recreational potential. Common priorities include restoration of riparian habitats, recreational trails, watershed management, and inter-agency coordination. No natural portions of the water system remain in Santa Fe Springs.

The City has limited opportunity to restore natural areas along the San Gabriel River. However, local efforts to increase groundwater recharge through low-impact development practices can contribute to the overall health of the system by increasing water supplies that feed nearby and downstream natural communities and by minimizing pollutant loads in urban runoff that finds its way downstream.

Low-impact development practices can include, but not limited to bioswales, green parking lots, permeable surfaces, rain gardens, and small vegetated retention basins.



Coyote Creek drainage channel



**Bioswales.** Bioswales are vegetated, shallow, landscaped depressions designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater runoff as it moves downstream. Bioswales use plants to capture sediment, reduce the velocity and volume of stormwater runoff, and biologically degrade pollutants, especially those from vehicles, including brake pads dust, tire dust, antifreeze, motor oil, and other particles.



**Green Parking Lots.** Green parking lots often reduce or eliminate curbing and include extensive landscaping which treats runoff and improves the appearance of the parking lot while also improving water quality by filtering and removing pollutants from stormwater. Green parking lots also include shade trees and permeable surfaces.



**Permeable Pavements.** Permeable pavements have spaces for air and water to pass through; the spaces allow water to infiltrate into the ground, thus reducing water runoff. Permeable pavements also have cooling properties due to evaporation and reduced heat storage. Permeable pavements are appropriate for sidewalks, parking lots, alleys, and streets.



**Rain Gardens/Small, Vegetated Retention Basins.** Rain gardens/small vegetated retention basins are landscaped areas that are designed to survive extremes in precipitation, and help retain or reduce stormwater runoff through infiltration or storage. The landscaping areas are often small and placed strategically in areas where stormwater currently overwhelms drainage capacity. Ideal locations include areas around Coyote Creek, the San Gabriel River, and industrial properties with large asphalt surfaces.





## Urban Forestry

Trees cool their surroundings with their shade. They provide homes for birds and bear fruit. They clean the air and in urban environments, connect populations to the natural world. The author Matt Haig has said, “Finland is officially the world’s happiest country. It is also 75 percent forest. I believe these facts are related.”

In 1965, Santa Fe Springs adopted its first Tree Master Plan for the protection, preservation, planting, and regulating the removal of trees. The Public Works Department oversees programs relating to trees on public property and promotes tree planting on private properties in partnership with public and private pro-tree organizations. With the high volumes of truck traffic on major arterial roadways, tree selection and maintenance require focused effort. During preparation of this General Plan, community members expressed strong support for City programs that encourage street tree preservation and new tree planting and maintenance practices that preserve the beauty and function of trees on public property to create an urban forest and maximize shade coverage.

The City recognizes that trees need long-term management and maintenance, and as the climate gets warmer, trees may struggle. The General Plan will pursue innovative funding mechanisms to ensure long-term tree survival through tree management and proactive adaptation measures, such as planting more climate adaptive trees.

