

Healthy and Sustainable Community Element

PURPOSE

Community health and sustainability refers to the overall physical, mental, and social well-being of City residents and the maintenance of a healthy and thriving environment that sustains community health, now and in the long-term. Among the challenges facing communities is the need to incorporate healthy choices into the everyday lives of citizens and in the natural and human-made systems that sustain us. The Healthy and Sustainable Community Element provides a framework for addressing factors affecting community health, including educational and employment opportunities, access to healthy food, a clean and sustainable environment, and opportunities for physical activity. It identifies health disparities in the community, such as limited access to health services. Its goals, policies, and programs are focused on improving health outcomes, achieving health equity, and assuring that future changes to the built environment have a positive impact on the community's well-being.

BACKGROUND

Community health is a top priority in Cathedral City, and health and sustainability considerations are integrated throughout the General Plan. The Healthy and Sustainable Community Element is closely related to the Land Use, Circulation, and Housing Elements that directly shape physical development, access, and livability in the City. It is also closely related to the Public Services and Facilities, Environmental Justice, and Economic and Fiscal Health Elements that identify and evaluate health care services, as well as economic and social disparities and opportunities. It is also closely related to the Air Quality and Climate Stability, and Open Space and Conservation Elements that address environmental quality and climate change.

Senate Bill (SB) 1000, the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, requires jurisdictions with disadvantaged communities to address certain health considerations in their General Plans. These topics are directly addressed in the Environmental Justice Element but are also integrated into this Element. So, too, are the requirements of Senate Bill 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act, which directs the City to coordinate land use and transportation planning. The provisions of SB 375 are primarily addressed in the *Land Use Element* and the *Circulation and Mobility Element*.

“Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect. – Chief Seattle

COMMUNITY HEALTH

“Community health” refers to the physical, mental, social, and economic well-being of Cathedral City residents. While access to healthcare facilities and services are important components of community health, so too are a strong economy, recreational amenities and open space, an efficient transportation system, a clean and safe environment, and supportive social structures. These and other factors can directly and indirectly impact a resident's physical and mental health.

“Health Equity” means that every person has an equal opportunity to achieve his/her optimal health regardless of their ethnicity, gender, disability, level of education, occupation, place of residence, socio-economic circumstances or other defining characteristic. “Health disparities” are differences in health status among distinct segments of the population, including differences that occur by gender, age, race, gender, education, income, geographic location, or similar distinctions.

Community Health Indicators

Table HS-1 describes some of Cathedral City’s physical, mental, and social health indicators. Several of the data (as indicated) are for Riverside County as a whole. This information helps identify and place in context the City’s community health issues and can be used to guide City policy-making. The table is not meant to be exhaustive but does provide a wealth of data and insight. Additional data are provided in other General Plan Elements; housing data in the Housing Element, environmentally hazardous sites information in the Safety Element, health care facilities information in the Public Services and Facilities Element, and recreational and fitness opportunities in the Parks and Recreation and Open Space and Conservation Elements.

Table HS-1
Cathedral City Health Indicators

	Number	Percent
Population and Land Use		
Population ¹	53,268	---
Population density (persons/square mile) ⁷	2,420	---
Average household size (persons/household) ¹	3.04	---
Median number of rooms in a house ¹	4.7	---
Transportation System		
Means of Transportation to Work (workers 16 years and over) ¹		
Car, truck, or van ¹	---	90.2%
Drove Alone ¹	---	79.1%
Carpooled ¹	---	11.1%
Public transportation, excluding taxicab ¹	---	2.5%
Walked ¹	---	1.3%
Bicycle ¹	---	0.5%
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means ¹	---	2.1%
Worked at home ¹	---	3.4%
Mean travel time to work (minutes) ¹	20.7	---
Physical Health Profile		
Percent of population (18 years and over) diagnosed with obesity ^{5 6}	---	28.1%
Percent of population (18 years and over) diagnosed with asthma ⁶	---	11.5%
Percent of population (18 years and over) diagnosed with diabetes ⁶	---	8.1%
Percent of population (18 years and over) diagnosed with heart disease ⁶	---	6.3%
Civilian noninstitutionalized population with a disability ¹	6,468	12.2%
Walk at least 150 minutes/week (18 years and over) ¹⁰	---	29.5%
Teens with no physical activity in a typical week (Riverside County) ¹¹	---	12.6%
Children consuming fast food 3+ times/week (Riverside County) ¹¹	---	17.7%
Adults consuming fast food 3+ times/week (Riverside County) ¹¹	---	31.4%
Adults finding fresh fruits/vegetables in their neighborhoods “always” or “usually” (Riverside County) ¹¹	---	83.9%
Up-to-date immunization rates of children entering kindergarten, Palm Springs Unified School District ¹¹	---	95.9%
Mental Health Profile		
Adults with serious psychological distress in past year (Riv. Co.) ¹¹	---	6.5%
Adults who sought/needed mental health help but did not receive treatment (RivCo) ¹¹	---	40.6%
Teens needing help for emotional/mental health problems in past year (RivCo) ¹¹	---	30.8%
Social Vulnerabilities		
Unemployment rate ⁸	890	3.4%

