

Chapter V

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

- EMERGENCY SERVICES
- WATER, SEWER & OTHER UTILITIES
- PUBLIC FACILITIES





La Quinta

— GEM of the DESERT —



EMERGENCY SERVICES

PURPOSE

The Emergency Services Element addresses multiple components of the City’s public safety services, including police and fire service, emergency medical response, and emergency preparedness.

Police, fire and emergency medical response are essential services available to the City’s residents, visitors and businesses at all times. Emergency preparedness refers to the City’s ability to respond to natural and man-made disasters such as a major earthquake or flood, but it could also be triggered by other events, such as a hazardous materials incident or a civil emergency.

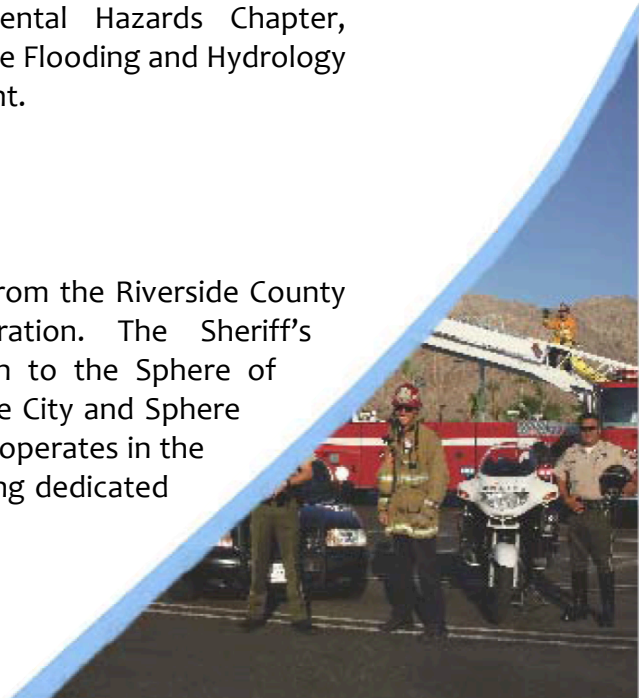
The Emergency Services Element establishes goals, policies and programs to aid the City in meeting its responsibilities in an emergency.

Government Code 65302(g) describes how each city must address, in its General Plan, its ability to respond to environmental hazards. This Element coordinates with the Environmental Hazards Chapter, particularly the Soils and Geology Element, the Flooding and Hydrology Element, and the Hazardous Materials Element.

BACKGROUND

Police Services and Facilities

The City has contracted for police services from the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department since its incorporation. The Sheriff’s Department also provides police protection to the Sphere of Influence. Service is provided throughout the City and Sphere on a 24-hour basis. The Sheriff’s Department operates in the City as the La Quinta Police Department, using dedicated facilities, equipment and personnel.



There are two Police Department offices in the City – the station located at 51-351 Avenida Bermudas, and a Business District Office located at 79-440 Corporate Center Drive. In addition, the new station located in Thermal, is the Department’s central facility for this part of the Valley, and includes a jail.

The City contracts annually for police services. In 2010, the City’s contract called for the equivalent of 51 sworn officers, and 5 community service officers. Officers assigned to the City perform investigations, traffic control, and general patrol duties. The Special Enforcement Team supplements the patrol division, and provides investigative and preventive support in the community. The Police Department also operates community programs in the City, including a School Resource Officer program at all local schools; a Junior Cadet program; a Crime Stoppers program; a volunteer Citizens on Patrol Program; and Community Service Officers assigned to each division and acting as Community Program Coordinator, responsible for Neighborhood Watch programs and community liaison. The City also relies on mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions for additional police support, when necessary.

Fire Service and Facilities

The City contracts with the Riverside County Fire Department for fire protection. The Fire Department also provides fire protection for the Sphere of Influence; however, costs for fire services in this area are paid for by the County of Riverside. The Department provides staffing for three paramedic assessment engine companies, each responding from a city-owned fire station as noted below:

- Fire Station #32, located at 78-111 Avenue 52, houses primary and reserve fire engines.
- Fire Station #70, located at 54-001 Madison Street, houses primary and reserve fire engines, and a volunteer squad vehicle.
- Fire Station #93, located at 44-555 Adams Street, houses a primary and reserve engine.

Additional stations in the Department’s system are available for emergency response, including Station #55, located on El Dorado Drive in Indian Wells; Station #88, on Madison Street, and Station #86 on Jackson Street, in Indio; and Station #39, which is located at the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport, east of the City and its Sphere of Influence. All calls are dispatched through the County’s centralized Riverside County Fire Department Emergency Command Center, which

determines the responding station(s) or engine company based on closest resource concept. Under this operating system, the closest appropriate unit(s) is sent regardless of jurisdiction.