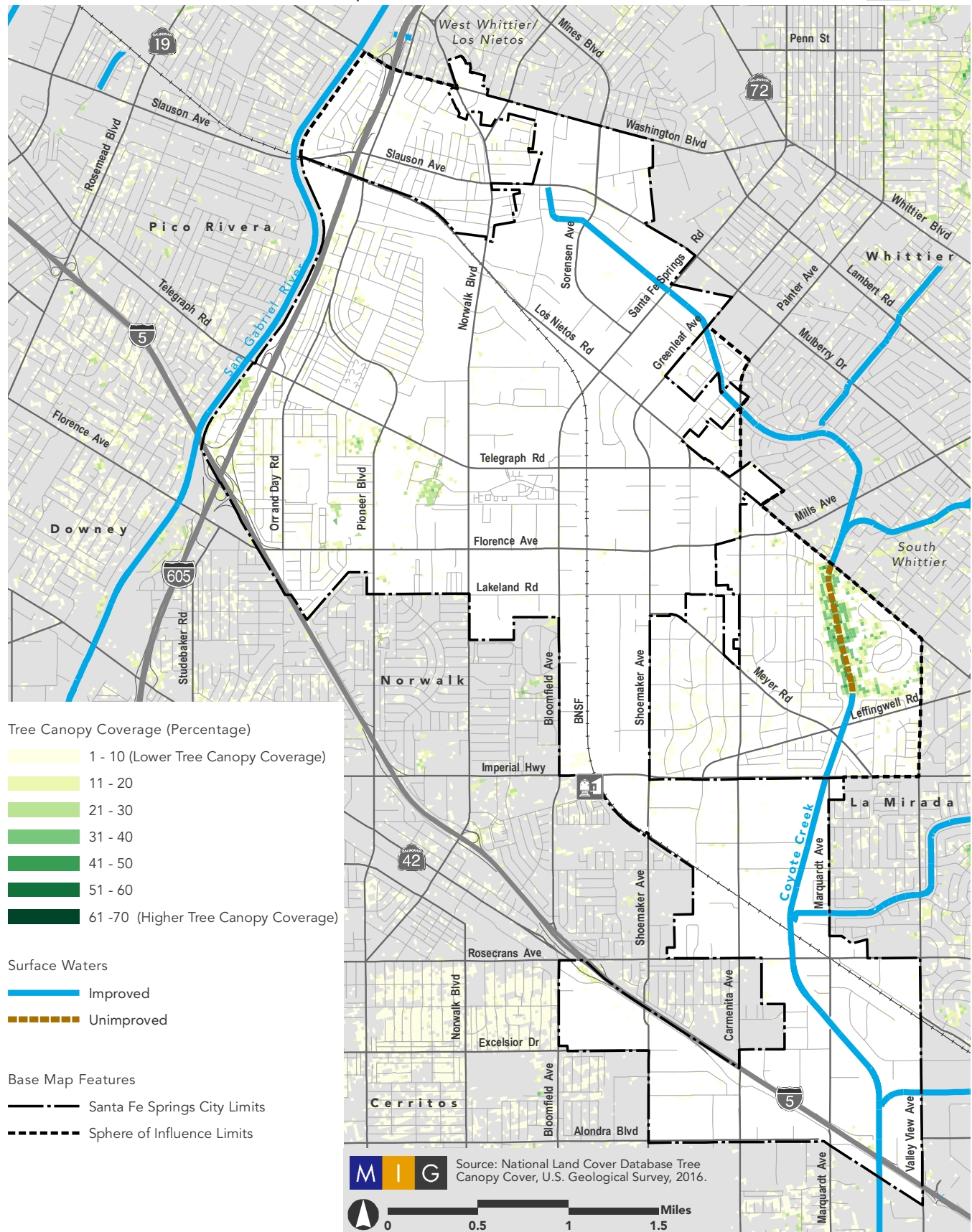


*Mature Londonplane trees line the neighborhoods near Santa Fe Springs Park*

Figure COS-2: Natural Resources



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## Open Spaces for Managed Production of Resources

In the past, petroleum and natural gas from the Santa Fe Springs oil field represented a major regional source of petroleum products, from gas for vehicles to components of consumer and industrial goods. While the field's production has declined, substantial production still comes from the 200 or so wells centered around Telegraph Road and Santa Fe Springs Road and scattered throughout neighborhoods and districts citywide.

In the Los Angeles Basin, an estimate 1.4 and 5.6 billion barrels of oil remain to be recovered, although new technologies could prolong productivity. The Santa Fe Springs Oil Field constitutes approximately 5.5 to 6.7 percent of that recoverable oil, according to the 2013 assessment from a team of scientists at the United States Geologic Survey.

The City regulates extraction and processing activities through local zoning and land use regulations to mitigate impacts from surface operations on surrounding properties. However, all subsurface oil and gas activities, including well stimulation techniques such as hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"), are the exclusive jurisdiction of California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division. The future of oil production in the city will depend upon continued technological improvements that further mitigate adverse environmental impacts of oil production and use, consumer trends regarding transition to electric vehicles, development of new uses for petroleum products, and general public attitudes about fossil fuel use.