Table HS-1
Cathedral City Health Indicators

	Number	Percent
Children under 5 years old ¹	3,551	6.7%
Adults aged 65 years and older ¹	8,118	15.2%
Persons speaking language other than English at home ¹	26,920	54.1%
Persons speaking English less than “very well” ¹	10,870	21.9%
Population 25 years and over with no high school diploma ¹	8,313	23.7%
Civilian noninstitutionalized population with no health insurance coverage ¹	12,276	23.1%
Poverty		
All people under 18 years ¹	---	31.6%
All people 18 to 64 years ¹	---	19.6%
All people 65 years and over ¹	---	14.2%
Housing units with mortgage \geq 35% of household income ¹	3,030	45.4%
Occupied units paying gross rent \geq 35% of household income ¹	3,286	49.5%
Occupied housing units with no vehicle available ¹	---	6.4%
Food insecurity ¹⁰	---	11.9%
Violent crimes per 1,000 residents ³	23.2	---
Total population in group quarters ²	295	0.6%
Institutionalized population ²	32	0.1%
Non-institutionalized population ²	263	0.5%
Unsheltered homeless individuals ¹¹	38	---
Births to teen mothers (under age 20) and percent of live births in City ¹¹	49	7.6%
<p>Sources:</p> <p>¹ 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates</p> <p>² 2010 U.S. Census</p> <p>³ 1,236 part one crimes (murder, rape, robbery, vehicle theft), Cathedral City Police Department, 2016.</p> <p>⁴ Table 1, “Deaths Due to All Causes, Ranked by Three-Year Average Age-Adjusted Death Rate, California Counties, 2013-2015,” County Health Status Profiles, California Department of Public Health, 2017.</p> <p>⁵ Obesity is defined as a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or higher.</p> <p>⁶ “Profile of the City of Cathedral City (Local Profiles Report),” Southern California Association of Governments, 2017. Data shown are from year 2014, as provided in California Health Interview Survey, 2016.</p> <p>⁷ www.statisticalatlas.com</p> <p>⁸ Monthly Labor Force Data for Cities and Census Designated Places (CDP), February 2018 – Preliminary. California Employment Development Department, March 23, 2018.</p> <p>⁹ Table 1, County Health Status Profiles 2017, California Department of Public Health.</p> <p>¹⁰ Healthy Cathedral City Community Profile, Riverside University Health System, March 31, 2016, based on 2011-12 California Health Interview Survey results.</p> <p>¹¹ 2016 Eisenhower Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment.</p>		

Language

As shown in Table HS-1, more than half (54.1% or 26,920 residents) of the Cathedral City population speaks a language other than English at home, and one-fifth (21.9% or 10,870 residents) speak English “less than very well.” Given that 60.5% of the City population is Hispanic or Latino, it is reasonable to conclude that Spanish is the most common secondary language spoken. The City strives to assure that health and safety resources and services are accessible to all populations, including those challenged by language barriers. The City website and newsletters, PSUSD adult educational programs, business development programs tracked on the City Economic Development website, and other community resources are offered in both English and Spanish (see Education, below).

Education

Nearly one-fourth (23.7% or 8,313 residents) of the City population age 25 years and older has no high school diploma. Approximately 7% have an Associate degree, and 18% have a Bachelor, graduate, or professional degree.¹ Education levels can be closely tied to earnings potential. The median household income in Cathedral City is \$41,690, the third lowest of all valley cities, and lagging behind the median household incomes of Riverside County (\$57,972) and state of California (\$63,783).²

To attract and retain high-quality jobs and increase household incomes, additional efforts and resources should be placed on expanding and promoting educational opportunities for all residents. Existing resources include the Palm Springs Family Engagement Center (operated by Palm Springs Unified School District on Farrell Drive in Palm Springs), which offers GED and ESL adult education classes and other workshops, including bilingual services.

