

APPENDIX F

ACHIEVING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

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(Photo courtesy of Jeff Slepki)

Jogging at Simpson Park

ACHIEVING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN HEMET 2011 GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

The City of Hemet recognizes that chronic health conditions and disease reduce the productivity and quality of life for residents and that many of the diseases prevalent in our society are linked to lifestyle and individual behaviors. Lack of physical activity, unhealthy eating and personal habits, limited opportunities to experience open space and nature, limited opportunities for social interaction and cultural activities, and exposure to environmental toxins in the air, water, and soil are contributing factors to poor physical and mental health. To address these concerns and promote a healthier Hemet, the City has integrated goals and policies throughout the various elements of the 2011 General Plan with the intent of fostering the overall health and well-being of the City's residents. These goals and policies fall into seven general categories as defined below with the salient policies listed by category subsequently.

Land Use and Urban Design

A healthy community improves physical and mental health through land use and urban design by creating a range of housing opportunities and choices, supporting mixed-use development, promoting complete and well-structured neighborhoods, encouraging appropriate while prohibiting deleterious land uses, and advocating development designs that maximize the preservation of permanent open space.

Recreation and Open Space

A healthy community promotes physical activity, social cohesion, and contact with natural areas by providing and facilitating access to an abundance of parks, trails, recreational facilities, and community activities.

Public Transit and Safe Active Transportation

A healthy community promotes walking, biking, and public transit by requiring transit-oriented design features in new developments, designing streets to accommodate and encourage a variety of transportation means, pursuing opportunities for local and regional transit services, and promoting alternative transportation systems through technology, employer incentives, or innovative practices.

Economic Opportunity

A healthy community promotes an equitable and strong economy by encouraging the development, expansion, and retention of business and industry, and the advancement of the local workforce through education, training, and service provision.

Preventive Care through Healthy Foods and Medical Access

A healthy community promotes preventive care and healthy living by ensuring that its residents are well-served with accessible full-service grocery stores, farmers markets or community gardens, and health care facilities.

Safe Neighborhoods and Public Spaces

A healthy community promotes safety, social interaction, neighborhood cohesion, and sense of place through the design of the built environment, art and cultural activities that build community and create a comfortable environment, and the provision of adequate safety services.

Environmental Quality

A healthy community is protected from environmental hazards such as air pollutants, contaminated water and soil, hazardous waste and other toxins, and noise through planning, design, technology, education, and monitoring.

Acronyms of General Plan Element Policies

AC:	Art and Culture
C:	Circulation
CD:	Community Design
CSI:	Community Services and Infrastructure
H:	Housing
HR:	Historic Resources
LU:	Land Use
OS:	Open Space and Conservation
PS:	Public Safety
RC:	Recreation and Trails

Achieving a Healthy Community in Hemet 2011 General Plan Policies

LAND USE AND URBAN DESIGN

GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

- AC-1.1** **Community Identity** Use public art and cultural programs to enhance the image of Hemet, to help support community identity, and to foster community pride.
- C-1.2** **Comprehensive Design** Street improvement projects shall be designed in a comprehensive fashion to include consideration of street trees, pedestrian walkways, bicycle lanes, transit facilities, equestrian pathways, signing, lighting, noise, and air quality wherever any of these factors are applicable.
- C-4.1** **Sustainable Urban Design** Promote urban design measures that encourage alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle transportation and direct new growth along transportation corridors as a means of reducing roadway congestion, energy consumption, and air pollution.
- C-5.6** **Pedestrian Linkages** Connect commercial activity centers to adjacent residential areas with well-designed pedestrian linkages that include amenities such as benches, trees, landscaping, and shade structures to encourage people to walk to destinations.
- CD-1.3** **Unique Sense of Place** Require quality site, architectural, and landscape designs that incorporate those qualities and characteristics that make Hemet a desirable place to live and work including: walkable blocks, distinctive parks and open space, tree-lined streets, and varied architectural styles.
- CD-8.5** **Neighborhood Amenities** Encourage appropriately scaled neighborhood-supportive facilities and services to enhance neighborhood identity and provide convenient access within walking and biking distance of city residents.
- CD-8.7** **Walkable Streets** Require design and development of neighborhoods that are pedestrian friendly and include features such as short blocks, broad and well-appointed sidewalks (e.g., lighting, landscaping), tree-shaded streets, buildings that define and are oriented to adjacent streets and public spaces, limited driveways curb cuts, paseos and pedestrian lanes, alleys, traffic-calming features, convenient pedestrian street crossings, and access to transit.
- CD-9.7** **Common Space in Residential Areas** Encourage common areas and facilities within residential developments to provide gathering areas for social and recreational activities.
- H-1.2:** **Diversity of Housing** Promote a variety of housing types to meet the special needs of persons with disabilities, elderly households, and others who may need assisted living, group home, institutional care, and other alternative residential environments.

LAND USE AND URBAN DESIGN (CONTINUED)

- LU-1.3 Housing Opportunities** Create a broad range of housing opportunities for all segments of the community and ensure that a balance of housing types and densities are available for existing and future residents.
- LU-1.14 New Residential Communities** Design new residential communities to complement existing neighborhoods and assure a high level of livability. Establish cohesive development patterns united by a landscape and architectural design framework, and recreational amenities that create a distinct sense of place.
- LU-2.5 Interconnected Neighborhoods** Support the development of compact neighborhoods that locate stores, offices, residences, schools, recreational spaces and other public facilities within walking distance of each other and that facilitate social interaction and alternative modes of transportation.
- LU-3.4 Compatible Residential Development** Integrate new residential projects into existing neighborhoods so that they are compatible with adjacent structures with respect to scale, neighborhood architectural character, setbacks, and other neighborhood design aspects. Assure that the type and intensity of residential use
- LU-3.9 Incompatible Uses** Prohibit uses that lead to the deterioration of residential neighborhoods, or adversely affect its safety or residential character.
- LU-9.10 Rural Residential Preservation** Protect the character and function of existing rural neighborhoods by ensuring that new development is adequately buffered, future traffic growth in rural areas is minimized, and transportation routes offer adequate emergency access.
- LU-15.1 Balance of Land Uses** Through the General Plan Land Use and Zoning Maps, establish a balance of land use opportunities for jobs, housing, and services within the community that help achieve the mobility, access, open space, and air quality goals and policies of the City.
- LU-15.4 Healthy Development Patterns** Promote development patterns and opportunities that reduce commute times, encourage the improvement of vacant properties and reinvestment in neighborhoods, foster safe and attractive environments, encourage civic participation, and provide public spaces for people to congregate and interact socially.
- LU-15.5 Unhealthy Development Patterns** Create, update, and enforce regulations and laws pertaining to the location, retailing, and use of unhealthy substances such as tobacco, marijuana and other drugs, and alcohol.
- LU-15.6 Complete Communities** Coordinate the development of complete neighborhoods that provide for the basic needs of daily life and for the health, safety, and welfare of residents.

LAND USE AND URBAN DESIGN (CONTINUED)

- LU-15.10** **Equitable Distribution of Healthy Food Choices** Encourage the equitable distribution of healthy food retailers and restaurants in appropriate locations throughout residential and employment areas of the City.
- LU-15.11** **Equitable Distribution of Community Health Activities and Businesses** Encourage the equitable distribution of fitness centers, sports facilities, gyms, dance and yoga studios, art studios, recreational trails, and parks at appropriate locations serving residential and employment areas of the City.
- OS-2.1** **Development Design** Encourage the use of clustered development and other site planning techniques to maximize the preservation of permanent open spaces.
- OS-8.2** **Land Use Planning** Encourage new and infill development that provides employment opportunities for Hemet residents, is located near activity centers or along transportation corridors, and incorporates off-road trails for pedestrians and cyclists to reduce the length and number of vehicle trips.
- PS-9.3** **Safety in Land Use and Design** Promote land use and design policies and regulations that encourage a mixture of compatible land uses to promote and increase the safety of public use areas and of pedestrian travel.

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

- AC-3.3** **Youth Participation** Coordinate with education institutions and other interested organizations to increase the participation of area youth in the cultural and recreational opportunities available in the community
- CD-4.13** **Natural Setting** Require all development projects and roadways to display sensitivity to the area's natural setting, be designed to minimize visual impacts, and to use natural topography as a guide.
- CD-4.14** **Passive Recreational Resources** Where possible, enhance and promote the use of hillside areas as prime scenic and passive recreational resources.
- CD-8.6** **Connections to Open Space** Ensure that new residential neighborhoods contain a diverse mix of parks and open spaces that are connected by trails, bikeways, and other open space networks and are within easy walking distance of residents.
- CD-9.6** **Day and Evening Activities** Encourage a range of uses within the Downtown District and community-level commercial centers that provide for both day and evening activities.

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (CONTINUED)

- CSI-10.5 Simpson Center** Support cost-effective usage of the James Simpson Memorial Center and provision of community activities offered at the center for all age groups.
- HR-3.2 Hemet Heritage** Encourage and promote activities and events designed to educate the community about the history of the Hemet area and the recognition of local historical and cultural resources.
- LU-5.8 Open Space** Require that adequate open space and for larger projects, recreational or community serving uses, be incorporated in mixed use development to serve the needs of the residents and businesses.
- LU-12.6 Recreation Development** Support ongoing recreational uses at Diamond Valley Lake by developing the area into regional recreational and cultural destinations including uses such as museums, active recreation, fishing, water park, trails, equestrian, educational facilities, and specialty retail and hospitality uses.
- OS-2.7 Open Space Accessibility** As appropriate, create, enhance, or improve accessibility to, visibility of, or recreational opportunities in natural and open space areas.
- OS-2.8 Nature Education** Identify and develop appropriate natural habitat areas for low-impact hiking and nature education.
- RC-1.1 Diversity of Parks** Develop a high-quality network of parks and open spaces that meet the needs of families, young adults, adults, seniors, children, and disabled individuals.
- RC-1.2 Park Standard** Require adequate open space in new development for both passive and active recreation. Achieve and maintain a standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in the City.
- RC-2.10 Partnerships** Establish partnerships with private sector agencies and groups to facilitate private investment in parks and facilities, and with public sector agencies such as Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District, the Hemet Unified School District, sports organizations, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Riverside County, and the City of San Jacinto to promote joint sponsorship of facilities, activities, events, and projects.
- RC-4.2 Accessibility** Provide well-designed and easily accessible linkages to pedestrian and bike trails to encourage park users to access the park by nonvehicular means.
- RC-6.2 Development Requirement** Require new development to provide trails in accordance with the City's recreation and park master plan, specific plan requirements, and the policies of the General Plan.

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (CONTINUED)

- RC-6.3 Trail Design and Connections** Design trails for a variety of uses: open space, equestrian, multiple use, and bicycle, as conditions allow. Require that trail designs integrate with the existing and planned Riverside County Regional Trail System and the Diamond Valley Lake Trail System, as appropriate.
- RC-6.5 Simpson Park** Promote the use of Simpson Park as a regional off-road cycling venue and consider year-round access as safety and fire hazard conditions permit.

PUBLIC TRANSIT AND SAFE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

- C-2.6 Metrolink Extension** Promote the extension of Metrolink service on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway line from Riverside and Perris to stations located near the realigned SR 79 and downtown Hemet.
- C-2.7 Regional Transit Services** Coordinate with Western Riverside Council of Governments, Riverside County, Riverside Transit Agency, and Riverside County Transportation Commission to identify, protect, and pursue opportunities for public transit along major transportation corridors and future rail service that connect the City with other population and employment centers.
- C-3.8 Priority Sidewalk Construction** Give priority to street, sidewalk, and curb construction in areas near schools and commercial nodes to facilitate safe pedestrian travel to schools and other activity centers.
- C-3.9 Eliminate Hazards to Cyclists and Pedestrians** Identify and seek to eliminate hazards to safe and efficient bicycle or pedestrian movement citywide.
- C-4.2 Transportation Alternatives** Support a variety of transit vehicle types and technologies and encourage alternatives to single-occupancy automobile use such as rail, public transit, paratransit, walking, cycling, and ridesharing.
- C-4.10 Public Transit Identification** Develop icons for easy identification of public transit facilities, and require that projects incorporate them when practical.
- C-5.1 Bikeway and Pedestrian Network** Maintain an extensive trails network that supports bicycles and pedestrians and links residential neighborhoods, schools, commercial centers and employment centers by implementing the City's Bikeway Circulation Plan, including the provision and dedication of bikeways and pedestrian walkways in conjunction with development permits.