All fire stations are staffed by career professional firefighters. Current minimum staffing is 3 firefighters per front-roll fire engine. Of these three firefighters, 1 will be a “Company Officer” level supervisor. Additionally, at least one of the three will be Paramedic Licensed. Volunteer Reserve firefighters are used to supplement paid staff by providing additional firefighters and, during busy periods, staffing additional equipment.

In 2010, average response time (driving) was 3.9 minutes throughout the City. The City has an Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating of 4 on a scale of 1 through 10 (1 being the highest rating). The ISO rating scale is based on a number of criteria, including staffing levels, response distances, training, equipment (pumping capacity, number of apparatus including ladder companies), and water supply times, building code standards and safety history. The rating is periodically reviewed.

The City also relies on mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions to provide additional fire protection services when necessary.

Emergency Medical Response

The Fire Department responds to emergency medical incidents and provides Basic and Advanced Life Support via its paramedic assessment engines. The County contracts for the provision of ambulance transportation services across the region, including the City, via exclusive operation areas. Currently, American Medical Response (AMR) is the awarded contractor. AMR is a private company, which operates a fleet of ambulances serving the City and region. AMR is connected to the County’s dispatch system and responds in conjunction with Fire Department personnel.

Emergency Preparedness

The City’s primary tool in preparing for emergencies is its adopted Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The EOP is designed to guide the City’s response to various emergencies, by establishing procedures and responsibilities for City personnel. It also identifies resources, both inside and outside the City, which would be available to help in an emergency, and establishes evacuation plans during an emergency. It has been designed to coordinate with other local jurisdictions,

including surrounding cities and the County of Riverside. The La Quinta EOP has been endorsed by the State Office of Emergency Services, resulting in the City's inclusion in the statewide emergency response system.

The Emergency Services Division is responsible for emergency preparedness in the City. The Division is responsible for both planning and implementation of emergency response efforts, and coordinates with other local jurisdictions and the County of Riverside in emergency response planning, training and disaster exercises. Close coordination with both the Police and Fire Departments is included in all disaster planning efforts. In addition, the City participates in the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) program, and FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS), to assure coordinated response at the state and federal levels.

The City operates an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in City Hall. Riverside County's EOCs, located in Indio and Riverside as well as its mobile command post, could also provide assistance to La Quinta in the event of an emergency. The City's emergency response effort is supported by agreements with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Riverside County Fire Department, American Medical Response and the American Red Cross. Included in the EOC's tools is the CodeRED emergency notification system, which allows the City to notify residents by phone of an imminent threat, such as the need to evacuate, a missing person, a hazardous materials spill or a terrorist threat.

The City also relies on its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers to assist with emergency response during disasters. CERT is composed of residents and business people who have completed FEMA CERT training provided through the City of La Quinta Emergency Services Division and the Coachella Valley Emergency Managers Association. These volunteers are trained to help in their neighborhoods when an emergency occurs and immediate help may not be available from first responders.

The City also has volunteer amateur radio operators representing R.A.C.E.S. (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) and A.R.E.S. (Amateur Radio Emergency Service). All volunteers with the City are registered as Disaster Service Workers (DSW).

In an emergency, critical facilities, such as police and fire stations, hospitals, government buildings, and utility infrastructure will be an important link between the City's population and emergency response teams. The General Plan Land Use Map must not site these facilities in areas prone to hazards (such as flood zones), and the City must assure that they are constructed under the most stringent seismic building codes, to help ensure that they survive a natural disaster and are available in an emergency.

Finally, the City has established emergency evacuation routes for its neighborhoods, to assure that residents can leave their neighborhoods safely. In addition, the City constructs its infrastructure, and in particular its bridges, to the most current seismic codes to improve the likelihood that these structures could survive a significant earthquake. Not all the City's major arterials and secondary roadways are currently all-weather crossings. The long-term build out of the City will require that these roadways be bridged, particularly at the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. Construction of the Adams Street Bridge began in 2011 and is expected to be completed in late 2013. After this project is complete, only one low crossing (along Dune Palms Road) over the Stormwater Channel will remain.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

As the City continues to develop, additional demand will be placed on emergency responders. The City's ability to modify its emergency preparedness plans to meet the needs of the City in the future is critical to the safety of its residents.