Higher education and professional training programs are offered at College of the Desert and regional campuses of UC Riverside, CSU San Bernardino, Brandman University, Kaplan College, Mayfield College, and Loma Linda University. The City's Economic Development website identifies free and low-cost professional development classes and opportunities, including bilingual programs, offered by local and regional business organizations.

Poverty

The 2018 federal poverty level is a household income of \$25,100 or less for a family of four.³ As shown in Table HS-1, approximately 32% of children, 20% of adults ages 18 to 64, and 14% of adults over age 65 are living in poverty in Cathedral City. Due to limited financial resources, these individuals could be more exposed to environmental hazards such as lead paint in substandard housing, limited access to fresh produce, insufficient means to purchase and maintain a vehicle, or other limitations that affect their overall well-being. Maintaining or expanding, as necessary, quality housing, a wide range of mobility options, neighborhood food markets, and similar measures that benefit those with limited incomes are a key consideration in developing City policies and programs.

Access to Health Care

Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage prepared a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in 2016 that identified the top three most important health concerns of community stakeholders in its service area: mental health, alcohol/drugs/tobacco use, and access to care.⁴ The greatest challenges or barriers related to access to care were lack of transportation and/or the need to drive long distances to receive services.⁵ The study also found that access to primary care providers (personal physicians) is challenging.

Improving access to health care is also identified as a priority in the Riverside County Health Improvement Plan (2015). Recommended strategies to improve access included providing language interpretation, transportation, and other supportive services.⁶ The study found that Riverside County is lacking in primary care providers and needs to add 9 providers per 100,000 people so that community members can increase visits to health care providers for routine checkups and preventive screenings.⁷

¹ 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

² Ibid.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

⁴ P. 18, Eisenhower Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment, 2016. The Eisenhower Medical Center service area covers the entire Coachella Valley, from North Palm Springs on the west to Coachella on the east.

⁵ P. 37, Ibid.

⁶ P. 39, "Riverside County Health Improvement Plan, 2016-20," Strategic Health Alliance Pursuing Equity, Fall 2015.

⁷ P. 33, Ibid.

The Riverside CHNA (2013) found that the top health needs in the Coachella Valley are related to economic instability, which contributes to a lack of health insurance, oral health concerns, and diabetes.⁸ It also found that, compared to cities in the Riverside service area and other Southern California counties, the Coachella Valley is lacking in non-profit agencies, resulting in greater access disparities, especially when coupled with transportation barriers. In addition, the Riverside service area, including the Coachella Valley, has about half as many primary care providers per capita as the state.

Health Disadvantage Rating

The Public Health Alliance of Southern California (PHASoCal) created the Healthy Places Index (HPI) mapping database to measure and display “health disadvantage” in California communities. PHASoCal defines health disadvantage as “the inability of people to fulfill basic human needs required for full social participation and optimal health and well-being. These disadvantages include but are not limited to the needs for economic security, food, shelter, safety, transportation, education, social connection and political participation.”⁹

For each census tract in California, the HPI combines 25 community data categories from Census, CalEPA, and other sources about economics, education, healthcare access, housing, neighborhood conditions, environmental safety, social environment, and transportation. It also provides a racial breakdown for each census tract that is not incorporated into the index but can be used to further analyze health inequities.

The average HPI score for all census tracts in Cathedral City is 30.9 percentile, meaning the City's community conditions are healthier than 30.9% of all other California census tracts. The census tracts with the lowest scores are in the vicinity of Ramon Road and the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel. Each of those has a majority Latino population of 86% or higher. The scores are low due to a number of factors, most notably low educational enrollment and attainment, low rates of adult health insurance coverage, higher poverty rates, severe housing cost burdens for low-income homeowners, and low voter registration. The scores also indicate low tree canopy coverage and high ozone levels, not unique to these neighborhoods, but that do occur throughout the City and valley.

FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity refers to individuals who lack adequate nutritious and safe foods. Food insecurity often affects the unemployed, working poor, and elderly persons on fixed incomes. Causes may include limited income, limited availability of affordable healthy food options, or limited access to food, among others. An estimated one of six people in the Coachella Valley experiences food insecurity.¹⁰ Table HS-1 indicates that nearly 12% of City residents



surveyed experience food insecurity. The HPI mapping database (described above) shows that nearly all residents in the General Plan planning area live within ½-mile of a supermarket; supermarket access is lowest for the Cove neighborhood.

FIND Food Bank partners with local and regional growers, grocers, corporate entities, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to collect food for

distribution throughout the Coachella Valley. Its distribution network delivers food to an average of 90,000 individuals per month. Distribution sites in Cathedral City include Cathedral City Senior Center, the Salvation Army, and Calvary Bible Church. The church's Kids Summer Club provides food and snacks to more than 6,000 children and their families during a 10-week period when school is out of session.

⁸ P.5, 44, 130, “Community Health Needs Assessment, Kaiser Foundation Hospital – Riverside,” Kaiser Permanente.

⁹ Healthy Places Index (HPI 2.0) Technical Report, Public Health Alliance of Southern California and Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University, February 20, 2018.

¹⁰ FIND Food Bank website, www.findfoodbank.org/about-us/faqs/, accessed April 2018.

Hidden Harvest is a local produce recovery program that employs low-income farm workers to gather produce left in fields and orchards after harvest; the produce is offered to those in need throughout the Coachella Valley.¹¹ Hidden Harvest serves nearly 50,000 people each month. Twice per month, it operates eight Senior Markets in the Coachella Valley, including the Senior Center and Mountain View Apartments in Cathedral City. It also provides Health Fairs at schools with high percentages of students that qualify for free and reduced cost lunches; produce is offered for free in a farmers' market setting.

The Cathedral City Senior Center operates a food pantry that partners with FIND Food Bank, local grocers, Hidden Harvest, the City and Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to provide food to low-income senior residents.

The CalFresh Program, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, provides resources for families in need to buy more healthy, nutritious food.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Climate change can result in extreme weather events, such as flooding, drought, fire, windstorms, and extreme heat, which can directly and indirectly impact human health. Climate change is analyzed in the *Air Quality and Climate Stability Element*, and the potential for environmental hazards to occur in the General Plan planning area is also addressed in the Safety Element. The Emergency Preparedness Sub-Element describes the City's efforts to effectively respond to such events.

Climate Projections

The California Natural Resources Agency's Climate Adaption Planning Guide categorizes the state into climate impact regions. All of Riverside County, including Cathedral City, is located in the Desert region which is expected to experience measurable temperature increases over the next century, depending on future levels of carbon emissions (see Table HS-2).

Table HS-2
Riverside County
Projected Changes in Annual Temperature

	Average Temperature	Change from Historical Average
Historical	63.5°F	---
Projected, Year 2099		
Low Future Carbon Emissions Scenario	67.2°F	+3.7 °F
High Future Carbon Emissions Scenario	70.0°F	+6.5°F
Source: p. 6, "Climate Change and Health Profile Report, Riverside County," California Department of Public Health and University of California Davis, February 2017.		

Public Health Impacts of Climate Change

Temperature increases and hydrologic extremes like drought and flooding can impact human health in a variety of ways, causing injuries and fatalities, heat-related illness and disease, temporary and permanent displacement of housing and businesses, loss of income, increased hospitalization, malnutrition and disease from food supply and water quality impacts, and stress, depression, and other mental health conditions.

¹¹ Hidden Harvest website, www.hiddenharvest.org/programs, accessed April 2018.

The populations most vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change include the very old and very young, those with chronic medical conditions and psychiatric illnesses, socially isolated individuals, those without means for evacuation, and people living in institutions.¹² Such impacts can be intensified by social and demographic factors and felt disproportionately by persons experiencing poverty, income inequality, low social support, racial segregation, and low education levels.¹³

Community Resilience

Community resilience refers to actions taken to avoid or overcome and promptly recover from climate-related threats and other highly disruptive events, including major earthquakes and floods. Resilience includes addressing community equity, more effectively treating physical and mental illnesses, maintaining and enhancing emergency response plans, and other approaches.

The City implements numerous policies and programs designed to minimize the impacts of climate change and environmental hazards. It supports energy-efficient building design, drought-tolerant landscaping requirements, water re-use and conservation measures, and air pollution reduction measures, among others.

