

# TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY

## COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL PLAN

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### CHAPTER VI

#### PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

This chapter of the General Plan addresses the public services and facilities needed to support development in the Town of Yucca Valley. General Plan elements found in this chapter that discuss these services and facilities include Fire and Police Protection, Schools and Libraries, Emergency Preparedness and Health Services, Public Buildings, Facilities and Utilities, Arts, Culture and Humanities Elements. The levels of service needed for residential, commercial and industrial development is directly related to the intensity of development in the community. The economic life of the Town is tied to the level of services, the types and intensities of land use, and the levels of demand for services and revenue generating potential of urbanizing areas.

# FIRE AND POLICE PROTECTION ELEMENT

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Fire and Police Protection Element is to coordinate the planning of the community with the demand for and availability of fire and police protection services. It is the intention of this Element to define existing fire and police protection services and to identify the agencies which provide these services. The Element also provides policies and programs which, through implementation, are essential in the continued provision of adequate police & fire protection services to all members of the growing community.

## BACKGROUND

The Fire and Police Protection Element is directly related to the type and intensity of land uses established in the Land Use Element, the amount, rate and development standards for housing established in the Housing Element, and the amount of open space established in the Open Space, Mineral, Energy and Soil Conservation Element. The levels of adequate supply of water set forth in the Water Resources Element, the provision of "defensible space" in the Community Design Element, and the topography of the region defined in the Slopes, Sediment Control and Soil Conservation Element, are also related to the Fire and Police Protection Element.

Government Code Section 65302 requires that a General Plan include a Safety Element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of wild land and urban fires. Within the Yucca Valley General Plan, the Police and Fire, Seismic Safety, Flooding and Hydrology, Emergency Preparedness and Health Services, and other Elements address public safety, and therefore satisfy State requirements. Public Resources Code Section 4125 (a) also states that the State Board of Forestry shall classify all lands within the State for the purpose of determining the areas in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires in all areas which are not so classified is primarily the responsibility of local and federal agencies.

## Fire Hazards

The threat of fire poses hazards to both life and property. These hazards exist in both developed and undeveloped areas of the Town of Yucca Valley and the surrounding area. Fires occurring in developed areas are commonly building, rubbish,

automobile, and brush fires on vacant lots. Fires in undeveloped areas include large brush and grass fires that can engulf several hundred acres or more.

## Wild Land Fires

Wild land fires are commonly caused by lightning strikes, as well as by human activities such as equipment use and smoking, and result in the loss of valuable natural resources, soil erosion and damage to life and property. Once a wild land fire has been ignited, its outcome is affected by three environmental factors: fuel, climate and topography.

## Topography and Utilities

Topography influences wild land fire behavior and the ability of firefighters to suppress fires once they occur. Fires tend to burn more rapidly up slope than down, and the steeper the slope, the greater the rate at which the fire spreads. Steep slopes also contribute to the channeling effects of winds which spread fires more quickly. In addition, steep slopes increase travel times for fire vehicles and firefighters and restrict the methods possible for fighting the fire. Three classes of slope are used by the California Department of Forestry in calculating the topographic effects on fire severity. The definition of these three classes are provided below.

Table VI-1  
Slope Classifications

Class	Slope	Possible Firefighting Methods
I	0% to 30%	Direct attack possible with all-wheel drive fire trucks, bulldozers, handcrews and aircraft.
II	31% to 50%	Beyond operating capability of all-wheel drive vehicles. Drive attack possible with bulldozers, handcrews and aircraft.
III	51% or more	Mostly beyond operating capability of bulldozers. Handcrews and aircraft become primary tools.

**Urban and Structural Fires**

Due to the proximity of people and structures, fire in the Yucca Valley area poses a great threat to life and property. In the future, the proportion of industrial and commercial building will increase, the existing housing stock will age and new residential developments will be built in undeveloped areas adjacent to wild land fire hazard areas. These trends will have an effect on fire hazards and may require greater staff and equipment levels to maintain the Town's existing high standard of fire prevention and safety.

**Fire Protection**

**California Dept. of Forestry**

Fire protection and life safety services are provided to the Town of Yucca Valley by the San Bernardino County Fire Department and the California State Department of Forestry. The Department of Forestry operates out of the Yucca Valley Forest Fire Station (South Desert Battalion Headquarters) located at 7105 Airway Avenue, and provides protection to areas primarily outside of the community for vegetation/wild land fires. The Town of Yucca Valley contracts with the Department of Forestry for the provision of these services to assist the San Bernardino County Fire Department in the protection of the community and surrounding areas. The Department of Forestry does not have jurisdiction within the Town, but is contracted to provide fire protection services strictly on a mutual aid basis<sup>1</sup>.

**San Bernardino Co. Fire Dept.**

The San Bernardino County Fire Department has two stations serving the Town of Yucca Valley: Station #121, located at 57201 29 Palms Highway and Station #122 located at 58612 Aberdeen Road. The Yucca Valley Fire Protection District encompasses sixty-one (61) square miles. The Fire District's fire protection, suppression and rescue equipment consists of thirteen (13) vehicles, including: four engines, three paramedic ambulances; one water tender; two four-wheel drive staff vehicles; two additional sedans, and a utility truck<sup>2</sup>. The Department's paid personnel number twenty-two (22), and the Department is authorized for twenty four (24) positions. In addition to these two unfilled positions, the Department is also authorized for fifteen (15) paid on call positions for use on an as needed basis<sup>3</sup>.

The total fire flow needed to extinguish a given fire is a function of: building construction, occupancy, area and height; fire loading; and distance between buildings. Fire flow for a building is completely dependent on available water

supply. The following table provides a breakdown of necessary fire flows.

**Table VI-2  
Peakload Water Supply System Guidelines  
Based Upon Uniform Fire Code Calculations**

Land Use	Fire Flow System	
	(gallons/ minute)	x Duration (hours)
<b>Residential Density</b>		
up to 1 du/20 acre	***	***
>1 du/20 acre-1 du/5 acre	750	1
>1 du/5 acre-1 du/acre	750	2
>1 du/acre-2 du/acre	1,000	2
>2 du/acre-4 du/acre	1,500	2
>4 du/acre-7 du/acre	2,000	2
>7 du/acre-12 du/acre	2,500	2
>12 du/acre	3,000	3
<b>Commercial</b>	3,000	3
<b>Industrial</b>	3,500	3

Source: San Bernardino County General Plan, Fire Appendix, BA-II-A-110.  
\*\*\*In areas where water systems are not required, individual dwellings should generally have a minimum of 3,000 gallons of on-site storage for total peak load water supply.

National Fire Insurance Organizations and the National Fire Protection Association formally recommend a maximum emergency response time of five minutes. With the two existing stations which serve the Town of Yucca Valley, the Fire Department currently meets this emergency response standard<sup>4</sup>.

**Fire Prevention**

In addition to adequate means of fire suppression, fire prevention efforts are essential to an effective fire protection program. The San Bernardino County Fire Department encourages this approach through its public education programs and regularly scheduled inspection of all non-residential buildings.

1 Personnel Telecommunication with Risk Manager Mr. Dean Buyer of the California Department of Forestry, November 1993.

2 Personnel Telecommunication with Fire Chief Bob Munsey of the San Bernardino Fire Department, November 1993.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

When there is inadequate water flow within the supply system, the Department may also require, for non-residential buildings, built-in fire protection systems including automatic fire sprinklers, fire resistant construction, and early warning fire detection systems, in addition to access and setback requirements which facilitate firefighters' entry and provide fire breaks.

### Police Protection

The Town of Yucca Valley contracts with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, located at 6527 White Feather Road in Joshua Tree, for the provision of police protection services. The Department serves Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree and unincorporated areas of the County, and has a total of seventy (70) paid employees which offer response services, criminal investigation services, traffic enforcement and preventative patrol. Of the 70 Employees, approximately 17 work directly for the Town of Yucca Valley<sup>5</sup>. The following tables give a breakdown of existing employees of the Sheriff's Department, and the portion serving the Town.

**Table VI-3  
Employees of Sheriff's Department**

Position	Employees of Sheriff's Department
Captain	1
Lieutenant	1
Sergeant	7
Deputy	36
Jail Deputy	5
Civilian Employee	13

Source: San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Lt. Ed Ripley, November 1993  
Source: San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Lt. Lt. Mike Howell, September 1995

**Table VI-4  
Employees serving Yucca Valley**

Position	Employees Serving* Yucca Valley
Lieutenant	.37
Sergeant	.57
Patrol Officers	9.86
Detectives	1.11
Station Clerks	2.19
Motor Pool Service Assistance	.25
Dispatchers	1.63

Source: San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Lt. Ed Ripley, November 1993.  
\*The remaining fraction is called the relief factor, which is currently covered by San Bernardino County. The service contract also covers vehicle maintenance and fuel cost.

In addition, the Citizens on Patrol (C.O.P.) currently have two vehicles and twenty-seven (27) volunteers sanctioned by and serving the Town of Yucca Valley. Some of these volunteers also offer services to the Sheriff's Department for the incident command systems unit, line reserve, search and rescue, explorers, and cave rescue.

For the 1992 calendar year, the Sheriff's Department had an average pro-active patrol level of 15%. This means that officers on patrol had an average of 15% of their time free from calls. The desired response time for emergency situations is five minutes or less, with non-emergency call response time at twenty minutes or less.

### FUTURE DIRECTIONS

In order to implement fire and police protection measures, the Uniform Building and Fire Codes Provide minimum standards for design, construction, materials, use, occupancy, location and maintenance of all buildings within the Town. The Uniform fire Code regulated how a building is used, how machines and equipment are maintained, how hazardous materials are managed and stored, and how access to and from a site is provided. The Zoning Ordinance regulates site location and design, the intensity of land uses, building height and separation, access and street layout. The Subdivision Ordinance establishes standards for roadway dimensions, subdivision layout and public improvements needed to assure public safety.

The utilization and enforcement of these standards, as well as the coordination with the California Department of Forestry and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's and Fire Departments, are essential in the provision of police and fire protection services for current and future needs of the community.

### POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION GOALS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

#### GOAL 1

Protection of the Town of Yucca Valley and its residents from the threat of loss of life and property from fire hazards through the provision of adequate levels of service and public awareness.

<sup>5</sup> Personnel Telecommunication with Lt. Ed Ripley of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, November 1993.

## GOAL 2

Assure the highest level of security and police protection to preserve and protect the health, welfare and property of residents and businesses in the Town of Yucca Valley.

### Policy 1

Coordinate with the California Department of Forestry and the San Bernardino County Fire Department for the provision of expanded levels of service when needed.

#### Program 1.A

Consult and coordinate with the San Bernardino County Fire Department and the California Department of Forestry, to establish potential fire station locations to provide for future adequate levels of service.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; San Bernardino County Fire Department; California Department of Forestry  
**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous

### Policy 2

Coordinate with the San Bernardino County Fire Department to assure the provision of an adequate level of fire equipment and personnel to protect the community.

#### Program 2.A

Encourage the San Bernardino County Fire Department, as well as all other public and private organizations providing paramedic service to the area, to maintain a high standard of paramedic services.

**Responsible Agency:** San Bernardino County Fire Department; Town Council; Town Manager  
**Schedule:** Immediate, Continuous

#### Program 2.B

Coordinate with the Hi-Desert Water District to assure adequate water supply and pressure for all existing and proposed developments to assure that fire flow standards are met for all development.

**Responsible Agency:** Hi-Desert Water District; Community Development Department  
**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous

### Policy 3

Coordinate with the San Bernardino County Fire Department to enforce fire standards and regulations in the course of reviewing project design and building plans, and coordinating building inspections.

#### Program 3.A

Due to the fire hazard potential of hilly areas with slopes of 10% or greater, access problems, lack of water, and excessive dry bush, special on-site fire protection measures shall be specified during project review.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; San Bernardino County Fire Department  
**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous

#### Program 3.B

In conjunction with the San Bernardino County Fire Department, the Town shall establish standards for street addressing, naming, and lighting in order to facilitate and improve emergency response times.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; San Bernardino County Fire Department; Sheriff's Department  
**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous

### Policy 4

Support and encourage an educational program to enhance the fire prevention awareness of the public.

#### Program 4.A

The Town and the San Bernardino County Fire Department will cooperate in the production of educational materials and public presentations to aid in fire prevention and to make the public more aware of potential fire danger.

**Responsible Agency:** San Bernardino County Fire Department; Community Development Department  
**Schedule:** Immediate, Continuous

### Policy 5

Potentially hazardous materials associated with industrial uses and the health and life-saving function of medical facilities shall be reviewed and monitored as appropriate by the Town and other applicable agencies.

#### Program 5.A

The siting of facilities which involve the storage of hazardous, flammable or explosive materials shall be conducted in such a manner as to assure the highest level of safety in strict conformance with the Uniform Fire Code and other applicable codes and regulations.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; San Bernardino County Fire Department  
**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous

#### Program 5.B

Cooperate with the San Bernardino County Fire Department to ensure that the proper equipment and training are provided

to ensure that the proper equipment and training are provided in the event of a hazardous material release or spill.

**Responsible Agency:** San Bernardino County Fire Department; Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate, Continuous

#### **Policy 6**

The Police and Fire Departments, in their review of new development proposals, will be encouraged to evaluate development plans and comment on their ability to provide proper protection. This will include, but is not limited to internal circulation systems, project directories, street names and numbering systems.

#### **Program 6.A**

The Fire District shall continue to regulate and enforce fire protection water system standards for all new construction within the Town. Standards shall include the installation of fire hydrants providing adequate fire flow (per Insurance Services Office Standards), fire sprinkler systems where required, and wet and dry on-site standpipe systems.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; San Bernardino County Fire Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous

#### **Policy 7**

Utilize crime prevention principles through the integration of project planning which results in "defensible space" or high security designs as a means of providing increased security in residential, commercial and industrial development.

#### **Program 7.A**

Recognize the importance and value associated with gated and other enhanced security communities and their effect on reducing crime in the Town.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous

#### **Program 7.B**

Enhance public awareness and participation in crime prevention, and encourage and promote the Neighborhood Watch Program and other community oriented policing programs. The Town shall develop new and expand existing educational programs dealing with personal safety awareness, such as Neighborhood Watch and commercial association watch/protection programs.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous

#### **Program 7.C**

Coordinate with the Sheriff's Department to support and facilitate the continued success of the C.O.P. program.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; C.O.P. Volunteers

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous

# SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ELEMENT

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this Element is to describe the various educational opportunities available through the school and library systems serving the community and to help anticipate and plan for future needs. The Schools and Libraries Element sets forth policies and programs that identify the Town's role in siting a school and library facilities.

## BACKGROUND

The Schools and Libraries Element is directly related to the Land Use Element, in its provision of sufficient, and conveniently located public lands for the expansion of existing and creation of new school and library facilities; the Circulation Element, in its protection of sensitive receptors; and the Public Buildings, Facilities and Utilities Element in its definition and location of existing facilities.

In 1986 the State Legislature approved AB 2926 (Chapter 887), which authorized school districts to charge development fees to fund construction and reconstruction of school facilities. Limits on the maximum fee that can be collected are set by Government Code Section 65995. Also applicable is Government Code Section 53080 which constrains the issuance of development permits until proof of compliance with the School District's resolution has been provided. In addition Government Code Section 65302(a) requires that, among other things, the General Plan shall assess the general distribution and location of educational facilities, and determine the adequacy of these facilities.

## Morongo Unified School District

The Morongo Unified School District (MUSD) encompasses more than 1,350 square miles, providing public education to the Morongo Basin, including the communities of Joshua Tree, Landers, Morongo Valley, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, in addition to the City of Twentynine Palms, and the Town of Yucca Valley. As of 1993 there were 10,237 students in the District served by ten elementary schools, two junior high schools, two high schools, two alternative high schools, and two community schools. The schools are generally clustered around the Town of Yucca Valley and the City of Twentynine Palms.

## School Descriptions

In the Morongo Unified School District there are six schools

located within the Yucca Valley Study Area. This Element includes a brief discussion of these six schools, which are considered to primarily serve residents of the Town of Yucca Valley.

Yucca Valley Elementary School- The Yucca Valley Elementary School was established in 1950, and most recently expanded in 1958. The current facility has seventeen permanent and seventeen portable classrooms serving the levels of kindergarten through sixth grade. The 1993 fall enrollment totaled 896 students. Due to lack of recent expansion and population growth within the community, the school has been forced to utilize seventeen relocatable classrooms to accommodate current enrollment levels. Until funding is made available, the Yucca Valley Elementary School will continue conducting classes in these portable classrooms.

Yucca Mesa Elementary Charter School -Yucca Mesa Elementary Charter School is one of the newest educational centers serving the Town, with construction completed in 1986. It includes twenty-one permanent classrooms. Growth has impacted this school so quickly that despite its recent construction, a need for three portable classrooms already exists. The Yucca Mesa Elementary Charter School had a Fall 1993 total enrollment of 591 students.

Onaga Elementary School - The Onaga Elementary School opened in 1995. This facility has the capability to serve over 700 students.

Yucca Valley Community School- The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools operates two community schools in the Morongo Unified School District, one of which is located in Yucca Valley. This school has the capacity to serve up to eighteen students from other District schools.

La Contenta Junior High School- La Contenta Junior High School was constructed in 1987, serving the seventh and eighth grade. The most recent addition to the school was completed in January of 1991. The facility includes sixteen permanent classrooms, six site-built portable classrooms, thirteen standard portable classrooms, and two portable units which serve as physical education changing rooms. The total enrollment for La Contenta Junior High School was 917 students in Fall 1993, making it one of the most populous schools in Yucca Valley.

**Yucca Valley High School**- The Yucca Valley High School was founded in 1968. The site accommodates twenty-eight permanent classrooms and twenty-eight portable classrooms, serving grades nine through twelve. The total Fall 1993 enrollment was 1,342 students. In 1993/1994, the high school doubled its facilities to include modern science laboratories, a larger library and an administration and counseling center. The curriculum includes college preparatory and technical preparation.

**Sky Continuation High School**- Educational programs at this school are based on individual student performance. This educational facility serves grades nine through twelve, with the 1993 Fall enrollment totaling 118 students.

### Private Schools

The presence of private schools within a community can help relieve the pressure on impacted public schools within the District. Private schools or academies serving the Town of Yucca Valley include the Calvary Baptist Church, Grace Christian, Hi-Desert Seventh Day Adventist Elementary, Our Lady of the Desert, Living Stream Christian Fellowship, and Yucca Valley Christian Schools. These schools can serve from kindergarten to the twelfth grade.

### Enrollment Trends and Impacts on the District

The population within the Morongo Unified School District has continued to increase. The following table illustrates enrollment from 1980-1994, as well as a projection from the MUSD for the expected student population in the year 2000.

From Table VI- 5, it is clear that the Morongo Unified School District's enrollment has nearly doubled from 1980 to 1994. Based on the trends of the last ten years, the decrease during the 1992-1993 school year is highly unusual in the Morongo Basin. In the last decade the Morongo Basin has experienced constant growth, as have most communities within Southern California.

1 Gillick, Owen, Morongo Unified School District 1992 Annual Report, Twentynine Palms, CA. Page 1.

2 Telecommunication with Sue Meader, Dir., Curriculum, Educational Services, Morongo Unified School District, November 22, 1993.

3 *ibid.*

4 *ibid.*

5 Gillick, Owen, Morongo Unified School District 1992 Annual Report, Twentynine Palms, CA. Page 7

**Table VI-5  
Morongo Unified School District Enrollment  
1980-2000**

School Year	Total Enrollment	Change
1980-1981	5,581	N/A
1981-1982	5,597	376
1982-1983	6,151	194
1983-1984	6,465	314
1984-1985	6,902	437
1985-1986	7,407	505
1986-1987	7,867	460
1987-1988	8,427	560
1988-1989	8,729	302
1989-1990	9,151	422
1990-1991 <sup>1</sup>	9,792	641
1991-1992 <sup>2</sup>	9,922	130
1992-1993 <sup>3</sup>	9,848	-74
1993-1994 <sup>4</sup>	10,237	389
1999-2000(estimated <sup>5</sup> )	16,000	5763

### School Sites (Level-of-Service)

Acreage required for school sites vary slightly depending on available land. Elementary school sites average approximately 15 acres, with junior high schools ranging from 20 to 25 acres, and senior high school sites averaging about 40 acres. School sizes vary within each school district, but generally elementary schools are planned for about 500 students, middle schools serve from 700-800 students, and high schools serve from 1,200-1,500 students.

### School District Expansion Through the Year 2000

The 1993/1994 enrollment of 10,237 exceeds permanent classroom capacity by approximately 2,900 students. These additional students currently attend classes in 116 leased portable classrooms, located on all but two school campuses within the District. Unless new facilities are built, 8,600 students will be without permanent classrooms by the year 2000. Portable classrooms do not provide long term solutions to the problems associated with overcrowding. In addition to classroom space, overcrowding accelerates the need for support facilities, including restrooms, libraries, computer labs, science labs, lunch rooms, lockers and playgrounds, which are typically normal facilities of school campuses.

### The MUSD's Plan for the Year 2000

The District has developed a plan, with input from a Facilities Committee, Year Round Schools Committee, and a professionally conducted community survey, to provide

classrooms for the 16,000 projected students by the year 2000. The major obstacle to this plan is a shortage of funding, a problem which currently hinders most of the State of California. The State, which has been the source of school construction funds for eight schools built in the MUSD since 1978, is facing a severe crisis in its own school construction program. Over \$30 billion needed for school construction and expansion is projected state-wide by the year 2000. Unfortunately, State funds are exhausted. The Morongo Unified School District has indicated that there are immediate needs, as of 1993, for this area to construct new facilities to continue to serve current growth rates.

### **Continuing Education/ Copper Mountain Campus**

The Copper Mountain Campus (CMC) is a fully accredited community college campus serving the Morongo Basin. As part of the Desert Community College District, CMC offers Associate Degrees and Certificates in fifteen types of curriculum. College level courses include computer science, business administration, automotive technology, early childhood education, licensed vocational nursing, and registered nursing. Undergraduate credits from the Copper Mountain Campus are transferable to the California State University and University of California systems.

In addition to college level curriculum, adults can complete courses leading to a high school diploma through the college's Learning Lab, which helps students prepare for further education with courses designed to improve skills in basic math, reading and English.

### **Others**

Other institutions of higher education in the region include National University at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, the College of the Desert in Palm Desert, University of California-Riverside, California State University, San Bernardino, and the University of Redlands.

### **Yucca Valley Library and San Bernardino County Library System**

The Yucca Valley Library is an essential resource of the community. The Town Library building, located in the Community Center Complex, was built in October of 1973 through a joint powers agreement with the Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Department<sup>6</sup> Library services are provided by the San Bernardino County Library System. The County of San Bernardino is served by twenty-five other branch libraries, and the Yucca Valley Library is connected

to an on-line computer system which links it to these additional libraries and their collections. During the years since its construction, the Library has acquired a collection of over 43,000 books and more than 1,000 video and audio cassettes. The Library also subscribes to 116 magazines and six newspapers<sup>7</sup> (Please see the Arts, Culture and Humanities Element).

The San Bernardino County Library System provides library materials, services and maintenance to the Yucca Valley Library, paid for through the general fund of San Bernardino County. The San Bernardino City Library in San Bernardino serves as Yucca Valley Library's regional headquarters. It houses some library administration and support services utilized by Yucca Valley residents.

### **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

The Yucca Valley Town Government has limited opportunities to directly affect the future direction of the services and facilities provided by the Morongo Unified School District and by the County Library system.

The Morongo Unified and other school districts in California are recognized as lead agencies, with some powers similar to those granted to the Town. School districts must generally appeal directly to the State and registered voters to secure funding for facilities and services. The Town can continue to facilitate the collection of impact fees and assist in school related land use decisions. However, the principle responsibility for planning, financing and developing future school facilities and expanded serviced lies with the District.

As of 1995, there were no plans for the expansion of the library facility. A temporary alternative to the satellite facility would be a book-mobile program to service the outlying areas.

Future library services will be built on a solid foundation established in the 1970's. Continued growth and demand for these services will require long-term planning. Funding alternatives for expanded services may come from limited sources and the Yucca Valley Library should be included in long-term capital improvement planning.

<sup>6</sup> Telecommunication with Paul Kopack, Head Librarian, December 17, 1993.

<sup>7</sup> Chamber of Commerce, Informational Sheets on the Town of Yucca Valley-"Library Services", Chamber of Commerce, Yucca Valley, 1993.

## SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES GOAL, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

### GOAL

The provision of educational and library facilities in the Town of Yucca Valley that provide quality services and facilities, and convenient access to these important educational and cultural resources.

#### Policy 1

Cooperate and coordinate with the Morongo Unified School District to identify sites needed to meet future District growth demands. Encourage potential school sites to be planned within centrally located areas of residential development.

#### Program 1.A

As part of a continuing effort to provide enhanced educational opportunities for the residents of the community, the Town shall cooperate and coordinate with the Morongo Unified School District in planning facilities for new development.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Morongo Unified School District  
**Schedule:** Immediate, Continuous.

#### Policy 2

The Town Hi-Desert Nature Museum staff shall cooperate and coordinate with the Morongo Unified School District to use museum programs to enhance the educational experience of District students.

#### Program 2.A

As part of a continuing effort to provide enhanced educational opportunities for the residents of the community, the Town shall cooperate and coordinate with the Morongo Unified School District to make museum resources available to District classes to the greatest degree practical.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Services Department; Morongo Unified School District  
**Schedule:** Immediate, Continuous.

#### Policy 3

Review Morongo Unified School District development proposals and environment documentation, and shall otherwise coordinate and cooperate with the Morongo Unified School District to encourage the provision of safe, secure, and permanent educational space for all students.

#### Program 3.A

By the year 1997, the Town and the Morongo Unified School District shall be coordinating respective planning functions to result in an Integrated Town/District Plan for the Year 2000. This program will develop permanent facilities for all students in the area.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Morongo Unified School District  
**Schedule:** Immediate, Continuous.

#### Program 3.B

Preserve and protect existing and future school and library sites from excessive noise and traffic conditions by encouraging the siting of new schools and library facilities near quiet and compatible land uses.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Morongo Basin Unified School District  
**Schedule:** Immediate, Continuous.

#### Policy 4

Recognizing the importance of the library system for educational and cultural development within the community, the Town shall make every effort to assure that quality library facilities and resources are accessible to all residents, and shall cooperate and coordinate with the San Bernardino County Library System on an on-going basis.

#### Program 4.A

Investigate the need for and feasibility of enhanced public library facilities within the Town as a means of providing an educational and cultural focal point for Town residents, and shall coordinate the development of a satellite library site in order to accommodate increased growth south of Highway 62.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; San Bernardino County Library System; Town of Yucca Valley Library  
**Schedule:** 1995-1996.

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES ELEMENT

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Emergency Preparedness and Health Services Element is to identify critical facilities necessary in the event of an emergency, to assess the availability of emergency response services, and to discuss the potential impacts of significant man-made and natural hazards within the community. Additionally, it addresses the need for accessible health care services and facilities for all residents of the community, as well as to ensure that planned emergency routes between health-related facilities such as hospitals, clinics, and convalescent homes are in place for the growing Yucca Valley population.

It is the intention of the Element to address concerns regarding the Town's capability to respond to a natural and man-made disaster. The Element sets forth the goal, policies and programs, that have been, or will be developed by the Town to assure an effective response to the various environmental and man-made hazards that the community faces. The Element also provides goals, policies and programs that define and direct the Town's role in assuring the provision of a variety of medical care facilities to serve its diverse population.

## BACKGROUND

The Emergency Preparedness and Health Services Element is directly related to the Seismic Safety, Flooding and Hydrology, and Hazardous and Toxic Waste Elements. The Fire and Police Protection Element also has a direct relationship to the Emergency Preparedness and Health Services Element assuring protection against structural and wild fires, and the maintenance of law and order during and following emergencies. Other related Elements include Land Use, which effects essential relationships of use to location-specific threats, and Circulation, which defines the availability of and need for secure evacuation routes in the event of an emergency in the community.

The Town of Yucca Valley and the Morongo Basin are subject to significant environmental and man-made hazards which constitute significant threats to life and property. The Town's substantial potential for major earthquakes, and flooding, are natural occurrences which cannot be prevented.

Man-made threats include but are not limited to wild and urban fires, hazardous material spills and leaks, and major transportation accidents, including automobiles, trucks and aircraft.

In 1970, the California Legislature enacted the Emergency Services Act, which recognizes the State's responsibility in mitigating the effects of natural, man-made or war-caused emergencies (Government Code Section 8550). Among other things, this Act requires local governments and utilities, to abide by the requirements of the Office of Emergency Services.

This Element is also recommended as an integral part of the a broader environmental hazards discussion within the General Plan. Government Code Section 65302(g) states that the Plan shall address "the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure...; slope instability leading to mud slides or landslides".

## Critical Facilities

In the event that an emergency preparedness plan must be put into effect, certain critical facilities will become an essential part of the response plan. These include facilities which provide or house emergency services such as hospitals, fire stations, police and emergency services facilities, governmental operations and utility facilities. Critical facilities also include communication networks supporting police, fire and emergency personnel, as well as commercial radio stations that can play an essential role in apprising the community of appropriate actions to take.

Other critical facilities include evacuation routes, peak load water supply and delivery systems and, in the case of Yucca Valley, secure airport operations. Evacuation routes play an especially critical role in that they allow the evacuation and/or the delivery of ground-based assistance access to the Town. The difficulties with these facilities must be anticipated to maximize the effectiveness of an emergency response plan.

Damages and injuries caused by the Landers Quake (please see Seismic Safety Element) emphasized the need for an

adequate emergency shelter. Currently (1995), the Town does not have this type of facility, and with the need identified, there has been discussion regarding how to adequately service Yucca Valley's growing population.

### **Emergency Transportation and Circulation**

One of the single most important activities after a major disaster is the delivery of emergency personnel and relief supplies. Access to the community is limited and each major ground route in an area is subject to major damage from natural forces, including earthquakes and flooding. Therefore, all-weather and earthquake-resistant bridges, culverts, and road adjoining cut slopes must be given careful consideration. Programs can be developed in close coordination with CalTrans and, possibly, the Federal Highway Administration and the Department of Defense, to assure the maximum functional integrity of major roads serving the Town.

The Yucca Valley Airport also provides an important alternative means of access for both fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft. However, the airport is located within one of the most hazardous areas of the Town, lying adjacent to, and a portion being flanked on two sides by a major drainage facility. It is also located parallel to, and a portion of the airport may be crossed by, the Pinto Mountain Fault, which is discussed in detail in the Seismic Safety Element, and the General Plan Environmental Impact Report. It should be assumed that a major flood or earthquake in Yucca Valley has the potential to temporarily limit, or remove the airport from, useful service.

### **Emergency Medical Facilities**

Each of the two Yucca Valley Fire Protection Districts stations are staffed with a paramedic and support vehicle, which are ready to respond with or independent of fire fighting equipment. The Hi-Desert Memorial Hospital serves the Town with acute primary care, acute and long-term care, as well as subacute care facilities. These also include intensive care and critical care units. The Hi-Desert Medical Center is expanding its emergency department to include two trauma rooms and other necessary facilities.

### **Emergency Operations Center**

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located at Fire Station No. 21, is the heart of the emergency response system from which all emergency operations are coordinated. The operations of the EOC are coordinated through the implementation of the Incident Command System (ICS), which is an integral part of the Yucca Valley Emergency

Plan. The Emergency Plan was adopted by the Town Council in 1993.

### **Emergency Organization and Chain of Command**

As the title implies, emergency preparedness is the extensive and comprehensive pre-planning necessary to assure a timely, well coordinated, efficient and effective response to emergencies affecting the community. It requires a well thought out working relationship between numerous Town, County, State and Federal departments and agencies, which normally work largely independently. Inter-governmental special purpose units may be established that are detached from their normal day-to-day responsibilities. A command hierarchy is established with clear lines of authority and communication. The Town Manager serves as the Director of Emergency Services in Yucca Valley, followed by the Fire Chief or Senior law enforcement officer, and then the next available Town employee with the highest degree of expertise.

### **Extended Organizational Structure & Assistance**

There are a number of other agencies and capabilities brought to bear in an emergency. These are made available through mutual aid agreements, which allow the Town to expand otherwise over-extended capabilities and staff, and to draw upon the resources of those other agencies. In general, assisting entities may include other local cities and school districts, the County of San Bernardino, State of California, federal and even international agencies.

The Red Cross may be called upon to open and operate shelters for victims of an emergency, as well as to provide first aid, damage assessment, help with communications and the provision of various other resources. This agency typically initiates its own emergency response, but close coordination through the Emergency Operations Center is strongly encouraged. Military aid is typically in the form of the National Guard, whose role is to assist rather than substitute for the Town's response efforts. Requests for assistance of the Guard are to be channeled through the County Office of Emergency Services.

Financial assistance to the Town and victims of a disaster can come from several sources, with the State and Federal governments being the most important. In order to qualify for this assistance, the Town must declare a local emergency within 10 days of the actual occurrence of the disaster, have damages assessed, and must apply for aid within 60 days of

declaring the local emergency (Government Code Sections 8680- 8692).

## HEALTH SERVICES

The Town has a particular interest in the provision of accessible medical facilities, convalescent facilities and their services, as well as facilities specializing in medical emergencies. Such related facilities also include: Home Health Care, for those patients allowed to remain at home but requiring assessment and treatment by a skilled nurse or therapist; Continuing Care Centers, offering sub-acute (long-term) care or special intensive medical care for seriously ill residents; and Hospice services, home services for the terminally ill and their families.

## BACKGROUND

Seniors over aged 65 make up 25% of the Town of Yucca Valley's population<sup>1</sup>. The County of San Bernardino Department of Health, the State of California, and the Hospital Planning Association of Southern California are among the agencies that analyze all types of hospital data and statistics on an area-wide basis to help measure the present and future needs of such facilities and the populations they serve. The other key duties of health departments are: developing standards of service, organizing review proposals for new facilities, and informing public health practitioners of new standards. As the health planning field gains greater recognition, health departments will continue to forecast needs for integrated services and facilities and analyze new trends in medical and health facilities planning. An analysis of trends resulted in the location of the Hi-Desert Medical Center in Joshua Tree. A study was done before the hospital's construction pinpointing Joshua Tree as the geographic center of population distribution in the Morongo Basin.

### Hi-Desert Memorial Hospital District

Since 1972, the Hi-Desert Memorial Hospital District has been responsible in the Morongo Basin for promoting programs that encourage wellness through education and self-responsibility. The District began with the consolidation of Hi-Desert Memorial Hospital, Inc. and Twentynine Palms Hospital District in 1972. As a result of joint planning efforts, the Hi-Desert Medical Center was built in Joshua Tree in 1976. The District is governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors, responsible for establishing policy, maintaining quality patient care and providing for short and long term institutional planning within the Morongo Basin area. In addition to providing vital health care services,

the District, and the Hi-Desert Medical Center itself are major employers, providing more than 500 full and part-time jobs with an annual payroll of more than \$8.7 million and benefits of an additional \$2.4 million. Its indirect economic impact is also significant since many satellite businesses and services have located in the Morongo Basin due to the presence of a hospital. (Also see the Economic Development Element.)

### Hi-Desert Medical Center

The Hi-Desert Medical Center (HDMC), located in Joshua Tree, is the primary hospital of the Morongo Basin offering family health promotion and maintenance programs. The HDMC is a non-profit, acute primary care hospital and continuing care center. Of its 176 beds, 56 are for acute care beds in the acute primary care hospital (4 are ICU/CCU), 98 are long term care resident beds for transitional care, and 22 are sub-acute care beds for patients needing around-the-clock care. Hospice services are offered through the Hi-Desert Medical Center to any person and their family coping with a terminal illness on an out-patient (or in-home) program.

The Hi-Desert Medical Center serves the Town of Yucca Valley, the City of Twentynine Palms, and the communities of Joshua Tree, Landers, Johnson Valley and Morongo Valley, providing a wide range of in-patient and out-patient diagnostic treatment and rehabilitation services. Medical staff specialties include: Anesthesiology, Cardiology, Emergency Medicine (including an emergency room with various trauma related facilities), General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Radiology/ Nuclear Medicine, Cardiovascular Surgery, and Vascular Surgery.

Demand for additional services, especially emergency medical services, has grown dramatically in the Morongo Basin area. Nearly 13,000 patients were treated in the emergency department in 1991. This is a 100% increase in usage over 1985. In view of existing service demands, the emergency department will be doubled in size to include two trauma rooms, a cast room, three cardiac rooms, four examination rooms, and other necessary facilities totalling approximately 5,620 square feet. Out-patient service modernization and expansion will also be planned for the future as finances are acquired.

1 1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing

Birth facilities are needed to serve the 28% of Yucca Valley's population falling between the ages of 21 and 44 years of age. Although the Hi-Desert Medical Center has plans to provide birthing and pediatric facilities soon, currently there are no facilities of this type available in the immediate area.

#### **Avalon Urgent Care**

The Avalon Urgent Care facility provides walk-in clinic services specializing in the treatment of minor illnesses and injuries. On-site X-ray and lab services are available and a licensed physician is on duty during clinic hours, 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., every day of the year. Twenty-four hour assistance is not available at this facility and the Hi-Desert Medical Center and Desert Hospital are the only alternatives to cover the night hours when Avalon Urgent Care is not in operation.

#### **Airway Surgicenter**

Located in Yucca Valley, and provided through the Hi-Desert Medical Center, the Airway Surgicenter performs outpatient surgeries, X-rays, CAT scans, and other types of imaging services. It provides supplemental services to Hi-Desert Medical Center for Yucca Valley residents to receive specialized health services in a more accessible location.

#### **Special Services/Mobile Health Services**

Special mobile health services are periodically offered in a community center or other public building within the Town and surrounding communities through the San Bernardino County Public Health Department. Primary care clinics are offered by participating physicians and can include physical examinations, diagnostic screening, lab tests, immunizations, and health seminars.

#### **Moyles Health/Convalescent Facilities**

Moyle's health care facilities, located within the Town of Yucca Valley, helps to serve those residents with special needs and those needing around-the-clock care. There are four Moyle's health care facility locations ranging from partial care (Moyle's Riviera) to around-the-clock skilled nursing care (Moyle's Convalescent, Moyle's Manor, and Moyle's Sky Harbor).

#### **Network 55**

Network 55 is a membership program designed for adults of 55 years or older through the Hi-Desert Medical Center. Its function is to assist seniors in contacting (or connecting with)

health care services. Membership is free and special benefits include business discounts, informational services, and seminar

#### **Morongo Basin Mental Health Services Association, Inc.**

The Morongo Basin Mental Health Services Association is a private non-profit community agency offering out-patient mental health and residential chemical dependency recovery services. The agency offers a Federal, State and County funded indigent health care program including: individual and group therapy, family therapy, marriage counseling, psychological testing, psychiatric consultation, medication monitoring and parenting classes.

#### **Visiting Nurse Association**

The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) is a private non-profit community based home health agency that is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The agency provides a full range of health care services to the patient and family in the home, including hospice care.

#### **Desert Hospital**

Desert Hospital, located in Palm Springs, is a licensed 398 bed hospital which functions as the most notable intensive care facility between Riverside County and the Arizona border. This hospital has a twenty-four hour emergency room and a level II Trauma Care facility with a staff of specially trained trauma surgeons to offer their aid in the event of a major injury. Like the Hi-Desert Medical Center, Desert Hospital also has a Home Health Care department which provides in-home nursing and household maintenance service. Hospice of the Desert has been incorporated into the Desert Hospital operations to provide specialized counseling for the terminally ill.

#### **Eisenhower Medical Center**

Eisenhower Medical Center, located in the City of Rancho Mirage, also is available to provide services to residents of Yucca Valley. This hospital is licensed for 239 beds with an average occupancy rate of approximately 80%. Twenty-four hour emergency facilities are also available, with at least one full time physician on duty at all times. Located on the same grounds are the Betty Ford Center for chemical dependency, the Annenberg Center for Health Education and the Barbara Sinatra Center for Abused Children. Eisenhower is also a provider of a wide variety of out-patient and specialist services, and has recently opened a birthing center that could offer service to residents of the Yucca Valley Community.

## Emergency Services

The Town of Yucca Valley is served by two major emergency response organizations: the San Bernardino County Fire Department and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. The Hi-Desert Medical Center is located seven miles east of the most eastern Town limits; however, if a trauma situation is encountered needing specialized services, transport to Desert Hospital facilities in Palm Springs may be necessary. Desert Hospital is located approximately thirty miles from the western Town limits.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department is a part of the Yucca Valley Fire Protection District which has its own branch of San Bernardino County paramedics and ambulance services. When advanced life support and ambulance crew are unavailable, services are requested from the Morongo Basin Ambulance Association (formerly the Joshua Tree Ambulance Association). This association exclusively provides advanced life support and ambulance services to the California Department of Forestry, in the event of a major fire emergency within the Town of Yucca Valley. The association is also used by the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department for backup life support services when necessary. (Please see the Emergency Preparedness and Health Services Element.)

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Emergency Preparedness and Health Services Element is implemented through the Town Emergency Plan, which includes detailed organizational directives, scopes of responsibility, operational priorities, authority and powers, emergency communication protocols and other components of the framework needed for effective response in the event of an emergency. The ability of the community to respond to emergencies will also be affected by the expansion of land uses and the location of future fire stations and other public safety facilities.

Development standards, as set forth in the Town Development Code, will also influence how effectively emergency personnel can respond to events affecting occupied structures. The degree to which recommendations and policies and programs found in the Seismic Safety, Flooding and Hydrology, and Hazardous and Toxic Materials Elements are implemented, will also impact emergency preparedness. Finally, establishing and maintaining contacts and coordination with other responsible agencies will give future direction to emergency response strategies.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GOAL, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

### GOAL

Provision of a thoroughly coordinated, responsive and effective emergency preparedness implementation plan in the Town of Yucca Valley, assuring a high degree of readiness to respond to natural and man-made disasters in a manner that maximizes Town, County, State and Federal response capabilities.

### Policy 1

Maintain and update the Emergency Preparedness Plan to keep it current with staffing and technical capabilities of the Town and cooperating agencies.

### Program 1.A

Direct the review and revision of the Emergency Plan through responsible department heads and shall assure the annual review of the Plan by the Town Council.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Town Council

**Schedule:** Annually.

### Policy 2

Coordinate with CalTrans and other appropriate agencies for the establishment of emergency evacuation routes and plans to preserve or reestablish the use of State Highways 62 and 247 as emergency evacuation routes.

### Program 2.A

Appoint a liaison with CalTrans, to facilitate the establishment of emergency evacuation routes, and to provide for the development of an emergency response plan that assures the timely repair of state highways damaged by earthquakes, flooding or other disasters.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

### Program 2.B

Consult with CalTrans, the Federal Highway Administration, FEMA and the US Department of Defense regarding funding assistance for the construction, repair and/or upgrading of bridges, floodway crossings, cut slopes and other structures to minimize the potential isolation of the community and surround facilities from ground-based assistance.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development Dept; San Bernardino County; CalTrans; Federal Highway Admin; FEMA; Department of Defense

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

**Program 2.C**

Consult with the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management and shall explore the feasibility of linking Town and Park roads for alternate provision of emergency alternate access.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department  
**Schedule:** 1995-1996; Continuous.

seismic and flooding threats facing the community. This process shall assure that additional or refined measures are systematically incorporated into these Elements to protect lives and property.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Town Council  
**Schedule:** Annually; Continuous.

**Policy 3**

The Yucca Valley Emergency Plan shall be coordinated and updated to assure that it is compatible with and complements the San Bernardino County Emergency Plan and its implementation procedures.

**Policy 6**

Cooperate and coordinate with San Bernardino County, the Hi-Desert Water District and other agencies and utilities in the preparation of public information materials to assist residents and business owners in responding to local disasters.

**Program 3.A**

Regularly confer with the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Preparedness and shall share and coordinate plans to provide mutual aid assistance in the event of a disaster requiring emergency response.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development Department  
**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

**Program 6.A**

Coordinate with San Bernardino County, Hi-Desert Water District, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas, and other agencies and utilities in the development and dissemination of information and instruction on appropriate actions in the event of a local disaster.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development and Community Services Departments  
**Schedule:** 1995-1996; Continuous.

**Policy 4**

On-going lines of communications shall be established between the Town and the U.S. Geological Survey to assure the provision of earthquake predictions which may impact the Town and surrounding area.

**Program 6.B**

Coordinate with local schools and appropriate public and quasi-public agencies to assure that a public information program is developed and broadly implemented to advise the community on how to prepare for and cope in an emergency.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development and Community Services Departments  
**Schedule:** 1995-1996; Continuous.

**Program 4.A**

Establish a liaison with the appropriate office of the US Geological Survey and establish a procedure by which the USGS contacts and informs the Town of earthquake predictions which may affect the Town and surrounding areas.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

**Policy 7**

Thoroughly consider and assess vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters when reviewing proposals for the siting and development of critical and essential public/quasi-public facilities.

**Policy 5**

The Seismic Safety and Flooding and Hydrology Elements of the General Plan shall be regularly reviewed and updated to assure that seismic and flooding hazards are fully addressed in the Emergency Plan.

**Program 7.A**

Incorporate an assessment of vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters when processing or reviewing proposals to site and construct critical and essential facilities, as well as sensitive land uses, to assure the maximum possible protection from environmental and man-made hazards, including earthquakes and flooding.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department  
**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

**Program 5.A**

Utilizing information from development studies, as well as those from state and federal agencies, the Town shall periodically review and update the Seismic Safety and Flooding and Hydrology Elements of the General Plan with the latest information and data available on the various

**Policy 8**

Take every action to assure the availability of emergency power generators in essential Town facilities, and shall encourage the installation of these backup facilities in other important public and private facilities.

**Program 8.A**

Assure the availability of backup emergency power generators at the Emergency Operations Center and other critical Town facilities. The Town shall also contact and encourage the installation of these facilities at other public and quasi-public facilities, as well as at radio and television stations serving the area.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

**Policy 9**

Coordinate with and integrate both commercial and private radio operators, including ham radio operators, to establish a Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service.

**Program 9.A**

Contact, coordinate with and integrate public and private radio operators in the establishment of a Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) system to provide coordinated functioning in the event of an emergency.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development Department; Community Services Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

**Policy 10**

Coordinate with the appropriate agencies and service providers to assure that emergency preparedness plans include contingencies for large-scale urban and wild and fires.

**Program 10.A**

Confer and coordinate with the San Bernardino County Fire Department and the California Department of Forestry, which provides contract wildfire protection services, to assure that emergency plans are ready to implement in the event of a major urban or wild and fire.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development Department; San Bernardino County Fire Department; California Department of Forestry

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

**Policy 11**

The Town Emergency Plan shall include programs and strategies to maximize the availability and delivery of emergency medical services to those in need during and following a local disaster.

**Program 11.A**

Confer and coordinate with the Hi-Desert Memorial Hospital, Desert Hospital, the San Bernardino County Fire Department, and California Department of Forestry paramedical staff, and private providers to assure that a coordinated plan is in place to provide an effective response during a major local emergency.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

**Program 11.B**

Emergency shelter and emergency medical stations shall be planned for and activated by the Town Manager. The need for one or more additional mobile medical service vehicles, above those provided by fire department paramedics, shall be investigated.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

**Policy 12**

An on-going effort shall be made to establish and maintain a liaison between the Town, CalTrans and the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center to assure cooperation and coordination in the event of natural or man-made emergencies.

**Program 12.A**

Contact, coordinate with, and integrate a secure system of information sharing with the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, which will assure ample notification of the transport of hazardous substances or materials through the Town.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

**Program 12.B**

Incorporate contingency plans in the Town Emergency Plan, which provide for measures to be taken in the event of an attack on the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

**Policy 13**

The Yucca Valley Airport shall be integrated into emergency preparedness planning in the Town of Yucca Valley as an important possible alternative means of access into the community, in the event of a local disaster.

**Program 13.A**

Develop contingency plans, which maximize the use of the Yucca Valley Airport in the event of a local disaster, and provide for a coordinated plan of response, when it becomes necessary to place the airport in an emergency response mode.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Manager; Airport District President; Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

**HEALTH SERVICES**

**GOAL, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

**GOAL**

High quality health care facilities and services that are easily accessible to Town residents and promote good health and well being.

**Policy 1**

Consult and coordinate with the Hi-Desert Memorial Hospital District to assist in providing adequate, quality health care facilities and services that are accessible within the Town of Yucca Valley.

**Program 1.A**

The Town and the Hi-Desert Memorial Hospital District staff shall consult, as needed to plan and develop facilities and services, on an on-going basis to assure the planning and development of facilities and services which meet the health care needs of the Town residents.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Town Council; Hi-Desert Memorial Hospital District

**Schedule:** Continuous

**Policy 2**

Cooperate in the continued development of medical and health care facilities in accordance with the changing demographics of the community.

**Program 2.A**

As the Town's population continues to grow and additional convalescent and senior housing is developed, the Town shall coordinate with transportation service providers and the Hi-Desert Memorial Hospital District to maintain accessibility to health care facilities and services so that residents in general and seniors in particular, will be served quickly and efficiently.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Hi-Desert Memorial Hospital District

**Schedule:** Immediate, Continuous

# PUBLIC BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, AND UTILITIES ELEMENT

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Public Buildings, Facilities and Utilities Element is to describe the various structures facilities, and utilities operated by public and quasi-public agencies, and to set forth goals, policies and programs which address the long term planning needs of the community. It is the intent of this Element to provide sufficient information to identify important and critical facilities and to assure coordinated planning and development to keep pace with growth in the community.

## BACKGROUND

The Public Buildings, Facilities, and Utilities Element is directly related to the Land Use, Schools and Libraries and Circulation Elements.

The Town of Yucca Valley is a unique rural community which contains a variety of public buildings, facilities, and utilities utilized for the benefit of all members of the community. These buildings and facilities range from a community center that includes a Senior Center and Library, to utility services, including Southern California Edison, Century Cable, and many others. These facilities are discussed and evaluated in order to determine the need for expansion of services within the Town for its present and future residents and visitors. Preservation of habitat is an important consideration in future development of public facilities.

Among the statutory functions of the planning agency is to, "annually review the Capital Improvement Program of the City or County and the local public works projects of other local agencies for their consistency with the General Plan..." (Government Code Section 65103(c)). However, a local government may emphasize the importance of this issue by requiring an optional Public Facilities Element (Government Code Section 65303), as the Town of Yucca Valley has done.

The following table provides a summary of existing and proposed public facilities within the Town of Yucca Valley.

Table VI-6  
Public Facilities in the Town of  
Yucca Valley - 1995

### Facility

#### Community Center Complex

- *Town Hall*
- *Hi-Desert Nature Museum*
- *Senior Center*
- *County Library*
- *Community Center*
- *Meeting Rooms*
- *Maintenance Facility*
- *Skateboard Park*
- *BMX Track*
- *Hi-Desert Water District Recharge Basin*

#### Public Schools

- *Yucca Valley Elementary School*
- *Yucca Valley Community School*
- *La Contenta Jr. High School*
- *Sky High School*
- *Yucca Valley High School*

#### Town Maintenance and Equipment Storage Yards

- (Hi-Desert Park*
- Yucca Valley Airport*
- Building and Safety Offices*
- U.S. Post Office*
- Yucca Valley Fire Protection District*
- California Department of Forestry*
- CalTrans Highway Maintenance Station*
- Southern California Gas Company*
- Southern California Edison*
- Century Cable*
- Hi-Desert Water District*
- Contract Post Office*
- Boys and Girls Club*

Parks (Please refer to the Parks, Recreation and Trails Element)

While this discussion centers on lands and facilities of the Town of Yucca Valley, utility buildings and substations must be given special consideration in the planning process, in order to assure their compatibility with surrounding land uses.

#### **Location of Buildings and their Facilities**

The location of public buildings and facilities is largely dependent upon their function in the community. To efficiently plan for the future needs of the community, public buildings should be logically integrated into the land use patterns of the Town. Most public buildings serve as offices where residents and business people come to conduct business. Because of this, public buildings should be conveniently located and of adequate size.

The location of Town storage and maintenance yards, utility substations, and other quasi-industrial lands must be addressed in the context of another set of considerations. Among these considerations is the compatibility and integration of these facilities within the land uses and landscape environment of the surrounding areas. Utility infrastructure, including electrical substations and pumping and switching facilities, can generate excessive noise and can also detract from the scenic features of an area, especially in rural settings. Methods used to integrate utility infrastructure with the surrounding area can include: noise attenuation, decorative screening walls and landscape buffers around major facilities, or the construction of telephone and other equipment buildings in an architectural style compatible with the surrounding built environment.

There are a number of structures within the Town that can be considered public buildings or facilities. It is important to define the future expansion plans of each of these facilities in order to evaluate their capability of serving the Town of Yucca Valley and its future population.

#### **Civic Center Complex**

The Yucca Valley Civic Center is located immediately north of State Highway 62 and west of State Highway 247. The Center houses a wide range of facilities, offices and recreation and open space areas. These include the Town Hall complex which houses the Town Administrative Offices, the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, the Town Library and various meeting facilities. The Civic Center Complex is also the site of the Yucca Valley Senior Center, as well as a variety of ball fields and other recreational amenities. Each of the major facilities is briefly discussed below.

#### **Town Hall**

Town Hall is the principle administrative center of the community. A front counter allows residents and other visitors to confer with staff and to obtain information. These facilities were expanded in 1995 with a 2300 square foot addition<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Hi-Desert Nature Museum**

The Hi-Desert Nature Museum, in the Civic Center complex, is a 5,000 square foot, family-oriented facility with collections and exhibits relating to the area's unique historical and ecological setting. The Museum features live exhibits of small desert animals and reptiles in their natural surroundings. Public education is a priority for the Museum, which participates in many community and education programs about the desert and its natural resources. With the expansion of the Museum's collections, the increase in school populations, and the need to increase educational opportunities for residents and visitors, it is the goal of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum to expand their programming and facilities. A possible expansion would include an additional 7,500 square feet to provide additional exhibit space for natural history, earthquakes, and the history of the Morongo Basin. Existing and future use of the Museum and the interest shown in this facility will help determine when an expansion of the Museum is warranted<sup>2</sup> (Also see the Arts, Culture, and Humanities Element).

#### **Senior Center**

Also within the Civic Center Complex is the Senior Center. The 3,100 square foot facility is home to a variety of programs such as Meals on Wheels, the Senior Club, and various senior information referral services such as tax assistance and legal counseling. This facility is available to the public for meetings and gatherings. This facility has capacity for future expansion for additional activity areas<sup>3</sup>.

#### **Yucca Valley Library**

The Yucca Valley Branch Library is part of the San Bernardino County Library system with connection to an

<sup>1</sup> Telecommunication with James Schooler, Town of Yucca Valley, November 29, 1993.

<sup>2</sup> Telecommunication with Jim DeMersman, Hi-Desert Nature Museum, November 29, 1993.

<sup>3</sup> Telecommunication with James Schooler, Town of Yucca Valley, November 29, 1993.

on-line computer system. There are no plans for the expansion of the library facility. General Standards for the provision of libraries and facilities<sup>4</sup> call for approximately 10,000 square feet of library space per 36,000 population, 18.3 weekly service hours per 10,000 population, and 2.82 books per capita. (Also see the Schools and Libraries Element).

### Community Services/Maintenance Facilities

The Town is responsible for maintaining 134 miles of public (non-state) roads, all Town buildings, and the Town's parks. Maintenance equipment is stored at the Hi-Desert Park's maintenance building and in the Southern California Edison yard.

### Public Schools

The Morongo Unified School District (MUSD) encompasses more than 1,350 square miles of service area. It provides public education to residents of the Morongo Basin, which includes the communities of Joshua Tree, Landers, and Morongo Valley, as well as the City of Twentynine Palms, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, and the Town of Yucca Valley. Yucca Valley's public schools include Yucca Valley Elementary School on Hopi Trail, Yucca Mesa Elementary Charter School just north of the Town at Aberdeen and Avalon, La Contenta Junior High School on La Contenta Road, Yucca Valley Community School off Papago Trail, Yucca Valley High School on Sage, and Sky High School off Skypark Drive. Onaga Elementary School is considered one of six new facilities needed by the year 2000 in the Morongo Unified School District. Its construction was completed in 1995 and it is located in the southeast part of Town on Onaga Trail<sup>5</sup> (Please see the Schools and Libraries Element for a more detailed discussion).

### Yucca Valley Airport

The Yucca Valley Airport is a privately operated facility, in a long term lease with the Yucca Valley Airport District. The airport is located on a 35 acre dry wash, one-half mile northeast of Yucca Valley's central business district.

It is a public use airport that is classified in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems as a general aviation, basic utility facility accommodating aircraft of a maximum gross weight of 12,000 pounds. It is home to fifty-two single engine aircraft and has a field elevation of 3,224 feet, a dimension runway of 4,363 x 60 feet, with pilot controlled

lighting. As an example of the activity generated by the Yucca Valley Airport, from mid-1990 to mid-1991, approximately 3,000 operations were generated by airport-based aircraft while 9,500 operations were accounted for by transient aircraft.

Homes with attached and unattached hangars have been constructed along the south property line for the convenience of residents with locally based aircraft. Other on-site facilities include several hangars located on the southwest corner of the site. The Yucca Valley Airport District has initiated a formal request to develop a Master Plan for this facility in upcoming years. This Master Plan is expected to address the need for additional hangars and aircraft parking areas, as well as improvements to taxiway and the runway. Possible future expansions to the airport may include the construction of a bridge over the wash as a means of lengthening the runway in an easterly direction to enable access to the industrial area between the east end of the runway and Balsa Avenue. Extensions to taxiway are also possible towards the north and south of the runway.

Future expansion of the airport's facilities are not imperative at this time since the California Aviation System Plan shows that the airport facility has a capacity large enough to serve the population through 2005 and beyond. The airport is considered to have a 200,000 operations capacity, however, in the year 2005 only 12,900 total operations are predicted<sup>6</sup>. Eventual lengthening of the runway may be necessary to accommodate larger aircraft.

### County Offices

There are several County offices within the Town limits to serve unincorporated lands within the area. These offices include the Assessors Office, the Department of Building and Safety, the County Supervisor's Field Offices, Public Social Services, and the GAIN program. The current (1995) location of these facilities and their future expansion can assist the Town in its development as a regional administrative center.

4 Eric Damian Kelly Planning, Growth, and Public Facilities a Primer for Local Officials, American Planning Association, Planning Advisory Service Report Number 447, September 1993.

5 Morongo Unified School District, Morongo Unified School District 1992 Annual Report, Morongo Unified School District Offices, Twentynine Palms, CA, 1993.

6 San Bernardino, County of, Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan-Yucca Valley Airport, Planning Department of San Bernardino County, San Bernardino, 1992 Page 4.

### U.S. Post Office

The United States Post Office serving Yucca Valley is a relatively new facility and is the largest post office serving the Morongo Basin. This facility, built in 1988, is located south of State Highway 62 on Yucca Trail at Joshua Lane. The facility includes all basic postal services offered in most other facilities such as post office boxes, voter registration, mail boxes, shipping services and postage stamp sales. The only service not offered at this location is passport services. The structure is 18,500 square feet and the site accommodates outdoor postal vehicle storage, and parking lots for customers and employees. As of 1993, there were no plans for its expansion<sup>7</sup>.

### Yucca Valley Fire Protection District

Fire protection and emergency medical response services are provided by the Yucca Valley Fire Protection District of the San Bernardino County Fire Department, which maintains two stations staffed by firefighters and paramedics twenty-four hours a day. The District's headquarters are located on Highway 62. As the population of the Town increases and the need for expanded fire protection services arises, it will be critical that the Town and the Fire Protection District coordinate planning efforts to expand future facilities and services<sup>8</sup>. (Please see the Fire and Police Element for more details).

### California Department of Forestry

The California Department of Forestry is a State office specifically devoted to wildland fires and their prevention. The Department station is located on Airway Avenue, south of Highway 62. The Department will extend their services to the Town in the event of a major brush fire or large fire within its boundaries. It is unknown at this time whether the Department's facilities and their services will be increased. (Please see the Fire and Police Element for more details).

### Utility Companies and Their Facilities

Hi-Desert Water District, Southern California Gas Company, Southern California Edison, General Telephone, and Century Communication are the major utility companies serving residents of the Town of Yucca Valley. Utility company facilities include pumping stations, electrical substations, and telephone switching stations. General Telephone has a service facility yard in the Town and, provides all of its services by phone. Both the Hi-Desert Water District and Southern California Edison have offices and maintenance facilities on Highway 247, just south of the airport. Other utility

companies within the Town have no current plans for expansion.

### CalTrans State Highway Maintenance Station

The CalTrans Maintenance Station is located on La Contenta Road just south of Highway 62, within the Town of Yucca Valley. In 1992, the Maintenance Station underwent a major transformation to comply with Federal Building and Safety Codes for disabled persons. During the expansion, two rest rooms, a shower, and a 450 square feet of storage were added to the facility<sup>9</sup>.

### Sports Complex Construction

The Town owns most of its parkland. Ideas for the future expansion of the Town's park facilities include the construction of a major sports complex (Please see the Parks, Recreation and Trails, and Land Use Elements for more details). This community sports complex may provide such facilities as an Olympic-sized pool, gymnasium, weight rooms, sports track, and other sports-related facilities. During the final siting for this public facility, the Town must consider the surrounding land uses, areas in need of park facilities, necessary site conditions, and land available to develop such a significant public recreation facility for the Town.

### "Critical Structures"

Critical structures are those facilities ranging from important to essential that are located in seismic areas, or areas that are subject to natural hazardous occurrences. Critical structures include those facilities required to provide emergency services following an earthquake or other local emergencies, such as fires and floods. Fire and police stations, hospitals, major roadways, and the Yucca Valley Airport are examples of facilities needed during emergency operations. Where appropriate, the siting of these facilities should be located in areas that would experience the least seismic or hazardous activities. Building design should include allowances for the offset of building foundations resulting from surface displacements.

7 Telecommunication with Pete Anthony, Post Marker, U.S. Post Office-Yucca Valley, December 6, 1993.

8 Chamber of Commerce, Informational Sheets on the Town of Yucca Valley: "Fire Protection Services", Chamber of Commerce, Yucca Valley, 1993.

9 Telecommunication with, CalTrans Maintenance Station, November 29, 1993.

Due to the Town's high seismic damage potential occurring in Seismic Zone IV as defined by the Uniform Building Code, special consideration should be made in the development or expansion of future "critical structures". These should include thorough engineering analysis, building siting and design, and compatibility. (Please see the Seismic Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Health Services Elements for more details.)

## UTILITIES

One of the principal concerns which must be addressed in the review of development proposals is the availability of utility services and facilities. Most new developments are currently required to have available domestic water, natural gas and electricity, and telephone service. Planning and land development issues include delivery systems that assure the long-term availability of energy resources, their safe transportation and utilization, the locating of energy generating plants and distribution lines, and the efficient and cost-effective extension of services.

The Town of Yucca Valley is jointly responsible for coordinating with private and quasi-public agencies offering public services such as telephone, gas and electricity, to assure compliance with the General Plan and the provision of adequate carrying capacity to the community through the Capital Improvement Program. The California Government Code Sections 65302 (a) (b) (e) requires that the planning agency "annually review the capital improvement program of the city or county and the local public works projects of other local agencies for their consistency with the General Plan." Therefore, the Town must continue to coordinate with the various agencies to review the efficiency and availability of services provided.

### Water

As discussed at length in the Water Resources Element, Water services are provided by the Hi-Desert Water District, which lies within the Mojave Water Agency service boundaries. The Hi-Desert Water District derives water resources principally from the Warren Valley Ground Water Basin underlying the Town of Yucca Valley. The Warren Valley Ground Water Basin is to be recharged by the Sate Water Project beginning in 1994. Hi-Desert Water District's water system depends on the supply of water available and the capacity of storage facilities and distribution systems to deliver water on demand. Water supplies must be capable of meeting maximum daily demands; storage must be capable of meeting peak hour demand, in addition to fire flow volumes

and an emergency reserve; and the distribution system must be able to provide required service and fire flows and adequate pressures throughout the system.

The Morongo Basin Pipeline, a \$52 million project with seventy-one miles of pipeline, consists of 30 and 36 inch pipelines, a pumping station in Johnson Valley, and is capable of delivering approximately 14,000 acre feet per year, or 19 cubic feet per second. The Hi-Desert Water District's allocation from the Mojave Water Agency is currently set (1994) at 4,282 acre feet per year. As of 1995, the Mojave Water Agency constructed a five million gallon reservoir and additional pipelines to direct water into the Town of Yucca Valley (please see the Water Resources Element for a more detailed discussion).

### Waste Water Facilities

The Town is not served by a sewage collection system or by a waste water treatment facility. On-site septic systems are utilized by residents and commercial and industrial operations throughout the Town. The Hi-Desert Water District is exploring the possibilities of establishing a wastewater treatment system in order to actively protect the groundwater of the area, and to provide a supplemental water source for non-potable use.

In May 1993, the Hi-Desert Water District had Montgomery Watson conduct a wastewater collection and treatment feasibility study for two primary reasons: (1) the concentration of nitrates and total dissolved solids at some wells in the Yucca Valley area is increasing, and may be due to the current use of septic systems, and (2) since 1958, the level of the aquifer, which provides water to the area, has declined on the average more than 40 feet, per year.

This study concludes that a waste water treatment facility is feasible in the area if it is implemented in phases, and proposes that a 1.0 million gallons per day (mgd) system be built in the first stage to service approximately thirty percent of the total population of the Hi-Desert Water District's service area. Preliminary estimates show that this type of system can be built for a monthly cost of less than \$30 per household. A planned, systematic expansion of this facility would potentially allow for the facility to serve a higher percentage of the community<sup>10</sup>.

10 Hi-Desert Water District Wastewater Collection and Treatment Feasibility Evaluation, Montgomery Watson, May 1993.

Due to the substantial cost and high impact of the construction of this type of facility, the Hi-Desert Water District has not reached a decision regarding the installation of a waste water treatment facility. There are several alternatives to be considered, and the Hi-Desert Water District must evaluate the potential costs and impacts of all of the feasible options.

### Energy

Planned future land use patterns and rates of development can be expected to affect the siting of major energy services and facilities, including natural gas pumping stations, electrical substations, regional power plants, and the location of distribution or transmission lines in the Town and the General Plan study area. The inverse is also true.

### Gas Service

Southern California Gas Company provides natural gas service to the majority of the Town. Two, four and six inch transmission and distribution gas lines run throughout the community along many of the Town streets. Exhibit VI-1 shows the location of major gas lines, four inch and six inch, which provide service in the Yucca Valley community. This map does not include the locations of two inch distribution lines that are widespread throughout the Town. The Southern California Gas Company has the facilities to extend service to existing unserved and future development. Major gas lines do not exist in the southwest and northwest portions of the Town, due to the rough terrain in these areas which severely restricts development. Gas service is available to commercial, industrial and residential users in the Town, with costs varying with seasons and amount of use.

As discussed in the Energy Resources Element, propane, coal and wood burning are also used in the Town of Yucca Valley for space heating, water heating and cooking. Extensive use of wood and coal have the potential to cause adverse impacts to ambient air quality.

### Telephone Service

Business and residential telephone service in Yucca Valley and all Morongo Basin communities is provided by GTE California. Headquartered in Thousand Oaks, GTE California provides a variety of basic and special services and features to businesses and residential customers. Three types of residential telephone service are offered. Flat rate service provides for unlimited local calls at one price. Measured service has a lower monthly rate but incremental charges for

local calls. GTE's Lifeline service is also available, within certain restrictions, to low income customers.

Local calls are considered to be any location from zero to twelve miles, and the cost of a local calls has a set rate for the first minute and an addition rate for each subsequent minute thereafter. A variety of service options are available including calling cards, Personal Secretary, Smart Call services and business line 800.

### Electrical Service

Electrical services are provided in the Yucca Valley area by Southern California Edison (SCE). By choosing energy-efficient appliances for their homes, Yucca Valley residents can save money and energy while helping the environment by conserving resources. Without subscribing to the various energy efficient rebate programs, residents can expect to pay a \$.10 per day consumption charge, along with less than \$.15 per KWH.

It is important to provide cost-effective electrical power in the community in order to attract residents and businesses alike. The cost of electricity can have a substantial impact on businesses, and its affordability through reasonable rates and energy conservation incentives is essential to the continued growth of the Yucca Valley commercial center.

Exhibit VI-2 shows the location of major electricity transmission lines which service the Yucca Valley area. As of 1994, there were two 115 kilovolt lines which ran through the area, serving both as primary and emergency back-up lines. The first line runs along the Twentynine Palms Highway and converges with the more southerly line to the west at the Devers Substation near Desert Hot Springs, and to the east at the Hi-Desert Substation, located in Twentynine Palms.

### Cable Television

In the Yucca Valley area in 1995, Century Communication offered a wide variety of television channels including premium channels and pay-per-view. Century Communication supplies materials for in-home wiring and underground conduit at no cost during construction of housing tracts and apartment complexes. During the past few years, cable television has expanded, offering home shopping networks and other interactive services that will continue to expand and play a larger role in communities throughout the Yucca Valley area. Century Communication is currently

(1995) installing fiber optic cable, which will be able to

provide a much wider variety of programming and interactivity.

### Solid Waste Disposal Service

Solid waste in the community is primarily handled by Hi-Desert Disposal, which offers both residential and commercial services, with pick-up provided once a week.

Hi-Desert Disposal offers special services for customers that produce large levels of waste; such as, restaurants which generally require a minimum of two pick-up per month. This cost effective and efficient service is essential in assuring use by residents, and a clean, trash-free community. All of the trash collected in the Town of Yucca Valley is distributed between the Landers and Morongo Valley Landfills.

### Recycling Service and AB 939

Hi-Desert Recycling, a state certified recycling center, is located at 55525 Yucca Trail in the Town of Yucca Valley, and recycles glass, plastic, aluminum, tin and newspapers. They offer pick-up for large loads of recyclable material, but do not offer weekly or monthly residential pick up. The company also buys non-ferrous scrap metal and will take newspapers and tin to recycle at no cost to the resident.

In 1993, it was estimated that each month the Hi-Desert Recycling Center took in about twenty tons of aluminum, fifteen to twenty tons of glass, two tons of plastic and a large amount of newspaper<sup>11</sup>.

The continued recycling effort of the community is essential in extending the life of the existing and limited landfills, and providing opportunities for the manufacturing of new products from the recycled materials. In 1989, the State of California passed Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939) which requires that every city and county in California implement programs to recycle, reduce at the source and compost (RSC) 25% of their solid waste by the year 1995 and 50% by the year 2000. In 1992, the Town of Yucca Valley initiated the Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE), which was the first step in coordinating with Hi-Desert Disposal and Hi-Desert Recycling to meet the requirements of AB 939.

### FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The provision of all of the services addressed in this Element has a direct impact on the economic strength of the community. Future land use patterns will generate a greater need for services, and it is imperative to manage growth so

that demand for these services does not exceed the total available supply and/or capacity.

The provision of water, energy and other services must be planned to accommodate present and anticipated needs, and will play a major role in determining the location, intensity, and timing of future development. The availability of sewer and water connections, and the availability of water from the State Water Project will have an impact upon future development.

The Town shall continue to develop a close and integral relationship with the various providers of public utility services. This requires that the Town establish and maintain close contacts and coordination to assure that current and future demands are met. The involvement of the Hi-Desert Water District, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas and other providers in the development planning and review process will help to assure this close coordination.

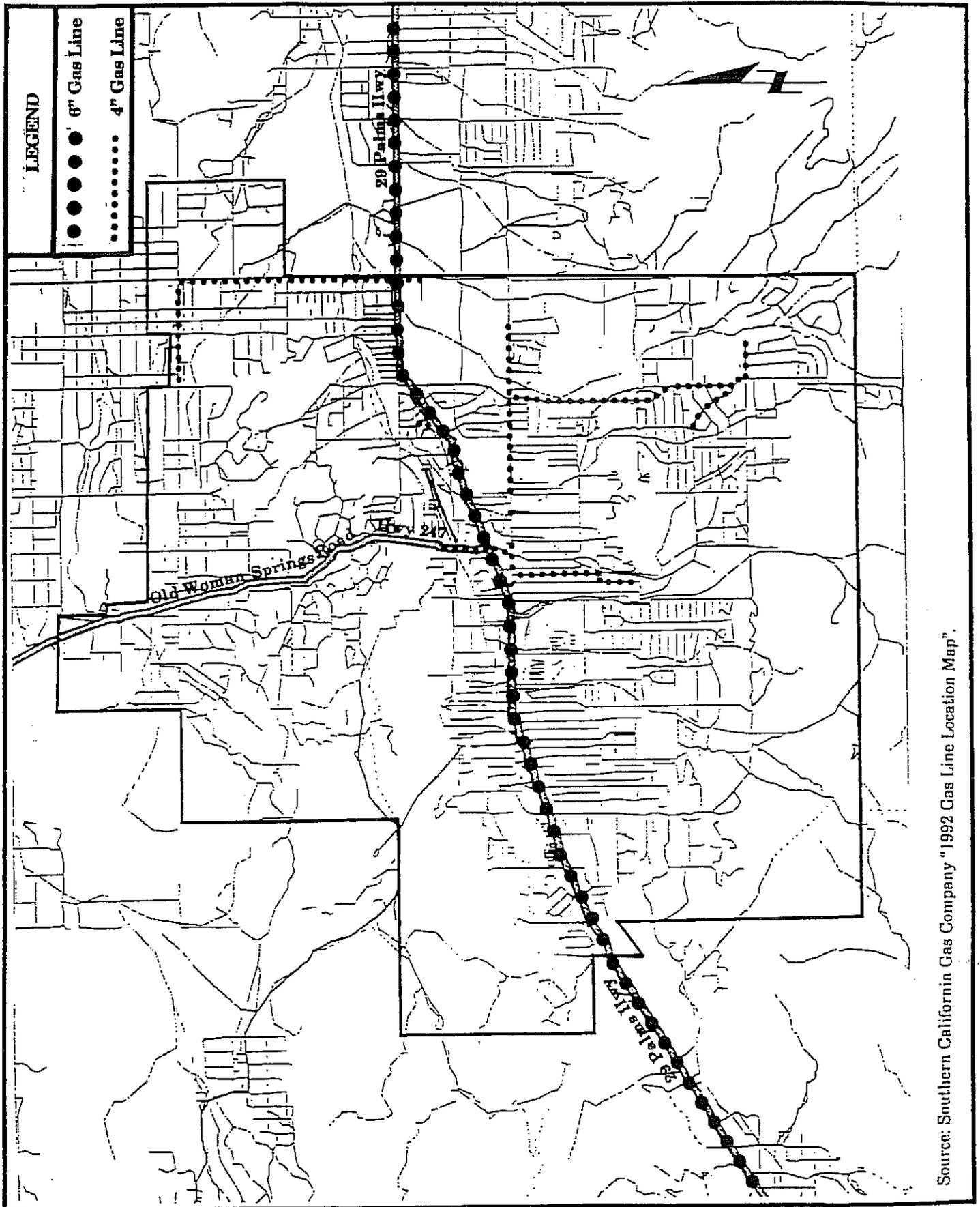
### FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Although public facilities are built to accommodate present and anticipated needs, some (most notably water, sewer, and electricity) play a major role in determining the location, intensity, and timing of future development. Each year, local governmental agencies (including counties, school districts, and special districts) planning the construction of capital facilities must submit a list to the planning agency (Government Code 65401) of proposed projects which they would like implemented<sup>12</sup>. In the case of the Town, the planning agency with jurisdiction must then review the projects for conformity with the General Plan.

The development and implementation of a CIP would project annual expenditures for acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, and replacement of public buildings and facilities such as streets, street lights, parks, police and fire facilities, and other public facilities and buildings.

11. Hi-Desert Recycling General Manager Yucca Valley, personal communication September 29, 1993

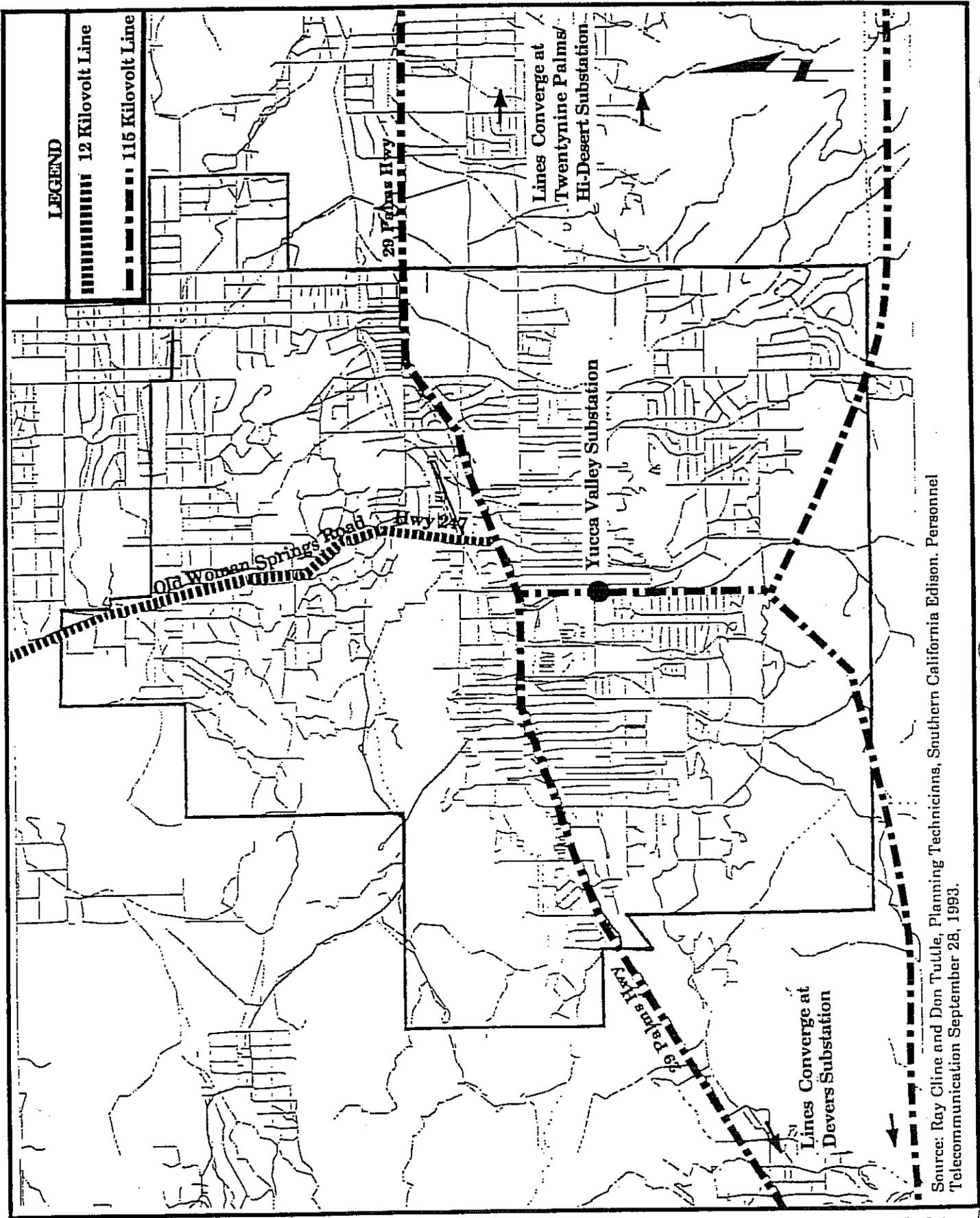
12 Office Planning and Research, State of California General Plan Guidelines, Sacramento, California, June 1987, Page 176-177.



**Locations of Major Gas Lines  
in the Town of Yucca Valley**

**Exhibit**

VI-1



Source: Ray Cline and Don Tuttle, Planning Technicians, Southern California Edison, Personnel  
 Telecommunication September 28, 1993.

Locations of Major Electricity Lines in the Town of Yucca Valley

Exhibit VI-2

## **PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES GOAL, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

### **GOAL**

To assure the compatible and aesthetic integration of public buildings and facilities in order to provide existing and future residents with adequate public services.

### **Policy 1**

Coordinate with public utilities and special districts to assure the least intrusive and most compatible integration of related buildings and facilities into the land use pattern of the community.

### **Program 1.A**

Utility companies shall be encouraged to involve citizen participation in the siting of proposed facilities prior to seeking Town approval for facilities which may have an impact on the surrounding community.

**Responsible Agency:** Appropriate utility companies; Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

### **Program 1.B**

All new maintenance areas and utility substations and similar facilities shall be integrated with surrounding land uses and regulated in order to maintain a compatible and aesthetically pleasing community through the use of appropriate buffers, architectural design and landscape, and signage.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

### **Program 1.C**

To the extent appropriate and practical, the Town shall require all utility facilities (with the exception of substations, outdoor storage areas and pumping stations) to be fully enclosed in buildings which are aesthetically compatible with the areas in which they are located.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

### **Program 1.D**

Coordinate with Southern California Edison to identify and estimate future demand for electricity and corresponding electric utility facilities required to serve local and regional growth.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Southern California Edison

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

### **Policy 2**

Develop public buildings and facilities which house Town government activities in a functional, aesthetically pleasing, and convenient place for residents and Town officials to conduct business. Public art should be encouraged in the development of public facilities.

### **Program 2.A**

Design guidelines for all Town government buildings should be developed to assure consistency in style and to ensure the integration of those structures with the natural and built environment.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

### **Policy 3**

Require critical structures within the Town to be designed to remain functional following the maximum earthquake and associated ground shaking at the site of the structure. (Refer to the Seismic Safety Element for more details.)

### **Program 3.A**

Restrict the location of critical structures and facilities (i.e., hospitals, fire, police, airport and communication facilities) from geologically and hydrologically hazardous areas whenever possible.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Town Engineer

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

### **Program 3.B**

Require that all proposals for critical structures, regardless of location within the Town, demonstrate safety in terms of geologic and other engineering conditions of the site.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Town Engineer

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous.

### **Policy 4**

Make every effort to assure the long-term availability of sites for the development and expansion of Town buildings, utility infrastructure, and other public facilities.

### **Program 4.A**

Confer and coordinate with public utilities and other public and quasi-public agencies regarding their long term needs, when periodically reviewing land use patterns and the Town Land Use Map.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Dept; public and quasi-public agencies serving the Town

**Schedule:** 1995-1996; every five years.

**Policy 5**

Investigate the feasibility of preparing a Capital Improvement Plan to replace the yearly evaluation of proposed Capital Improvement Projects.

**Program 5.A**

Carefully assess, and if appropriate implement the preparation of a Master Capital Improvement Program to be drafted a minimum of once every five years.

**Responsible Agency:** Town Council; Town Manager; All Town Departments

**Schedule:** 1995-1996; Minimum once every five years.

**Policy 6**

The Town of Yucca Valley recognizes and supports the Yucca Valley Airport facilities as important and essential facilities during normal operations and in times of local emergencies.

**Program 6.A**

Confer and cooperate with the Airport District to create programs which will help the Yucca Valley Airport provide assistance and possible essential services in the event of major emergencies.

**Responsible Agency:** Yucca Valley Airport District; Community Development Department

**Schedule:** 1995-1996; Continuous.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES  
GOAL, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

**GOAL**

A full range of public utilities and related services in the Town of Yucca Valley that provide for the immediate and long-term needs of the entire community.

**Policy 1**

Assure the provision of adequate public utility services and facilities for all residents within the community

**Program 1.A**

Coordinate with all utility/infrastructure service providers to assure the minimal impacts to the environment and the community, and to assure adequate service for all proposed development.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Utility Purveyors

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous

**Policy 2**

Assure the timely and cost-effective expansion and extension of services that complement community development.

**Program 2.A**

Coordinate developer financing with the Town's Capital Improvement Program to ensure adequate capacity of services and facilities for future growth.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Utility Purveyors

**Schedule:** Continuous

**Program 2.B**

Confer and coordinate with appropriate agencies in the evaluation of infrastructure capacity and needed improvements as part of the Town's growth management.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Utility Purveyors

**Schedule:** Continuous

**Policy 3**

Confer and cooperate with the Hi-Desert Water District to assure an adequate water system for existing and future development and maintain an adequate reserve of water in storage facilities.

**Program 3.A**

Confer and cooperate with the Hi-Desert Water District to update a contingency plan for potential water shortages including ground water management, locations for additional storage facilities and water conservation programs.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Hi-Desert Water District

**Schedule:** Immediate; Continuous

**Policy 4**

Confer and cooperate with the Hi-Desert Water District in determining need and developing long-term plans for the construction of a waste water treatment plant and sewer collection system to provide long-term protection of the vital groundwater basin.

**Program 4.A**

Confer and cooperate with the Hi-Desert Water District in assuring that if the waste water treatment plant is established, new development shall interconnect and pay the fair share of development or expansion and operating costs.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Hi-Desert Water District

**Schedule:** Continuous

**Policy 5**

Confer and coordinate with all utility purveyors in the planning, designing and siting of distribution and supporting facilities to assure the timely expansion of services in a manner which minimizes environmental impacts and disturbance of existing improvements

**Program 5.A**

Confer and coordinate with SCE and Southern California Gas to monitor all excavation work to protect underground utilities, and require that all development which may inhibit access to existing lines relocate lines per SCE and Southern California Gas standards.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Southern California Edison; Southern California Gas Company

**Schedule:** Continuous

**Policy 6**

Implement AB 939 through the Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) and make every effort to reduce 25% of its solid waste by 1995, and 50% by the year 2000.

**Program 6.A**

Confer and cooperate with the Hi-Desert Recycling center and Hi-Desert Disposal in the development of procedures and distribution of information which encourages recycling of paper, glass, aluminum, and other metal materials.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Hi-Desert Recycling Center; Hi-Desert Disposal

**Schedule:** 1995-1996; Continuous

**Policy 7**

The development of utility facilities shall be coordinated through and comply with all development standards of the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

**Program 7.A**

The consolidation of underground utility lines and other subsurface transmission facilities shall be encouraged as a means of limiting the impact of these facilities on the disruption of traffic and roadways.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Southern California Edison; and other appropriate Utility Purveyors

**Schedule:** Continuous

**Program 7.B**

The shared use of major transmission corridors, where feasible, and other appropriate measures shall be encouraged as a means of preserving the aesthetic resources of the Town,

and to lessen the visual impacts of such development.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; all applicable Utility Purveyors

**Schedule:** Continuous

**Policy 8**

Confer and coordinate with the Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Companies on the future provision of vehicle recharge and compressed natural gas (CNG) stations, respectively, in the Town.

**Program 8.A**

Shall regularly confer and coordinate with Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas on the training, long-term planning and eventual development of vehicle recharge and refilling stations as the vehicular demand for their respective "fuels" dictate.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Development Department; Southern California Edison; Southern California Gas Company

**Schedule:** Annual consultation; Future program develop

# ARTS, CULTURE, AND HUMANITIES ELEMENT

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## PURPOSE

The Arts, Culture and Humanities Element sets forth policies and programs that maximize the role the Town can play in encouraging and supporting the cultural development of the community. In addition to the direct support given to Town-sponsored activities and facilities, the Town can also play an important role in helping to encourage and enhance the activities of public and private non-profit enterprises supporting the arts. The purpose and intent of this involvement is to encourage a better understanding of the cultural environment in Yucca Valley.

## BACKGROUND

Directly related Elements include the Cultural Resources Element, which conveys the past cultural traditions of the Native Americans and early settlers. The Open Space, Mineral, Energy and Conservation Element reflects the high degree of importance the community places upon its rural character and open and wild lands, including the Joshua Tree National Park and other natural resources in and near Yucca Valley. In addition, the Schools and Libraries Element addresses these vital institutions and facilities that are the principle vehicles for the transmission of art and cultural traditions to young residents. The Parks, Recreation, and Trails Element plays an essential role in providing facilities and coordinated activities for sport and recreation. Also, the Biological Resources Element recognizes the community's dedication to the preservation of wildlife and habitat as the reason many have chosen to live in the Yucca Valley community.

As a source of cultural and artistic tradition, the Town of Yucca Valley and the Morongo Basin have a long and interesting history of human culture to draw upon, extending from the seasonal villages and camps of pre-Colombian Indians, with their rock art and pottery, to the modern town with state-of-the-art technologies and communications systems. Today those living in Yucca Valley encompass a wide range of artistic appreciation and cultural diversity with common roots and shared values. In an essential way, this tradition and modern cultural sensitivity of the community is formed more than every by the natural environment and our awareness of it. From this rich source of nourishment and inspiration the Town forms its cultural and artistic foundations.

## Beginnings and Opportunities for cultural and Artistic Expressions and Appreciation

The Town is fortunate in that it has existing facilities and institutions not found in much larger communities, to serve as the basis from which to spawn cultural and artistic enrichment, throughout the community and well beyond. The following discussion briefly describes the cultural and artistic resources currently (1994) available within the community.

*The Hi-Desert Nature Museum* is located within the civic center complex, just north of Highway 62, and is owned and operated by the Town of Yucca Valley. The museum is housed in a 5,313 square foot building, providing three exhibit areas, including a collection of live desert fauna, such as spiders, scorpions, snakes and small rodents. While the museum's current focus is on wildlife, it also provides space for native American crafts, fine arts and photographs as an essential part of current and future exhibits.

The Museum staff is actively working on plans to expand the facility in order to provide more extensive natural history exhibits, which will display native and settler cultures, Yucca Valley ecology exhibits, and earthquake exhibits. Planned additional exhibit space would also allow the museum to hold shows of local artists using various media, ranging from oil and acrylic paintings, watercolors and prints, to sculpture and textiles. In the future, the museum may also become host to regular musical events. The use of the public access channel on the local cable system to promote museum activities, would also enhance the community's use of this valuable resource.

## Hi-Desert Museum Association

*The Hi-Desert Museum Association* is a 501(c)(3)-private, non-profit corporation established in the 1970s. Its specific objectives are (1) to lend support and to promote interest in the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, (2) to receive, administer and disburse funds and property for charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes, and (3) to cooperate and work with the Town of Yucca Valley's Hi-Desert Nature Museum.

Originally established to preserve local historical and cultural artifacts for local display and exhibition, the Museum Association gave birth to, and is a major benefactor of the museum, providing funding and volunteers that support

operations, and through major loans of artifacts and exhibits. The Museum Association also owns the Desert Christ Park, which includes monumental sculptures by Antone Martin (Also see Archaeological and Historic Resources Element). This facility has the potential to serve as an important venue for future cultural events, and currently hosts the *Desert Festival of the Arts* sponsored by the Museum Association.

### Pioneertown

Located just northwest of the town limits, Pioneertown has been selected by movie and television producers as the archetypal site representing the old west. It has been the scene of classic westerns and continues to attract visitors and residents alike to the Town, with its example of western tradition.

### Copper Mountain College and the Copper Mountain Symphony

*Copper Mountain College*, located in Joshua Tree, provides a wide range of educational experiences for residents of the Town of Yucca Valley and the Morongo Basin. The college art department is one of its largest, and allows students to take one or several courses. *The Copper Mountain Symphony Orchestra* is based at the college and performs chamber and symphonic music on various occasions throughout the year.

### Hi-Desert Playhouse

*The Hi-Desert Playhouse* is a 179 seat theater located in Joshua Tree, which puts on performances and workshops throughout the year. In addition to the average of five musical and non-musical productions put on each year, the playhouse has guest artists performing throughout the year. The playhouse is also home to the weekly Repertory Theater Workshops, and summer programs that include two children's workshops and the Summer Youth Theater, where young people are engaged in all aspects of the theater arts.

Also associated with the *Hi-Desert Playhouse* is the *Hi-Chaparral Art Association*, housed at Guild Hall, on the playhouse property. This art association holds weekly workshops and sponsors arts and crafts fairs in October and May, which focus on the fine arts and crafts. A juried fine arts show is also held in May.

Yucca Valley and the Morongo Basin are home to a broad range of artistic talent working in all the major media and styles. These range from painters of the old west and desert landscape and water colorists, to those working in pure abstraction in graphic arts and sculpture. *The Yucca Valley*

*Art Association* is another local group that supports and shows the works of local artists with monthly meetings, workshops and juried shows. In addition, there are more local art galleries opening in the area, and enthusiasts are traveling into the Morongo Basin to see and buy the works of many of the area's artists.

### Frank Lloyd Wright and the Institute of Mentalphysics

An outstanding example of one of this country's and the world's greatest architects is the *Institute of Mentalphysics*, portions are attributed to Frank Lloyd Wright Jr., School and the Phoenix Group. While the institute is focused on the study of theological matters, metaphysics and worship, the facilities are accessible to all residents of the community, and offer an inspirational look at the work of one of this century's most important architects.

### Film and Movie Theaters

Currently (1995) there is one walk-in theater. Films are important and generally affordable forms of entertainment that should be an integral part of the community's culture and entertainment. An effort should be made to attract a multiplex theater back to the community.

### Amphitheater and Outdoor Events

There is widespread recognition of the desirability of constructing an outdoor venue for musical and stage performances. The concept of an amphitheater and possible locations have been discussed. It is envisioned that such a facility would be available year-round for daytime performances in the cooler months and evening performances during the summer. As a place for picnics and the enjoyment of music and theater, an amphitheater could be cost-effectively developed to allow large audiences to enjoy concerts ranging from bluegrass to classical music, and from local theater to Shakespeare.

### Grubstake Days and Great Vibrations

Celebrations of old and new traditions are exemplified in the *Grubstake Days* and *Great Vibrations*, respectively, which are held annually in the town of Yucca Valley (Please see Parks, Recreation, and Trails Element for site location of Grubstake Days and Great Vibrations). *Grubstake Days* is held every Memorial Day weekend in May, and pays homage to the pioneering spirit and independence of early European settlers. Celebration include parades, fairs and festivals, barbecues and rodeos. *Great Vibrations* is a celebration of

nature and the resilience of the residents of Yucca Valley. This festival, and celebration of the arts, reaffirms the strength of the community and its cohesion and interdependence. The continuation of these and other similar events further reinforce the common ground and history that bind and unify the residents' possessive sense of community.

### **Land Use Planning as a Strategy for Cultural Resource Preservation**

It has consistently been emphasized that the rural life-style of the community, and the close association residents of Yucca Valley have with wildlife and the environment, are integral parts of the community's culture and traditions. The development of the General Plan Land Use maps has been based on several essential values embraced by the community. These include the desire to preserve open spaces, to be sensitive to and assure the long-term enjoyment of wildlands and wildlife, and to preserve and protect the cultural heritage of those inhabitants who lived here long before European settlers. The Land Use Plan takes these and other special concerns into account and will play an active role in preserving these community assets for generations to come.

The preservation of wildlife, and conservation and assurance of access to open spaces and wildlands, are essential parts of the cultural inheritance of Yucca Valley. The inspiration gained from the closeness with which residents live with wildlife has enhanced appreciation for these valuable resources.

### **Art in Public Places**

Another important opportunity to express and strengthen the cultural cohesion of the community, is through the placement of art in public places. In the broadest sense, and consistent with the themes of a rural community that values its natural places, public art can range from the use of landscaping along major roadways, reflecting the surrounding rocky canyons and Joshua woodland, to the more conventional application of this concept, which includes placement of man-made monumental sculpture on public lands, or within the rights-of-way of major roadways.

### **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

There are several vehicles available to implement the Arts, Culture and Humanities Element, including the integration of related considerations into the Master Parks Plan being developed by the Community Services Commission and Community Services staff. In addition, as discussed below, the Town may wish to consider the development of a Yucca

Valley Cultural Master Plan, which would provide a coordinated approach to making the community aware of its cultural heritage, and to establish plans for facilities, activities and events that would broaden the artistic and cultural life of the community.

Therefore, the Town of Yucca Valley should consider the preparation of a Cultural Master Plan. This plan would identify specific projects, including; the expansion of the Hi-Desert Museum, development of an amphitheater, expanding on and encouraging additional events and fairs, and the support of artists and crafts people through shows at various Town facilities, and elsewhere throughout the community. The Plan would also include strategies for coordination and cooperation with such groups as the Hi-Desert Playhouse, Copper Mountain Symphony and others to maximize their support and to avoid conflicting events to the extent practical.

### **ARTS AND CULTURE GOALS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

#### **GOAL 1**

The development and prospering of the arts and culture of the Town of Yucca Valley, and enhanced access to these amenities for all residents through Town and private efforts and participation.

#### **GOAL 2**

To further enhance the sense of character and identification in the Town of Yucca Valley, through cultural events, and the development of all aspects of the arts.

#### **Policy 1**

The artistic and cultural heritage of Yucca Valley shall be enhanced through efforts to expand the available venues for fine arts and crafts, as well as music and other performance arts.

#### **Program 1.A**

Study the feasibility of developing additional exhibition space at the Museum and at other Town buildings.

**Responsible Agency:** Community Services Department and Community Services Commission

**Schedule:** 1995-1996.

#### **Program 1.B**

Study the feasibility of construction an outdoor amphitheater for musicals, plays and other performing arts. If determined feasible, this facility should be integrated into the Cultural

Master Plan and coordinated with the Parks Master Plan.  
**Responsible Agency:** Community Services Department and  
Community Services Commission  
**Schedule:** 1995-1996.

**Policy 2**

Continue to take an active role in sponsoring cultural events  
and exhibitions throughout the community.

**Program 2.A**

Encourage continuation of the Great Vibrations and  
Grubstake festivals as annual celebrations of the forces of  
nature and the power of renewal of the human spirit through  
the display of the fine arts, musical performances and other  
culture and life-affirming activities.  
**Responsible Agency:** Community Services Department and  
Community Services Commission  
**Schedule:** Immediate, Continuous.

**Program 2.B**

The artistic and cultural heritage of the community shall be  
progressively integrated into factual and promotional  
information which shall be developed and distributed by the  
Town of Yucca Valley.  
**Responsible Agency:** Community Services Department and  
Community Services Commission  
**Schedule:** 1995-1996.

**Policy 3**

Shall develop a Cultural Master Plan that coordinates and  
maximizes the town's resources in supporting the arts and  
culture of the community.

**Program 3.A**

Bring together a committee comprised of representatives of  
the Community Services Commission, Museum staff,  
representatives of the Museum Association, and other artistic  
and cultural leaders, to prepare and submit a Cultural Master  
Plan to the Town Council  
**Responsible Agency:** Community Services Department and  
Community Services Commission  
**Schedule:** 1995-1996.

**Policy 4**

Pro-actively demonstrate support for its rural desert heritage  
through the integration of indigenous landscape materials and  
themes into major roadway streetscape treatments, with the  
possible expansion to place art in public places.

**Program 4.A**

Adopt landscape architectural guidelines for major roadways

that include the use of large boulders, and indigenous and  
other drought tolerant planting materials.  
**Responsible Agency:** Community Services Department and  
Community Services Commission  
**Schedule:** 1995-1996.

**Program 4.B**

Investigate the development of funding mechanisms to  
finance the commissioning of sculpture, monumental rock  
work and other artistic creations, that are suitable for  
placement in public parks and rights-of-way.  
**Responsible Agency:** Community Services Department and  
Community Services Commission  
**Schedule:** 1995-1996.

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