At build out, the City could have a population of 79,956, while the Sphere of Influence could be home to an additional 54,396. Police and fire services will need to expand to meet this population growth. The generally accepted standard for police officers is one for every 1,000 residents. On this basis, the City will require 80 police officers, and the Sphere of Influence will require 54 at build out.

Fire services in La Quinta are based on delivering a minimum of 3 personnel in the response time standard of 5 minutes or less 90% of the time. This requires the strategic placement of fire stations to maintain calculated travel times. Additional facilities, including fire stations, will be needed in areas where growth occurs. Based on current City limits and the Sphere, the Fire Department has identified the need for two additional stations in the south/eastern section of the City. Depending

on how this area is annexed, it is anticipated that one or both of these facilities should be cost-shared with adjoining jurisdictions.

An increased population means increases in the number of residential and commercial structures which could be subject to fire; the number of vehicles which could be involved in major traffic accidents; and the number of homes which could be subject to flooding, vandalism, or other emergencies. Additionally, since over 75% of emergency calls entail an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) response, higher density development can tax responding resources. The City must continue to adapt its emergency response to address this growth and plan for increased services in an emergency.

GOALS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

GOAL ES-1

An effective and comprehensive response to all emergency service needs.

❖ [Policy ES-1.1](#)

The City shall continue to work with the Riverside County Fire Department to accurately forecast future needs and provide adequate and timely expansion of services and facilities based on service capabilities and response times.

- [Program ES-1.1.a](#): Maintain the Fire Facilities component of the City's Development Impact Fee to assure that new development pays its fair share of future fire stations.

❖ [Policy ES-1.2](#)

New development proposals shall continue to be routed to the Fire Department to assure that project access and design provide for maximum fire and life safety.

❖ [Policy ES-1.3](#)

The City shall continue to work with the Fire Department to maintain or improve the current ISO rating in order to reduce insurance premiums for City residents and businesses.

❖ [Policy ES-1.4](#)

The City shall coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions to consider joint funding of fire facilities based upon service area.

❖ [Policy ES-1.5](#)

The City shall continue to work with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to accurately forecast future needs and provide adequate and timely expansion of services and facilities.

❖ [Policy ES-1.6](#)

New development proposals shall continue to be routed to the Police Department to assure that project access and design provide for defensible space and maximum crime prevention while maintaining City design standards and codes.

❖ [Policy ES-1.7](#)

The City shall coordinate with the Sheriff's Department to assure that community-based policing and community programs that encourage resident participation are implemented to the greatest extent possible.

❖ [Policy ES-1.8](#)

The City should maintain an emergency response program consistent with State law, and coordinate with surrounding cities, Riverside County and other emergency service providers.

- [Program ES-1.8.a](#): Periodically review and update the Emergency Operations Plan to address the City's growth in population and built environment, as well as new emergency response techniques.
- [Program ES-1.8.b](#): Coordinate all emergency preparedness and response plans with neighboring cities, the County of Riverside, local health care providers and utility purveyors, and the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA).
- [Program ES-1.8.c](#): Continue coordinated training for City Emergency Response Team members, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers, and related response agency personnel.

❖ [Policy ES-1.9](#)

Critical facilities, such as police and fire stations, hospitals and clinics, schools and utility substations, should be sited away from identified hazard areas.

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- [Program ES-1.9.a](#): Review and amend, as appropriate, development regulations to ensure critical facilities are not located in an area identified in the General Plan as a hazard area.

❖ [Policy ES-1.10](#)

The City should provide education programs and literature to its residents, business people and property owners on earthquake preparedness, fire safety, flooding hazards and other emergencies.

- [Program ES-1.10.a](#): Maintain and distribute emergency preparedness information and handouts at City Hall, the Senior Center and Library, and at community events. Additionally, the City's website and other media resources shall be utilized to inform and educate residents and business owners on emergency preparedness matters.
- [Program ES-1.10.b](#): The Emergency Services Division will continue to coordinate city-wide emergency response exercises as appropriate, as well as training programs for City staff and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers, and will publicize training sessions to City residents and business owners.

RELATED GOALS

As described above, this Element relates to others in this General Plan. The following Goals and their associated policies and programs are closely related to those of this Element.

GOAL GEO-1: Protection of the general health, safety and welfare of the community and its property from geologic and seismic hazards.

GOAL FH-1: Protection of the general health, safety and welfare of the community and its property from flooding and associated hydrological hazards.

GOAL HAZ-1: Protection of the general health, safety and welfare of the community and its property from the potential impacts associated with the manufacture, use, storage, transport and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials.