The City's *Climate Action Plan*, *Energy Action Plan*, *Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory*, *Green for Life Program*, *Sustainability Plan*, and *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* are among its efforts to increase community resilience. Construction and widening of bridges over the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel minimize disruptions to the movement of emergency vehicles, goods and people during flood events.

CV Link is a multimodal regional pathway that passes through the heart of the City and encourages non-motorized vehicle travel. CV Link and the City *Active Transportation NEV Plan* reduce petroleum fuels use and emissions of air pollutants and GHGs.



The City's award-winning "Community Garden and Composting Program" has resulted in the installation of community gardens at the Cathedral City Boys and Girls Club, six local schools, and several senior communities. The program connects residents and especially children to the food web through cultivation of fruits and vegetables, promotes waste reduction and composting, and reduces reliance on commercial supermarkets.

The City will continuously evaluate these projects, policies, and programs to assure they contribute to the improved health and safety of all population segments of the City, including those most vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change.



¹² Appendix 2. "Climate Change and Health Profile Report, Riverside County," California Department of Public Health and University of California Davis, February 2017.

¹³ p. 13, *ibid*.

SOCIAL AND CIVIC CONNECTIONS

Community health and well-being can also be impacted by social connections and civic engagement. The City encourages and supports the inclusion of public gathering spaces in urban design; this is particularly evident in the downtown area which offers numerous spaces for festivals, parades, concerts, and cultural events that attract residents and visitors of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities.

Additional opportunities for social interaction are available at local parks, schools, and community centers, and CV Link and other trails and recreational sites. The Senior Center provides more than 48 healthy aging programs for seniors, including those that enhance physical fitness and cognitive skills, as well as social events and mental health services.

The City promotes civic engagement by encouraging participation in municipal commissions and committees. The City's weekly newsletter and seasonal mailer, social media outreach, and programs like the "State of the City Address" and "City Hall at Your Corner," invite citizens to meet monthly and discuss community events with city councilmembers. Voting is also an indicator of social participation and cohesion.



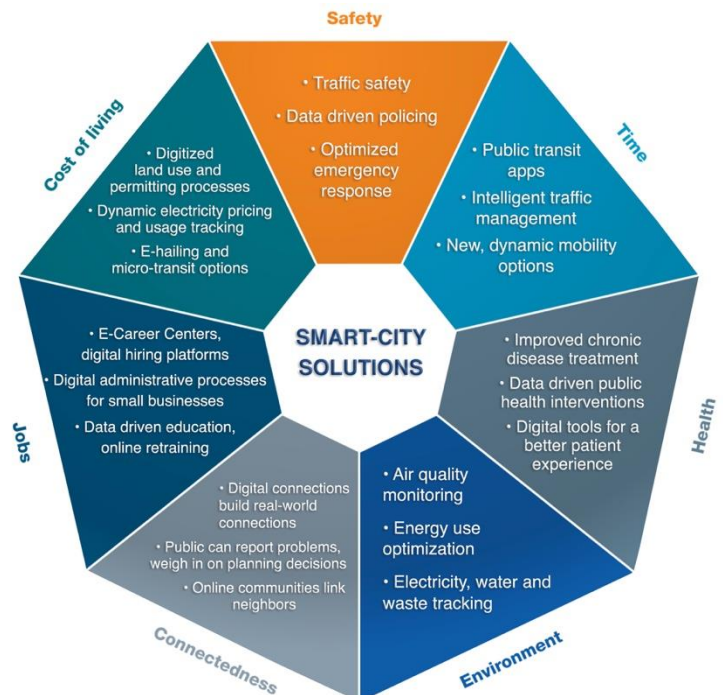
COMMUNITY SAFETY

The physical safety of the community is of paramount importance. It includes protection from criminal activity, safe streets that minimize avoidable traffic collisions, sufficient signage and lighting, and a host of other safety measures. The Police Department, Fire Department, Building Department, Engineering Department/Traffic Division and others work closely with residents, businesses, developers, and surrounding jurisdictions to maximize safety for the entire community.

SMART GROWTH

"Smart growth" is a comprehensive community planning approach that supports land preservation and natural resource conservation, reduced energy consumption, walkable and bikeable neighborhoods, a thoughtful mix and distribution of housing, retail, and employment opportunities and locations, and other development strategies that enhance connectivity and reduce environmental impacts.