*Oil derrick pumps continue to pull oil from underground wells up to the surface within the Santa Fe Springs oil field.*



## Natural Resource Conservation

### Water Supply

Local and regional groundwater basins from which the City and private water companies obtain their water supplies largely are adjudicated basins, meaning that withdrawal limits apply to each user. Within the Central Basin, from which the City's Water Utility Authority extracts water, the condition of underlying groundwater quality due to prior industrial discharges has limited the City's ability to withdraw from the basin; instead, the Water Utility Authority relies on imported water, as do, to some extent, the private water companies serving properties along the city margins. Regional efforts to control contaminated plumes will improve water supply and quality not just in Santa Fe Springs but for all basin users.

As required by law, the Water Utility Authority prepares an Urban Water Management Plan on a regular basis to define how projected water demands will be met under various scenarios, including increasingly common drought conditions. The City's Urban Water Management Plan does not indicate water shortage for any of the years up to 2040. During water shortage emergencies, the City will implement its Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which can impose up to a 50 percent mandatory reduction in water use. For catastrophic water shortages (drought, failures of transmission facilities, a regional power outage, earthquake, flooding, supply contamination from chemical spills, or other adverse conditions), the Emergency Response Plan identifies actions that will be taken to restore power, clean drinking water, or connect to other water sources.

To optimize groundwater supplies for potable uses, the City takes advantage of recycled water from wastewater treatment plants operated by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. Recycled water distributed within the City's service area is used by industry (carpet manufacturing, cooling towers, and concrete mixing) and for irrigation at City parks (Heritage Park, Lake Center Park, Lakeview Park, Little Lake Park, and Los Nietos Park), athletic fields, schools, roadway medians, and business park landscaping. Caltrans uses the water to irrigate landscaping along its freeways and highways.

The City continues to retrofit landscape irrigation systems to use recycled water where available. Since 1992, the City has continued to add pipelines connecting to the Central Basin Metropolitan Water District (CBMWD) distribution system. In 2015, industrial use of recycled water accounted for approximately 40 percent of the City's total recycled water use. As the quality of treated wastewater improves through enhanced processes, it may be percolated into underlying groundwater basins, provided federal and State water quality standards can be achieved upon withdrawal for household use.



*The use of recycled water is critical for sustainable management of long-term water supplies.*



## Energy Conservation and Air Quality Improvements

Since the energy crisis of the 1970s and the Three Mile Island meltdown scare in 1979, Californians have increased their efforts to be more mindful of how they use energy—particularly energy derived from fossil fuel and nuclear power sources. Saving energy accomplishes several goals: it conserves nonrenewable resources, helps people reduce their electricity and natural gas bills, and contributes to reductions in air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. California leads the nation in promulgating programs that provide clean energy sources (solar, wind, and hydroelectric power), reduce harmful air pollutants, and mitigate GHG contributions to climate change.

Many businesses in Santa Fe Springs can be considered power energy users, needing lots of electricity and natural gas for industrial processes and the lighting, air conditioning, and heating of very large buildings. Quite a few buildings with acres of flat roofs have solar power installations that meet those businesses' needs and feed electricity back into the grid. Given its significant industrial base, the City aims to lead in innovative strategies to reduce overall energy use, increase use of clean power sources, and reduce energy-related GHG emissions.

## Building Electrification and Electric Vehicles

Residential and commercial buildings are responsible for roughly 25 percent of California's GHG emissions when accounting for fossil fuels consumed onsite and electricity demand. State building standards are moving more toward building electrification, and some cities in California now prohibit natural gas appliances in new residential units. About 10 percent of GHG emissions are due to the use of natural gas in buildings. The burning of natural gas also emits carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, ultrafine particles, and other toxic air contaminants. By electrifying heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and water heating systems in existing homes, a single-family home can save up to \$750 per year and a unit in a low-rise multifamily building can save up to \$300 per year in energy costs (2021 dollars). Retrofitting existing residential buildings for electric end uses such as cooling and heating has the potential to reduce GHG emissions by about 30 to 60 percent compared to mixed-fuel homes. If that electricity comes from "green" energy sources, additional reductions in pollutant emissions can be achieved.

The City continues the practice of adopting California's Green Building Standards (CALGreen) Code, and the the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards, as they are triennially updated, which includes mandatory



*Solar rooftops on new homes under construction*





measures to support the goals of the State’s GHG reduction program, including increased building electrification.

Many local industrial businesses include trucking-intensive operations. As truck fleets move toward electrification, local infrastructure will need to support quick vehicle recharging. The City is committed to changing codes and project review processes to support this transition. Also, automobile and light truck charging accommodations will be part of new development projects, with potential public/private partnerships at City facilities (parks, City Hall) for recharge stations.

### Air Quality Improvement Initiatives

Economic development has relied on the success of commercial and industrial lands that cover about 79 percent of Santa Fe Springs. The dense network of freight rail lines, arterials, and regional freeways make Santa Fe Springs a desirable location for commerce and industry, particularly for goods movement. Santa Fe Springs’ jobs-housing ratio is almost 11 jobs for every household. Commuters from adjoining jurisdictions have identified Santa Fe Springs, one of the smallest cities in the County, as one of their top three work destinations.

This inflow of workers means lots of commute miles and associated emissions, combined with the high volumes of truck traffic. According to the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, in 2018, the energy and on-road transportation sectors generated 83 percent of all local GHG emissions in Santa Fe Springs, a higher percentage from these sources than in the Gateway Cities region as a whole. Natural gas and fuel for commercial and industrial sources contributed 93 percent of energy emissions.

The City participates as an active member in the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (Gateway Cities COG). The organization has prepared the Gateway Cities COG Air Quality Action Plan to identify strategies to reduce air pollution throughout the region and along the I-710 corridor in particular, given the high volume of port-related truck traffic on this freeway that feeds onto other freeways, such as I-5 and I-605 through Santa Fe Springs. A major effort is to implement the truck electrification strategies described above.

The Gateway Cities COG has also prepared a climate action planning framework (CAP Framework) to help member cities develop their own climate action plans. The City may consider preparing a CAP to implement goals in this General Plan. Strategies for GHG reduction incorporated into the General Plan include:

- Targeting transit-oriented development around the planned L Line light rail station on Washington Boulevard and MetroLink station in Norwalk
- Continuing to implement codified standards for methane gas control mitigation and reductions
- Increased electrification of commercial and truck fleets
- Aggressive solid waste diversion practices and economic development focused on “green” businesses

### Toward Zero Waste

Solid waste generated at a site can directly produce GHG emissions via decomposition or incineration. Trash also generates vehicle-based emissions from trucks required to transport waste from its source to the waste handling facility. Organic waste in landfills emits 20 percent of the State’s methane and small particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). SB 1383 (2016) and prior solid waste legislation mandate organic waste diversion targets, with “zero waste” achieved when diversion reaches 90 percent. A reduction in the mass of municipal solid waste sent to landfills would lower emissions associated with its transport and treatment. This can be achieved by reducing the rate at which waste is generated, or by diverting material away from the landfill via on-site composting, reuse, or recycling operations (although direct and transport-related emissions associated with the alternate fuels must be accounted for too).

In California and throughout the country, waste recycling targets became more difficult to achieve in 2020 with the reluctance of foreign nations to continue accepting U.S. materials. In Santa Fe Springs, the opportunity exists for enterprising businesses to find new ways to both reduce their waste and invent processes that can find new uses for recyclable materials.



## Goals and Policies

The following goals and policies provide guidance in addressing the current and future challenges the City will confront.

To help identify goals and policies that align with the General Plan Guiding Principles, the following symbologies represent each of the Guiding Principles:

- HS** Healthy and Safe Neighborhoods
- ES** Economic Strength and Local Businesses
- D** Downtown
- DE** Diversified Economy
- EJ** Environmental Justice
- CSE** Clean and Sustainable Environment
- ARC** Adaptive and Resilient Community
- EI** Equitable and Inclusionary
- ADT** Active and Diverse Transportation
- T** Technology

## Open Spaces for Outdoor Recreation – Parks and Recreation Services

### GOAL COS-1: A VIBRANT PARK SYSTEM THAT MEETS EVOLVING COMMUNITY NEEDS

#### Policy COS-1.1: Parkland Acreage and Access.



Strive to maintain a parkland to population ratio of at least 4.0 acres per 1,000 residents and park facilities located so every resident lives within a 10-minute walk to a park or other recreation facility.

#### Policy COS-1.2: Use of Unique Property.



Utilize remnant properties along freeways, utility easements, or other corridors for use as recreational amenities or innovative urban open spaces.

#### Policy COS-1.3: Recreational Partnerships.



Promote private/public partnerships in the development of open space and recreational facilities in both private and public projects.

#### Policy COS-1.4: New Parkland.



Require that new multi-unit residential development incorporate common and private open space facilities for its residents.

#### Policy COS-1.5: New Park.



Pursue developing a small urban park north of Los Nietos Road to provide a recreational amenity for this disadvantaged community.

#### Policy COS-1.6: Maintenance.



Ensure that the parks and recreation system is operated, maintained, and renovated to achieve user safety and security, sustainability elements, and user satisfaction.



**Policy COS-1.7: Joint-Use Facilities.** Promote joint use of school district properties to expand parkland facilities.

**Policy COS-1.8: Facility Assessments.** Evaluate and periodically report on the physical conditions and the quality of the City’s recreational and community services and facilities.

**Policy COS-1.9: Park Improvements.** Ensure park revitalization and improvements are designed to meet the evolving needs of the community over time.

**Policy COS-1.10: Funding.** Seek and leverage grant programs and other available funding sources in the planning, development, maintenance, and acquisition of parkland and open spaces.

**Policy COS-1.11: Industrial and Business Outdoor Space.** Encourage businesses to provide outdoor workspace and employee gathering spaces in the work environment that considers employee’s technology needs (e.g., Wi-Fi, outlets, communications, or outdoor screens) and weather functionality.

**GOAL COS-2: DIVERSITY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING**

**Policy COS-2.1: Custom Programming.** Assess the educational, cultural, health and wellness, and social needs of the community on a regular basis, and design recreational and social service programs that promote and support the wellbeing and healthy development of all community members.

**Policy COS-2.2: Special Events and Activities.** Operate and expand citywide special events and activities that are popular with the community.

**Policy COS-2.3: Community Relationships.** Provide recreational and social services in a professional, courteous, and ethical manner to strengthen strong relationships between the City and community.

**Policy COS-2.4: Volunteerism.** Foster volunteerism for staff community programs, particularly targeting teenagers, young adults, and seniors.

**Policy COS-2.5: Health and Wellness.** Design recreational and social service programming and services to form a comprehensive health and wellness program—including services that specifically support healthy physical activities.

**Policy COS-2.6: Low-Income Residents.** Design recreational and social service programming and services that target low-income residents living in disadvantaged communities.

**Policy COS-2.7: Library Services.** Design library services and programming to address changing demographics.

**Policy COS-2.8: Community Gardens.** Expand community gardens program to ensure all who wish to participate can—and in convenient locations.

**Policy COS-2.9: Collaboration.** Collaborate with non-profit groups and community-based service providers and organizations to



strengthen social services and meet community needs.

**Policy COS-2.10: Community Facilities.**



Maintain and improve the quality of established community centers and facilities.

**Arts and Culture**

**GOAL COS-3: CELEBRATION OF THE CITY'S HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND ARTISTIC RICHNESS**

**Policy COS-3.1: Outdoor Art Sculptures.**



Expand the collection of permanent outdoor sculptures citywide through the Heritage Artwork in Public Places Program. Ensure that future artwork additions are appropriate, of superior quality, adequately funded, maintained, placed in unrestrictive settings, and representative of Santa Fe Springs' culture and aesthetic.

**Policy COS-3.2: Visual and Performing Arts.**



Promote and support children's educational programs that highlight the visual and performing arts.

**Policy COS-3.3: Multi-Cultural Venue.**



Consider developing a multicultural museum and center or expand or improve on established facilities.