PUBLIC TRANSIT AND SAFE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION (CONTINUED)

- C-5.8** **Health Benefits** Promote the health benefits of using a bicycle or walking as a means of alternative transportation.
- CSI-7.6** **Safe Routes** Residential communities should be designed to minimize walking distance to schools and create pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods with safe bike and pedestrian routes to schools.
- LU-1.4** **Walkable Neighborhoods** Create walkable neighborhoods that integrate pedestrian paths and trails into a safe, cohesive and varied transportation system that provides connectivity to nearby land uses and encourages physical activity and less dependence on the automobile.
- LU-1.7** **Integrate Land Use and Transportation Networks** Provide a variety of transportation choices to serve adjacent land uses and integrate a comprehensive system of streets, transit, passenger rail, bike paths and pedestrian connections to serve the community.
- LU-2.6** **Alternative Modes of Transportation** Promote alternative modes of transportation and provide street systems that disperse rather than concentrate traffic congestion. Provide short, connecting blocks in residential neighborhoods and utilize traffic-calming design strategies to reduce traffic speeds.
- LU-7.5** **Nurture Pedestrian Activity** Support a vibrant and active downtown core by requiring street level uses to be pedestrian friendly such as bookstores, coffee houses, restaurants, and specialty stores within appropriate lot sizes.
- LU-7.10** **Pedestrian Linkages** Create a pedestrian link that connects the Metrolink train station to various points of interest, activity, and employment in the Downtown District and Historic Core.
- LU-15.3** **Pedestrian Linkages and Connectivity** Encourage a built environment that promotes physical activity and access to goods and services while reducing driving and pollution by directing new commercial growth to existing and planned residential areas, incorporating pedestrian linkages and connectivity between land uses, and requiring development and design standards that create walkable streets and neighborhoods.
- OS-7.2** **Public Transportation** Pursue expansion of the public transportation system, as well as bicycle and pedestrian trails that are linked to the regional transit network, to reduce vehicle trips.
- PS-3.1** **Safe Pedestrian Design** Enhance and maintain pedestrian safety through the inclusion of well-designed streets, sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic control devices, and school routes throughout the City.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

- AC-2.1 Economic Benefits** Promote the preparation of a strategy that capitalizes on the economic benefits of arts in the community and creates a plan to incorporate the arts into economic development efforts that increase tourism, attract creative and manufacturing industries, improve education, advance the local workforce, and improve the quality of life.
- C-7.4 Airport Operations** Support airport operation efforts to attract new industries and associated development that provide job opportunities and stimulate the local economy.
- CSI-7.9 Higher Education** Pursue the establishment of technical trade schools and college campuses or facilities that offer education and training opportunities for Hemet residents and businesses.
- CSI-8.9 Healthy Community Partnership** Coordinate with the Riverside County Public Health Department on educational efforts, projects, and programs that enhance the health of persons who live and work in Hemet.
- CSI-9.1 Library Collections** Expand and adapt the library collection to meet the changing needs of the community for different formats and interests while preserving a core collection of materials of continuing value.
- CSI-9.2 Community Responsiveness** Ensure that the library system is responsive to residents' and businesses' specialized needs.
- LU-1.13 Build a Strong Community** Support the development of a strong, socially connected and ethnically diverse community, by working to provide a balance of jobs and housing within the City, reducing commute times, promoting community involvement and activities, enhancing public safety, and providing a wealth of educational, cultural and recreational opportunities.
- LU-7.4 Cultural Facilities** Promote the location of community amenities such as libraries, museums, galleries, theatres, entertainment and other cultural activities within the historic downtown core.
- LU-7.8 Downtown Neighborhoods** Maintain the special character and identity of the Downtown District as a collection of distinct neighborhoods with unique assets, functions and traits, each contributing to the overall image of the community. Support programs that meet each neighborhood's needs.
- LU-7.16 Special Events** Collaborate with local business organizations to establish special events that attract residents and visitors to the Historic Downtown core.
- LU-11.1 Attract New Businesses** Support existing businesses and seek to attract new business and industries which strengthen and diversify Hemet's tax revenue base, improve wage and salary levels, increase the variety of job opportunities, and employ the resident labor force.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (CONTINUED)

- LU-11.2 Job Growth Industries** Facilitate job growth and business attraction and retention in areas such as green technology, tourism, airport related industry, health care, leisure and hospitality, manufacturing, and related industries, retirement facilities and services, and by promoting the establishment of higher education and technical schools in the City.
- LU-11.4 Industrial Development** Retain industrial land for businesses that provide jobs for manufacturing and processing of goods, research and design, and other uses that create local revenue sources and employment opportunities.
- LU-11.5 Sustainable Industries** Recruit “green technology” entrepreneurs and encourage existing businesses to incorporate sustainable business practices in their daily operations.
- LU-11.6 Skilled Labor Force** Encourage a variety of businesses and industries to locate in the City, including clean, high-technology industries, innovative start-up companies, and commercial/professional office uses that provide high-skill/high-wage job opportunities.
- LU-11.11 Establish a Secure Local Revenue Base** Develop a secure, balanced sustainable local revenue base to provide the full range of public services and capital improvements needed to provide an exceptional quality of life for residents, and businesses within the community.
- LU-12.1 Sustainable Tourism** Maintain and enhance year-round opportunities for sustainable tourism based on the area’s natural resources, historic heritage, and cultural amenities without diminishing the quality of life of current residents.
- LU-12.4 Tourism Venues and Events** Promote tourism venues including museums, cultural establishments and activities, entertainment, recreational and sporting events, and conventions that attract visitors to Hemet and the Valley.
- LU-12.5 Downtown as a Tourist Destination** Support and expand the role of Downtown Hemet in attracting tourism, and continue to improve its economic viability, appearance, function, and mix of retail, dining, and entertainment businesses to foster Downtown as a desirable destination.
- LU-13.2 Building, Revitalization and Improvements** Prioritize building restoration, property improvements and maintenance, removal of nonconforming signs, abatement of blighted buildings, provision of public and private landscaping, and revitalization of existing businesses as essential elements for economic development.
- LU-13.4 Job Creation** Promote economic development programs that link residents with businesses in the City, such as jobs training and development.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (CONTINUED)

- LU-13.5** **Art and Culture** Promote the use of art and culture in the City's economic development efforts of marketing, branding, communication, increasing the pool of educated and qualified employees, attracting the creative industries, and creating an aesthetic environment for tourists and potential businesses.
- LU-13.6** **Business Retention** Support the retention and expansion of existing businesses and encourage local employment.
- LU-13.9** **New Business Incentives** Facilitate the growth and expansion of new businesses and industry by providing high quality municipal services, public facilities, and economic development assistance.
- LU-13.11** **Educated Labor Force** Support educational institutions in providing quality academic and skill-based programs that provide a qualified workforce able to meet the full range of educational attainment and job skills required in the future economy.
- LU-13.12** **Higher Education Institutions** Encourage colleges, universities and technical schools to locate campuses or facilities in Hemet to provide a highly skilled employment pool for business, industry, and life-long learning.
- OS-8.4** **Local Employment** Continue to create local employment opportunities by maintaining an adequate supply of designated commercial and industrial land, in accordance with the Land Use Element.
- OS-8.5** **Jobs/Housing Balance** Improve the City's jobs-housing balance by encouraging the development, expansion, and retention of business.
- PS-13.1** **Protect Valuable Noise Sources** Protect the continued viability of economically valuable noise sources such as commercial and industrial facilities and the Hemet-Ryan Airport.

PREVENTIVE CARE THROUGH HEALTHY FOODS AND MEDICAL ACCESS

GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

- C-4.8** **Paratransit Service** Work with the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA), senior agencies, retirement communities, and local organizations to provide affordable and reliable paratransit and demand-responsive transit services that satisfy the transit needs of the elderly and disabled.

**PREVENTIVE CARE THROUGH HEALTHY FOODS AND MEDICAL ACCESS
(CONTINUED)**

- C-4.11** **Transportation Services Project Amenity** Encourage new senior citizen and multiple-family housing projects of greater than 100 units to provide transportation services as a project amenity.
- CSI-8.1:** **Health Care Facilities** Encourage the establishment of a broad range of health care facilities and associated hospitals, acute care facilities, medical offices, businesses, and medical educational and research facilities.
- CSI-8.2** **Regional Leader** Support the efforts of local medical facilities and other health care providers to expand health care and health care services in the community, and make Hemet a regional health care leader.
- CSI-8.3** **Facility Siting** Encourage the concentration and orderly expansion of health facilities in the City to facilitate access by all segments of the population.
- CSI-8.5** **Emergency Services** Promote the provision of the emergency services available, including paramedic, ambulance, and helicopter transport to area hospitals and trauma centers.
- CSI-8.6** **Healthy City Employee Programs** Promote the health and well-being of City employees by adopting healthy living/healthy employee programs and practices such health challenges, healthy food choices, and healthy work environments.
- CSI-8.7** **Healthy Employee Programs** Encourage local employers to adopt healthy living/healthy employee programs and practices such health challenges, healthy food choices, and healthy work environments.
- CSI-8.8** **Community Education** Support community education programs on healthy eating habits and lifestyles with topics that include nutrition, physical activity, and vegetable gardening.
- CSI-8.9** **City Health Leadership** Seek opportunities to promote healthy lifestyles, activities, and food choices at City offices and City-organized events.
- CSI-10.3:** **Accessibility** Support and encourage the development of housing, businesses, and public facilities accessible to the physically disabled.
- LU-6.7** **Regulate Sensitive Land Uses** Appropriately control the location, concentration and number of community sensitive land uses such as alcohol sales, tobacco products, adult businesses, medical marijuana dispensaries, and entertainment venues, and require operational measures to prevent adverse impacts to adjoining residences, businesses, schools, parks, medical facilities, and religious facilities consistent with City, State and Federal laws.

PREVENTIVE CARE THROUGH HEALTHY FOODS AND MEDICAL ACCESS (CONTINUED)

- LU-7.11 Medical Center** Encourage and facilitate the expansion of professional offices, medical and associated institutional uses surrounding the Hemet Valley Medical Center.
- LU-11.8 Expansion of Medical Services** Encourage and promote the future expansion of the Hemet Valley Hospital medical campus and other health-related facilities throughout the City to continue to establish Hemet as a center for medical and health services, training and technology.
- LU-15.2 Health Care Facilities** Encourage and promote a range of facilities and service options for preventive, emergency, and specialty health care. Ensure that adequate public transit and pedestrian access to the health care facilities are provided.
- LU-15.8 Rural Residential and Agricultural Areas** Promote healthy land use patterns by preserving scenic and open space resources, preventing inappropriate development in agricultural and rural areas, and developing or honoring incentives that preserve the economic value of agricultural and open space lands.
- LU-15.9 Healthy Food Choices** Increase access to healthy foods by encouraging a mix of food establishments that offer healthy food choices, supporting neighborhood and community gardens, promoting farmers markets, and reducing barriers to the production and distribution of locally grown food.

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS AND PUBLIC SPACES

GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

- AC-1.3 Public Spaces and Facilities** Use artistic elements in coordination with the City's transportation network and pedestrian linkages, landscaping, lighting, paving, and signage at the City's gateways and other public spaces to strengthen Hemet's identity and image.
- AC-2.5 Community Events** Encourage, promote, and participate in regional, citywide, and neighborhood arts and cultural events that benefit the City in terms of overall image, economic stimulus, and long-term goals.
- AC-3.2 Community Facilities** Promote the use of community facilities (e.g., Hemet Public Library, Simpson Center, parks, churches, schools) to increase opportunities for visual and performing arts that are appropriate and beneficial to the greater community.

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS AND PUBLIC SPACES (CONTINUED)

- C-3.5 Safe Routes to School** Work with the Hemet Unified School District (HUSD), San Jacinto Unified School District (SJUSD) and local private schools to ensure the provision of safe bicycle and pedestrian paths leading to and from existing and new school facilities and surrounding neighborhoods.
- C-3.6 Safe Alternatives to School** Work with the local school districts, local private schools, parent teacher associations, homeowner associations, and other interested parties to establish safe drop-off and pick-up zones, create “walking school buses” and “bike trains”, encourage carpooling, and facilitate expanded use of crossing guards.
- C-6.1 Railway-Pedestrian Safety** Limit pedestrian access onto the railway line from street crossings and require that discretionary development projects consider and include decorative, vandal-resistant fencing or barriers to limit pedestrian access to the extent feasible.
- CD-5.4 Public Space Design** Encourage design that improves public spaces, encourages pedestrian activity, and enhances sense of place within neighborhoods and commercial districts.
- CD-8.1 Outdoor Plazas** Promote the establishment of outdoor plazas and courtyards in commercial centers, office complexes, at public buildings and in the Downtown District.
- CD-9.4 Public Plazas** Encourage public spaces and plazas within commercial developments that can accommodate cultural and social events and function as community gathering places. These gathering areas can include plazas and sidewalk cafes that need to be located adjacent to businesses whose patrons would use the spaces.
- CD-11.8 Lighting** Lighting plays a significant role in maintaining a safe environment. Adequate lighting shall be provided along the streets/alleys, parking lot areas, pathways/sidewalks, public and private outdoor areas. Avoid potentially dark or shadowy areas.
- LU-4.6 Code Compliance** Provide pro-active, equitable, consistent and effective code compliance activities, nuisance abatement, property maintenance enforcement, and rental housing registration and inspection functions to ensure that Hemet’s neighborhoods and business districts are attractive, safe and retain property values.
- LU-4.7 Maintain and Enhance Property Values** Monitor the appearance of residential, commercial and industrial properties to prevent areas of decline by requiring improved maintenance or rehabilitation, as necessary and practical.
- LU-4.8 Healthy and Safe Housing** Ensure that the City’s housing stock, including mobile home and RV parks, is clean, healthy, and safe for the benefit of all income levels and segments of the community.

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS AND PUBLIC SPACES (CONTINUED)

- LU-7.17** **Public Safety** Enhance street lighting, improve the condition of pathways and parking areas, and provide a visible presence of law enforcement to foster public safety in the Downtown.
- LU-15.7** **Public Spaces** Support the creation of public spaces that foster positive human interaction and healthy lifestyles such as public plazas, sidewalk and other outdoor dining opportunities, public art displays, and central gathering and meeting spaces.
- PS-8.1** **Police Services** Ensure through the development review process that new development and redevelopment will not result in a reduction of law enforcement services below acceptable, safe levels. Maintain sufficient and adequate facilities, personnel, and services to meet the community's needs.
- PS-9.1** **Defensible Space** Require new developments to incorporate site design that help ensure maximum visibility and security for entrances, pathways, streets, sidewalks, corridors, public and private open space, and parking lots and structures.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

- C- 7.3** **Environmental Impacts** Ensure that environmental impacts such as noise, air quality, pollution, traffic congestion, and public safety hazards associated with continued operation of Hemet-Ryan Airport are mitigated to the extent practical.
- CSI-4.1** **Sufficient Service** Ensure sufficient levels of stormwater drainage are provided to protect the community from flood hazards and to minimize the discharge of materials into the storm drain system that are toxic or that would obstruct flows.
- CSI-4.3** **Pollutant Discharge** Prevent pollutant discharge into storm drain systems and natural drainages and aquifers by cooperating in regional programs to implement the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program and providing education on best management practices for the public.
- LU-3.8** **Agricultural Buffers** Maintain open space buffers between agricultural operations and new residential development to reduce potential conflicts.
- LU-9.10** **Rural Residential Preservation** Protect the character and function of existing rural neighborhoods by ensuring that new development is adequately buffered, future traffic growth in rural areas is minimized, and transportation routes offer adequate emergency access.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (CONTINUED)

- LU-11.10 Industrial Development Standards** Require development standards that appropriately control the location and operation of industrial uses that use, store, transport or generate hazardous materials or unacceptable levels of noise and air pollution or other adverse impacts.
- LU-15.12 Freeway/Highway Adjacent Sensitive Land Uses** To protect sensitive land uses from air pollution generated by freeways, highways, and truck routes, establish a buffer-area between the sensitive land uses and freeways, highways and truck routes.
- OS-4.4 Minimize Operational Impacts** Ensure the compatibility of surface mining operations with surrounding properties and environmental resources.
- OS-6.5 Clean Energy** Support the use and production of clean energy resources through green technology and programs that promote wind, solar, renewable, biomass, and cogenerating energy resources, where compatible with adjacent land uses.
- OS-7.1 Air Pollution Reduction** Reduce the amount of air pollution emissions from mobile and stationary sources, and enhance the South Coast Air Basin by using best management practices in development proposals and project implementation.
- OS-7.10 Sensitive Receptors** Locate sensitive receptors (i.e., residences, playgrounds, childcare centers, athletic facilities, churches, long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, and retirement homes) away from significant pollution sources to the maximum extent feasible.
- OS-7.11 Fugitive Dust** Reduce the amount of fugitive dust released into the atmosphere by construction and demolition, materials handling, paved roads, unpaved roads, and stock piles through development standards and compliance with CEQA regulations.
- OS-7.12 Best Management Practices** Ensure all applicable best management practices are used in accordance with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to reduce emitting criteria pollutants during construction.
- OS-7.14 Public Education** Protect the air from contamination by working with South Coast Air Quality Management District and other interested organizations to elevate public awareness regarding air pollution sources and pollutant reduction initiatives.
- OS-8.1 Comprehensive Approach** Coordinate policies and implementation measures of the various elements of the General Plan to ensure a comprehensive approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to establish the basis for a sustainability plan.
- PS-5.1 Enforce Regulations** Implement and enforce regulations from federal and state authorities on the use, storage, disposal, and transportation of hazardous materials.
- PS-5-7 Public Awareness** Raise public awareness of the appropriate manner to dispose of household hazardous waste through education and/or collection event.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (CONTINUED)

- PS-6.1** **Fire Protection Standards** Adopt and enforce federal, state, and local construction and design standards regarding fire prevention and protection, particularly for high-occupancy, dependent-care, or essential facilities.
- PS-6.9** **Fire Prevention Education** Continue education programs on preventing fires, monitor their effectiveness, and expand or alter the programs, as necessary.
- PS-10.3** **Disaster Plans** Review and consistently update the City's disaster contingency plans. Recommend that plans for critical facilities and service providers cover the adequate provision of emergency supplies and power supplies to provide essential services.
- PS-11.1** **Noise Standards** Enforce noise standards to maintain acceptable noise limits and protect existing areas with acceptable noise environments.
- PS-12.1** **Traffic Noise** Minimize noise conflicts between current and proposed land uses and the circulation network by encouraging compatible land uses around critical roadway segments with higher noise potential.

Acronyms of General Plan Element Policies

- AC: Art and Culture
C: Circulation
CD: Community Design
CSI: Community Services and Infrastructure
H: Housing
HR: Historic Resources
LU: Land Use
OS: Open Space and Conservation
PS: Public Safety
RC: Recreation and Trails