"Green building" refers to the use of materials and techniques to build energy-efficient buildings and infrastructure. It is an important component of smart growth that can conserve natural resources, provide healthy indoor air quality, improve energy and water efficiency, and reduce utility and maintenance costs.



Sustainable Design

The “*Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*” (LEED) program, administered by the U.S. Green Building Council, is a measurement tool for green building in the U.S. Its rating system evaluates the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of buildings and homes, and certifies those that meet rigorous environmental design standards.

LEED-ND applies the green certification process to entire neighborhoods and parts of neighborhoods.¹⁴ It rewards developments located on redevelopment or infill sites and those that protect natural areas, provide good onsite connectivity and access to the surrounding community, and are oriented to alternative modes of transportation. LEED-ND encourages high-quality public spaces, mixed use development, walkable streets, and universally accessible features for residents of all ages and abilities, as well as green building techniques, pollution reduction, and reuse and recycling.

Cathedral City supports the overarching goals of smart growth and green building and has established a range of such policies in this General Plan, as well as its Sustainability Plan, Climate Action Plan, and other plans and programs, including those described below.



Cathedral City Sustainability Plan

The Cathedral City Sustainability Plan, adopted in 2017, identifies the City’s vision as a leader in three E-pillars of sustainability - *Environment, Economy, and Equity*. It establishes policies and action items to help the City achieve long-term sustainability goals in eight categories: 1) Built Environment, 2) Energy Systems, 3) Water Resources, 4) Waste Diversion and Recycling, 5) Economic Equity, 6) Climate Adaptation and Urban Resilience, 7) Mobility, and 8) Health. The Sustainability Plan policies and programs support and are consistent with those contained in this Element and other elements of the City General Plan.

HEAL Cities Campaign

In 2009, Cathedral City adopted a resolution supporting the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities Campaign. The program is a partnership of the League of California Cities and the Public Health Advocates that encourages cities to adopt policies promoting healthier lifestyles through complete parks systems, multi-modal access plans, mixed-use land use policies, healthy food options in underserved neighborhoods, and worksite wellness. HEAL provides participating cities with informational resources and policy assistance, as well as promotional benefits that demonstrate the City’s commitment to promoting healthier lifestyles.

Some of the City’s wellness achievements include a weight loss challenge for municipal employees, construction of a walking track around a soccer park, and wellness and nutrition education programs for school children.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The well-being of Cathedral City residents is a vital part of the City’s future as a vibrant and enjoyable place to live and work. The City has made substantial strides and commitments to increased physical activity and social interaction, an integrated land use plan, multi-modal connections, reduced emissions, and a healthy, sustainable environment. Additional efforts should be focused on improving access to health care, expanding educational and training opportunities, and expanding opportunities for low-income housing.

¹⁴ “A Citizen’s Guide to LEED for Neighborhood Development: How to Tell if Development is Smart and Green,” U.S. Green Building Council, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Congress for the New Urbanism.

GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Goal 1: A sustainable community that supports the health and well-being of its citizens.

Policy 1: The City's land use and circulation plans shall maximize connections between neighborhoods, retail and employment centers, community facilities, and recreational sites to reduce reliance on motor vehicles, increase opportunities for physical activity, and enhance access between various land uses.

Program 1.A: Support the completion of CV Link and other multimodal transportation facilities, including bike lanes, complete sidewalk networks and NEV paths.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 1.B: Work with Sunline Transit Agency to ensure transit access is provided to health care facilities, supermarkets, senior centers, child daycare centers, recreational sites, major employment and commercial centers, and educational institutions.

Responsible Parties: City Engineer, Public Works, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 1.C: Participate in regional transportation planning efforts with other jurisdictions, Sunline Transit Agency, and other appropriate organizations to enhance regional circulation, mobility and interconnections.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 2: The City shall encourage and support increased physical activity in the daily routines of its citizens.