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WATER, SEWER & OTHER UTILITIES

PURPOSE

Water, sewer and other utilities are essential services in any City. All types of development depend on them, and all are necessary for the successful long-term growth of the City. The Water, Sewer and Other Utilities Element establishes goals, policies and programs intended to ensure that these public and quasi-public services are provided to the City as it grows. Without adequate levels of these services, the City's Land Use Element cannot be effectively implemented, and build out of the General Plan would be severely compromised, if not impossible. Conversely, the overly aggressive expansion of these services can result in the wasteful use of resources, which is contrary to the precepts of the Livable Community Element, the Energy and Mineral Resources Element, and the Water Resources Element.

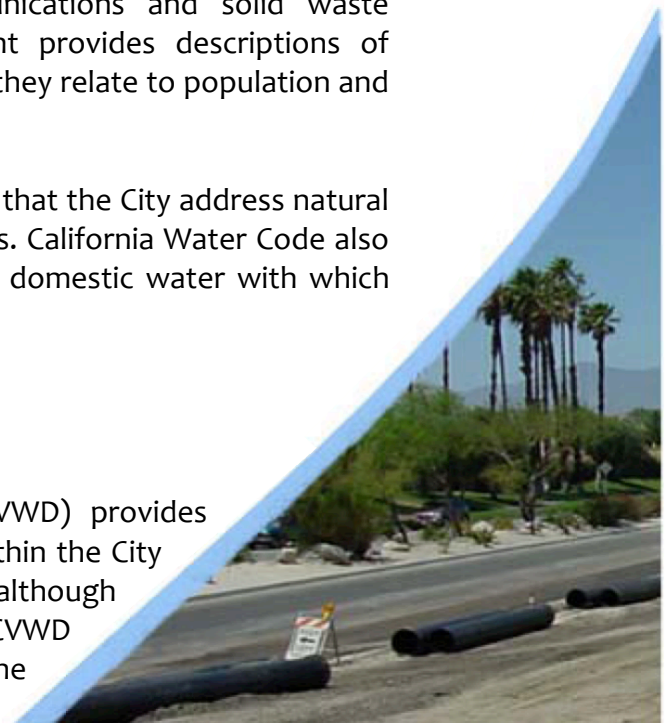
This Element addresses the availability of domestic water, sanitary sewer, electricity, natural gas, communications and solid waste disposal. Where applicable, the Element provides descriptions of standards for the provision of services as they relate to population and land use.

Government Code Section 65302 requires that the City address natural resources, including water and natural gas. California Water Code also contains standards and requirements for domestic water with which the City must comply.

BACKGROUND

Domestic Water

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) provides domestic and irrigation water services within the City and its Sphere of Influence (Sphere), although some private wells may be in use in the CVWD service area, particularly in the Sphere. The District's primary source of water is



groundwater, which it extracts through a system of wells located throughout the City and region. In addition to groundwater, CVWD relies on imported water brought to the region by regional canals, which is stored or recharged into the aquifer at basins in the west end of the Valley (Whitewater River, northwest of Palm Springs); in the southeastern section of the City (Dike 4); and in Martinez Canyon, south and east of the City. CVWD also owns and operates the water distribution system, which is generally located under existing streets in the public right-of-way. The District also maintains water storage tanks throughout its service area, including ten existing or planned tanks in the City and its Sphere, with capacities ranging from 250,000 to 10 million gallons.

CVWD is responsible, under the California Water Code, for analyzing its current and future water supply, and assuring that sufficient supply is available to serve land uses within the District, through the preparation of an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). CVWD is required to periodically update the Plan, and is currently undertaking such an update. Further details regarding CVWD's supply and demand for water can be found in the Water Resources Element.

Sanitary Sewer

CVWD also provides the City with sanitary sewer collection and treatment. Most of the City and Sphere are served by sewer, although some septic systems are still in use, particularly in the Sphere. CVWD has two wastewater treatment plants serving the City. Sewage generated north of Miles Avenue, in the northern part of the City, is conveyed to Water Reclamation Plant 7 (WRP-7) located at Madison Street and Avenue 38, northeast of the City. The capacity of WRP-7 is five million gallons per day (mgd). For all land in the City and Sphere located south of Miles Avenue, sewage is treated at the Mid-Valley Water Reclamation Plant, located southeast of the City and Sphere, which has a capacity of 9.5 million gallons per day.

Tertiary treated water – water which is suitable for irrigation but is not potable is available from WRP-7, with a capacity of 2.5 million gallons per day and an expansion potential to 7.5 million gallons per day. CVWD does not have tertiary treatment available at the Mid-Valley plant; however, plans are underway to extend the tertiary-treated water delivery system to other areas in the valley. As it becomes available, tertiary treated water will be used by appropriate facilities, particularly golf courses.

CVWD also owns and operates the sewer conveyance system anchored by a system of trunk lines ranging in size from 4 to 24 inches, including 18-inch force mains in Washington Street, Jefferson Street, Madison Street, and Avenues 50, 58 and 60.

Electric Power

Electricity is provided to the City by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), which provides power through a combination of power generation and contractual agreements. Electricity is delivered to IID's substations throughout the City at 92 or 161 kilovolts, and decreased to 12 kilovolts for distribution to its customers.

Natural Gas

Natural gas is the primary source of energy used in the City for space and water heating, as well as cooking. Natural gas is provided to the City and its Sphere by The Gas Company. The Gas Company has major supply lines in Washington Street and Highway 111. Natural gas service is limited in the southern end of the City and its Sphere, particularly south of Airport Boulevard and east of Monroe Street. In 2010, customers in the City consumed an estimated 1,025 million cubic feet of natural gas.

Areas of the La Quinta Cove, and some older developments in the Sphere of Influence, do not have access to natural gas and, instead, contract with private firms to purchase propane gas.

Communications

The primary land line telephone provider in the City is Verizon. As telephone service has become less regulated and technology has improved, a number of communication alternatives have become available to the public, including cellular, internet, fiber optic, and cable-based services. The primary cable TV provider is Time Warner. As the City continues to develop, it is expected that a number of new technologies will become available to assure adequate and effective communication and data transfer for the City's residents and businesses.

Solid Waste

Solid waste disposal is provided in the City and its Sphere by Burrtec Waste and Recycling Services, LLC (Burrtec) under a franchise agreement with the City. Burrtec collects solid waste and transports it to the Edom Hill Transfer Station, located west of the City in the City of Cathedral City. From the Transfer Station, waste is taken to one of

three regional landfills: Lamb Canyon, Badlands or El Sobrante. All three landfills have capacity remaining for the long-term.

Burrtec also implements solid waste recycling efforts for the City. These include residential and commercial collection of paper, plastic, glass and aluminum. Green waste can also be recycled. The City is currently required to implement new and maintain ongoing waste and recycling programs and recycle at least 50% of its solid waste stream, and is meeting that goal. Special programs, including the collection and disposal of household hazardous waste, construction and demolition materials, and medical “sharps” (syringes and needles), as well as commercial recycling, are also administered by Burrtec.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The City’s growth is dependent on adequate water, wastewater and utility services. The continued expansion of these services is critical to the successful implementation of the General Plan. The City also wishes to wisely use these resources and conserve them to the greatest extent possible. To that end, the Livable Community Element contains specific policies and programs aimed at reducing the City’s dependence on water, electricity and natural gas. The goals, policies and programs below are aimed at supporting that Element, and assure the wise and careful use of these limited resources.

GOALS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

GOAL UTL-1

Domestic water facilities and services which adequately serve the existing and long-term needs of the City.

❖ [Policy UTL-1.1](#)

The City should coordinate with the Coachella Valley Water District to assure that sufficient water supplies are available to sustain current and future development.

- [Program UTL-1.1.a](#): Work with the Coachella Valley Water District to expand the availability of tertiary treated water, non-potable canal water, and encourage its use for landscape irrigation purposes, especially for irrigating golf courses and other large landscaped areas.

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- *Program UTL-1.1.b:* Continue to work with CVWD on water conservation programs (such as landscaping conversion and smart irrigation control) to reduce domestic water use, which will result in the need for fewer domestic water facilities and services to adequately serve the existing and long-term needs of the City.
 - *Program UTL-1.1.b:* Continue to coordinate between the Fire Department and CVWD to ensure adequate water supplies for fire suppression throughout the City.

❖ [Policy UTL-1.2](#)

The City should encourage the conservation of water.

- *Program UTL-1.2.a:* Develop programs, both in conjunction with the Coachella Valley Water District and independently, to allow and encourage the retrofitting of existing water-intensive appliances and irrigation systems in existing development.
- *Program UTL-1.2.b:* City and private sector development projects shall implement water efficient landscaping plans which meet or exceed current water efficiency standards.

❖ [Policy UTL-1.3](#)

New development shall reduce its projected water consumption rates over “business-as-usual” consumption rates.

❖ [Policy UTL-1.4](#)

Review and amend Development Standards to require that all new development demonstrate a reduction of domestic water consumption equivalent to, or exceeding, the CalGreen Tier One standards in effect at the time of development.

GOAL UTL-2

Sanitary sewer facilities and services which adequately serve the existing and long-term needs of the City.

❖ [Policy UTL-2.1](#)

All new development should be required to connect to sanitary sewer service.

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- *Program UTL-2.1.a:* Review and amend Development Standards and Review Procedures to ensure coordination with the Coachella Valley Water District and assurance that existing sewer service along with the extension of sewer service is capable of meeting the needs of current and forecasted development.

❖ [Policy UTL-2.2](#)

Septic systems for the treatment of sewage should be replaced with sanitary sewer service throughout the City.

- *Program UTL-2.2.a:* Coordinate with the Coachella Valley Water District and encourage the elimination of septic systems where they occur within the City.

RELATED GOALS

This Element relates to others in the General Plan. The following Goals and their associated policies and programs are closely related to those of this Element.

GOAL PF-1: Public facilities and services that are available, adequate and convenient to all City residents.

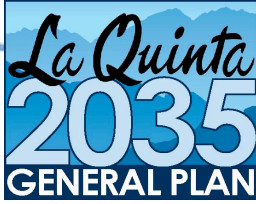
GOAL WR-1: The efficient use and conservation of the City's water resources.

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La Quinta

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PUBLIC FACILITIES

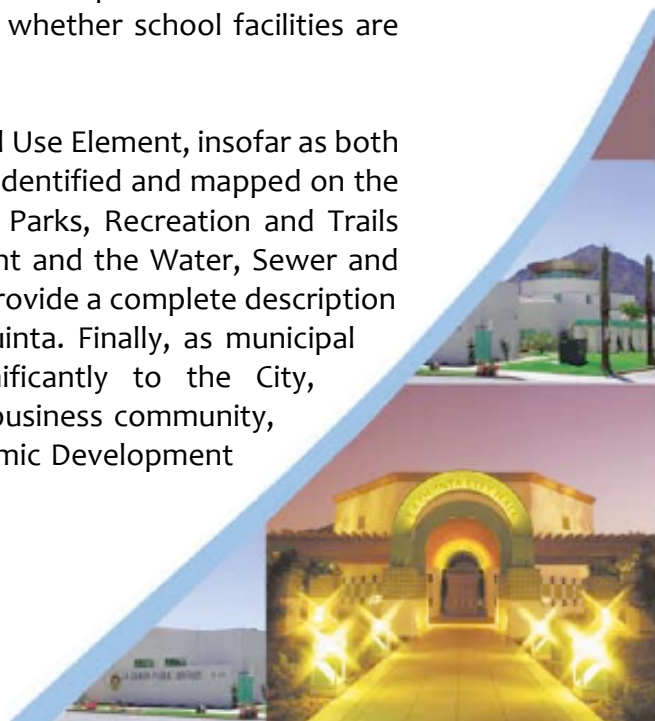
PURPOSE

Public facilities include City-owned buildings, such as City Hall, the Senior Center and the Library (collectively part of the Civic Center Campus), as well as schools operated by the Desert Sands Unified School District or the Coachella Valley Unified School District.

The Public Facilities Element provides descriptions of these facilities, and establishes goals, policies and programs which will allow the City to continue to provide a full range of municipal and scholastic services to its residents and businesses.

Government Code Sections 65103(c) and 65302(a) both address the need to include public facilities in the General Plan. The former requires that all cities annually review capital improvement needs for consistency with the General Plan. The latter requires that the General Plan discuss the location of schools and whether school facilities are adequate.

This Element is closely related to the Land Use Element, insofar as both municipal and school facilities should be identified and mapped on the Land Use Map. It also is related to the Parks, Recreation and Trails Element, the Emergency Services Element and the Water, Sewer and Other Utilities Element, which together provide a complete description of the public services available in La Quinta. Finally, as municipal services and facilities contribute significantly to the City, providing a full range of services to its business community, this Element also is related to the Economic Development Element.



BACKGROUND

Municipal Facilities

The City owns and/or operates a number of facilities which provide public services to the community. They include:

City Hall, located in the Civic Center Campus, at 78-495 Calle Tampico, provides a full range of municipal services, including Code Compliance, Building and Safety, Planning, Recreation, Public Works and Economic Development.

Also within the Civic Center Campus is the La Quinta Senior Center, which provides fitness and enrichment classes, excursions and other services for residents 55 years of age or older. The Senior Center is located at 78-450 Avenida La Fonda, on the south side of the Civic Center Complex.

The La Quinta Library, located at 78-275 Calle Tampico, is owned by the City and operated by the County of Riverside. The Library is currently 20,000 square feet in size and contains 89,060 volumes. The County Library system targets an un-adopted standard of 2 books per person. Based on that standard, and an estimated total population of 134,352 at General Plan build out, the City and its Sphere of Influence will have a need for 268,704 volumes at build out of the General Plan. This may be accomplished, in part, with virtual books and other materials.

The La Quinta Museum is located at 77-885 Avenida Montezuma. It provides historic and cultural exhibits, as well as collections relating to the history of the City and other subjects of interest. The facility has also provided other community programs.

The City owns and operates its corporate yard, which is located at 78-109 Avenue 52, and public parking lots in the Village. The yard is used for the storage of City vehicles, maintenance equipment and materials.

Finally, the City owns the SilverRock Resort project, which includes the Arnold Palmer Classic Course at SilverRock Resort, at the southwest corner of Jefferson Street and Avenue 52. The public golf course currently offers 18 holes of play and is a host course for the Bob Hope Classic golf tournament. SilverRock Resort offers instruction, reduced-cost play for residents, and clubhouse facilities. Future plans for the project include expansion of the golf course to include 36 holes of golf, a resort hotel and commercial retail facilities (please also see the Economic Development Element).

The City also owns and operates the following parks and recreation facilities throughout the community:

- Adams Park
- Bear Creek Trail
- Civic Center Campus
- Cove Oasis Trailhead
- Desert Pride Park
- Eisenhower Park
- Fritz Burns Park
- Fred Wolff Bear Creek Nature Preserve
- La Quinta Park
- La Quinta Senior Center
- Monticello Park
- Saguaro Park
- Season's Park
- Velasco Park
- La Quinta Fitness Center
- Pioneer Park
- Skate Park

The City also relies on joint use agreements with various agencies and organizations for the use of additional recreation facilities. For example, the City has a joint use agreement for the Sports Complex and Colonel Paige Sports Fields. Under this agreement, the City uses the fields in the evenings and weekends and maintains them. Additionally, City residents utilize a community center, baseball field, and amphitheater at the La Quinta Community Park; these facilities are owned and operated by the Coachella Valley Recreation and Park District. Lake Cahuilla Park, managed by Riverside County Parks and Recreation, is also an important recreational facility used by City residents.

These and other facilities are described in greater detail in the Parks, Recreation and Trails Element. A discussion of police and fire services and facilities is provided in the Emergency Services Element.

Schools

The City is served by two public school districts which provide Kindergarten through Grade 12 education: the Desert Sands and the Coachella Valley Unified School Districts.

The Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD) serves families located west of Jefferson Street and north of Avenue 48, including families located in the City's northern Sphere of Influence. The District has a total of seven schools in La Quinta, including:

- John Adams Elementary School, located at 50-800 Desert Club Drive
- Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, located at 77-800 Calle Tampico
- Harry S. Truman Elementary School, located at 78-870 Avenue 50
- La Quinta Middle School, located at 78-900 Avenue 50
- Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle School, located at 43-495 Palm Royale Drive
- Summit Continuation High School, located at 43-330 Palm Royale Drive
- La Quinta High School, located at 79-255 Blackhawk Way

In addition to its educational services for children, the District provides English as a second language classes; citizenship classes; early childhood education; after school programs; and special education services. The District's administrative offices and bus yard are located in the City, at 47-950 Dune Palms Road. Open spaces, including playgrounds and sports fields, and some indoor spaces at various schools are available for community use.

The Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) serves families located east of Jefferson Street and south of Avenue 48, including those families living in the City's eastern Sphere of Influence. The following four schools (none of which are located within the City limits) serve students in the City and its Sphere of Influence:

- Westside Elementary School, located at 82-225 Airport Boulevard, east of the City
- Cahuilla Desert Academy, located at 82-489 Avenue 52, east of the City
- Mountain Vista Elementary School, located at 49-750 Hjorth Street, northeast of the City
- Coachella Valley High School, located at 83-800 Airport Boulevard, east of the City

Both Districts are funded through a number of sources, including a portion of the local property tax, bond issues, Redevelopment Agency

pass-through payments, State funds and developer fees. The latter fees were established by AB2926, effective 1986, which authorizes Districts to charge developers an impact fee that is used for the construction of new facilities. The fee changes periodically and is calculated on a per unit or per square foot basis, depending on the type of development being undertaken.

Build out of the City, according to the General Plan’s land use plan, has the potential to generate 31,603 housing units in the City, and 21,500 in the Sphere of Influence. As shown in Table V-1, these new households have the potential to increase school enrollment to 23,293 students at build out. As school facilities in both Districts are close to or over capacity, additional schools will be required to accommodate these students. The exact number of new schools will depend upon actual build out levels and the rate at which new development occurs.

**Table V-1
Potential Student Generation**

Grade Level		Max. Buildout Units	Student Generation Rate	Projected Enrollment
Elementary Single-Family	(K-6)	46,866	0.214	10,029
Elementary Multi-Family	(K-6)	6,236	0.1267	790
Middle School Single-Family	(7-8)	46,866	0.1093	5,122
Middle School Multi-Family	(7-8)	6,236	0.0522	325
High School Single-Family	(9-12)	46,866	0.1427	6,688
High School Multi-Family	(9-12)	6,236	0.0543	339
Total		53,103		23,293

Student Generation Rates, Desert Sands Unified School District.

Higher Education

College and university courses are provided at three regional institutions located in the City of Palm Desert. The College of the Desert (COD) is a Community College that provides both Associates degree programs and adult education. Its three campuses are located in Palm Desert, Indio and Mecca. California State University, San

Bernardino and the University of California, Riverside, both offer Bachelor's and Master's degree programs.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The continued growth of the City will require the expansion of public facilities to serve the City's expanding population. It is important that the City plan for this future need to assure that City services are adequate at all times to serve its population, visitors and businesses. This will include a need to expand City buildings, including the Senior Center, Museum, and Library, and to provide additional operating costs and staff. Additionally, the City will need to complete the expansion and renovation of its corporate yard in order to meet the future maintenance needs as the City matures. The City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will play a key role in the planning and construction of future facilities. By annually updating the CIP, the City will have an opportunity to consider the growing demand for services well in advance of need, to assure timely construction and expansion of facilities. The City must also maintain a current and effective Development Impact Fee program, by which new development projects contribute to the costs of new and/or expanded infrastructure and facilities.

Although the City has no direct control over the construction and operation of school facilities, it is critical that the City maintain its working relationship with both the Desert Sands and Coachella Valley Unified School Districts. The provision of quality education is an important consideration for individuals and employers when contemplating relocation, and the City can help to influence District plans in the future to assure the best scholastic opportunities.

GOALS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

GOAL PF-1

Public facilities and services that are available, adequate and convenient to all City residents.

❖ [Policy PF-1.1](#)

The City shall expand or modify municipal services to meet the needs of the community.

❖ [Policy PF-1.2](#)

Periodically evaluate the demand for municipal services and facilities, and include construction and expansion of these facilities to assure timely completion.

- [Program PF-1.2.a](#): The City will annually review municipal facilities as part of its Capital Improvement Program planning.
- [Program PF-1.2.b](#): The City will review demand for services annually, as part of its budgetary process.

❖ [Policy PF-1.3](#)

The City shall identify all viable financing mechanisms for the funding of construction, maintenance and operation of municipal facilities.

- [Program PF-1.3.a](#): The Development Impact Fee program shall be monitored regularly to assure it is providing current and effective funding contributions to the City.

❖ [Policy PF-1.4](#)

The design and construction of municipal facilities shall comply with all the processes and development standards that apply to privately constructed facilities.

❖ [Policy PF-1.5](#)

The City shall continue to coordinate with the County of Riverside to assure that library facilities and services are expanded as demand warrants.

❖ [Policy PF-1.6](#)

The City shall coordinate with the Desert Sands and Coachella Valley Unified School Districts and encourage the Districts to plan for and construct new schools to meet demand.

- [Program PF-1.6.a](#): Development proposals will continue to be routed to the appropriate District for review and comment early in the planning and entitlement process.
- [Program PF-1.6.b](#): The City shall continue to support the payment of school impact fees by all eligible new development projects.

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- *Program PF-1.6.c:* The City shall modify the Land Use Map to show new school facilities as Major Community Facilities as new schools are developed.

❖ [Policy PF-1.7](#)

The City shall continue to explore the potential for the joint purchase or use of recreational facilities with the Desert Sands and Coachella Valley Unified School Districts, as well as the Coachella Valley Recreation and Park District.

RELATED GOALS

As described above, this Element relates to others in this General Plan. The following Goals and their associated policies and programs are closely related to those of this Element.

GOAL PR-1: A comprehensive system of parks and recreation facilities and services that meets the active and passive needs of all residents and visitors.

GOAL WR-1: The efficient use and conservation of the City's water resources.

GOAL CIR-1: A transportation and circulation network that efficiently, safely and economically moves people, vehicles, and goods using facilities that meet the current demands and projected needs of the City.



La Quinta

— GEM *of the* DESERT —