**Policy COS-3.4: Cultural Diversity.**



Recognize the community's ethnic and cultural diversity through programming, public art, and special events.

**Policy COS-3.5: Art Fest.** Continue to improve and expand the City's annual Art Fest event.



**Open Spaces for Natural Resource Preservation**

**GOAL COS-4: CLEAN SURFACE WATER, DRAINAGES, AND GROUNDWATER**

**Policy COS-4.1: Groundwater Supply**



**Remediation.** Work with appropriate agencies and seek funding as appropriate to clean local groundwater to safe conditions.

**Policy COS-4.2: Contaminated Soils.**



Coordinate with responsible agencies to avoid threats that contaminated soils pose to groundwater quality.

**Policy COS-4.3: Groundwater Contamination.**



Evaluate all proposed non-residential development plans, activities, and uses for their potential to create groundwater contamination hazards from point and non-point sources and confer with other appropriate agencies to assure adequate review.

**Policy COS-4.4: Runoff Pollution**



**Prevention.** Require that new developments incorporate features into site drainage plans that reduce impermeable surface area, increase surface water infiltration, and minimize surface water runoff during storm events. Such features may include additional landscape areas, parking lots with bio-infiltration systems, permeable paving designs, and stormwater detention basins.

**GOAL COS-5: AN EXPANSIVE URBAN FOREST AND RELATED BENEFITS**

**Policy COS-5.1: Native Plants.**



Encourage the use of native and climate-appropriate tree and plant species.



**Policy COS-5.2: Urban Forest.** Create a diverse and healthy urban forest on public and private lands utilizing drought-tolerant, shade trees with non-invasive root systems that are compatible with sidewalks and do not produce excessive debris. Select tree species that are not easily damaged by the high-profile trucks that predominate on the City's roadways.

ARC

**Policy COS-5.3: Tree Canopy.** Expand the urban tree canopy along streets and within expansive parking lots—connecting parks, schools, activity areas, commercial centers, and transit stops—to create comfortable walking conditions.

ARC

**Policy COS-5.4: Green Buffers.** Expand trees and landscaping to build an extensive green buffer between residential neighborhoods and freeways, rail corridors, and industrial zones to help reduce air pollution impacts. Prioritize residential neighborhoods that are designated as disadvantaged communities.

CSE

**Policy COS-5.5: Environmental Benefits.** Expand urban greening to reduce air and noise pollution, reduce and clean urban runoff, increase groundwater recharge, improve ecological diversity, and help cool neighborhoods by minimizing heat island effects.

CSE

**Policy COS-5.6: Bird Nesting.** Protect migratory and native bird nesting sites on trees and landscaping during construction and/or tree removal or trimming, with

CSE

special considerations during bird nesting season and within parkland, easements, or flood control areas along the San Gabriel River and tributaries.

## Open Spaces for the Managed Production of Resources

### GOAL COS-6: OIL EXTRACTION PRACTICES THAT MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL HARM AND COMMUNITY DISRUPTION

**Policy COS-6.1: Consolidation of Pump Locations.** Continue to encourage oil production companies to consolidate pumping operations and relocate pumps away from existing and planned residential uses.

CSE

## Natural Resource Conservation

### GOAL COS-7: REDUCED WATER USE

**Policy COS-7.1: Water-efficiency Programs.** Provide incentives and penalties to businesses and residents to reduce water use over the long term and as part of standard operating practices—not just in short-lived response to drought conditions.

ARC

**Policy COS-7.2: Increased Use of Recycled Water.** Support initiatives of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts to increase availability and use of recycled wastewater.

ARC

### GOAL COS-8: ENERGY-EFFICIENT OPERATIONS AND STRUCTURES

**Policy COS-8.1: Efficiency of Existing Buildings.** Improve energy efficiency of existing and new buildings, such as adding

CSE



energy efficient appliances and fixtures, improvements to windows, reflective shingles, roof and wall insulations, and other green building strategies.

**Policy COS-8.2: Efficiency of City Operations.**



Improve efficiency of municipal operations, public infrastructure, and City facilities and structures.

**Policy COS-8.3: Energy Efficiency Strategies.**



Encourage energy-efficient strategies of all new projects (public and private), including appropriate structure orientation and site design, passive solar approaches, the use of shade trees to maximize cooling, and to reduce fossil fuel consumption for heating and cooling.

**Policy COS-8.4: Renewable Energy Industrial Facilities.**



Promote the use of renewable energy and/or solar energy for large industrial operations on building rooftops or on large properties and support solar-ready buildings for large industrial buildings and warehouses.

**Policy COS-8.5: Zero Net Energy.**



Pursue Zero Net Energy standards for new public facilities, ensuring new buildings produce as much clean renewable energy as it consumes over the course of a year.

**GOAL COS-9: AIR QUALITY CONDITIONS THAT IMPROVE OVER TIME**

**Policy COS-9.1: Land Use and Transportation.**



Allow urban infill and transit-oriented communities within walking distance (10-minute walk or half-mile distance) of

transit stops and stations to reduce vehicle trips and trip lengths.

**Policy COS-9.2: Evaluate Trucking Emissions.**



Support low emission solutions and use of alternative fuels to improve trucking fleet fuel efficiency.

**Policy COS-9.3: Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions.**



Identify the specific activities/uses that the City will undertake to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Policy COS-9.4: Minimize Air Quality Impacts.**



Minimize the air quality impacts of new development projects on established uses and nearby sensitive receptors.

**Policy COS-9.5: Education Programs.**



Partner with regional agencies to establish public education programs that provide information on ways to reduce and control emissions and make clean air choices.

**Policy COS-9.6: Alternative Fuels.**



Prioritize alternative fuel vehicles for City use, and encourage new residential, commercial, and industrial development be equipped with alternative fueling stations.

**Policy COS-9.7: Coordination.**



Provide updated data to the Southern California Association of Governments to assist in updates to the Sustainable Communities Strategies and Regional Transportation Plan.

**Policy COS-9.8: Air Quality and Climate Change Analyses.**



Require detailed air quality and climate change analyses and mitigation



plans for all applications that have the potential to adversely affect air quality.

**Policy COS-9.9: Climate Action Plan.** Consider preparing a climate action plan to outline and prioritize City strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by local businesses, residents, and City operations.

ARC

**GOAL COS-10: SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED SOLID WASTE PRODUCTION**

**Policy COS-10.1: Waste Recycle.** Identify industries and businesses that recycle waste materials for productive reuse, and develop a strategy to bring those businesses to the city as part of a “green” business development strategy.

CSE

**Policy COS-10.2: Reduce Waste Production.** Work with businesses in the city to identify strategies and practices that can reduce waste production.

CSE

**Policy COS-10.3: Waste Reduction Education.** Support educational initiatives that create awareness in the business and residential communities of purchasing practices that can reduce waste production.

CSE

**Historical and Cultural Resources**

**GOAL COS-11: CITY’S HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS ARE PROTECTED, PRESERVED, AND CELEBRATED.**

**Policy COS-11.1: Historical.** Sites of historical or cultural interest should be preserved and where applicable, enhanced.

EI

**Policy COS-11.2: Historic Preservation.** Assess the historical significance of

additional properties over 50 years old and encourage the preservation of public and private buildings which are of local, historical, or cultural importance.

EI

**Policy COS-11.3: Archaeological Resources.**

Assure that all development properly addresses the potential for subsurface archeological deposits by requiring archaeological surveys during the development review process as appropriate.

EI

**Policy COS-11.4: Cultural Resources.**

Review all development and redevelopment proposals for the possibility of including cultural resources, such as the need for individual cultural resource studies and subsurface investigations.

EI

**Policy COS-11.5: Railroad History.** Expand historic preservation and education that focuses on the City’s railroad historic resource and remaining historical artifacts and facilities.

EI

**Policy COS-11.6: Historic District.** Consider evaluating and designating the Civic Center and Heritage Park properties into a Historic District that reflects multiple periods of significance.

EI

**Policy COS-11.7: Promoting Historic Resources.**

Promote and utilize historic and cultural resources in the community, including the Clarke Estate and Heritage Park, as a means of bolstering economic development.

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