Program 2.A: Consult and coordinate with community groups to initiate and continue sports leagues, fitness programs, and walking, cycling, and recreational clubs that meet the health and recreation needs of all segments of the population.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.B: To the greatest extent practicable, require the planning and development of parks, trails, and open space resources as part of community development projects.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.C: Maintain joint-use agreements with school districts to use school properties for public use during non-school hours.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.D: Consider locations where new parks can be located near neighborhoods and community facilities, such as schools, senior centers, and recreation centers.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.E: Encourage pedestrian-scale activity and social interaction in the downtown and other public gathering areas through the use of carefully designed open spaces areas with public art, shade features, fountains, landscape elements, and street furniture.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.F: Provide wellness programs for City employees and promote similar programs at other public and private workplaces. Activities may include workday seminars about health topics, improved food quality in vending machines, and physical fitness programs, among others.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Manager, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 3: The City shall support health equity for all segments of the population.

Program 3.A: Work with health care professionals and community and advocacy groups to expand opportunities for health services that reduce the need for driving, such as mobile health care and dental clinics, one-stop health care centers, and improved transit access to health clinics and hospitals.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 3.B: Work with local health care providers to provide culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate health care literature, notifications, and other materials for the diverse communities of Cathedral City.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 3.C: Work with health care providers, community groups, and educational speakers to increase public awareness about available health facilities and wellness programs, good nutrition, healthy lifestyles, preventive care, and health screenings. Particular focus should include outreach to the most vulnerable populations.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 3.D: Ensure a full range of mental health services, from outpatient to acute care, by fostering collaborative partnerships between medical professionals, community-based agencies, schools, service providers, law enforcement, and funding agencies.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 3.E: Assure the City Zoning Code supports development of assisted living facilities, low-income independent senior housing, adult day health care, “age-in-place” housing that includes universal design features such as wheelchair accessible entrances, and alcohol, drug, and mental health treatment facilities.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 4: Increase access to nutritious foods and locally grown foods.

Program 4.A: Assure the Zoning Code and land use plan adequately support urban agriculture in the form of community gardens, farmers' markets, and farm stands and other regular outlets that increase access to healthy and affordable fresh foods.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 4.B: Work with community groups to expand community garden opportunities throughout the City, including in public spaces, schools, and senior residential facilities.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 4.C: Encourage farmers markets to accept programs that benefit low-income families, such as WIC, CalFresh, and coupons.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 4.D: Support the efforts of food banks, pantries, and other support facilities to provide food assistance to low-income and other disadvantaged residents.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 4.E: Create strategies that encourage existing neighborhood grocers, convenience stores, and ethnic food markets to carry fresh produce, and attract new retailers that offer fresh produce and healthy staples. Coordinate strategies with appropriate City departments, and assure the program includes a marketing component.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Goal 2: A safe and resilient city that maximizes sustainability and minimizes community health and safety risks.

Policy 1: The City shall assure a safe and diverse transportation network that minimizes traffic hazards and provides sustained accessibility during emergency events.

Program 1.A: Identify traffic safety issues associated with the City's Complete Streets program and implement, as needed, roadway and multimodal path design improvements, such as reduced speeds, enhanced roadway markings and signage, separated facilities and traffic calming mechanisms.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 1.B: Assure that development standards and plan reviews address adequate security lighting, defensible spaces, easily identified ingress and egress, and other features that maximize public safety.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer/, Public Works, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 1.C: Continue to evaluate the need for, and implement as necessary, all-weather crossings over the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel to minimize the impacts of flooding on emergency response, human safety and the local economy.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 2: The City shall promote a sustainable future through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, alternatives to gas-powered vehicles, implementation of green building standards, reduced waste, and conservation of energy and water.

Program 2.A: Implement and routinely update the City's Climate Action Plan, Green for Life program, Energy Action Plan, and Sustainability Plan to assure they adequately address existing conditions and anticipate the future needs of the community.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.B: Continue to work collaboratively with local utility providers and regulatory agencies to assure the City is implementing the most appropriate and effective energy and resource conservation strategies.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.C: Provide permitting-related and other incentives for energy- and water-efficient building projects, e.g. by giving green projects priority in plan review, processing, and field inspection services.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.D: Partner with community services agencies to fund energy-efficiency projects, including heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC), lighting, water heating equipment, insulation, and weatherization projects, for low income residents.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.E: Target local funding, including utility programs and Community Development Block Grant resources, to assist affordable housing developers in incorporating energy efficient designs and features.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager, Public Utilities

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.F: Develop and make available to developers, designers, and other interested parties informational materials about green building strategies and programs, including LEED and LEED-ND rating systems and certification programs.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer, Public Works, Planning, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing