

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VISION SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION.....	4
A Special Note on Implementing the Vision	5
LOCATION	6
FEATURES.....	6
SETTING	6
UNIQUE FEATURES.....	6
Box Springs Mountains.....	6
Springbrook Wash	7
UNIQUE COMMUNITIES	7
Highgrove	7
University City.....	7
LAND USE PLAN	7
LAND USE CONCEPT	8
POLICY AREAS	19
HIGHGROVE COMMUNITY POLICY AREA	19
Long-range Issues.....	23
Community Plan Goals.....	25
General Policies	28
Local Land Use Policies	30
<i>Highgrove Town Center.....</i>	<i>32</i>
Open Space and Conservation	39
OTHER POLICY AREAS	40
City of Riverside Sphere of Influence	40
Specific Plans	40
March Joint Air Reserve Base Influence Area	41
LAND USE.....	45
LOCAL LAND USE POLICIES	46
Design Guidelines	46
CIRCULATION	46
LOCAL CIRCULATION POLICIES.....	47
Vehicular Circulation.....	47
Trails and Bikeway System	47
Community Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP) Corridors.....	47
MULTIPURPOSE OPEN SPACE	48
LOCAL OPEN SPACE POLICIES	53
Floodplains and Watercourses.....	53
MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN	53
MSHCP Program Description.....	54
Key Biological Issues.....	54

HAZARDS.....	55
LOCAL HAZARD POLICIES	55
Flooding.....	55
Wildland Fire Hazard	56
Seismic/Liquefaction.....	56
Slope	57

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Highgrove Area Plan Location	9
Figure 2: Highgrove Area Plan Physical Features	11
Figure 3: Highgrove Area Plan Land Use Plan	13
Figure 4: Highgrove Area Plan Overlays and Policy Areas.....	21
<i>Figure 3A: Highgrove Area Plan – Highgrove Town Center Neighborhoods</i>	<i>33</i>
Figure 5: Highgrove Area Plan March Joint Air Reserve Base Airport Influence Area.....	43
Figure 6: Highgrove Area Plan Circulation	49
Figure 7: Highgrove Area Plan Trails and Bikeway System.....	51
Figure 8: Highgrove Area Plan Flood Hazards.....	59
Figure 9: Highgrove Area Plan Wildfire Susceptibility	61
Figure 10: Highgrove Area Plan Seismic Hazards	63
Figure 11: Highgrove Area Plan Steep Slope	65
Figure 12: Highgrove Area Plan Slope Instability.....	67

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1:	Land Use Designations Summary	15
Table 2:	Statistical Summary of Highgrove Area Plan.....	18
Table 3:	Adopted Specific Plans in Highgrove Area Plan	41
Table 4:	Airport Land Use Compatibility Criteria for Riverside County (Applicable to March Joint Air Reserve Base) ^{1,2}	41

General Plan Amendments adopted since 12/31/09

- | | |
|--|--|
| - GPA No. 1105, BOS RSLN 2011-176, 07/12/11; | - GPA No. 1120, BOS RSLN 2014-222, 11/24/14; |
| - GPA No. 1126, BOS RSLN 2015-214, 09/22/15; | - GPA No. 960, BOS RSLN 2015-260, 12/08/15; |



Vision Summary

The County of Riverside General Plan and Area Plans have been steered by the RCIP Vision. The following is a summary of the Vision Statement that includes many of the salient points brought forth by the residents of Highgrove area, as well as the rest of the County of Riverside. The RCIP Vision was written to reflect the County of Riverside in the year 2020. So, fast forward yourself to 2020 and here is what it will be like.

"Riverside County is a family of special communities in a remarkable environmental setting."

It is now the year 2020. This year (incidentally, also a common reference to clear vision), is an appropriate time to check our community vision. Twenty years have passed since we took an entirely new look at how the County of Riverside was evolving. Based on what we saw, we set bold new directions for the future. As we now look around and move through the County of Riverside, the results are notable. They could happen only in response to universal values strongly held by the people. Some of those values are:

- Real dedication to a sense of community;
- Appreciation for the diversity of our people and places within this expansive landscape;
- Belief in the value of participation by our people in shaping their communities;
- Confidence in the future and faith that our long term commitments will pay off;
- Willingness to innovate and learn from our experience;
- Dedication to the preservation of the environmental features that frame our communities;
- Respect for our differences and willingness to work toward their resolution;
- Commitment to quality development in partnership with those who help build our communities; and
- The value of collaboration by our elected officials in conducting public business.

Those values and the plans they inspired have brought us a long way. True, much remains to be done. But our energies and resources are being invested in a unified direction, based on the common ground we have affirmed many times during the last 20 years. Perhaps our achievements will help you understand why we believe we are on the right path.

Population Growth

The almost doubling of our population in only 20 years has been a challenge, but we have met it by focusing that growth in areas that are well served by public facilities and services or where they can readily be provided. Major transportation corridors serve our communities and nearby open space preserves help define them. Our growth focus is on quality, not quantity. That allows the numbers to work for us and not against us. We enjoy an unprecedented clarity regarding what areas must not be developed and which ones should be developed. The resulting pattern of growth concentrates development in key areas rather than spreading it uniformly throughout Riverside County. Land is used more efficiently, communities operate at more of a human scale, and transit systems to supplement the automobile are more feasible.

Our Communities and Neighborhoods

Our choices in the kind of community and neighborhood you prefer are almost unlimited here. From sophisticated urban villages to quality suburban neighborhoods to spacious rural enclaves, we have them all. If you are like most of us, you appreciate the quality schools and their programs that are the centerpiece of many of our neighborhoods. Not only have our older communities matured gracefully, but we boast several new communities as well. They prove that quality of life comes in many different forms.

Housing

We challenge you to seek a form of housing or a range in price that does not exist here. Our housing choices, from rural retreat to suburban neighborhood to exclusive custom estate are as broad as the demand for housing requires. Choices include entry level housing for first time buyers, apartments serving those not now in the buying market, seniors' housing, and world class golf communities. You will also find smart housing with the latest in built-in technology as well as refurbished historic units. The County of Riverside continues to draw people who are looking for a blend of quality and value.

Transportation

It is no secret that the distances in the vast County of Riverside can be a bit daunting. Yet, our transportation system has kept pace amazingly well with the growth in population, employment and tourism and their demands for mobility. We are perhaps proudest of the new and expanded transportation corridors that connect growth centers throughout the County of Riverside. They do more than provide a way for people and goods to get where they need to be. Several major corridors have built-in expansion capability to accommodate varied forms of transit. These same corridors are designed with a high regard for the environment in mind, including providing for critical wildlife crossings so that our open spaces can sustain their habitat value.

Conservation and Open Space Resources

The often-impassioned conflicts regarding what lands to permanently preserve as open space are virtually resolved. The effort to consider our environmental resources, recreation needs, habitat systems, and visual heritage as one comprehensive, multi-purpose open space system has resulted in an unprecedented commitment to their preservation. In addition, these spaces help to form distinctive edges to many of our communities or clusters of communities. What is equally satisfying is that they were acquired in a variety of creative and equitable ways.

Highgrove Area Plan

Air Quality

It may be hard to believe, but our air quality has actually improved slightly despite the phenomenal growth that has occurred in the region. Most of that growth, of course, has been in adjacent counties and we continue to import their pollutants. We are on the verge of a breakthrough in technical advances to reduce smog from cars and trucks. Not only that, but our expanded supply of jobs reduces the need for people here to commute as far as in the past.

Jobs and Economy

In proportion to population, our job growth is spectacular. Not only is our supply of jobs beyond any previously projected level, it has become quite diversified. Clusters of new industries have brought with them an array of jobs that attract skilled labor and executives alike. We are particularly enthusiastic about the linkages between our diversified business community and our educational system. Extensive vocational training programs, coordinated with businesses, are a constant source of opportunities for youth and those in our labor force who seek further improvement.

Agricultural Lands

Long a major foundation of our economy and our culture, agriculture remains a thriving part of the County of Riverside. While we have lost some agriculture to other forms of development, other lands have been brought into agricultural production. We are still a major agricultural force in California and compete successfully in the global agricultural market.

Educational System

Quality education, from pre-school through graduate programs, marks the County of Riverside as a place where educational priorities are firmly established. A myriad of partnerships involving private enterprise and cooperative programs between local governments and school districts are in place, making the educational system an integral part of our communities.

Plan Integration

The coordinated planning for multi-purpose open space systems, community based land use patterns, and a diversified transportation system has paid off handsomely. Integration of these major components of community building has resulted in a degree of certainty and clarity of direction not commonly achieved in the face of such dynamic change.

Financial Realities

From the very beginning, our vision included the practical consideration of how we would pay for the qualities our expectations demanded. Creative, yet practical financing programs provide the necessary leverage to achieve a high percentage of our aspirations expressed in the updated RCIP.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

As a result of the necessary coordination between the County of Riverside, the cities and other governmental agencies brought about through the RCIP, a high degree of intergovernmental cooperation and even partnership is now commonplace. This way of doing public business has become a tradition and the County of Riverside is renowned for its many model intergovernmental programs.

Introduction



A “sphere of influence” is the area outside of and adjacent to a city’s border that the city has identified as a future logical extension of its jurisdiction. While the County of Riverside has land use authority over city sphere areas, development in these areas may directly affect circulation, service provision, and community character within the cities.

The Highgrove area is a very distinct and special environment. From virtually any place here, you have a sweeping view of distant mountains and nearby mountains and hills. Rock outcroppings within the Box Springs Mountains accent the hillsides and provide a distinct texture to the landscape. The citrus groves of Highgrove and the lush riparian nature of Springbrook Wash also contribute to the unique character of the area.

A word must be stated regarding the titles used in this area plan. This area plan name refers in large part to one distinct community; Highgrove, located west and east of Interstate 215, in the northerly portion of this planning area. The remaining areas south of the Highgrove community, including the entire University City neighborhood and portions of the Box Springs Mountains, are also included in this area plan. The entire Highgrove planning area also falls within the City of Riverside’s sphere of influence.

This is not a stand-alone document, but rather an extension of the County of Riverside General Plan and Vision Statement. The County of Riverside Vision Statement details the physical, environmental, and economic characteristics that the County of Riverside aspires to achieve by the year 2020. Using the Vision Statement as the primary foundation, the County of

Riverside General Plan establishes policies to guide development and conservation within the entire unincorporated Riverside County territory, while the Area Plan provides policy direction specifically for Highgrove.

In addition to a description of the location, physical characteristics, and special features here, the Area Plan contains a Land Use Plan, statistical summaries, policies, and accompanying exhibits that allow anyone interested in the continued prosperity of this distinctive area to understand the physical, environmental, and regulatory characteristics that make this such a unique area. Background information also provides insights that help in understanding the issues that require special focus here and the reasons for the more localized policy direction found in this document.

Each section of the Area Plan addresses critical issues facing the Highgrove area. Perhaps a description of these sections will help in understanding the organization of the Area Plan as well as appreciating the comprehensive nature of the planning process that led to it. The Location section explains where the Area Plan fits with what is around it and how it relates to the cities that impact it. Physical features are described in a section that highlights the planning area’s communities, surrounding environment and natural resources. This leads naturally to the Land Use Plan section, which describes the land use system guiding development at both the countywide and area plan levels.

Highgrove Area Plan

While a number of these designations reflect the unique features found only in the Highgrove area, a number of special policies are still necessary to address unique situations. The Policy Areas section presents these policies. Land use related issues are addressed in the Land Use section. The plan also describes relevant transportation issues, routes, and modes of transportation in the Circulation section. The key to understanding our valued open space network is described in the Multipurpose Open Space section. There are, of course, both natural and man made hazards to consider, and they are spelled out in the Hazards section.

A Special Note on Implementing the Vision

The preface to this area plan is a summary version of the Riverside County Vision. That summary is, in turn, simply an overview of a much more extensive and detailed Vision of Riverside County two decades or more into the future. This area plan, as part of the Riverside County General Plan, is one of the major devices for making the Vision a reality.

No two area plans are the same. Each represents a unique portion of the incredibly diverse place known as Riverside County. While many share certain common features, each of the plans reflects the special characteristics that define its area's unique identity. These features include not only physical qualities, but also the particular boundaries used to define them, the stage of development they have reached, the dynamics of change expected to affect them, and the numerous decisions that shape development and conservation in each locale. That is why the Vision cannot and should not be reflected uniformly.

Policies at the General Plan and area plan levels implement the Riverside County Vision in a range of subject areas as diverse as the scope of the Vision itself. The land use pattern contained in this area plan is a further expression of the Vision as it is shaped to fit the terrain and the conditions in the Highgrove area.

To illustrate how the Vision has shaped this area plan, the following highlights reflect certain strategies that link the Vision to the land. This is not a comprehensive enumeration; rather, it emphasizes a few of the most powerful and physically tangible examples.

Open Space Resources. The rolling hillside terrain, rock outcroppings, and riparian corridors of the Highgrove area define the character of this region. The Box Springs Mountains and Springbrook Wash are prime examples of the area's prominent open space and rural character. They also serve as important habitat preservation areas for several species. The plan preserves the character of the Box Springs Mountains with the application of the Open Space Conservation designation, and applies specific policy guidance for the preservation of Springbrook Wash.

Data in this area plan is current as of *[Adoption date of GPA No. 1122]* ~~March 23, 2010~~. Any General Plan amendments approved subsequent to that date are not reflected in this area plan and must be supported by their

Throughout the Area Plan, special features have been included to enhance the readability and practicality of the information provided. Look for these elements:



Quotes: quotations from the RCIP Vision or individuals involved or concerned with Riverside County.



Factoids: interesting information about Riverside County that is related to the element



References: contacts and resources that can be consulted for additional information



Definitions: clarification of terms and vocabulary used in certain policies or text.

own environmental documentation. A process for incorporating any applicable portion of these amendments into this area plan will be part of the General Plan Implementation Program.

Location

Highgrove's northwestern location in western Riverside County is evident on Figure 1, Location. In fact, it borders on two other area plans: the Jurupa Area Plan to the west and the Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan to the east. Figure 1 locates each of the unique communities within the Highgrove area, along with the adjacent City of Riverside to the south and cities of Colton and Grand Terrace (in San Bernardino County) to the north. In fact, the Highgrove area stretches south along the western side of the Box Springs Mountains almost to the confluence of Interstate 215 and State Route 60. To the west, the Highgrove Area Plan includes an unincorporated enclave along North Main Street.

Features

The Riverside County Vision builds heavily on the value of its remarkable environmental setting. That theme applies here as well. The Highgrove setting is especially situated to capture distant mountain views in almost every direction. That quality is evident in the functions and features that are unique to Highgrove and found in this section, as can be seen on Figure 2, Physical Features. The hills, mountains, and watercourses that frame this area also serve to contain urban development in the more developable portions of the landscape. The Box Springs Mountains provide a habitat for many native species, while the more distant mountains provide a scenic backdrop.

Setting

The Highgrove area is a wonderfully distinct place. From the lush riparian corridor of the Springbrook Wash, to the slightly undulating flatlands and citrus fields of Highgrove, to the dramatic rolling terrain and rugged outcroppings of the Box Springs Mountains, this area is truly a wondrous and diverse haven for nature and a special location for human habitation.

Unique Features

Box Springs Mountains

Located in the central portion of the planning area, the Box Springs Mountains are the area's most prominent natural feature, with its rugged terrain and rock outcroppings. The mountains are part of the larger Box Springs Reserve, a mountainous 1,155-acre reserve extending to the City of Moreno Valley. The reserve is characterized by rock outcroppings, sage scrub, chaparral, and grassland areas, and serves as habitat for several species of plants and animals. It is owned and managed by the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District.

Highgrove Area Plan

Springbrook Wash

Springbrook Wash is a prominent riparian corridor, roughly paralleling the southern edge of the community of Highgrove. It enjoys a wide variety of plant and animal life and, because of its linear nature, is an important linkage in the habitat system.

Unique Communities

Highgrove

The community of Highgrove is located north of the City of Riverside and south of the San Bernardino County line in northwest Riverside County. The community encompasses 2,250 acres of uniquely mixed land uses east of Interstate 215, ranging from a well-established urban core with commercial, industrial, civic and residential uses in its western portion, to larger-lot and equestrian-oriented residential uses and citrus groves to the east. Center Street serves as the community's primary thoroughfare, with the Burlington Northern - Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific (UP) railroad lines also as prominent transportation facilities. West of Interstate 215, Highgrove encompasses another 204 acres, consisting mostly of medium density and very low density, single-family detached residential uses, with some scattered commercial and industrial uses and mobile home parks along La Cadena Drive.

University City

Encompassing approximately 93 acres, the primarily residential community of University City lies westerly of Interstate 215/State Route 60, adjacent to the City of Riverside.



A Community of Interest (COI) is a study area designated by LAFCO within unincorporated territory that may be annexed to one or more cities or special districts, incorporated as a new city, or designated as an Unincorporated Community (UC) within two years of status obtainment.

Designation of an area as a UC may require removal from a municipal sphere of influence since the two designations are mutually exclusive.

Land Use Plan

The Highgrove Land Use Plan focuses on preserving the unique features in the Planning Area and, at the same time, accommodating future growth. To accomplish this, more detailed land use designations are applied than for the countywide General Plan.

The Highgrove Land Use Plan, Figure 3, depicts the geographic distribution of land uses within this area plan. The Plan is organized around 20 area plan land use designations. These area plan land uses derive from, and provide more detailed direction than, the five General Plan Foundation Component land uses: Open Space, Agriculture, Rural, Rural Community, and Community Development. Table 1, Land Use Designations Summary, outlines the development intensity, density, typical allowable land uses, and general characteristics for each of the area plan land use designations within each Foundation Component. The General Plan Land Use Element contains more detailed descriptions and policies for the Foundation Components and each of the area plan land use designations.

Proposed uses represent a full spectrum of designations that relate the natural characteristics of the land and economic potential to a range of permitted uses. Many factors led to the designation of land use patterns. Among the most influential were the Riverside County Vision and Planning Principles, both of which focused, in part, on preferred patterns of development within the County of Riverside; the Community Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP) that focused on major transportation corridors; the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRC MSHCP) that focused on opportunities and strategies for significant open space and habitat preservation; established patterns of existing uses and parcel configurations; current zoning; and the oral and written testimony of Riverside County residents, property owners, and representatives of cities, Indian tribes, and organizations at the many Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors hearings. The result of these considerations is shown in Figure 3, which portrays the location and extent of proposed land uses. Table 2, Statistical Summary of the Highgrove Area Plan, provides a summary of the projected development capacity of the plan if all uses are built as proposed. This table includes dwelling unit, population, and employment capacities.

Land Use Concept

“

Each of our rural areas and communities has a special character that distinguishes them from urban areas and from each other. They benefit from some conveniences such as small-scale local commercial services and all-weather access roads, yet maintain an unhurried, uncrowded lifestyle.

”

-RCIP Vision

The primary purpose of the Land Use Plan is to preserve the small-town nature of the Highgrove area. Slope, habitat and other natural constraints limit opportunities to provide substantial areas for population or employment growth. Conservation of habitat, preservation of existing communities, and provision of areas for orderly expansion of the Highgrove community are the primary objectives of this Land Use Plan.

West of Interstate 215, in the vicinity of Main Street, the Land Use Plan designates the land as Light Industrial. Very Low Density Residential, Medium Density Residential, Commercial Retail, and Light Industrial lands are designated immediately west of Interstate 215 in keeping with the area's existing patterns of development. Two existing mobile home parks are assigned densities reflecting the existing uses.

The portion of Highgrove located immediately east of Interstate 215 contains a mix of urban uses, including Medium Density, Medium High Density, High Density, and Highest Density Residential, Commercial Retail, and Light Industrial uses. The eastern half of this area is designated Medium Density Residential and Low Density Residential.

The central portion of the planning area, south of Highgrove, contains Open Space-Conservation areas associated with the Box Springs Mountains Park, along with Rural Mountainous, Rural Residential, and Very Low Density

Residential uses. In the southern portion of the planning area, a mix of urban uses is planned in close proximity to State Route 60, including a range of residential, employment-generating, and public land uses. Much of this southern area is located within the boundaries of Specific Plan No. 250 (Gateway Center).

Table 1: Land Use Designations Summary

Foundation Component	Area Plan Land Use Designation	Building Intensity Range (du/ac or FAR) ^{1, 2,3,4}	Notes
Agriculture	Agriculture (AG)	10 ac min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural land including row crops, groves, nurseries, dairies, poultry farms, processing plants, and other related uses. One single-family residence allowed per 10 acres except as otherwise specified by a policy or an overlay.
Rural	Rural Residential (RR)	5 ac min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family residences with a minimum lot size of 5 acres. Allows limited animal keeping and agricultural uses, recreational uses, compatible resource development (not including the commercial extraction of mineral resources) and associated uses and governmental uses.
	Rural Mountainous (RM)	10 ac min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family residential uses with a minimum lot size of 10 acres. Areas of at least 10 acres where a minimum of 70% of the area has slopes of 25% or greater. Allows limited animal keeping, agriculture, recreational uses, compatible resource development (which may include the commercial extraction of mineral resources with approval of a SMP) and associated uses and governmental uses.
	Rural Desert (RD)	10 ac min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family residential uses with a minimum lot size of 10 acres. Allows limited animal keeping, agriculture, recreational, renewable energy uses including solar, geothermal and wind energy uses, as well as associated uses required to develop and operate these renewable energy sources, compatible resource development (which may include the commercial extraction of mineral resources with approval of SMP), and governmental and utility uses.
Rural Community	Estate Density Residential (RC-EDR)	2 ac min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family detached residences on large parcels of 2 to 5 acres. Limited agriculture, intensive equestrian and animal keeping uses are expected and encouraged.
	Very Low Density Residential (RC-VLDR)	1 ac min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family detached residences on large parcels of 1 to 2 acres. Limited agriculture, intensive equestrian and animal keeping uses are expected and encouraged.
	Low Density Residential (RC-LDR)	0.5 ac min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family detached residences on large parcels of 0.5 to 1 acre. Limited agriculture, intensive equestrian and animal keeping uses are expected and encouraged.
Open Space	Conservation (C)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The protection of open space for natural hazard protection, cultural preservation, and natural and scenic resource preservation. Existing agriculture is permitted.
	Conservation Habitat (CH)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies to public and private lands conserved and managed in accordance with adopted Multiple Species Habitat and other Conservation Plans and in accordance with related Riverside County policies.
	Water (W)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes bodies of water and natural or artificial drainage corridors. Extraction of mineral resources subject to SMP may be permissible provided that flooding hazards are addressed and long term habitat and riparian values are maintained.
	Recreation (R)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational uses including parks, trails, athletic fields, and golf courses. Neighborhood parks are permitted within residential land uses.
	Rural (RUR)	20 ac min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One single-family residence allowed per 20 acres. Extraction of mineral resources subject to SMP may be permissible provided that scenic resources and views are protected.
	Mineral Resources (MR)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mineral extraction and processing facilities. Areas held in reserve for future mineral extraction and processing.
Community Development	Estate Density Residential (EDR)	2 ac min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family detached residences on large parcels of 2 to 5 acres. Limited agriculture and animal keeping is permitted, however, intensive animal keeping is discouraged.
	Very Low Density Residential (VLDR)	1 ac min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family detached residences on large parcels of 1 to 2 acres. Limited agriculture and animal keeping is permitted, however, intensive animal keeping is discouraged.
Community	Low Density	0.5 ac min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family detached residences on large parcels of 0.5 to 1 acre.

Foundation Component	Area Plan Land Use Designation	Building Intensity Range (du/ac or FAR) ^{1, 2,3,4}	Notes
Development	Residential (LDR)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited agriculture and animal keeping is permitted, however, intensive animal keeping is discouraged.
	Medium Density Residential (MDR)	2 - 5 du/ac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family detached and attached residences with a density range of 2 to 5 dwelling units per acre. Limited agriculture and animal keeping is permitted, however, intensive animal keeping is discouraged. Lot sizes range from 5,500 to 20,000 sq. ft., typical 7,200 sq. ft. lots allowed.
	Medium High Density Residential (MHDR)	5 - 8 du/ac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family attached and detached residences with a density range of 5 to 8 dwelling units per acre. Lot sizes range from 4,000 to 6,500 sq. ft.
	High Density Residential (HDR)	8 - 14 du/ac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family attached and detached residences, including townhouses, stacked flats, courtyard homes, patio homes, townhouses, and zero lot line homes .
	Very High Density Residential (VHDR)	14 - 20 du/ac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family attached residences and multi-family dwellings.
	Highest Density Residential (HHDR)	20+ du/ac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-family dwellings, includes apartments and condominium. Multi-storied (3+) structures are allowed.
	Commercial Retail (CR)	0.20 - 0.35 FAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and regional serving retail and service uses. The amount of land designated for Commercial Retail exceeds that amount anticipated to be necessary to serve Riverside County's population at build out. Once build out of Commercial Retail reaches the 40% level within any Area Plan, additional studies will be required before CR development beyond the 40 % will be permitted.
	Commercial Tourist (CT)	0.20 - 0.35 FAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourist related commercial including hotels, golf courses, and recreation/amusement activities.
	Commercial Office (CO)	0.35 - 1.0 FAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variety of office related uses including financial, legal, insurance and other office services.
	Light Industrial (LI)	0.25 - 0.60 FAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial and related uses including warehousing/distribution, assembly and light manufacturing, repair facilities, and supporting retail uses.
	Heavy Industrial (HI)	0.15 - 0.50 FAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More intense industrial activities that generate greater effects such as excessive noise, dust, and other nuisances.
	Business Park (BP)	0.25 - 0.60 FAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee intensive uses, including research and development, technology centers, corporate offices, clean industry and supporting retail uses.
	Public Facilities (PF)	≤ 0.60 FAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civic uses such as County of Riverside administrative buildings and schools.
	Community Center (CC)	5 - 40 du/ac 0.10 - 0.3 FAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes combination of small-lot single family residences, multi-family residences, commercial retail, office, business park uses, civic uses, transit facilities, and recreational open space within a unified planned development area. This also includes Community Centers in adopted specific plans.
	Mixed-Use Planning Area		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This designation is applied to areas outside of Community Centers. The intent of the designation is not to identify a particular mixture or intensity of land uses, but to designate areas where a mixture of residential, commercial, office, entertainment, educational, and/or recreational uses, or other uses is planned.

Highgrove Area Plan

Overlays and Policy Areas

Overlays and Policy Areas are not considered a Foundation Component. Overlays and Policy Areas address local conditions and can be applied in any Foundation Component. The specific details and development characteristics of each Policy Area and Overlay are contained in the appropriate Area Plan.

Community Development Overlay (CDO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows Community Development land use designations to be applied through General Plan Amendments within specified areas within Rural, Rural Community, Agriculture, or Open Space Foundation Component areas. Specific policies related to each Community Development Overlay are contained in the appropriate Area Plan.
Community Center Overlay (CCO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for either a Community Center or the underlying designated land use to be developed.
Rural Village Overlay (RVO) and Rural Village Overlay Study Area (RVOSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rural Village Overlay allows a concentration of residential and local-serving commercial uses within areas of rural character. The Rural Village Overlay allows the uses and maximum densities/intensities of the Medium Density Residential and Medium High Density Residential and Commercial Retail land use designations. In some rural village areas, identified as Rural Village Overlay Study Areas, the final boundaries will be determined at a later date during the consistency zoning program. (The consistency zoning program is the process of bringing current zoning into consistency with the adopted general plan.)
Historic District Overlay (HDO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This overlay allows for specific protections, land uses, the application of the Historic Building Code, and consideration for contributing elements to the District.
Specific Community Development Designation Overlay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits flexibility in land uses designations to account for local conditions. Consult the applicable Area Plan text for details.
Policy Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Areas are specific geographic districts that contain unique characteristics that merit detailed attention and focused policies. These policies may impact the underlying land use designations. At the Area Plan level, Policy Areas accommodate several locally specific designations, such as the Cherry Valley Policy Area (The Pass Area Plan), or the Highway 79 Policy Area (Sun City/Menifee Valley Area Plan). Consult the applicable Area Plan text for details.

NOTES:

1 FAR = Floor Area Ratio, which is the measurement of the amount of non-residential building square footage in relation to the size of the lot. Du/ac = dwelling units per acre, which is the measurement of the amount of residential units in a given acre.

2 The building intensity range noted is exclusive, that is the range noted provides a minimum and maximum building intensity.

3 Clustering is encouraged in all residential designations. The allowable density of a particular land use designation may be clustered in one portion of the site in smaller lots, as long as the ratio of dwelling units/area remains within the allowable density range associated with the designation. The rest of the site would then be preserved as open space or a use compatible with open space (e.g., agriculture, pasture or wildlife habitat). Within the Rural Foundation Component and Rural Designation of the Open Space Foundation Component, the allowable density may be clustered as long as no lot is smaller than 0.5 acre. This 0.5-acre minimum lot size also applies to the Rural Community Development Foundation Component. However, for sites adjacent to Community Development Foundation Component areas, 10,000 square foot minimum lots are allowed. The clustered areas would be a mix of 10,000-square-foot and 0.5-acre lots. In such cases, larger lots or open space would be required near the project boundary with Rural Community and Rural Foundation Component areas.

4 The minimum lot size required for each permanent structure with plumbing fixtures utilizing an onsite wastewater treatment system to handle its wastewater is ½ acre per structure.

Table 2: Statistical Summary of Highgrove Area Plan

LAND USE	AREA	STATISTICAL CALCULATIONS ¹		
	ACREAGE ⁵	D.U.	POP.	EMPLOY.
LAND USE ASSUMPTIONS AND CALCULATIONS⁶				
LAND USE DESIGNATIONS BY FOUNDATION COMPONENTS				
AGRICULTURE FOUNDATION COMPONENT				
Agriculture (AG)	2	0	0	0
<i>Agriculture Foundation Sub-Total:</i>	2	0	0	0
RURAL FOUNDATION COMPONENT				
Rural Residential (RR)	40	6	18	NA
Rural Mountainous (RM)	493	25	75	NA
Rural Desert (RD)	0	0	0	NA
<i>Rural Foundation Sub-Total:</i>	533	31	93	0
RURAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION COMPONENT				
Estate Density Residential (RC-EDR)	0	0	0	NA
Very Low Density Residential (RC-VLDR)	0	0	0	NA
Low Density Residential (RC-LDR)	0	0	0	NA
<i>Rural Community Foundation Sub-Total:</i>	0	0	0	0
OPEN SPACE FOUNDATION COMPONENT				
Open Space-Conservation (OS-C)	1,178	NA	NA	NA
Open Space-Conservation Habitat (OS-CH)	16	NA	NA	NA
Open Space-Water (OS-W)	21	NA	NA	NA
Open Space-Recreation (OS-R)	299	NA	NA	45
Open Space-Rural (OS-RUR)	0	0	0	NA
Open Space-Mineral Resources (OS-MIN)	0	NA	NA	0
<i>Open Space Foundation Sub-Total:</i>	1,514	0	0	45
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION COMPONENT				
Estate Density Residential (EDR)	0	0	0	NA
Very Low Density Residential (VLDR)	50	37	114	NA
Low Density Residential (LDR)	226 206	339 309	1,033 941	NA
Medium Density Residential (MDR)	1,329 1,246	4,651 4,362	14,183 13,302	NA
Medium-High Density Residential (MHDR)	5	30	90	NA
High Density Residential (HDR)	26	287	877	NA
Very High Density Residential (VHDR)	15	247	753	NA
Highest Density Residential (HHDR)	2 22	46 652	141 1,988	NA
Commercial Retail ² (CR)	57	NA	NA	854
Commercial Tourist (CT)	0	NA	NA	0
Commercial Office (CO)	5	NA	NA	190
Light Industrial (LI)	103 82	NA	NA	1,321 1,057
Heavy Industrial (HI)	0	NA	NA	0
Business Park (BP)	39	NA	NA	636
Public Facilities (PF)	49	NA	NA	49
Community Center (CC) ³	0	0	0	0
Mixed Use Planning Area (MUPA)	0 103	0 77	0 236	0 264
<i>Community Development Foundation Sub-Total:</i>	1,906 1,905	5,637 6,001	17,191 18,301	3,095 3,050
SUB-TOTAL FOR ALL FOUNDATION COMPONENTS:	3,955 3,954	5,668 6,032	17,284 18,394	3,095
NON-COUNTY JURISDICTION LAND USES				
OTHER LANDS NOT UNDER PRIMARY COUNTY JURISDICTION				
Cities	0	---	---	---
Indian Lands	0	---	---	---
Freeways	132	---	---	---
<i>Other Lands Sub-Total:</i>	132			
TOTAL FOR ALL LANDS:	4,087 4,086	5,668 6,032	17,284 18,394	3,095

Highgrove Area Plan

LAND USE	AREA	STATISTICAL CALCULATIONS ¹		
	ACREAGE ⁵	D.U.	POP.	EMPLOY.
SUPPLEMENTAL LAND USE PLANNING AREAS				
<i>These SUPPLEMENTAL LAND USES are overlays, policy areas and other supplemental items that apply OVER and IN ADDITION to the base land use designations listed above. The acreage and statistical data below represent possible ALTERNATE land use or buildout scenarios.</i>				
OVERLAYS AND POLICY AREAS				
POLICY AREAS⁴				
Highgrove Community	2,533	---	---	---
City of Riverside Sphere of Influence	4,083	---	---	---
March Joint Air Reserve Base Influence Area	2,759	---	---	---
<i>Total Area Within Policy Areas:⁴</i>	<i>9,375</i>			
TOTAL AREA WITHIN SUPPLEMENTALS:⁵	9,375			

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Statistical calculations are based on the midpoint for the theoretical range of buildout projections. Reference Appendix E-1 of the General Plan for assumptions and methodology used.
- 2 For calculation purposes, it is assumed that CR designated lands will build out at 40% CR and 60% MDR.
- 3 Note that "Community Center" is used both to describe a land use designation and a type of overlay. These two terms are separate and distinct; are calculated separately; and, are not interchangeable terms.
- 4 Overlay data represent the additional dwelling units, population and employment permissible under the alternate land uses.
- 5 A given parcel of land can fall within more than one Policy Area or Overlay. Thus, this total is not additive.
- 6 Statistical calculation of the land use designations in the table represents addition of Overlays and Policy Areas.

Policy Areas

A Policy Area is a portion of an area plan that contains special or unique characteristics that merit detailed attention and focused policies. The location and boundaries of these areas are shown on Figure 4, Overlays and Policy Areas, and are described in detail below.

Two Policy Areas have been designated within the Highgrove area. These are the Highgrove Community Policy Area and the March Joint Air Reserve Base Airport Influence Area. Many of these policies derive from citizen involvement over a period of years in planning for the future of this area. In some ways, these policies are even more critical to the sustained character of Highgrove than some of the basic land use policies because they reflect deeply held beliefs about the kind of place this is and should remain. Their boundaries are shown on Figure 4, Overlays and Policy Areas. The boundaries of the Highgrove Community Policy Area are approximate and may be interpreted more precisely as decisions are called for in these areas. This flexibility, then, calls for considerable sensitivity in determining where conditions related to the policies actually exist, once a focused analysis is undertaken on a proposed project.

Highgrove Community Policy Area

Prior to commencement of the Riverside County Integrated Project (RCIP) process in 1999, the County of Riverside had embarked on an update of the Highgrove Community Plan. After an extensive period of outreach and plan preparation, the County of Riverside adopted the Highgrove Community Plan in December 1999. Rather than duplicate efforts for the Highgrove area as part of the RCIP, the County of Riverside chose to incorporate the goals, issue statements, and policies as written in the Community Plan, within the Highgrove Area Plan document except as necessary to reflect the subsequent adoption of Specific Plan No. 323 (Spring Mountain Ranch). Some minor changes have been made to reflect consistency with Riverside County's General Plan and updated area plan land use designation system, though the essence and intent of the policy direction in the original Highgrove Community Plan remains. Policies pertaining specifically to Highgrove apply to the area denoted as the Highgrove Community Policy Area on Figure 4.

The Highgrove Community Policy Area applies to approximately 2,454 acres of unincorporated land located immediately south of the San Bernardino County line. The Highgrove area stretches eastward to the Box Springs Mountains and southward to the incorporated limits of the City of Riverside.

Community Concerns

The major concerns of Highgrove residents relate to the changing character of the community. Long a rural community whose economic focus was citrus production, Highgrove is today a community split between residents who want to keep the area rural, those who have sought to make more urban facilities and amenities available to residents to promote Highgrove's potential, and others who recognize that changes will occur to Highgrove, but are concerned about the effect of the changes on their lifestyles.

Development has intensified the conflict between orange cultivation and homes, an argument that makes continued citrus farming difficult. Recent increases in the cost of irrigation water have convinced many growers that citrus cultivation is no longer economically feasible. Many local landowners have sought to remove their agricultural land holdings from the Highgrove Agricultural Preserve #1 in order to render them eligible for development. If development moves eastward, agriculture would no longer be Highgrove's predominant lifestyle and economic focal point.

Recreational Facilities

The Highgrove community has had no local parks that directly serve it. Riverside County's Regional Parks and Open Space District implements a 3-acre-per-thousand residents standard through Riverside County Ordinance No. 460 (Division of Land), which would call for 9 acres of local parks to serve the 1,990 resident population.

County Service Area 126 (CSA 126), consistent with its mission to provide street lighting, parks and recreation, and police services, has taken steps to address this need. Construction of a local park is now complete on an approximately five-acre site behind the Younglove Community Center. Park improvements include two baseball fields, a soccer field, basketball courts, an inline hockey or tennis court, two separate play areas for young children, two pocket picnic areas with barbecue grills, a loop fitness trail, a snack bar and restrooms in the middle of the project, and a small additional parking lot along Main Street. Highgrove's local park was dedicated on October 16, 1999.

Pigeon Pass Road has been removed from the General Plan as a collector road connecting Highgrove to Moreno Valley. However, this road may be appropriate for designation as a scenic recreational and transportation corridor. If Pigeon Pass westerly of the mountains was formally closed off near the closed Highgrove Landfill site, this portion could be equipped with recreational amenities such as pedestrian, bike and equestrian trails. These amenities would not only enrich recreational opportunities in and of themselves, but could also provide links to recreational opportunities at Box Springs Mountains Park southerly of the community policy area and in the adjacent cities of Riverside and Grand Terrace.

Business Development

The western urban core of the Highgrove study area begins near the intersection of Center Street and Iowa Avenue. This main portal into the Highgrove community has regional access via Interstate 215. In the neighboring cities of Grand Terrace and Riverside, light industrial uses predominate along this Interstate 215 corridor. The area contains a mixture of new businesses and older commercial developments on small, odd-shaped parcels.

Highgrove Area Plan

Commercial and industrial uses are considered the most appropriate uses for property convenient to regional access and possessing job creation potential. For productive redevelopment to occur in the western area, parcels would need to be assembled into larger holdings. However, there are pockets of residential neighborhoods that can be identified and preserved at least in the near term. Given that several of these enclaves could also offer favorable locations for commercial or industrial development (such as along Iowa Avenue south of Center Street), potential problems could arise from the unmitigated impacts of new commercial or industrial developments near existing residential uses. The Area Plan includes policies to support future development applications that would build the community's economic base and promote self-sufficiency, but the plan also requires protection of remaining residential uses nearby.

Vehicular Traffic Flow

The Highgrove study area is roughly rectangular in shape, and the Box Springs Mountains to the east pose a substantial obstacle to vehicular circulation. Traffic generated within this area has traditionally collected onto Center Street, then dispersed to the greater region along Iowa Avenue or Interstate 215. Center Street from Mount Vernon Avenue westward (a General Plan designated secondary) is the only internal street that provides through access from east to west through the entire community.

However, this access is often impeded by frequent passage through the area of freight trains along the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific (UP) lines. The lack of grade separations along Center Street near these rail crossings demands that traffic wait for trains, sometimes on both lines, to pass through the area. Waits can seem interminable at scheduled stops to off-load raw materials or pick up finished product from local manufacturing plants. The BNSF line has installed rubber planking sections to permit smooth vehicular travel over its tracks when trains are not present. The UP line has programmed similar improvements for street crossings.

The City of Riverside's Hunter Park Specific Plan proposes only installation of safety devices and some street widenings as future crossing improvements along the UP line. The basic cost of building a bridge to complete a grade separation can exceed \$10 million, and can approach \$15-20 million if extensive utilities and business relocations are necessary. A Center Street grade separation could qualify as a public improvement that the Economic Development Agency (EDA) could undertake with redevelopment monies, if adequate funding is available. Also, if the Highgrove area's residential densities substantially increase, Highgrove's competitive position to win future federal and state grants for such work will improve. But a more likely near-term strategy to benefit Highgrove residents is for Riverside County to partner with the City of Riverside in funding a grade separation along Columbia Avenue. The City of Riverside added the grade separation to its five-year Capital Improvements Program in April, 1999, in order to seek a funding source and construct the improvement within the next twenty years.

Long-range Issues

Sewer Service

Highgrove is not currently sewered. For many years, the area's rural uses at low density have been satisfactorily served by septic tanks. As the area transitions to a predominantly suburban residential community, development applicants will only be able to provide residential lots smaller than one acre if sanitary sewer service is extended. Current Regional Water Quality Control Board regulations to implement water quality standards for the Santa Ana River Basin require that residential lots smaller than 0.5 acre be connected to a public sanitary sewer system. The City of Riverside maintains a policy that lots smaller than one acre be connected.

Also, much of the existing community would rather connect to a public sewer system than replace or rehabilitate aging septic systems. Such replacement or rehabilitation will be necessary soon as septic systems installed 30 to 40 years ago reach the end of their design life. One major variable influencing how quickly Highgrove is sewered is how the cost of doing so will be allocated.

The City of Riverside currently provides water to the western Highgrove urban core and to residential customers as far east as Walker Avenue. The City of Riverside's official policy is to provide sewer service only to customers within its corporate boundaries. The City of Riverside could potentially provide sewer service to Highgrove, if the City Council approved an arrangement to do so. Riverside County and the City of Riverside have discussed sewer service provision to Highgrove, but no agreement had been announced at this writing.

The remaining current residential uses south of Spring Street and east of Michigan Avenue have potable water service through the Riverside Highland Water Company, a mutual water company headquartered in Colton. Riverside Highland has historically served the area for irrigation water to the groves, and has expanded its domestic service system to cover most of the tract home development that has occurred in Highgrove since the 1970s. Riverside Highland's Board of Directors has approved sewer service extension as an addition to the range of services provided by the company.

Transportation Corridors

To promote a richer quality of life, the Highgrove community will have to exploit more of its transportation assets in a coordinated way to allow for multiple modes of travel.

Improvements to intersections at Center Street and Main Street along Iowa Avenue, which are associated with the Interstate 215 widening project is currently under construction with completion scheduled for summer 2015. Improving the freeway from State Route 60 as far as Orange Show Road in San Bernardino County has been under consideration for some time. The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), and the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) have tried to assemble a joint scope of work and a shared funding arrangement to complete this highway construction. The project is still on hold at this time, and so too are the local intersection improvements that could benefit Highgrove.

As previously noted, the BNSF and UP lines are actively used to transport freight through Highgrove within the western urban core. Also, MetroLink operates passenger trains over the westerly branch of the BNSF line from San Bernardino to the downtown Riverside station and on to points in western Riverside and Orange Counties. The BNSF line proceeding southward through Highgrove could be utilized to provide service to Perris and other southern Riverside County locations. The proposed San Jacinto branch line could utilize a Tier II station site in Highgrove as a transfer or staging point for needed equipment or employees.

Parcels easterly of the BNSF line could be appropriate for siting a transit station or accompanying service uses to support passengers or crew. Residential redevelopment up to Very High Density Residential (VHDR-20 dwelling units per acre) would exploit the transit access for those who desire it and could create a greater localized demand in Highgrove for goods and services. Appropriate projects would seek to combine residential and nonresidential elements into a mixed land use pattern that could serve both the transit customer and the Highgrove resident.

The Riverside County Transportation Commission has obtained the San Jacinto branch line and will make decisions about necessary station locations as that process unfolds. Planning policies to guide development oriented toward a Tier II transit station can be found under "Urban Residential Development Policies".

Highgrove Area Plan

Highgrove could utilize a multi-modal concept along the California Avenue corridor. California Avenue becomes Northgate Street within the City of Riverside. In implementing the Hunter Park Specific Plan, the City of Riverside has proposed to vacate the right-of-way of Northgate Street southerly of Palmyrita Avenue. This right-of-way would be replaced by “the North-South Connector.” This connector road, to be located between the existing Union Pacific rail line and the Gage Canal, would connect Palmyrita Avenue and Columbia Avenue, the main through street for the Hunter Park area.

Completing California Avenue northerly of Citrus Street would thus connect the Light Industrial-designated parcels in Highgrove to the Hunter Park area. The Highgrove parcels would not be able to tie into a meaningful pedestrian network along California Avenue/Northgate Avenue, since this corridor is not a pedestrian portal for the Hunter Park Specific Plan. But bicycle trails along California Avenue to Palmyrita Avenue could conceivably connect the residential areas east of Mount Vernon Avenue with Highgrove's proposed Light Industrial-designated parcels along California Avenue. Such a connection could help reduce vehicle trips on Center Street.

Natural Features Protection

For years, with the permission of local citrus grove owners, local residents have utilized grove access roads to take walks, to ride horses, or to ride bicycles. As agricultural holdings are sold to development interests, such privileges are expected to be drastically curtailed. Highgrove residents have stated the desire to continue to access open space areas in the future. As formerly open areas are converted to urban uses over time, the challenge of siting recreational trails to serve the myriad needs of the community will only increase. This is especially true as landowners submit development applications to build in or along the major open space areas adjacent to Highgrove such as the Box Springs Mountains and Springbrook Wash.

In addition to serving as the primary drainage channel for stormwater runoff from the Highgrove study area to the Santa Ana River, Springbrook Wash also provides wildlife habitat and opportunities for wildlife movement. Riversidean Sage Scrub vegetation, as well as riparian vegetative communities, have been identified as likely to occur along the banks of Springbrook Wash. Riversidean Sage Scrub vegetation also has been indicated on lands designated as Rural Mountainous in this Plan. Hilly or steeply sloping lands in Riverside County and other Southern California counties are prime areas for the occurrence of coastal sage scrub vegetation. Certain protected wildlife species, including the coastal California Gnatcatcher, can inhabit coastal sage scrub vegetation.

The Area Plan includes policy language to ensure that future development applications would implement appropriate mitigation measures for wildlife habitat reduction that they cause. Also, plan policies prevent any undue alteration of Springbrook Wash during the site preparation process. Furthermore, easements acquired during the development review process to implement regional multi-purpose trails, as depicted in the Trails and Bikeways Plan, will provide Highgrove residents future access to these natural features in as unspoiled condition as is practicable.

Community Plan Goals

Based on the above community concerns and issues, the following goals apply to the Highgrove community:

- a. To encourage a varied future pattern of development that will promote greater economic self-sufficiency in Highgrove.

- b. To identify existing and future residential areas with land use and zoning designations that will discourage incompatible development, encourage reinvestment in homes and businesses, and support property values.
- c. To enhance the Highgrove community's ability to respond to changing future development conditions through flexible planning policies.
- d. To recommend future infrastructure improvements necessary to provide for adequate public facilities and services for the Highgrove Community Policy Area.
- e. To help sustain Highgrove's rural character as the community develops in the future.
- f. To safeguard the Box Springs Mountains and Springbrook Wash from development impacts that would diminish their value as fish and wildlife habitat or as natural areas for public enjoyment.

The predominant current residential density between Michigan Avenue and Mount Vernon Avenue is 0.5-acre size lots, the traditional maximum allowable density in the absence of sewer service. The undeveloped areas further east of Mount Vernon Avenue are mostly bordered by Rural Mountainous designated lands to the north and to the south.

It is not the intent of this plan to rule out future nonresidential development of unincorporated area parcels adjacent to the Hunter Park industrial area. Industrial, warehouse, or office uses are considered the most appropriate uses for property located with regional access and possessing job creation potential complementary to that of the Hunter Park area. In the future, developers assembling such parcels would need to provide focused studies addressing traffic, sewer service provision, and, as applicable, flooding issues, and would require the approval of a General Plan amendment. A project proponent can also request a future General Plan amendment for commercial uses, given evidence of sufficient demand to support it. Local serving commercial uses at an appropriate location could be a possible adjunct to a major future residential area.



**HAP = Highgrove Area
Plan Policy**

Policies:

HAP 1.1 Development applications shall incorporate to the maximum extent feasible elements of the existing orange groves as a design feature. The intent is to provide visual and other buffering that will sustain the traditional rural sense of place that has long defined Highgrove.

- HAP 1.2** Development applications shall include strategies for minimizing vehicle trips generated within a project's boundaries.
- a. Wherever possible, the developer shall provide onsite amenities which will provide pedestrian, equestrian or bicycling options for making local trips of up to 2 miles one-way distance.
 - b. The developer shall link these amenities to scenic recreational and transportation corridors in an effort to connect to known existing and planned area trip generators.
 - c. In order to implement scenic recreational and transportation corridors and any regional trails proposed to connect thereto, development applicants shall provide easements for public

access along a project's perimeter or within or along areas of the project otherwise traversed by rights-of-way dedicated to the public use.

- d. Designate the following as scenic recreational and transportation corridors:
 - (1) Pigeon Pass Road, from Mount Vernon Avenue to its terminus in the vicinity of the closed Highgrove Landfill.
- e. Development applications that incorporate designated scenic recreational and transportation corridors within their project boundaries shall construct or cause to be constructed the following recreational and transportation amenities for the use and enjoyment of the general public, according to current applicable Riverside County standards:
 - (1) A combination Class I bikeway and jogging trail.
 - (2) An equestrian path.
 - (3) Adequate vegetative or other buffering features between the above facilities to increase their attractiveness, to promote privacy, and to reduce any potential conflicts between uses.

HAP 1.3 Development applications that propose more intense residential uses than otherwise allowed within the Highgrove Area Plan Land Use Plan, must satisfy the following, in addition to those policies specified under the appropriate residential density category above:

- a. If a project area is greater than 40 acres in size, then a specific plan application must be submitted.
- b. Near natural open space amenities like the Box Springs Mountains and the Springbrook Wash, clustering of dwelling units shall be encouraged to promote protection of scenic values and provision of recreational open space. The minimum lot size to be allowed in a cluster development shall be 7,200 square feet.

HAP 1.4 Development applications for commercial or industrial projects at locations designated for residential uses within the Highgrove Area Plan Land Use Plan must satisfy the following requirements, in addition to those specified under the “Commercial” or “Industrial” policies described in the Local Land Use Policies section.

- a. The project shall be buffered with landscaping, berms, additional setbacks or other features necessary to reduce the impacts on adjacent residential uses.
- b. Approval of a General Plan amendment is required.

General Policies

Administrative

Policies:

- HAP 2.1 The Land Use Plan associated with the Highgrove Area Plan determines the location, extent, density, and intensity of land uses.
- HAP 2.2 The Highgrove Area Plan constitutes a portion of the Riverside County General Plan. In addition to the Highgrove Community Policy Area, all countywide policies, objectives, programs, and standards in the Riverside County General Plan apply in the determination of General Plan consistency for a land use development proposal.
- HAP 2.3 Prior to approval of any proposed amendments that would permit more intense usage of a specific site, findings must be made that:
- a. The existing level of public facilities and services available to serve the project is adequate for the more intense land use, or there is a reasonable assurance that an adequate level of services will be available in the near future; and
 - b. The proposed land use designation is compatible with surrounding land uses and land use designations, and will not create future land use incompatibilities.
- HAP 2.4 Continue collaborative jurisdictional efforts with surrounding jurisdictions for the long-range planning of the Highgrove community.

Design and Environmental

Policies:

- HAP 3.1 Any building constructed within the Fire Hazard Severity Zones shall be constructed with fire retardant roofing material as described in the Building Code and shall comply with the special construction provisions contained in the Riverside County Fire Code (Ordinance No. 787). Any wood shingles or shakes shall have a Class B (or better) rating and shall be approved by the Riverside County Fire Department prior to installation.
- HAP 3.2 The installation of water efficient fixtures and drought tolerant landscaping and the use of reclaimed water for landscaping, dust control, and other uses not involving human consumption are encouraged as means of conserving water in the area.
- HAP 3.3 Review development applications for projects along the Springbrook Wash to ensure that they complement the wash's function as a natural open space, wildlife, and recreation corridor.
- HAP 3.4 Roads crossing drainage channels shall provide for proper drainage.
- HAP 3.5 The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District shall review developments proposed within areas subject to flooding, including the Springbrook Wash. Land use types and intensities permitted shall recognize and mitigate local flooding problems.

- HAP 3.6 Developments proposed in areas near identified flood hazard areas, which could substantially increase surface runoff or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, shall be reviewed by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Land use types and intensities permitted shall recognize and mitigate surface runoff quality or quantity problems.
- HAP 3.7 Development adjacent to the Springbrook Wash shall be limited to the bluffs overlooking the wash itself. A development application proposing any alteration of the wash's banks must obtain prior approval of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.
- HAP 3.8 Development projects within the Highgrove Community Policy Area shall implement best management practices for urban pollutant runoff as prescribed by the Santa Ana Regional Drainage Area Management Plan (SAR-DAMP) and its supplements.

Recreational Trails

Policies:

- HAP 4.1 The Riverside County General Plan's Regional Trails Map and the Highgrove Area Plan trails maps depict conceptual trail alignments. The precise alignment of a trail shall be based on the physical characteristics of the area. Where practical, trails have been aligned along road rights-of-way and flood control and utility easements.
- HAP 4.2 Trails will be developed in accordance with current Riverside County design criteria, standards, and practices found in the Non-motorized Transportation section of the Riverside County General Plan Circulation Element. Function, safety, and scenic quality are the main criteria for their location and design.
- HAP 4.3 In order to implement any non-motorized regional multipurpose trails represented in these policies, trail routes will need to be acquired. Riverside County's Regional Park and Open Space District will be responsible for the development and maintenance of such trails. Proposed new non-motorized regional multi-purpose trails for Highgrove include the following:
- a. Along Spring Street, from Michigan Avenue easterly to near the easterly terminus of its publicly dedicated right of way, turning northerly to connect to Center Street near its easterly terminus, and continuing generally easterly to the Box Springs Mountains. (Implementation of this facility and its continuation along Center Street on the opposite side of the Box Springs Mountains could eventually permit a connection to Reche Canyon Road, already designated a regional multi-purpose trail in the Riverside County Comprehensive General Plan.)
 - b. From the Box Springs Mountains, at a point of connection with the facility cited in the policy above, continuing generally southerly, crossing Pigeon Pass Road, and connecting to Box Springs Mountain Park.
 - c. Along Mount Vernon Avenue, from Main Street to its intersection with Pigeon Pass Road.

- d. From the Gage Canal, within or along the Springbrook Wash to Mount Vernon Avenue, continuing through or along the wash to a point of connection with the current terminus of Serpentine Road.

HAP 4.4 Proposed new bike trails for Highgrove include the following:

- a. A Class II facility on Center Street, from Iowa Avenue to Michigan Avenue. (Implementation of this facility is important to pursuing an eventual connection to the Santa Ana River.)
- b. A Class II facility on Mount Vernon Avenue, from Main Street to Palmyrita Avenue.
- c. A Class II facility on California Avenue, from Center Street to the City of Riverside's incorporated limits.
- d. A Class II facility on Iowa Avenue, from Main Street to the City of Riverside's incorporated limits.
- e. A Class II facility on Main Street, from Michigan Avenue to Mount Vernon Avenue.
- f. A Class II facility on Michigan Avenue, from Main Street to Spring Street.
- g. A Class II facility on Spring Street, from Michigan Avenue to Mount Vernon Avenue.

HAP 4.5 Diamond-shaped warning signs indicating “Warning: Horse Crossing or depicting the equivalent international graphic symbol shall be installed where practicable at locations where regional or community trails as described in these policies cross public roads with relatively high amounts of traffic. Priority should be given to Center Street, Pigeon Pass Road, and roadways with more than two striped lanes. At signalized intersections, special equestrian push buttons (located at heights usable by persons riding on horseback) will be considered and installed where appropriate. As resources permit, consideration should be given to the placement of signs along those public rights-of-way identified as regional or community trail alignments alerting motorists to the possible presence of equestrian, bicycle, and pedestrian (i.e., non-motorized) traffic.

Local Land Use Policies

Highgrove is a varied community consisting of three discernible parts, looking from west to east: a higher density mix of housing and mostly local-serving commercial development; suburban ranch style homes on, generally, half-acre lots; and rural lands.

Urban Residential Development

Highgrove's western urban core stretches from La Cadena Drive to California Avenue. Within it is located the existing concentration of High Density Residential (HDR), Medium High Density Residential (MHDR), and Medium Density Residential (MDR).

Highgrove Area Plan

Very High Density Residential (VHDR) includes apartment development, ranging from 14 to 20 dwelling units per acre. VHDR is not specifically allocated for any location within the Highgrove Community Policy Area. However, one existing trailer park is identified as Highest Density Residential.

HDR includes four-plex residential and apartment development, ranging from 8 to 14 dwelling units per acre.

A multiple family residential lot in HDR and MHDR must be at least 7,200 square feet in size and must contain at least 2,500 square feet per individual dwelling unit permitted.

MHDR allows densities ranging from 5 to 8 dwelling units per acre. The single family residential lot sizes permitted in this category range from as large as approximately 7,200 square feet down to about 5,000 square feet. This category also allows attached single family development and mobile home parks.

MDR allows densities ranging from 2 to 5 dwelling units per acre. The single family residential lot sizes permitted in this category range from as large as approximately 20,000 square feet down to about 7,200 square feet.

The Highgrove community is not served by a community or district sewer system, and, therefore, does not currently meet the qualifications for additional urban density development (densities greater than 2 dwelling units/acre) as specified in the Riverside County General Plan. Nonetheless, infill development east of Garfield Avenue will increase residential densities available to support the extension of sewer service to the community. The MDR densities would contribute to a land-use transition from job-creating uses that should be encouraged to locate alongside the Union Pacific rail line.

The following policies shall apply to all new development in HDR, MHDR, and MDR designations:

Policies:

- HAP 5.1 Additional VHDR, HDR, or MHDR residential uses shall be located within Highgrove's western urban core. VHDR uses shall be allowed only as a component of a transit-oriented mixed-use development as specified in the policy below. HDR or MHDR uses shall be allowed either as a component of a transit-oriented mixed-use development as specified in the policy below; or on parcels with appropriate existing zoning whose development applications can satisfy all other applicable policies below.
- HAP 5.2 Provide amenity features in conjunction with all VHDR, HDR, and MHDR developments. This may include a local park, jogging trail, or other open space feature for the use and enjoyment of residents.
- HAP 5.3 VHDR, HDR, MHDR, and MDR developments located adjacent to lower density residential uses shall provide transitional buffers, such as larger lot sizes along the boundary, setbacks similar to those of the adjoining rural development, block walls, landscaped berms, or a wall combined with landscaping to enhance its appearance.
- HAP 5.4 MDR developments shall provide open space, neighborhood parks, or recreational areas to serve the needs of their residents.
- HAP 5.5 All MDR, MHDR, HDR, VHDR, HHDR land uses require a full range of public services, as described in the Land Use Element of the Riverside County General Plan, including adequate and available circulation, water service from the City of Riverside Water Utilities OR Riverside

Highland Water Company's distribution system (as applicable), sewage collection, and utilities including electricity and telephone (and, usually, natural gas and cable television) service.

- HAP 5.6 All subdivisions proposing development at MDR, MHDR, HDR, VHDR, and HHDR densities must be part of improvement districts of water and sewer districts which are authorized to provide water and sewer service, or must provide evidence of an agreement with another entity for provision of sewer service. Commitments for water and sewer service must be confirmed by the entities responsible for providing these services. Adequate and available water supply and sewage treatment capacities must exist at the time of construction to meet the demands of the proposed project.
- HAP 5.7 Development applications for transit-oriented mixed use development projects must satisfy the requirements of the VHDR, HDR, MHDR, MDR, Commercial or Industrial policies of this Plan, according to the uses incorporated within the project. In addition, such applications must satisfy the following requirements:
- a. The project shall be located within one half mile of a future Highgrove transit station site.
 - b. The project shall aggressively promote alternatives to vehicular traffic, by project design and amenities that encourage pedestrian and bicycle patronage.
 - c. The project's residential component shall have a maximum residential density of 20 dwelling units per acre (VHDR). In its design and construction, this residential component shall implement measures appropriate to mitigate exterior noise and interior noise at levels consistent with its proximity to railroad rights of way or other significant noise sources.
 - d. The project shall include a retail component that is centrally located, serves transit employees/passengers, the project's inhabitants, and potentially the greater Highgrove community.
 - e. Approval of a specific plan application is required.

Highgrove Town Center

Highgrove Town Center (see Figure 3A) contains two neighborhoods located in or near the heart of the Highgrove community. The **Center Street–Garfield Avenue Neighborhood** is planned as a Mixed-Use Area, with a **minimum** 75% HHDR component. It is located in the heart of Highgrove, generally lying between Flynn Street on the north and Springbrook Wash (and the City of Riverside) on the south, and between California Avenue (and the railroad tracks) on the west and Garfield Avenue on the east. This neighborhood is bisected by Center Street, Highgrove's main east-west thoroughfare, which connects the neighborhood with the community's commercial services and I-215 to the west, and its community facilities, including an elementary school, a library, a community center, and a community park, on the east. The **Center Street–Mt. Vernon Street Southeast Neighborhood** is designated entirely for HHDR residential development. It is located in the eastern part of Highgrove, along the east side of Mt. Vernon Avenue, between Center and Spring Streets. This neighborhood is located near the aforementioned community facilities, too, and is adjacent to a planned park with trail access to Springbrook Wash. Both Highgrove Town Center neighborhoods and the development policies pertaining to them are described in detail below.

Highest Density Residential (HHDR) Neighborhood Description and Policies:

The following is a description of the neighborhood in Highgrove Town Center designated for 100% HHDR development, and the policies specific to the neighborhood:

The **Center Street - Mt. Vernon Street Southeast Neighborhood [Neighborhood 2]** contains approximately 20 gross acres (about 18 net acres). This neighborhood will be developed entirely as HHDR (Highest Density Residential). About half of the neighborhood site currently contains a citrus grove with a single family residence; the remainder of the site is vacant. Adjoining land uses include single family residential to the west, across Mt. Vernon Avenue, and to the northeast, across Center Street. All parcels adjoining the neighborhood site in other directions are currently vacant. A proposed park would adjoin the eastern side of this neighborhood. A proposed elementary school would be located nearby to the east, adjacent to the park, on the opposite side from this neighborhood. A proposed community trail that would connect the neighborhood site with Springbrook Wash is proposed along the western edge of the proposed park where it adjoins the neighborhood. The Norton Younglove Community Center, Highgrove Community Park, Highgrove Community Library, and Highgrove Elementary School are all located nearby to the west, and would be accessed from the site via Center Street. The **new** Riverside Hunter Park train station, providing commuter access to the **new** Perris Valley Metrolink line, is also located nearby - about two miles southwest of this neighborhood.

Policies:

- HAP 5.8 The entire Center Street-Mt. Vernon Avenue Southeast Neighborhood shall be developed in accordance with the HHDR land use designation.
- HAP 5.9 Trails, parks, and recreational areas should be included in site development to complement and enhance development in this neighborhood.
- HAP 5.10 To ensure that project edges are compatible with existing and adjacent development, the neighborhood edge areas along Mt. Vernon Avenue, and along Center and Spring Streets should be limited to trails, park and recreation areas, single story buildings, limited use of two story buildings, and other low profile uses, as appropriate.

Mixed-Use Area (MUA) Neighborhood Description and Policy:

The following is a description of the neighborhood in Highgrove Town Center designated for Mixed-Use Area (MUA) development, and the policies specific to the neighborhood:

Center Street-Garfield Avenue Neighborhood [Neighborhood 1]: The Center Street – Garfield Avenue Neighborhood contains about 103 gross acres (about **94 93** net acres), and is designated as a Mixed-Use Area, with a **minimum** 75% HHDR component. The remainder of this MUA may be developed with a balanced, mutually supportive (with the HHDR residential) combination of retail commercial, office, industrial, recreational, and other uses and residential densities. This neighborhood is bounded by California Avenue (and Union Pacific railroad tracks) on the west, Garfield Avenue on the east, Flynn Street on the north, and Springbrook Wash and the City of Riverside on the south. It is bisected by Center Street, Highgrove’s main business corridor and access to I-215 toward the west, and its access route to many community facilities to the east, especially Highgrove Elementary School (immediately adjacent to the eastern edge of the neighborhood), and Highgrove Community Library, Norton Younglove Community Center, and Highgrove Community Park, all of which are located nearby to the east.

Existing single family residential neighborhoods adjoin this neighborhood to the north, west, and partly along its southeastern edge. Existing commercial uses lie nearby to the west along Center Street. This neighborhood is mostly vacant; however, the California Citrus Cooperative packing house and one single family residence are located in the northwestern portion of the site, along the north side of Center Street. The **new** Riverside Hunter Park train station is located just over one mile to the south of this neighborhood, providing convenient local access to the new Perris Valley Line Metrolink commuter train service.

Trails could be developed around the perimeter of the site and between uses on the site to provide pedestrian and/or bicycle connections to the Springbrook Wash area, provide access to transit facilities, and to provide alternative transportation opportunities for both this neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods, and opportunities for low profile, open space buffers around the perimeter of the site where higher intensity development would adjoin existing single family neighborhoods. This neighborhood's location, size, and existing supportive community facilities will benefit from the reduced distances between housing, workplaces, retail business, and other amenities and destinations. In addition, a walkable, bicycle-friendly environment with increased accessibility via transit will result in more transportation options and reduced transportation costs.

Policies:

- HAP 5.11 **Seventy-five percent** ~~At least 75%~~ of the Center Street-Garfield Avenue Neighborhood shall be developed in accordance with the HHDR land use designation.
- HAP 5.12 The remainder of this neighborhood may be developed with a mutually supportive (with the HHDR development) mix of retail commercial, office, industrial, park and recreational, and other types of uses that will result in a vibrant neighborhood.
- HAP 5.13 Buffers shall be provided along the edges of this neighborhood where it adjoins existing single family detached residential neighborhoods, specifically along its western (California Avenue), northern (Flynn Street), northeastern, and southeastern sides where it adjoins such neighborhoods. To effectively provide the buffers, project designs shall use a combination of low-profile (usually one-story) buildings, trails, park and recreation areas, and other compatible, low profile uses.
- HAP 5.14 Retail Commercial and other uses expected to attract high volumes of activity from outside this neighborhood should be located along or near Center Street. Businesses and other uses that could generate moderate to high volumes of traffic should be located on or near Center street, but should be located away from Highgrove Elementary School, and designed in such a manner as to orient traffic activity away from the school.

Policies Applying to both Neighborhoods of Highgrove Town Center, whether designated HHDR or MUA:

The following policies apply to both of the neighborhoods of Highgrove Town Center, whether they are designated HHDR or MUA:

- HAP 5.15 All development should be designed and located on site in such a manner as to provide for walkable connections between on-site uses, and convenient pedestrian and bicycle connections to adjacent and nearby community facilities, businesses, park and open space areas, and transit access opportunities.

- HAP 5.16 All development should be designed to facilitate convenient bus transit access to these neighborhoods, and to provide for well-designed and convenient pedestrian, bicycle, and potential transit shuttle access to the Riverside Hunter Park Metrolink station.
- HAP 5.17 Uses approved and operating under an existing valid entitlement may remain or be converted into another land use in accordance with Riverside County Ordinance No. 348 and consistent with these policies.

Rural Density Residential Development

The suburban residential ranch style homes in Highgrove occur roughly between Michigan Avenue and Mount Vernon Avenue, providing shelter for people who enjoy aspects of a rural lifestyle with the convenience of close proximity to urban amenities. Within this suburban area is located the existing concentration of Low Density Residential (LDR). LDR allows residential development at densities ranging from one to two dwelling units per acre. The single family residential lot sizes permitted in this category range from as large as approximately one acre down to about 0.5 acre.

The following policies shall apply to all new development in LDR, VLDR, EDR and RR designations:

Policies:

- HAP 6.1 Adequate and available water resources must exist to meet the demands of the proposed land use. Water service shall be provided by the water distribution system of the Riverside Highland Water Company or by private wells. If private wells are to be utilized, water quality testing will be required by Riverside County.
- HAP 6.2 If sewer service is not available, subsurface sewage disposal systems may be utilized. Adequate soil percolation conditions must exist to meet the demands of the proposed land use. The preparation of a soils feasibility report which adequately evaluates soil percolation and/or a special feasibility boring report will be required in order for the County of Riverside to evaluate the adequacy of onsite soils for installation of subsurface sewage disposal systems.

Commercial

Policies:

- HAP 7.1 All commercial land uses must comply with the siting and access criteria for commercial uses included in the Land Use and Circulation Elements.
- HAP 7.2 Commercial development requires a full range of public services, including adequate and available circulation (including location on a paved road), community water service, sewage disposal, and utilities. Use of subsurface sewage disposal systems may be authorized by the County of Riverside; however, commercial facilities may be required to be connected to a community (District) sewer system if the County of Riverside determines that such connection is necessary to provide for the public life and property.
- HAP 7.3 The use of common driveways for ingress and egress shall be encouraged where feasible along the property lines of parcels planned for commercial development.

HAP 7.4 Commercial land uses shall be designed to ensure compatibility with adjacent land uses.

Industrial

Policies:

HAP 8.1 All new industrial land uses must comply with the siting and access criteria for industrial uses included in the Land Use and Circulation Elements.

HAP 8.2 Industrial development shall be compatible with adjacent land uses. To achieve compatibility, industrial development projects may be required to include mitigation measures necessary to avoid or minimize project impacts on adjacent uses. Such mitigation may include muffler systems, insulation, block walls, berms, landscaping, additional setbacks and/or wall and landscaping combinations, or other requirements recommended in conjunction with any project-related noise and environmental studies.

HAP 8.3 Night lighting is permitted for security purposes in industrial areas; however, such lighting shall be hooded and directed to avoid glare and direct illumination of adjacent properties. Night lighting shall comply with any applicable provisions of the Ordinance of the County of Riverside Regulating Light Pollution (Ordinance No. 655).

HAP 8.4 Development applications for industrial projects that are adjacent to Highgrove Elementary School or presumably near enough to impact it must satisfy the following requirements:

- a. Vehicular access shall be limited to General Plan roadways. No access to adjacent local streets shall be permitted.
- b. No offsite parking along adjacent local streets shall be permitted.
- c. Adequate pedestrian safety measures shall be incorporated into the development design.
- d. An acoustical study shall be commissioned to identify any project impacts and appropriate mitigation measures to be implemented.
- e. Adequate perimeter boundary treatments to enhance security and to promote attractive views of the project shall be provided.

HAP 8.5 Development applications for industrial projects that are adjacent to residentially developed parcels must satisfy the following requirements:

- a. Vehicular access shall be limited to General Plan roadways. No access to adjacent local street segments primarily serving existing residential uses shall be permitted.
- b. No offsite parking along adjacent local street segments primarily serving existing residential uses shall be permitted.
- c. Any portion of the project's perimeter that is adjacent to existing residential uses shall be buffered with landscaping, berms, additional setbacks or other features necessary to reduce the visual or other impacts on those residential uses.

- d. Adequate pedestrian safety measures shall be incorporated into the development design.
- e. Project proponents shall commission noise and other appropriate environmental studies of impacts when a project site is adjacent to existing residential uses, or when the nature of the use proposed creates a presumption of such impacts.

HAP 8.6 Development applications for industrial projects located easterly of the Union Pacific rail line and southerly from Center Street shall provide for the construction of Industrial Collector roadways to provide access from such developments to Center Street and/or other higher classification roadways. Particular attention shall be given to the development of an Industrial Collector generally along the alignment of California Avenue between Center Street and the City of Riverside.

Open Space and Conservation

Rural Mountainous Areas

Policies:

- HAP 9.1 Allowable land uses shall be as specified for Rural Mountainous in the Land Use Element of the Riverside County General Plan.
- HAP 9.2 The minimum size for any new lot which falls entirely within the Rural Mountainous designation is 10 acres. In considering the division of properties smaller than 20 acres in area located partially within and partially outside the Rural Mountainous designation, the County of Riverside may approve creation of lots smaller than 10 acres in area which are partially within and partially outside the Mountainous Areas designation, provided that the building pad and access driveway for each such lot are located entirely outside the Rural Mountainous designation and entirely outside areas of 25% or greater slopes.
- HAP 9.3 Any development proposal located within or partially within the Rural Mountainous designation must provide a slope analysis and a comprehensive soils report and percolation study in order to determine appropriate lot sizes, grading requirements, and locations of building pads, driveways, and access roads. Development applications located on the edge of the designation may be accompanied by more detailed topographic data to further define the 25% slope line.

Open Space-Conservation Areas

Policies:

- HAP 10.1 Primary allowable land uses shall be open space and recreational uses. Limited resource development is permitted if allowed by park authorities.

Other Policy Areas

City of Riverside Sphere of Influence

This Area Plan includes properties within the sphere of influence of the City of Riverside. Areas within this sphere of influence shall be subject to the following policies in addition to those policies that are applicable area-wide:

- HAP 11.1 Sanitary sewer service shall be provided to any new lots smaller than one acre in gross area tentatively approved through tract map or parcel map applications following the adoption of this General Plan. If sewer service is not available, a 1-acre minimum lot size shall be required.
- HAP 11.2 The County of Riverside shall work with representatives of the City of Riverside to provide for the establishment of development standards comparable to those required by the City of Riverside. Such development standards may include, but are not necessarily limited to, design standards, density, street widths, setbacks, landscaping (including reverse frontage landscaping), residential lot development (including subdivision design and grading), parking, and undergrounding of utilities.
- HAP 11.3 The County of Riverside shall implement standards to provide that new development occurring in unincorporated areas will pay its own way. The County of Riverside will establish programs that will be continuing obligations of the County of Riverside (utilizing Community Facilities Districts, County Service Areas, or other ongoing funding mechanisms subject to the requirements of Proposition 218) to provide for community parks, recreation programs, and libraries. The use of homeowners' associations will be limited to services or facilities serving only that specific group of property owners.
- HAP 11.4 Development applications subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) located within the City of Riverside sphere of influence shall be forwarded to the City of Riverside for review. If the development application requires zoning that would be inconsistent with the City of Riverside's General Plan, a meeting shall be arranged among City of Riverside staff, County of Riverside staff, and the applicant to jointly review the subject development application, in order to develop a joint set of conditions/ requirements.

Specific Plans

Specific plans are highly customized policy or regulatory tools that provide a bridge between the General Plan and individual development projects in a more area-specific manner than is possible with community-wide zoning ordinances. The specific plan is a tool that provides land use and development standards that are tailored to respond to special conditions and aspirations unique to the area being proposed for development and conservation. These tools are a means of addressing detailed concerns that conventional zoning cannot do.



The authority for preparation of Specific Plans is found in the California Government Code, Sections 65450 through 65457.

Specific plans are identified in this section as Policy Areas because detailed study and development direction is provided in each plan. Policies related to any listed specific plan can be reviewed at the Riverside County Planning Department. The three specific plans located in the Highgrove planning area are listed in Table 3,

Highgrove Area Plan

Adopted Specific Plans in Highgrove Area Plan. Each of these specific plans is determined to be a Community Development Specific Plan.

Table 3: Adopted Specific Plans in Highgrove Area Plan

Specific Plan	Specific Plan #
Gateway Center	250
Spring Mountain Ranch ¹	323
Springbrook Estates	330

Source: Riverside County Planning Department.

¹ Portions of this specific plan extend into a neighboring Area Plan

March Joint Air Reserve Base Influence Area

The former March Air Force Base is located southwest of the Highgrove area and has a significant impact on development in the southern portion of the Highgrove area. This facility was established in 1918 and was in continual military use until 1993. In 1996, the land was converted from an operational Air Force Base to an Active Duty Reserve Base. A four-party Joint Powers Authority (JPA), comprised of the County of Riverside and the cities of Moreno Valley, Perris and Riverside, now governs the facility. The JPA plans to transform a portion of the base into a highly active inland port, known as the March Inland Port. The JPA's land use jurisdiction and March Joint Air Reserve Base encompass 6,500 acres of land, including the active cargo and military airport. The boundary of the March Joint Air Reserve Base Airport Influence Area is shown on Figure 4, Overlays and Policy Areas. There are three Compatibility Zones associated with the Airport Influence Area. These Compatibility Zones are shown in Figure 5, March Joint Air Reserve Base Airport Influence Policy Area. Properties within these zones are subject to regulations governing such issues as land use, development intensity, density, height of structures, and noise. These land use restrictions are fully set forth in Appendix L-1 and are summarized in Table 4, Airport Land Use Compatibility Criteria for Riverside County (applicable to March Joint Air Reserve Base). For more information on these zones and additional airport policies, refer to Appendix L-1 and the Land Use, Circulation, Safety, and Noise Elements of the Riverside County General Plan.

Policies:

- HAP 12.1 To provide for the orderly development of March Joint Air Reserve Base and the surrounding areas, comply with the 1984 Riverside County Airport Land Use Plan as fully set forth in Appendix L-1 and as summarized in Table 4, as well as any applicable policies related to airports in the Land Use, Circulation, Safety, and Noise Elements of the Riverside County General Plan.

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**Table 4: Airport Land Use Compatibility Criteria for Riverside County
(Applicable to March Joint Air Reserve Base)^{1,2}**

Safety Zone	Maximum Population Density	Land Use
Area I	No Residential ³	<p>No high risk land uses. High risk land uses have one or more of the following characteristics: a high concentration of people; critical facility status; or use of flammable or explosive materials. The following are examples of uses which have these higher risk characteristics. This list is not complete and each land use application shall be evaluated for its appropriateness given airport flight activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places of Assembly, such as churches, schools, and auditoriums. • Large Retail Outlets, such as shopping centers, department stores, “big box” discount stores, supermarkets, and drug stores. • High Patronage Services, such as restaurants, theaters, banks, and bowling alleys. • Overnight Occupancy Uses, such as hospitals, nursing homes, community care facilities, hotels, and motels. • Communication Facilities for use by emergency response and public information activities. • Flammable or Explosive Materials, such as service stations (gasoline and liquid petroleum), bulk fuel storage, plastics manufacturing, feed and flour mills, and breweries.
Area II	Residential: 2.5 Acre minimum lots	
Area III	Not Applicable	

1 The following uses shall be prohibited in all airport safety zones:

- a. Any use which would direct a steady light or flashing light of red, white, green, or amber colors associated with airport operations toward an aircraft engaged in an initial straight climb following takeoff or toward an aircraft engaged in a straight final approach toward a landing at an airport, other than an FAA-approved navigational signal light or visual approach slope indicator.
- b. Any use which would cause sunlight to be reflected towards an aircraft engaged in an initial straight climb following takeoff or towards an aircraft engaged in a straight final approach towards a landing at an airport.
- c. Any use which would generate smoke or water vapor or which would attract large concentrations of birds, or which may otherwise affect safe air navigation within the area.
- d. Any use which would generate electrical interference that may be detrimental to the operation of aircraft and /or aircraft instrumentation.

2 Avigation easements shall be secured through dedication for all land uses permitted in any safety zones.

3 Except at densities less than 0.4 DU/Acre within specified areas as designated by the Airport Land Use Commission.

Source: Extracted from Riverside County Airport Land Use Plan

Land Use

While the General Plan Land Use Element and Area Plan Land Use Map guide future development patterns in the Highgrove area, additional policy guidance is often necessary to address local land use issues that are unique to the area or that require special policies that go above and beyond those identified in the General Plan. These policies may reinforce Riverside County regulatory provisions, preserve special lands or historic structures, require or encourage particular design features or guidelines, or restrict certain activities, among others. The intent is to enhance and/or preserve the identity, character, and features of this unique area. The Local Land Use Policies section provides a host of policies to address those land use issues relating specifically to the Highgrove planning area.

Local Land Use Policies

Design Guidelines

With increasing growth and development pressures facing many unincorporated areas in western Riverside County, the County of Riverside has previously identified the need to establish a set of specific design criteria for development in this area and throughout the Fifth Supervisorial District to ensure that quality development occurs in this portion of Riverside County. In 2001, the County of Riverside prepared and adopted the Design Standards and Guidelines for Development in the Third and Fifth Supervisorial Districts.

Policies:

HAP 13.1 Require development to adhere to standards detailed in the Design Standards and Guidelines for Development in the Third and Fifth Supervisorial Districts.

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Investment in and expansion of the existing freeway and arterial street networks continue to be a critical part of our comprehensive transportation system development.

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- RCIP Vision

Circulation

The circulation system is vital to the prosperity of a community. It provides for the movement of goods and people within and outside of the community and includes motorized and non-motorized travel modes such as bicycles, trains, airplanes, automobiles and trucks. In Riverside County, the circulation system is also intended to accommodate a pattern of concentrated growth, providing both a regional and local linkage system between unique communities. This system is multi-modal, which means that it provides numerous alternatives to the automobile, such as transit, pedestrian systems, and bicycle facilities so that Riverside County citizens and visitors can access the region and move around within it by a number of transportation options. Internal circulation is particularly critical in Riverside County because of the immense distances in a place of such expanse. Therefore, connecting to the backbone system of freeways and major transportation corridors within Riverside County is a very high priority.

As stated in the Vision and the Land Use Element, the County of Riverside is moving away from a growth pattern of random sprawl toward a pattern of concentrated growth and increased job creation. The intent of the new growth patterns and the new mobility systems is to accommodate the transportation demands created by existing development and future growth and to provide mobility options that help reduce the need to utilize the automobile at least to avoid the need to use it exclusively for trips of virtually all lengths. The circulation system is designed to fit into the fabric of the land use patterns, provide mobility commensurate with the demand generated by those land uses, and relate sensitively to designated open space systems where both access and preservation are necessary components of the same space.

While the following section describes the circulation system as it relates to the Highgrove area, it is important to note that the programs and policies are supplemental to and coordinated with the policies of the General Plan Circulation Element. In other words, the circulation system of the Highgrove area is tied to the countywide system and long range direction. As such, successful implementation of the policies in this Area Plan will help to create an interconnected and efficient circulation system for the entire County of Riverside. The key point here is that the entire countywide circulation network of routes (which, of course, includes components within the cities

as well as the unincorporated area) is a single system and must be respected even though it will be built in increments.

Local Circulation Policies

Vehicular Circulation

The vehicular circulation system in the Highgrove area is anchored by Interstate 215 and State Route 60. A system of major and secondary arterials, collector and local roads serve both regional and local needs. Some of the primary General Plan designated roads include Center Street, La Cadena Avenue, and Orange Street.



Look to the General Plan
Circulation Element for
Roadway Widths and
Capacities.

Policies:

- HAP 14.1 Design and develop the vehicular roadway system per Figure 6, Circulation, and in accordance with the Functional classifications and standards specified in the Circulation Element.
- HAP 14.2 Maintain Riverside County's roadway Level of Service standards as described in the Circulation Element.

Trails and Bikeway System

The County of Riverside contains bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian trails that traverse urban, rural, and natural areas. These multi-use trails accommodate hikers, bicyclists, equestrian users or others as an integral part of Riverside County's circulation system. They serve both as a means of connecting the unique communities and activity centers throughout Riverside County and as an effective alternate mode of transportation. In addition to transportation, the trail system also serves as a community amenity by providing recreation and leisure opportunities.

The rural nature of much of the Highgrove area along with its tremendous scenic qualities make trails a particularly attractive recreational amenity. The location and distribution of Area Plan and Regional Trails can be found in Figure 7, Trails and Bikeway System.

Policies:

- HAP 15.1 Develop a system of local trails that enhances the Highgrove area's recreational opportunities and connects with the Riverside County regional trails system.
- HAP 15.2 Implement the Trails and Bikeway System, Figure 7, as discussed in the General Plan Circulation Element.

Community Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP) Corridors

The population and employment of Riverside County are expected to significantly increase over the next twenty years. CETAP was established to evaluate the need and the opportunities for the development of new or expanded transportation corridors in western Riverside County to accommodate the increased growth and

preserve quality of life. These transportation corridors include a range of transportation options such as highways or transit, and are developed with careful consideration for potential impacts to habitat requirements, land use plans, and public infrastructure. CETAP has identified four priority corridors for the movement of people and goods: Winchester to Temecula Corridor, East-West CETAP Corridor, Moreno Valley to San Bernardino Corridor and Riverside County - Orange County Corridor.

The Moreno Valley to San Bernardino CETAP Corridor Alternative passes along the southeastern edge of the Highgrove planning area, extending northerly from its junction with State Route 60, then heading easterly into the Reche Canyon/Badlands area and into San Bernardino County. This corridor could accommodate a number of transportation options, including vehicular traffic and high occupancy vehicle lanes, and is conceptually depicted on Figure 6.

Policies:

HAP 16.1 Accommodate the Moreno Valley to San Bernardino CETAP Corridor Alternative in accordance with the Scenic Corridors and Local Agency and Property Owner Coordination sections of the General Plan Circulation Element.

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The open space system and the methods for its acquisition, maintenance, and operation are calibrated to its many functions: visual relief, natural resources protection, habitat preservation, passive and active recreation, protection from natural hazards, and various combinations of these purposes. This is what is meant by a multipurpose open space system.

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- RCIP Vision

Multipurpose Open Space

The Highgrove planning area open spaces perform a multitude of functions, hence the label of multi-purpose. The point is that open space is really a part of the public infrastructure and should have the capability of serving a variety of needs and diversity of users. Highgrove’s natural open space resources are quite extensive and specialized. That means that each resource requires thoughtful preservation and, in some cases, restoration. This Multipurpose Open Space section is a critical component of the character of the County of Riverside and of the Highgrove area. Preserving the scenic background and natural resources of this special area gives meaning to the remarkable environmental setting portion of the overall Riverside County Vision. Not only that: these open spaces also help define the edges of and separation between communities, which is another important aspect of the Vision.

The appeal of the Highgrove area lies in its dramatic and expansive natural setting. The Highgrove area contains a unique open space network that encompasses a diverse variety of habitats, including riparian corridors, vernal pools, grasslands, foothills, mountains, wetlands, and agricultural fields. These open space areas provide visual relief, serve as habitat for plants and animals,



A watershed is the entire region drained by a waterway that drains into a lake or reservoir. It is the total area above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the flow at that point, and the topographic dividing line from which surface streams flow in two different directions. Clearly, watersheds are not just water. A single watershed may include combinations of forests, glaciers, deserts, and/or grasslands.

provide recreational opportunities, and otherwise establish the area's unique character. Open space areas also are important in protecting citizens from natural hazards.

Due in part to its proximity within the growing Inland Empire, the Highgrove area continues to experience growth and development pressures. Establishing a balance between preserving open space areas and accommodating additional population needs is essential to maintaining the open space and rural character of the area.

Policies:

- HAP 17.1 Protect visual and biological resources in the Highgrove area through adherence to General Plan policies found in the Scenic Corridors section of the Land Use Element, the Scenic Corridors section of the Circulation Element, and the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plans and Scenic Resources sections of the Multipurpose Open Space Element.

Local Open Space Policies

Floodplains and Watercourses

The Santa Ana River, Springbrook Wash, Riverside Canal Aqueduct, and Gage Canal serve as the major drainage areas for the Highgrove planning area. Due to the area's mountainous terrain, there are several other major drainage courses throughout the planning area. These and smaller perennial streams create a system of ever-changing channels within the Highgrove area, which gradually change its physical appearance.



Watercourses are the corridors of streams, rivers, and creeks, whether permanent or seasonal, natural or channelized.

Policies:

- HAP 18.1 Protect the watercourse and floodplain areas, and provide recreational opportunities and flood protection through adherence with the Open Space, Habitat and Natural Resource Preservation section of the General Plan Land Use Element; the Floodplain and Riparian Area Management, Wetlands, Environmentally Sensitive Lands, and Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plans sections of the Multipurpose Open Space Elements and the Non-Motorized Transportation section of the Circulation Element.

Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

One of the major challenges confronting Riverside County is the fact that it presently contains a huge proportion of the remaining Southern California natural habitat and a very diverse one at that. While these rich mountain, valley, riparian and desert resources contribute much to the remarkable environmental setting that underlies the Riverside County Vision, they also encompass extensive privately owned lands. Thus, a balancing of long-term habitat viability and private property interests is an essential feature of the RCIP and must be reflected in this Area Plan.



For further information on the MSHCP please see the Multipurpose Open Space Element of the General Plan.



The Wildlife Agencies include The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Regional resource planning to protect individual species such as the Stephens Kangaroo Rat has occurred in Riverside County for many years. Privately owned reserves and publicly owned land have served as habitat for many different species. This method of land and wildlife preservation proved to be piecemeal and disjointed, resulting in islands of reserve land without corridors for species migration and access. To address these issues of wildlife health and habitat sustainability, the WRC MSHCP was developed by the County of Riverside and adopted by the County and other plan participants in 2003. Permits were issued by the Wildlife Agencies in 2004. The WRC MSHCP comprises a reserve system that encompasses comprehensively core habitats, linkages, and wildlife corridor resources. This includes territory outside of existing reserve areas and folds existing private and public reserve lands into a single comprehensive plan that can accommodate the present and future species and habitat needs.

With its rich and varied landscape, the Highgrove area accommodates several ecological habitats, from grasslands and hillside sage scrub to wetlands and riparian corridors. Though the Highgrove Land Use Plan preserves the existing open space and rural character of much of the area, future urban development could have detrimental effects upon habitat areas, including the Springbrook Wash and the Box Springs Mountains. Preserving habitat not only aids in sustaining species' survival, but also maintains the quality of life in the Highgrove area and promotes tourism.

MSHCP Program Description

The Endangered Species Act prohibits the “taking” of endangered species. Taking is defined as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect” listed species. The Wildlife Agencies have authority to regulate this “take” of threatened and endangered species. The intent of the WRC MSHCP is for the Wildlife Agencies to grant a take authorization for otherwise lawful actions that may incidentally take or harm species outside of reserve areas, in exchange for supporting assembly of a coordinated reserve system. Therefore, the WRC MSHCP allows the County of Riverside to take plant and animal species within identified areas through the local land use planning process. In addition to the conservation and management duties assigned to the County of Riverside, a property owner- initiated habitat evaluation and acquisition negotiation process has also been developed. This process is intended to apply to property that may be needed for inclusion in the WRC MSHCP Reserve or subjected to other WRC MSHCP criteria.

Key Biological Issues

The habitat requirements of the sensitive and listed species, combined with sound habitat management practices, have shaped the following policies. These policies provide general conservation direction.

Policies:

HAP 19.1 Protect biological resources in the Highgrove area through adherence to General Plan policies found in the Floodplain and Riparian Area Management, Wetlands, Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plans, and Environmentally Sensitive



The following sensitive, threatened and endangered species may be found within this Area Plan:

Slender-horned
spineflower

coyote

California gnatcatcher

least Bell's vireo

Cooper's hawk

Lands sections General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element.

- HAP 19.2 Maintain a contiguous linkage through the Springbrook Wash from Box Springs Reserve to the Santa Ana River.
- HAP 19.3 Maintain habitat connectivity within the Springbrook Wash to facilitate conservation and distribution of wetland species.
- HAP 19.4 Conserve large blocks of inter-connected coastal sage scrub habitat in order to connect gnatcatcher populations within Riverside County with those located at Blue Mountain in San Bernardino County.
- HAP 19.5 Maintain large blocks of interconnected habitat including grassland and coastal sage scrub for raptor foraging habitat.

Hazards

Hazards are natural and man-made conditions that must be respected if life and property are to be protected as growth and development occur. As the ravages of wildland fires, floods, dam failures, earthquakes and other disasters become clearer through the news, public awareness and sound public policy combine to require serious attention to these conditions.

Portions of the Highgrove area may be subjected to hazards such as flooding, seismic occurrences, and wildland fire. These hazards are depicted on the hazards maps, Figure 8 to Figure 12. These hazards are located throughout the Highgrove area at varying degrees of risk and danger. Some hazards must be avoided entirely while the potential impacts of others can be mitigated by special building techniques. The Riverside County General Plan Safety Element provides general policy direction dealing with natural hazards throughout the County of Riverside. The following policies provide additional direction for relevant issues specific to the Highgrove area.

Local Hazard Policies



Since 1965, eleven Gubernatorial and Presidential flood disaster declarations have been declared for Riverside County. State law generally makes local government agencies responsible for flood control in California.

Flooding

The Highgrove area contains two 100-year flood zones, as identified in Figure 8, Flood Hazards. These zones include Springbrook Wash and the Santa Ana River.

Policies:

- HAP 20.1 Adhere to the flood proofing, flood protection requirements, and Flood Management Review requirements of Riverside County Ordinance No. 458 Regulating Flood Hazard Areas.

- HAP 20.2 Protect proposed development projects that are subject to flood hazards, surface ponding, high erosion potential or sheet flow by requiring submittal to the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for review.
- HAP 20.3 Protect life and property from flood hazards through adherence to the Flood and Inundation Hazards section of the General Plan Safety Element.



Fire Fact:

Santa Ana winds create a special hazard. Named by the early settlers at Santa Ana, these hot, dry winds enhance the fire danger throughout Southern California.

Wildland Fire Hazard

Due to the rugged and vegetated nature of the Box Springs Mountains region, much of the Highgrove area is subject to a high risk of fire hazards. The highest danger of wildfires can be found in the most rugged terrain where, fortunately, development intensity is relatively low. Methods to address this hazard include such techniques as not building in high-risk areas, creating setbacks that buffer development from hazard areas, maintaining brush clearance to reduce potential fuel, establishing low fuel landscaping, and applying special building techniques. Safety oriented organizations such as the Fire Safe Council can provide assistance in educating the public and promoting practices that contribute to improved public safety. Refer to Figure 9, Wildfire Susceptibility, to see the locations of the wildfire zones within Highgrove.

Policies:

- HAP 21.1 Protect life and property from wildfire hazards through adherence to policies in the Fire Hazards section of the General Plan Safety Element.

Seismic/Liquefaction

The Highgrove area is traversed by one fault zone located in the southern portion of the planning area, and has experienced several earthquakes of moderate magnitude on the Richter Scale since records have been kept. The primary seismic hazards which result are ground-shaking and the potential for ground rupture along the surface trace of the fault. Secondary seismic hazards result from the interaction of ground-shaking with existing soil and bedrock conditions, and include liquefaction, settlement, and landslides.

Policies:

- HAP 22.1 Protect life and property from seismic related incidents through adherence to policies in the Seismic Hazards section of the General Plan Safety Element.



Liquefaction occurs primarily in saturated, loose, fine to medium-grained soils in areas where the groundwater table is within about 50 feet of the surface. Shaking causes the soils to lose strength and behave as liquid. Excess water pressure is vented upward through fissures and soil cracks and a water-soil slurry bubbles onto the ground surface. The resulting features are known as "sand boils, sand blows" or "sand volcanoes." Liquefaction-related effects include loss of bearing strength, ground oscillations, lateral spreading, and flow failures or slumping.

Slope

The extent of mountainous terrain in the Highgrove area raises a number of land use and safety concerns regarding slope, including drainage, erosion, fire, and vehicular access. Though the presence of large areas of significant slope severely limits the amount of developable land in the area, urbanization of hillsides can lead to increased risk and damage from erosion and slope failures. The probability of landslides and mudslides can be affected by hillside development and associated site designs, grading and landscaping techniques, particularly in areas inherently prone to such slope failures. Development of hillside areas can also impact the extraordinary scenic values of the Box Springs Mountains area.

Policies:

HAP 23.1 Protect life and property through adherence to the Hillside Development and Slope policies of the General Plan Land Use Element, the Slope and Soil Instability Hazards policies of the General Plan Safety Element and the policies within the Rural Mountainous and Open Space Land Use Designations of the Land Use Element.

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