

## **Appendix A: Related Plans and Programs**



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State law places the General Plan atop the hierarchy of land use planning regulations. Several local ordinances and other City plans must conform to General Plan policy direction and work to implement the Plan. Also, regional governmental agencies such as the Southern California Association of Governments and the South Coast Air Quality Management District have been established in recognition of the fact that planning issues extend beyond the boundaries of individual cities. Efforts to address regional planning issues such as air quality transportation and housing needs have resulted in the adoption of regional plans. The policies Arcadia adopts are affected by these plans. The following paragraphs describe ordinances, plans, and programs which should be considered in association with the General Plan in development and planning decisions

## Federal Plans and Programs

### National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

As part of a multi-pronged effort to improve the quality of water resources nationwide, the federal government authorized the State Regional Water Quality Control Board and its regional offices such as the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to set up programs to implement National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) goals. Under the NPDES Stormwater Permit issued to the County of Los Angeles and Arcadia as co-permittees, most new development projects in the City are required to incorporate measures to minimize pollutant levels in stormwater runoff. Compliance is required at the time that construction permits are issued as well as over the long term through periodic inspections. The Public Works Services Department enforces NPDES requirements which are adopted as part of the Arcadia Municipal Code.

### National Flood Insurance Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP provides federal flood insurance subsidies and federally financed loans for eligible property owners in flood-prone areas. Some areas located in northeast Arcadia, generally north of the I-210 and along Highland Oaks Dr., have been designated as Flood Zone D— areas for which flood hazards have not been determined, but are possible.

## Federal Endangered Species Act

The Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, applies to federally listed species and habitat occupied by federally listed species. ESA Section 9 forbids specified acts that directly or indirectly harm listed species. Section 9 also prohibits “taking” any species of wildlife or fish listed as endangered. These restrictions apply to all federal agencies and all persons subject to United States jurisdiction.

Both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game have regulations that protect wildlife and plant species. Special permits are required for alteration, dredging, or any activity in a lake or stream, as well as other activities that may affect fish and game habitat. Future development in natural habitat areas that has the potential to affect those habitats will be subject to the regulations of both of these agencies.

## Clean Water Act

Congress passed the federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 and the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 to provide for the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s lakes, streams, and coastal waters. Primary authority for the implementation and enforcement of the CWA (33 U.S.C. 1251) now rests with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and, to a lesser extent, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to the measures authorized before 1972, the CWA implements a variety of programs, including: federal effluent limitations and state water quality standards; permits for the discharge of pollutants and dredged and fill materials into navigable waters; and enforcement mechanisms. Section 404 of the CWA is the principle federal program that regulates activities affecting the integrity of wetlands. Section 404 prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill material in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. unless permitted by the Corps under individual permits, general permits, or unless the discharge is exempt from regulation.

## State Plans and Programs

### AB 32 and SB 375

Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) established a comprehensive program of regulatory and market mechanisms to achieve real, quantifiable, cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases (GHG). It directed the California Air Resources Board to develop discrete actions to reduce greenhouse gases while also preparing a scoping plan to identify how best to reach the 2020 limit.

Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) is the nation's first law that looks to control greenhouse gas emissions by curbing sprawl. SB 375 provides emissions-

reducing goals for which regions can plan, integrates disjointed planning activities, and provides incentives for local governments and developers to follow new conscientiously planned growth patterns. SB 375 enhances the Air Resources Board's ability to reach AB 32 goals.

The efforts to reduce GHG will require that communities re-assess how new development occurs both in terms land use distribution and building construction. Because automobiles and light trucks contribute most significantly to GHG emissions, the land use approach involves placing denser development near transit locations and employment centers to reduce vehicle miles traveled. With regard to building construction, cities will need not only to encourage sustainable building practices in new construction but find ways to incentivize the retrofit of existing structures.

## **California Environmental Quality Act**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was adopted by the State legislature in 1970 in response to a public mandate for thorough environmental analysis of projects impacting the environment. The provision of the law and environmental review procedure are described in the CEQA Law and Guidelines. CEQA is the instrument for ensuring that environmental impacts of local development projects are appropriately assessed and mitigated. If impacts are not fully mitigated, CEQA works to provide that project benefits to the community are substantial. The Planning Division reviews projects for conformance with CEQA.

## **California Endangered Species Act**

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) generally parallels the main provision of the federal Endangered Species Act and is administered by the California Department of Fish and Game. CESA prohibits the “taking” of listed species except as otherwise provided in state law. Any future development in Arcadia that has the potential to affect wildlife will be subject to the restrictions contained in CESA.

## **California Noise Insulation Standards (Title 24)**

In 1974, the California Commission on Housing and Community Development adopted noise insulation standards for residential buildings (Title 24, Part 2, California Code of Regulations). Title 24 establishes standards for interior room noise (attributable to outside noise sources). The regulations also specify that acoustical studies must be prepared whenever a residential building or structure proposed to be located near an existing or adopted freeway route, expressway, parkway, or major street, thoroughfare, rail line, rapid transit line, or industrial noise source, and where such noise source or sources create an exterior noise level of 60 dBA CNEL<sup>1</sup> or greater. The City of Arcadia Building Services Division enforces Title 24, which is adopted as part of the Arcadia Municipal Code.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to the Noise Element for a description of noise metrics. The A-weighted decibel is abbreviated dBA, and CNEL means community equivalent noise level.

## Seismic Hazards Mapping Act

California's 1990 Seismic Hazards Mapping Act requires the State Geologist to compile maps identifying and describing seismic hazard zones throughout California. Guidelines prepared by the Mining and Geology Board identify the responsibilities of state and local agencies in the review of development within seismic hazard zones. Development on a site that has been designated as a seismic hazard zone requires a geotechnical report and local agency consideration of the policies and criteria established by the Mining and Geology Board. Over the years, the program has expanded to include mapping of seismic-related hazards such as liquefaction and landslide-prone areas. The Safety Element discusses seismic hazards associated with faults and those identified on State seismic hazard maps, as well as landslide-prone areas.

## Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 provides for reclamation of all surface mining operations on private and public lands to a suitable, post-mining land use, and requires financial assurances to guarantee successful reclamation of mined lands. This Act requires mine operators to create reclamation plans. Reclamation plans assure that:

- Adverse environmental effects are prevented or minimized and mined lands are reclaimed to a useable condition readily adaptable for alternate land uses.
- Production and conservation of minerals are encouraged, while considering recreation, watershed, wildlife, aesthetic, range, and forage values.
- Residual hazards to public health and safety are eliminated.

## Regional and County Plans and Programs

### San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments is a joint-powers authority consisting of 31 incorporated cities in the San Gabriel Valley, representatives from Los Angeles County, and regional water agencies. The agency works to address regional concerns consistent with its mission statement:

“The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments is a unified voice to maximize resources and advocate for regional and member interests to improve the quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley.”

Arcadia actively participates in agency activities.

## Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) undertakes regional planning for the six-county SCAG region of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial, and Ventura counties. SCAG's efforts focus on developing regional strategies to minimize traffic congestion, protect environmental quality, and provide adequate housing. The *Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide* sets forth broad goals intended to be implemented by participating local and regional jurisdictions and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. SCAG has adopted companion documents to the *Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide*, most notably the *Regional Transportation Plan* (see below).

### Congestion Management Plan

The Congestion Management Plan (CMP) is a program adopted by the state legislature and approved by the voters in 1990 through Proposition 111. As a new approach to addressing congestion concerns, the CMP was created for the following purposes:

- To link land use, transportation, and air quality decisions
- To develop a partnership among transportation decision-makers on devising appropriate transportation solutions that include all modes of travel
- To propose transportation projects which are eligible to compete for state gas tax funds

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is responsible for the preparing the County's CMP. Metro is required by State law to monitor local implementation of all CMP elements. Local jurisdictions are required to monitor arterial congestion levels, monitor transit services along certain corridors, and implement an adopted trip reduction ordinance and land use analysis program.

## Regional Transportation Plan

The *Regional Transportation Plan* (RTP) is a component of the *Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide* prepared by SCAG to address regional issues, goals, objectives, and policies for the Southern California region into the early part of the 21st century. The RTP, which SCAG periodically updates to address changing conditions in the Southland, has been developed with active participation from local agencies throughout the region, elected officials, the business community, community groups, private institutions, and private citizens. The RTP sets broad goals for the region, and provides strategies to reduce problems related to congestion and mobility.

In recognition of the close relationship between the traffic and air quality issues, the assumptions, goals, and programs contained in the Plan parallel those used to prepare the *Air Quality Management Plan*.

## Air Quality Management Plan

The federal Clean Air Act requires preparation of plans to improve air quality in any region designated as a nonattainment area. The *Air Quality Management Plan*, or AQMP, prepared by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, first adopted in 1994 and updated on a three-year cycle, contains policies and measures designed to achieve federal and state air quality standards within the South Coast Air Basin. The assumptions and programs in the AQMP draw directly from regional goals, objectives, and assumptions in SCAG's *Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide*.

## San Gabriel River Watershed Management

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW) leads the planning and implementation of watershed management in Los Angeles County, including the San Gabriel River Watershed. The DPW works with stakeholders in the watersheds' future, integrates flood protection, and manages natural resources, water conservation, and efforts to improve the quality of storm water runoff and groundwater.

The goals of the DPW related to watershed management are to:

- Generate partnerships and coalitions among diverse groups of watershed stakeholders
- Bring together teams of local leaders and stakeholders for each watershed
- Take steps to clean up water that flows to rivers, lakes, and oceans
- Conduct and sponsor research in collaboration with education and professional institutions
- Assist in securing funding for watershed management priorities, including applying for grants whenever possible
- Prepare studies and develop master plans for each watershed
- Become a central source of information for residents, stakeholders, and other government agencies
- Provide solutions to flooding programs
- Promote legislation and policies that encourage watershed management practices

## Local Plans and Programs

### Capital Improvement and Equipment Plan

The Capital Improvement and Equipment Plan is the City's financial plan for capital improvement and equipment replacement and the proposed means of financing them. These projects are necessary to maintain a safe and healthy quality of life in Arcadia. The program outlines capital projects scheduled for a five-year period. These projects may include, for example, road and sidewalk improvements, right-of-way landscaping, playground

equipment, and water and sewer maintenance and improvements. The General Plan sets the framework for long-term capital improvements.

## **Transportation Master Plan**

The City has prepared a transportation master plan intended to implement the street system objectives set forth in the Circulation and Infrastructure Element.

## **Water Master Plan**

Maintenance and improvements to the City's water system are coordinated through the Water Master Plan. Updated every five years, the Water Master Plan helps the Public Works Services Department and the City Council evaluate and assess operational and planning issues associated with the water system. The master plan assesses water system reliability, infrastructure rehabilitation needs, and restoration considerations of various water facilities.

## **Sewer Master Plan and Hydraulic Modeling Report**

The City updates its Sewer Master Plan and Hydraulic Modeling Report on an approximate 10-year basis to evaluate the adequacy of the local wastewater collection system infrastructure. The report helps with identification of system deficiencies and prioritization of maintenance and rehabilitation needs.

## **Park and Recreation Master Plan**

Adopted in 2007, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was the first document to consolidate City goals and strategies regarding park spaces and recreation programs. As part of this comprehensive master planning effort, the City established a standard for parkland provision/acquisition based on population. Standards in the plan are used to maintain park and recreational facilities fund fees commensurate with the cost of developing new facilities.

## **Recreation and Community Services Strategic Plan**

The Recreation and Community Services Strategic Plan was developed to assess the effectiveness of City parks, facilities, and recreation programs, and to identify priorities for providing new recreational facilities, recreation programs, and services based on changing demographics and community desires.

## **Emergency Management Plan**

Arcadia has adopted an Emergency Management Plan that addresses Arcadia's response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and threats to national security. It provides operational concepts related to the various emergency situations, identifies components of the City of Arcadia Emergency Management Organization, and describes the overall responsibilities of the organization for protecting life and property and assuring the overall well being of the population. The plan also identifies the sources of outside support which might be provided (through mutual aid and specific statutory authorities) by other jurisdictions, State and federal agencies, and the private sector.

## **Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Arcadia has adopted a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in response to requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA. The plan promotes policy aimed at protecting the City from natural hazards. The policy design revolves around an effort to increase public awareness and document resources needed to reduce risks.