

Public Services and Facilities Element

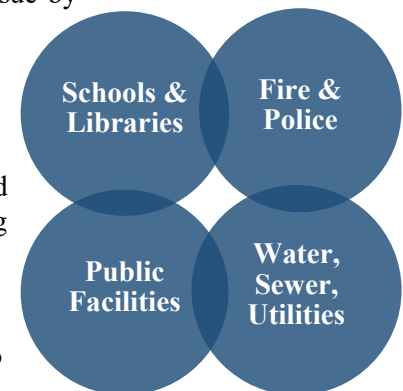
PURPOSE

This Element describes and provides background information on the various public services and facilities provided by the City and other public and quasi-public agencies. It is intended to provide sufficient information to assure that adequate resources are provided to meet the demands of the growing community. The purpose of this element is also to describe the demand for police and fire protection services, identify standards of performance or responsiveness, and set forth goals, policies and programs that reinforce and strengthen the City's commitment to the provision of quality, responsive service. To this end, the element's goals, policies and programs address the City's long-term public services and facilities planning needs.

BACKGROUND

The importance of coordinated planning, funding and operation of essential public facilities is clearly recognized by state, county and local jurisdictions. Government Code Section 65103(c) states that the planning agency is to "annually review the Capital Improvement Program of the City or County and the local public works projects of other local agencies for their consistency with the General Plan..." Furthermore, according to Government Code Section 65303, the local jurisdiction may emphasize the importance of this issue by requiring an optional Public Facilities Element in the General Plan.

Although critical facilities are built to accommodate present and anticipated needs, some (most notably water and sewer facilities) play a major role in determining the location, intensity, and timing of development. Therefore, the timing, type, and quality of new and upgraded facilities are often directly related to the availability of infrastructure and public services. The principal funding sources for local government infrastructure are taxes, benefit assessments, bonds, and exactions (including impact fees). Water and sewer districts also can avail themselves of these and other types of financing, while public agencies and utilities also have bonding capabilities and rate-based revenue streams to implement long-term facilities and service plans.



The Public Services and Facilities Element is directly related to the Land Use Element, which assigns land use designations and assures that adequate and optimally planned lands are available for existing and future public buildings and facilities. It is also related to the Circulation and Mobility Element, which is directed at providing efficient, safe transportation corridors throughout the City, and especially to essential public facilities. The Community Design Element, which sets forth the architectural and design criteria to be used throughout the community, is responsive to occasional aesthetic issues that arise with the siting and construction of these buildings and facilities.

FORMAT OF THIS ELEMENT

The Public Services and Facilities Element addresses the importance of a full range of municipal services and public resources in the City. Its goals, policies, and programs are intentionally broad to address public services in over-arching terms. Focused analysis and policy direction for specific types of open space is provided in four (4) sub-elements:

- Fire and Police Sub-Element
- Libraries and Schools Sub-Element
- Public Facilities Sub-Element
- Water, Sewer, and Utilities Sub-Element



03.21.19 Source: Esri; City of Cathedral City, 2018

Fire and Police Sub-Element

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Fire and Police Sub-Element is to assure the provision of adequate levels of fire and police protection throughout the community. These services are among the most important and essential functions of local government. It is intended that this sub-element help coordinate the planning of the community growth and development with the requisite level of public safety services as defined in this sub-element and throughout the 2040 General Plan. It is also designed to define existing and future levels of fire and police protection services and to identify the agencies (and partners) that provide these services. The sub-element also provides policies and programs that, through their implementation, assure the continued long-term provision of adequate public safety services for all portions and socio-economic sectors of the community.

BACKGROUND

The Fire and Police Sub-Element has a direct and important relationship to several other 2040 General Plan elements and sub-elements, including Land Use, Circulation and Mobility, Emergency Preparedness, Water Resources, Healthy and Sustainable Community, and Community Design. The distribution and intensity of land uses, accessibility, coordination of emergency responses, availability of water to fight fires, medical services to treat and transport the injured, and the provision of “defensible space” in urban development are all tied to the effective provision of fire and police services. Police and fire protection services are essential to the continued safety of this growing community. The City provides its own police and fire departments, and maintains cooperative/mutual aid agreements with other communities and agencies for additional emergency response support.



A number of state regulatory codes focus on the importance of addressing the protection of the community from natural and man-made hazards. Government Code Section 65302(g) requires that a Safety Element or its equivalent be included in the 2040 General Plan to address measures necessary to protect the community from risks associated with fire and other hazards and threats. Public Resources Code 4125(a) states that the State Board of Forestry shall classify all lands within the State for the purpose of determining hazards and addressing financial responsibility for the prevention and suppression of fires. Unclassified lands fall under the jurisdiction of the City or appropriate federal agency, such as the U.S. Bureau of Land Management or U.S. Forest Service.

CATHEDRAL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City of Cathedral City operates its own fire and emergency medical services department, including ambulances, located at 32100 Desert Vista Road. Fire Department staff includes 43 sworn fire personnel (42 firefighters and 1 Fire Chief), including 14 on-duty 24/7/365, 2 administrative personnel and 1 full-time fire



inspector. This equates to 0.77 firefighters to every 1,000 residents.¹

Three fire stations are located within the City, including: 1) Station No. 411 at 68950 Buddy Rogers Avenue, 2) Station 412 at 32100 Desert Vista Road, and 3) Station No. 413 at 27610 Landau Boulevard. Emergency response vehicles include two fire engines, one aerial ladder truck, two ambulances, and one command vehicle. Reserve apparatus includes one engine, one telesquirt truck, two ambulances, one command vehicle, one rehab unit, and one engine under agreement with the California Office of Emergency Services (OES).² The Department maintains a mutual aid agreement with the City of Palm Springs and a county-wide agreement with the Riverside County Fire Department for additional fire support, as necessary. A new station will be built at the corner of Date Palm Drive and Buddy Rogers Avenue to replace the aging Station No. 411; it is expected to be completed in 2020.

The City Fire Department is a “Class 3” agency, as rated by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) Public Protection, where Class 1 is the highest rating and Class 10 is the lowest.³ The Fire Department responded to more than 5,800 emergency calls in 2018; emergency medical services and resident assistance accounted for approximately 75% of its emergency response activity.⁴ The Department’s average response time is 6 minutes 21 seconds within the City, and less than 6 minutes 56% of the time.⁵

In addition to fighting fires, the Fire Department provides advanced life support and emergency ambulance services. It is licensed by the California Emergency Medical Services Authority to provide pre-hospital emergency medical services and is authorized by the Riverside County Emergency Medical Services Agency to operate 9-1-1-ambulance services in the City. The Fire Department plays a key role in disaster preparedness and is responsible for coordinating, in conjunction with other City departments, the City’s response to a wide range of hazards and threats (please refer to the Emergency Preparedness Sub-Element of the Safety Element for more information about emergency and disaster preparedness).

Fire Department’s Strategic Plan

Fire Department’s Strategic Plan The Fire Department’s Strategic Plan 2019-2023 guides the development of the fire department for the next four years. Among its objectives are improving the ISO Class 3 rating to a Class 2 by 2020, adding an ambulance and additional personnel at Fire Station 412, and adding a pumper and additional firefighters at Station 412. The Plan also identifies goals, policies and opportunities associated with staff training and competency. The department is providing essential training programs, schedules, equipment, facilities, instructional materials and qualified instructors. The Strategic Plan provides company-level training and action plan objectives that include operational consistency, mentorship, event simulations, and proficiency recertification. The primary training and competency goal is to improve and maintain skills and capabilities that provide outstanding emergency services to the community.

CATHEDRAL CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Cathedral City Police Department was created in 1984 and is located in the Civic Center at 68700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero. The Department is staffed by 52 sworn officers, 35 non-sworn support and administrative personnel, and 6 reserve officers. Police vehicles include 38 marked and approximately 22 unmarked cars.⁶

¹ Fire Chief Paul Wilson (Retired), July 2018. Estimated population from California Department of Finance Demographic Research Unit Report E-5, Table 2: E-5 City/County Population and Housing Estimates, 1/1/2018.

² Cathedral City Fire Department 2019-2023 Strategic Plan.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Chief of Police Travis Walker, July 2018.

Departments and specialized units include the following:

- Detective Bureau
- Auto Theft Task Force
- Coachella Valley Narcotics Task Force
- Real Estate Fraud Task Force Traffic Division
- Homeless Liaison Team
- Gang Investigations Unit
- K-9 Unit
- Dispatch
- SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics)
- School Resource Officer Program
- Post Release Community Supervision Accountability Team



The City Police Department is a full-service agency providing around-the-clock patrol services, a Detective Bureau that investigates all manner of crimes, a crime scene forensics unit, a highly trained regional SWAT Team for high risk incidents, a K-9 team, a Real Estate Fraud Taskforce, a School Resource Officers assigned to our high school, a Gang Unit dedicated to the City, a Traffic Bureau with motor officer enforcement, a Narcotics Task Force Officer, and an Auto Theft Task Force Officer. The Police Department is supported by civilian staff, such as a Records Unit that maintains all criminal and civil reports, and a Communications Center that takes calls from the public and dispatches police and fire personnel for not only Cathedral City, but also for the Desert Hot Springs Police Department.



The Police Department's Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (further discussed below) recommends a minimum officer-to-resident population ratio of no less than one officer per thousand residents.⁷ With 52 sworn officers, the City currently provides approximately 0.90 officers for every 1,000 residents. According to the Strategic Plan, the public considers an emergency police response time within 6 minutes or less to be acceptable. The City's Police Department has consistently met this goal by responding to emergencies (Priority 1) in 7 minutes or less.

Emergency and non-emergency calls for Police and Fire are received by the city's Emergency Communications Center. The Cathedral City Dispatch Center is staffed 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to answer emergency and non-emergency phone calls. In 2017, approximately 212,077 calls were received by the Emergency Communication Center.

Community-Oriented Policing

The Police Department has adopted a Community-Oriented Policing philosophy, which is founded upon a working partnership between the community and police to reduce and prevent criminal activity and to identify neighborhood problems and their underlying causes. The officers' primary function is emergency response, but also to address specific local policing problems, such as traffic control and illegally parked or abandoned vehicles. The City recently created a "Community Service Officer" position, a highly visible member of the force within the community and easily accessible to the public.

⁷ Cathedral City Police Department Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and Fire Department Strategic Plan 2019-2023.

Community outreach includes leading community groups, supervising community contacts, and other associated Community-Oriented Policing actions. Department staff implement community contacts, community groups, and business groups, etc., which they engage with regarding crime trends and concerns on a regular basis. The Department continuously evaluates funding sources for participation in crime prevention programs.

Response times can vary significantly, depending on the nature of the incident and the location of patrol cars at the time a 911 call is received. All calls are prioritized, and the response time is contingent on the number of calls pending and their urgency. In 2017, the average response time to a “hot” (emergency) call in Cathedral City, from the time the dispatcher contacted an officer to the time the officer arrived at the scene, was approximately 4.2 minutes. The average response time to an incident that “just occurred” was also 4.2 minutes.

Community-Based Policing

The Police Department sponsors and supports a variety of community-based policing programs and other special community events. The Neighborhood Watch program educates residents about implementing crime prevention strategies in their neighborhoods. The Police Explorers Program allows teenagers and adults ages 14 to 21 to learn about and participate in a variety of law enforcement functions, including crime prevention support and ride-along programs with officers. One officer is assigned to Cathedral City High School as a School Resource Officer.

The Citizens-on-Patrol (COP) program consists of volunteers who serve as the eyes and ears of the police department. Responsibilities include facilitating towing of abandoned vehicles, directing traffic at collision sites, looking for graffiti, and alerting police to potential criminal activity. Volunteers are trained by sworn police officers and attend monthly meetings. The program currently (2019) includes approximately 23 volunteers.

Strategic Plan

The Police Department’s Strategic Plan 2016-2020 establishes the department’s vision for the future and identifies strategies to accomplish its objectives. Among its objectives are maintaining adequate staffing ratios, tracking and maintaining adequate Priority One response times, enhancing community partnerships, continuing to participate in multi-agency task forces, and utilizing state-of-the-art technology and equipment. Other Police Department goals set forth in the strategic plan include prevention and suppression of crime, maintaining adequate staff-to-population ratios, maintaining and expanding partnerships within the community, participation in multi-agency task forces, maintaining fiscal efficiency, periodic review of practices and policies, and tracking and addressing emerging policing trends.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

As the City continues to grow, so will the need for additional police and fire protection. New and replacement police and fire facilities will need to be constructed, as future development occurs north of Interstate-10. The City will be responsible for monitoring growth patterns and responding to the demand for additional public safety facilities and services. Considerations will include land use and circulation patterns, the provision of water for adequate fire flows, the delivery of emergency medical and ambulance services, the financing of future and replacement fire and police stations, and the adequacy of emergency response times.



GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Goal 1: Protection of the community from the threat of loss of life and property from fire, natural and human-caused disasters, and environmental hazards.

Goal 2: High level of security and police protection that ensures public order and a sense of community well-being and is responsive to emerging policing needs.

Policy 1: The City shall periodically review, assess and update the Police and Fire Department Strategic Plans and the Fire Department Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and their goals and policies.

Program 1.A: The Fire and Police Departments shall coordinate with other City departments and schedule periodic review, access and update the Strategic Plans and Local Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Responsible Parties: Fire and Police, Planning, City Manager, City Council

Schedule: Strategic Plans- 2020, Location Hazards Mitigation Plan - 2022

Policy 2: All new development proposals shall be thoroughly reviewed for potential impacts and the ability to effectively provide public safety and fire and police protection.

Program 2.A: The Fire and Police Departments shall evaluate proposals for new development to assure adequate emergency access, the integration of defensible space principles, clear street name signage and numbering, internal circulation, fire flow and other safety design considerations.

Responsible Parties: Fire, Police, Planning, Public Works

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 3: The City shall provide for the adequate and timely expansion of fire and police protection capabilities, services and facilities to meet future development demands.

Program 3.A: Apply objective criteria, including appropriate minimum response time, the matching of services and facilities to local needs, and the availability of alternative routes to serve target neighborhoods, and assure the optimal siting of future fire and police stations.

Responsible Parties: Fire, Police, Planning

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 3.B: Evaluate current and potential methods of financing the expansion of fire and police services, including developer impact fees, assessment districts, and fire and police permitting fees for development occurring in high security or fire risk areas.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Police, Fire, Finance

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 3.C: Continue to collaboration between County Health and Human Services staff and law enforcement personnel to provide training and education on methods for addressing mental health patients in the criminal justice system.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Police, County Health

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 4: The City shall support the highest level of code enforcement practicable in order to protect property and lives, property values, and quality of life.

Program 4.A: Strictly enforce the California Building and Fire Codes, City Municipal Code and other applicable building standards in the course of reviewing development plans and conducting building inspections.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Public Works, Building, Fire, Code Compliance

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 4.B: Encourage community involvement in code enforcement efforts, including a volunteer neighborhood-based code enforcement program, with specific attention directed toward property maintenance.

Responsible Parties: Police, Planning, Code Compliance

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 5: Review and comment on proposals for the use, manufacture, storage and transportation of potentially hazardous materials and monitor such sites on a regular basis to ensure that potential hazards to the community are minimized.

Program 5.A: The siting of facilities that produce, store, use or transport hazardous, flammable or explosive materials shall be conducted in a manner which assures the highest level of safety, in strict conformance with the California Building and Fire Codes, Municipal Code and other applicable regulations.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Fire, Code Compliance

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 6: Continue to support community-based policing efforts, including the Neighborhood Watch and Citizens on Patrol programs and disaster readiness programs, including Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and resident cell phone enrollment for emergency notifications.

Program 6.A: Enhance public awareness and participation in crime prevention, and encourage and promote the Neighborhood Watch Program, Citizens on Patrol and other community-oriented policing programs. The City shall develop new and expand existing educational programs dealing with personal safety awareness, such as neighborhood and commercial association watch/protection programs, and emergency preparedness and education for residents to register their cell phone with “Alert RivCo” at <https://rivcoready.org/AlertRivCo> used to alert Riverside County community members of urgent actions to take during disasters, such as earthquakes, wildfires, and floods.

Responsible Parties: Police, Fire

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Schools and Libraries Sub-Element

PURPOSE

The Schools and Libraries Sub-Element describes the City's educational facilities, services, resources, and the opportunities made available through the local school and library systems. It also helps to anticipate and plan for future needs and directs decision-makers to assure that adequate and accessible educational facilities are provided to the community. The sub-element identifies the City's role in planning and siting new school and library facilities, and how it coordinates with the school district, community college district and county library system, and sets forth policies and programs designed to enhance the educational experience of the City's residents.

BACKGROUND

The Schools and Libraries Sub-Element addresses the need for adequate and conveniently located public lands for educational facilities, and therefore, is directly related to the Land Use Element. It is also related to the Circulation and Mobility and Noise Elements, as the City strives to protect schools and libraries from excessive noise and traffic.



California Government Code Section 65302(a) requires that, among other things, the General Plan assess the general distribution, location and adequacy of educational facilities. Also applicable is State legislation (AB 2926), effective January 1, 1987, which authorized school districts to charge per square foot development fees to fund the construction and reconstruction of public school facilities. The fees are paid by developers directly to the appropriate school district prior to the issuance of building permits. In the Palm Springs Unified School District, which provides public education services to Cathedral City, the 2018 fee for residential development was \$3.79 per square foot, and the fee for commercial development was \$0.61 per square foot.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Cathedral City is located within the boundaries of the Palm Springs Unified School District, which provides K-12 education services and facilities. Over the past two decades, the City and Coachella Valley have also seen an important expansion of higher educational facilities and opportunities. These include the expansion of the Desert Community College District's College of the Desert (COD), a new California State University/San Bernardino campus and a University of California Graduate Center. A variety of private colleges have also become established in the valley, including in Cathedral City. These are further discussed below.



Palm Springs Unified School District

The Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) provides kindergarten through 12th grade public educational services and facilities to Cathedral City and other communities in the western Coachella Valley. In 2019, PSUSD schools enrolled approximately 22,496 students in 28 schools and in independent study programs. PSUSD operates nine schools within Cathedral City, including five elementary, two middle, one high, and one continuation high school. These include the following:

Agua Caliente Elementary School is located at 30800 San Luis Rey in the western part of the City and includes kindergarten through fifth grades. A new campus opened in February 2019. The school's maximum capacity is 726 students, and in January 2001 it enrolled 532 students.

Cathedral City Elementary School is located at 69300 Converse Road in the southeastern portion of the City. It includes kindergarten through fifth grades and operates year-round. The school can accommodate a maximum of 899 students and enrolled approximately 695 in 2017.

Landau Elementary School is located at 30310 Landau Boulevard. The school includes kindergarten through fifth grades. Its maximum capacity is 790 students, and enrollment as of January 2017 was exactly 790 students.



Rio Vista Elementary School is located at 67770 Verona Road. The school includes kindergarten through fifth grades. Its maximum capacity is 870 students, enrollment as of January 2017 was 718 students.

Sunny Sands Elementary School is located at 69310 McCallum Way. The school operates year-round and has a maximum capacity of 966 students. In 2017, the student body included 744 students.



Nellie N. Coffman Middle School includes sixth through eighth grades and is located at 34603 Plumley Road in the City's eastern limits. The school can accommodate a total of 1,252 students and enrolled 1,149 in January 2017.

James Workman Middle School is located at 69300 30th Avenue and includes sixth through eighth grades. Although the school has a maximum design capacity of 1,222 students, the student body totaled 1,368 students in 2017.

Mt. San Jacinto High School, a continuation high school, is located at 30800 Landau Boulevard. Approximately 280 students were enrolled in the school in January 2017.

Cathedral City High School, located at 69250 Dinah Shore Drive, includes ninth through twelfth grades. It can accommodate a maximum of 1,800 students and enrolled 1,594 in January 2017. The "Home of the Lions" is also home to a wide range of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) and arts and culture programs, including the Math, Engineering and Science Achievement Program (MESA), Advancement Via Individual Determination Academy (AVID), and the Health and Environmental Academy of Learning (HEAL). CCHS is also internationally known for its award winning Choral and Instrumental Music Programs and its Ballet Folklorico Program, to name just a few.

PRIVATE K-12 EDUCATION

Palm Valley School is located at 35525 Da Vall Drive in Rancho Mirage, a short distance from Cathedral City. This school serves students from throughout the Coachella Valley and provides classroom instruction from preschool through grade 12. Enrollment for the 2018-19 academic year was 307 students..

Kings School is located at 67675 Bolero Road in Palm Springs. The school serves students from preschool through 8th grade. Enrollment for the 2018-19 academic year was approximately 276 students.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Higher education provided by colleges and universities are very important to any community for many reasons, including providing the basis for long-term financial success, creating a capable labor force and job stability, enhancing career satisfaction, and broadening individuals to ensure their success outside of the workplace. With more and more occupations requiring advanced education, a college degree is critical to success in today's workforce. As already noted, the Coachella Valley is in the middle of an education renaissance and students no longer need to travel outside the valley to get a quality college or university education. And local institutions are also providing curricula that address the needs of the market for specialty training and degrees in sustainable technology, allied health, hospitality, and arts and culture.

Regional colleges and universities include the College of the Desert (COD), Coachella Valley Campus of California State University-San Bernardino (CSUSB), and University of California-Riverside (UCR) Graduate Center in Palm Desert. Private for-profit colleges include Brandman University, and Mayfield College located at 35325 Date Palm Drive in Cathedral City.

College of the Desert

The College of the Desert was formed in 1958 by valley voters and the first campus buildings opened in 1962 on the site of the 160-acre Odell Ranch in Palm Desert. Since its beginning, COD has been a leader in climate-adaptive architectural design, which has been carried forward since its inception.

Today, COD is a multi-campus institution with its main campus in Palm Desert, an east-valley campus in the Mecca-Thermal area, the Indio Educational Center, and the new West Valley Campus in Palm Springs. Campus planning and building design is environmentally responsive, dynamic and reflective of COD's commitment to its students, providing the most progressive and up to date educational experience possible. Cathedral City is roughly equi-distant between the Palm Desert and West Valley Campuses and both are easily accessible for City residents.



COD provides excellent educational programs and services that contribute to the success of its students and the vitality of the communities it serves. It provides students with the opportunities and encouragement to learn the skills, knowledge and behaviors needed to succeed in their chosen endeavors. COD supports the educational, economic, ethical, cultural and civic needs of the valley's diverse population, and emphasizes the importance and value of life-long learning.

COD offers a wide range of courses, certificates, degrees, and transfer programs. These academic services are designed to fulfill students' goals, meet the needs of local employers, and articulate well with four-year institutions. It provides work force training relevant to the needs of business and industry, and promotes the economic development of the region. COD selects and supports quality, committed faculty and staff to provide excellent academic programs, as well as effective student and academic support services.

The College is committed to an on-going process of planning, assessment, and measurable improvement with the goal of providing the best educational opportunities possible for its students. COD is committed to an intellectually open and nurturing environment that welcomes and appreciates a diversity of ideas and people. It provides the encouragement, means and professional setting for faculty and staff to operationalize the college's mission of providing a premier choice for higher education.

California State University-San Bernardino

The Palm Desert campus of CalState was established in 2000 with an initial 55-acre land grant from that city. In 2015, Palm Desert transferred an additional 114± acres to the CalState campus, which now totals 169± acres. It is conveniently located just south of Interstate-10 at the Cook Street exit. The campus is only partially built out and has an average enrollment of about 1,000 students. At buildout, the campus is expected to host approximately 8,000 students. Coursework also includes a variety of online classes.



Undergraduate courses currently offered at CalState Palm Desert include accounting, business management, marketing and advertising, entrepreneurship, and hospitality management. The curricula also include public relations, human and organizational communications, criminal justice, English literature, history, liberal studies, psychology, and nutrition and food science. Graduate programs include accountancy and business administration, nursing, public administration social work and others. The campus also includes a doctoral program educational leadership, and a variety of credential and certificate programs.

University of California Graduate Center

The UC-Riverside Graduate Center was founded in 2005 and provides a variety of programs in such diverse disciplines as conservation biology, business and management. UCR Extension offers more than 90 certificate programs and enrichment courses online and in classroom settings to meet students' educational, career and enrichment needs. These include programs in business, computer science and technology, education, healthcare, natural resources, law and criminal justice, creative arts and design, and other disciplines. The UCR Graduate Center is also home to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute that also holds classes at the Eisenhower Medical Center campus in Rancho Mirage. The campus also provides its UC Master Gardener program and the UCR certificate program in nonprofit management.

LIBRARY FACILITIES

The Cathedral City Public Library is a branch of the Riverside County Library System and is located at 33520 Date Palm Drive. The library opened in 1996 and consists of a 20,000 square foot facility containing approximately 70,000 volumes. It offers a full range of community programs and services, including youth activities, computer facilities and workshops, literacy programs, a community meeting room, and a comprehensive HIV/AIDS information center. The library also offers "English as a Second Language" courses, has a speaker series, family story-time program, a book club, meditation programs and others. "Friends of the Library" provides volunteer services and operates a bookstore within the library.



Regional library facilities include College of the Desert (COD) Libraries at the Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Indio campuses, which are open to COD students and the general public and include state-of-the-art research systems. The medical library at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage (lending to non-hospital staff is prohibited) and other branches of the Riverside County Library System are also available for public use.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The City's and the region's schools and library are important community assets and indicators of the community's social health and quality of life. And both provide a wide range of learning, research, and art and cultural experiences that were unavailable in years past. These facilities and the resources and programs they offer are also important considerations for many contemplating moving to the City. Schools and libraries are sensitive land use, and their location requires consideration of many factors, including student and user safety, accessibility, and impacts from excessive noise.

Public school districts are considered "responsible agencies" and have "lead agency" status for the siting, planning and processing development plans associated with their own facilities. While consultation with local jurisdictions is required, most decisions rest with the school districts, including the community college district. Building, planning and architectural plans of schools and community colleges are processed and approved by the State Architect's Office. Nonetheless, the City of Cathedral City can assist and coordinate with the local school district, COD and state agencies to assure the provision of adequate educational facilities and services, and at locations that are compatible with other surrounding land uses. As important community destinations, the City's Circulation and Mobility Element and its Active Transportation Plan will play a major role in making schools and libraries especially accessible to our youth and others that uses these facilities.

The 2040 General Plan provides the City with the opportunity to preserve and protect existing and future school and library sites from excessive noise and traffic conditions, and to ensure accessibility and compatibility with surrounding land uses.

GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Goal 3: The provision of quality school and library facilities in the City that are accessible and conveniently located within the community.

Policy 1: Assist, cooperate and coordinate with the Palm Springs Unified School District, the community college district and state agencies in identifying, acquiring and developing school sites needed to meet future growth demands. Encourage the selection of potential school sites that are centrally located in areas of existing or future residential development.

Program 1.A: Review PSUSD and COD development proposals and environmental documentation, and otherwise coordinate with these institutions in planning new public school facilities as part of the City's continuing effort to provide enhanced educational opportunities for the community's residents.

Responsible Parties: PSUSD, COD, Planning, Public Works, Economic Development

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 2: Schools and libraries shall be protected from excessive noise and traffic conditions, and incompatible land uses to the greatest extent practical.

Program 2.A: Routinely evaluate and update the Land Use Element and confer with potentially affected institutions to ensure that school and library sites are compatible with surrounding land uses, arterial roadways and significant noise generators.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Public Works

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.B: The City shall encourage and/or require the use of design and development techniques, such as sound attenuation walls, earthen berms and acoustical insulation in buildings, that mitigate potential traffic and other noise impacts on schools and libraries.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Building

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 3: The City shall consult and coordinate with the Palm Springs Unified School District to maximize shared/joint use of school open space and recreation facilities.

Program 3.A: The City shall proactively pursue agreements with the Palm Springs Unified School District regarding the shared purchase, lease, and/or joint use of land for school and recreational purposes. Provisions shall be made which allow for accessible recreation facilities and open space for the community during non-school hours.

Responsible Parties: Economic Development, Planning, PSUSD

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 4: The City shall coordinate with the Riverside County Library System to assure that adequate library facilities, services and resources are provided to meet the educational and literary needs of the community.

Policy 5: The City shall cooperate in securing school impact fees from developers, in accordance with state law.

Policy 6: Ensure provision of safe pedestrian access for students of new and existing school sites throughout the city.

Program 6.A: The City shall coordinate with PSUSD, COD and the Riverside County Library System to ensure that safe routes and means to school and library facilities through the thoughtful implementation of the Circulation and Mobility Element and the Active Transportation Plan.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Public Works, PSUSD, COD

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Public Facilities Sub-Element

PURPOSE

This sub-element describes and provides background information on the various public and quasi-public facilities and structures in the City. It is intended to provide sufficient information to identify important structures and assure that adequate facilities are provided to meet the demands of the growing community. It is also meant to help identify issues associated with these important and critical facilities. The sub-element also sets forth goals, policies and programs, which address the City's long-term planning needs.

BACKGROUND

The importance of coordinated planning, funding and operation of essential public facilities is clearly recognized by state, county and local jurisdictions. Government Code Section 65103(c) states that the planning agency is to "annually review the Capital Improvement Program of the City or County and the local public works projects of other local agencies for their consistency with the General Plan..." Furthermore, according to Government Code Section 65303, the local jurisdiction may emphasize the importance of this issue by requiring an optional Public Facilities Element in the General Plan.

The Public Facilities Element is directly related to the Land Use Element, which assigns land use designations and assures that adequate and optimally planned lands are available for existing and future public buildings and facilities. It is also related to the Circulation and Mobility Element, which is directed at providing efficient, safe transportation corridors throughout the City, and especially access to essential public facilities. The Community Design Element, which sets forth architectural and design criteria to be used throughout the community, is responsive to occasional aesthetic issues that arise with the siting and construction of these buildings and facilities.

The City contains a number of public buildings and facilities, including the Civic Center, schools and libraries, fire stations, post offices and other public buildings, as well as utility infrastructure. Municipal maintenance yards, roads, bridges, and traffic signals also fall into this category. Advance planning for public facilities assures that they are built in time to accommodate existing and anticipated future needs of the community. Some, most notably utility infrastructure, play a key role in determining the location, intensity, and timing of future development. Most of these facilities are shown on the map included in this sub-element.

The location of public buildings and facilities is largely based on their function in the community. Functional criteria should not preclude the logical and sensitive integration of these facilities into the City's existing and planned land use patterns. Fire and police stations, for example, should be strategically located throughout the community so as to provide optimal emergency response times. Public office buildings should be conveniently located with safe public access and adequate parking. Electrical substations, water wells, and other utility infrastructure can be effectively screened from public view and aesthetically and cost-effectively integrated into the natural and built environment.



PUBLIC FACILITIES

Civic Center

The Civic Center is located at 68700 Avenida Lalo Guererro and serves as an important civic monument and community focal point in the heart of the downtown district. The building is designed on a grand scale with strong neo-classical architectural features. It overlooks a public plaza which showcases the Fountain of Life, an interactive water sculpture that reflects the nature and history of the desert. This space serves as a dynamic and beautiful community-gathering place for important civic and other community functions.

The building opened in July 1998 and contains approximately 65,000 square feet. It houses the Police Department and city staff and administrative offices, including the Mayor's office and City Council chambers.



Corporate Yard

The City's corporate yard is located at 68385 Kieley Road, near Cathedral Canyon Drive. The facility includes two masonry buildings with a total of approximately 8,500 square feet. One building serves as a vehicle maintenance garage/workshop, and the other includes staff offices for the Public Works Department and warehousing space. The remainder of the site consists of an asphalt parking lot, which accommodates staff and City-owned vehicles. City staff has indicated that additional parking space is needed and that the corporate yard may be expanded in the future.

Community Center

The Cathedral City Community Center, once located on East Palm Canyon Drive across from the Civic Center, was demolished in 2016. The City is in the process of evaluating available sites and potential costs and constraints related to construction of a new community center.

Senior Center

The Cathedral City Senior Center, at 37171 West Buddy Rogers Avenue, is a non-profit organization that strives to improve the quality of life for seniors aged 50+ in Cathedral City and surrounding communities. It offers a wide range of programs that benefit the mental and physical health of seniors, including games, parties, physical fitness activities, health resource fairs, and art, computer, and language classes. It also houses a food pantry that provides food items for approximately 100 low-income senior households per week.



Fire Stations

The Cathedral City Fire Department is responsible for fire suppression and prevention, paramedic services, disaster preparedness, hazardous materials response, and fire code enforcement. It operates three fire stations: No. 411 at 36913 Date Palm Drive, No. 412 at 32100 Desert Vista Road, and No. 413 at 27610 Landau Boulevard. A new Fire Station No. 411 will be built across the street from the existing station; it is expected to be completed by 2020. The Department maintains mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for additional fire support. Please refer to the Fire and Police Sub-Element for more information.

Police Department

The Cathedral City Police Department is located in the Civic Center at 68700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero. It is staffed by approximately 52 sworn officers, 6 reserve officers, and 35 support and administrative personnel. Additional support is provided by the Citizens on Patrol program, which currently enrolls approximately 23 volunteers. The Department implements a wide range of community programs, including Neighborhood Watch, the School Resource Officer Program, and the Police Explorers Program. Please refer to the Fire and Police Sub-Element for more information.



Schools

As discussed in the *Schools and Libraries Sub-Element*, above, Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) provides K-12 public education services and facilities to the City of Cathedral City. Nine PSUSD schools are located in Cathedral City. Local K-12 private educational facilities include the Palm Valley School, Kings School, and other private schools in the Coachella Valley. Regional colleges and universities include College of the Desert, the Coachella Valley Campus of California State University-San Bernardino, and the University of California-Riverside Palm Desert Graduate Center. Private for-profit colleges include Mayfield College in Cathedral City and Brandman University in Palm Desert. Educational facilities and services are discussed further in the *Schools and Libraries Sub-Element*.

Cathedral City Public Library

The Cathedral City Public Library is located on an eight acres and includes park-like open space lands that extend south along the east side of Date Palm Drive. Its address is 33520 Date Palm Drive and is a branch of the Riverside County Library System. In addition to traditional book stacks, the library offers a full range of community services, including computer workshops, literacy programs, youth activities, and an HIV/AIDS information center. Regional library facilities include the COD Libraries in Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Indio; the medical library at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage; and other branches of the Riverside County Library System. Please refer to the *Schools and Libraries Sub-Element* for more information.

Cathedral City Post Offices

The Cathedral City Post Office is a full-service facility located at 33940 Date Palm Drive, at the intersection of Date Palm Drive and Dave Kelley Road. It provides basic postal services, post office boxes, voter registration forms, mail boxes, shipping services, and postage stamp sales.



Utility Infrastructure

Utility buildings and facilities, including electrical substations and switching facilities and well sites, can generate noise and also detract from the scenic value of an area. Landscaping and architectural elements can be incorporated into the design of these structures to minimize their visual and noise impacts, screen them from public view, and assure their compatibility with the surrounding built and natural environment. Effective design elements include decorative block walls, vegetative buffers, and the use of locally compatible architectural style and color. Some utility transmission lines can be undergrounded to shield them from view.

The primary utility companies serving the City of Cathedral City are the Coachella Valley Water District, Desert Water Agency (DWA), Southern California Edison (SCE), Frontier Communications, Spectrum, and Southern California Gas Company (The Gas Company). Major utility buildings and facilities in the City include a Frontier (formerly Verizon) telephone sub-switching unit on the east side of Date Palm Drive, south of McCallum Way, and DWA sewage pumping plants on Date Palm Drive and Cathedral Canyon Drive.



SCE has high voltage transmission lines and three substations within the City limits and one immediately outside the City limits which serve Cathedral City residents and the region. SCE also has a wide range of distribution lines that pass through and serve the community. Also see the *Water, Sewer and Utilities Sub-Element*.

Drainage Facilities

Given its proximity to the adjacent mountains, the City can be prone to flooding. Drainage is typically divided into two categories, local and regional drainage, and are ultimately interrelated. Local drainage refers to limited drainage areas and the generation of runoff associated with urban development. Regional drainage typically consists of high-volumes and facilities capturing and conveying runoff from a larger geographic area. There is a mix of responsibilities among the City, Riverside County Flood Control District, Coachella Valley Water District, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, regarding regulation, ownership and management of local and regional drainage facilities. These agencies maintain close cooperation and coordination to ensure effective flood control planning and management in the community.

The City's primary drainage facility is the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel, which extends from Vista Chino southeast to East Palm Canyon Drive. Additional capital projects include the East and West Cathedral Canyon Channels and a variety of other levees, channels, storm drains, and detention/retention basins. Please refer to the Safety Element's Flooding and Hydrology Sub-Element for more information.

Critical Facilities

The term "critical facilities" refers to any building or facility that provides important and/or essential emergency services following a major disruptive event, such as an earthquake, flood or fire. Critical facilities include fire and police stations, hospitals, major airports and roadways, and primary communications facilities. They may also include other civic structures, as well as school facilities. Elevated water storage can also be considered as critical facilities. These facilities and structures should be located, to the greatest extent practicable, in areas that are the least susceptible to impacts from seismic activity, flooding and other hazardous occurrences. Specifically, they should not be located within or near the 100-year floodplain or a fault zone.

Given the City's proximity to the Whitewater River and the San Andreas and other fault zones, special considerations should be made in the construction of critical facilities and structures. In particular, the City and other responsible agencies should assure that thorough engineering analyses are performed, to the extent necessary, prior to construction of future critical facilities. Building and other structural design should include allowances for the offset of foundations resulting from surface displacements. These and other safety issues are addressed in more detail in the Safety Element's Emergency Preparedness Sub-Element.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Ongoing capital improvement funding of public facilities, including those supporting police and fire functions, will be crucial to meeting the future security needs of the community, including accommodating future growth. Until December 1999, the City's Community Services District (CSD) provided a steady revenue stream to fund law enforcement and other services and facilities. In December 1999, the residents of Cathedral City voted to terminate the CSD. With the loss of CSD income, the City has pursued other funding opportunities, such as state and federal grants, General Fund revenues, Developer Impact Fees, Measure A funds and the expanded use of volunteers, to meet increasing demands for public services.

Each year, local government agencies (including cities, counties, school districts and special districts) planning the construction of capital facilities must submit to the planning agency a list of proposed projects which they would like implemented. The City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) identifies existing and proposed projects that require on-going and forward-looking governmental funding, such as traffic signals, street widenings and re-paving, parks and recreation facilities, and public parking lots. It is essential that the City carefully review and adjust its CIP, as necessary, to assure consistency with 2040 General Plan goals and policies and to respond to the changing needs of the community.

GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Goal 4: Public buildings and facilities that optimize functionality, while being compatible with surrounding land uses and aesthetically integrated into the City's built and natural environments.

Policy 1: The Land Use Element shall assure the long-term availability of sites for future public and quasi-public buildings, infrastructure, and other facilities.

Program 1.A: The City shall periodically review its official Land Use Map and development patterns to assure the availability of adequate sites for future public and quasi-public buildings, infrastructure, and other facilities. The City shall confer and coordinate with utilities and other public and quasi-public agencies regarding their long-term needs.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Public Works, CVWD, DWA, Riverside County Flood Control, SCE, SCG, Frontier, Spectrum.

Schedule: Immediate; every five years

Policy 2: The City shall routinely evaluate and update, as appropriate, its Capital Improvement Program.

Program 2.A: Establish and implement a Capital Improvement Program review and update schedule, which includes annual reviews, analysis and comprehensive revisions every five years.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Public Works, CVWD, DWA, Riverside County Flood Control, SCE, SCG, Frontier, Spectrum.

Schedule: Immediate; every five years

Policy 3: Coordinate with public utility providers and other public/quasi-public agencies to assure that utility buildings and facilities are compatible with the surrounding landscape.

Program 3.A: All new maintenance and utility facilities (and their signage) shall be integrated into the surrounding environment using landscape treatments, architectural elements, and/or other appropriate design mechanisms. Whether as a regulatory or advisory function, design plans shall be reviewed by the Planning Department.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Public Works, CVWD, DWA, Riverside County Flood Control, SCE, SCG, Frontier, Spectrum.

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 4: To the greatest extent practicable, the City shall encourage the undergrounding of electrical power lines.

Program 4.A: Consult and coordinate with Southern California Edison regarding the costs, methods, potential barriers to, and feasibility of undergrounding electrical power lines.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Southern California Edison

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 5: Critical structures and facilities (including civic administrative center, hospitals, fire stations, police stations, schools and major communications facilities) shall be restricted from geologically and hydrologically hazardous areas, to the greatest extent practical.

Program 5.A: The City shall review all development proposals for new critical structures to assure they demonstrate safety in terms of geologic, hydrologic and other engineering conditions of the site.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Public Works

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 6: Public facilities shall be responsive to the needs of the community and maintained in a manner that enhances the comfort and safety of community members, City employees, and other occupants.

Program 6.A: Investigate the feasibility of expanding the City's existing corporate yard to accommodate larger office space, parking lots, and maintenance facilities.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Public Works

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 6.B: Continue to investigate the feasibility of constructing a new community center, including potential sites, constraints, and funding opportunities.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Parks and Recreation

Schedule: Ongoing

Program 6.C: Establish a facilities upkeep and restoration master plan for City-owned facilities.

Responsible Parties: Facilities Services Division

Schedule: Ongoing

Water, Sewer and Utilities Sub-Element

PURPOSE

The Water, Sewer and Utilities Sub-Element establishes City policies and programs pertaining to domestic water, sewage treatment, and other utilities. The provision of these services is essential for the orderly growth and development of the community. In addition to water and sewer services, this sub-element addresses natural gas, electricity, telephone, cable, and solid waste management. It sets forth goals, policies and programs necessary to provide a coordinated system of services to the City at full buildout.

BACKGROUND

The Water, Sewer and Utilities Sub-Element is directly related to the Land Use Element, in that new development must be planned in conjunction with the extension and availability of essential infrastructure. Other related sub-elements include Water Resources, Energy Resources, Mineral Resources, and Flooding and Hydrology.

According to California Government Code Section 65302(d), the General Plan is required to address the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources, including water. Related to this is the availability and utilization of natural resources, such as natural gas and electricity. This sub-element satisfies, in part, the requirement for a Conservation Element, and addresses other utilities as allowed by Section 65303. California Government Code Section 65103(c) requires that the City review its capital improvement program annually to assure consistency with the General Plan. This sub-element provides an effective and meaningful framework from which to comply with this law.

DOMESTIC WATER

Groundwater Resources

The primary groundwater repository for the Coachella Valley is the Whitewater River Subbasin, which encompasses nearly 400 square miles. Most of the City of Cathedral City overlies the Palm Springs subarea of the Whitewater River Subbasin, which contains an estimated 4.6 million acre-feet of groundwater in storage in the first 1,000 feet below the ground surface. The easterly portion of the City occurs over the Upper Thermal subarea, which extends as far east as the Salton Sea. The entire Thermal subarea (including the Upper and Lower portions) contains approximately 19.4 million acre-feet of groundwater in storage in the first 1,000 feet below the surface. The northernmost portion of the planning area, north of Interstate-10 and south of the Indio Hills, overlies the Thousand Palms subarea. This subarea contains approximately 1.8 million acre-feet of groundwater in storage. The hydrological and geophysical characteristics of these subareas are discussed in greater detail in the Water Resources Sub-Element, as are methods of groundwater replenishment and consumption rates in the Coachella Valley.

Coachella Valley Water District

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) provides domestic water to development north and east of the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel. CVWD utilizes deep wells to extract groundwater from the Whitewater River Subbasin. Within the planning area, CVWD's domestic water system includes 12 well sites, 2 booster stations, 3 water storage reservoirs, and water mains up to 30 inches in diameter. Major water trunk lines include those beneath Date Palm Drive, Vista Chino, 30th Avenue, Ramon Road, Dinah Shore Drive and Gerald Ford Drive. Nearly all development in CVWD's service area, south of I-10, is connected to its water delivery system.



Land north of Interstate-10 in the planning area is also located within CVWD's service area. However, there is currently (2019) no development in this part of the City. CVWD's domestic water infrastructure in this area is limited to two large water storage reservoirs located south of Varner Road, approximately one-half mile west of Date Palm Drive. The reservoirs are connected to development south of I-10 by a 30-inch water main, which extends south along Varner Road and Date Palm Drive, then crosses beneath the interstate. Other water mains north of I-10 are limited to those on 20th Avenue west of Mountain View Road and outside the city limits. CVWD has indicated that it will be able to expand its water delivery system to serve future development in this area, should the demand for such facilities warrant.

Desert Water Agency

The Desert Water Agency (DWA) provides domestic water to development south and west of the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel. Nearly all development in DWA's service area, including development in the Cove and the downtown district, is connected to DWA's water delivery system. Within Cathedral City, DWA's water delivery system includes 3 wells, 2 booster stations, 4 water storage reservoirs, and water mains ranging in size from 2 to 24 inches in diameter. Two of the wells are located near the intersection of Crossley and Ramon Roads, and the other is located at Cathedral Canyon Drive and Kieley Road. Each is capable of producing between 1,800 and 2,400 gallons of water per minute. The booster stations are located in the Cove and are capable of pumping between 200 and 400 gallons per minute. The reservoirs are in the immediate vicinity of the Cove, and their capacities range from 100,000 to 500,000 gallons. Major trunk lines include those under East Palm Canyon Drive, Cathedral Canyon Drive, and Perez Road.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT

Coachella Valley Water District

The Coachella Valley Water District provides wastewater collection and treatment services to lands north and east of the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel. Wastewater is conveyed through sewer lines ranging from 4 to 24 inches in diameter. The major wastewater conveyance facilities include 15-inch and 24-inch sewer trunk lines, which extend along Date Palm Drive. From Date Palm Drive, the 15-inch line continues east on Gerald Ford Drive, and the 24-inch line continues east along the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel, where it feeds into the Cook Street Wastewater Reclamation Plant in Palm Desert.



CVWD operates six wastewater reclamation plants (WRP) in the Coachella Valley, with treatment capacities ranging from 0.03 to 24 million gallons per day. Three of its WRPs generate recycled wastewater used for irrigation of golf courses and landscaping. CVWD receives a combined average of 18 million gallons of wastewater per day. Approximately 6.3 billion gallons of wastewater are treated yearly. CVWD continually increases the capacity of its wastewater reclamation facilities by constructing new treatment ponds, aeration plants and other structures. Wastewater from Cathedral City is conveyed to and treated at WRP-10 in Palm Desert.

Desert Water Agency

DWA's service area encompasses lands south and west of the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel. Its sewer mains range from 8 to 18 inches in diameter. DWA does not operate a wastewater treatment plant. Instead, its wastewater collection system is connected to CVWD's sewer system by two lift stations at: 1) Date Palm Drive and Buddy Rogers Drive, and 2) Cathedral Canyon Drive near Kieley Road. Wastewater collected by DWA is gravity-fed to these lift stations, where it joins CVWD's sewer system and is conveyed to the Cook Street wastewater reclamation plant (WRP-10) in Palm Desert.

Septic Usage

In the 1990s, septic tank usage in Cathedral City was linked to high nitrate and bacteria levels in drinking water due to septic tank seepage in the upper levels of the underground aquifer. The City worked with septic tank users in the Cove, Dream Homes, and other neighborhoods to establish assessment districts and secure grants and other funding to complete millions of dollars of sewer improvements. In 2008, the City initiated the Cove Improvement District Sewer and Street Project, a two-phase project that connected Cove residences to the sewer system. The city also passed an ordinance banning septic tanks and began fining homeowners who are not connected to the sewer system. It passed an ordinance (Ord. 626 § 1, 2006) that allows developers to be reimbursed by the city when sewer improvements they install subsequently benefit other properties located between the sewer improvements and the point of connection to an existing main.

Tertiary Treated Water

In response to increasing demands for groundwater supplies in the Coachella Valley, CVWD has implemented the use of tertiary (third-stage) treated wastewater for the irrigation of golf courses and other landscaped areas. Traditionally, wastewater is treated to secondary levels and reintroduced into the groundwater table through percolation ponds. With tertiary treatment techniques, wastewater undergoes an additional stage of treatment, which renders it suitable for irrigation and contributes to water conservation efforts. The Cook Street wastewater treatment plant has a tertiary water capacity of 15 mgd.

Green Infrastructure

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been the major federal proponent of green infrastructure, developing further guidance on how agencies can meet their EPA mandates, promoting low-impact development as part of its sustainable development initiatives, and adopting the Strategic Agenda to Protect Waters and build More Livable Communities through Green Infrastructure to provide assistance to local governments, and to also encourage better urban stormwater management.

OTHER UTILITIES

Electric Services

Southern California Edison (SCE) provides electricity to much of coastal, central, and southern California, including Cathedral City. SCE derives its power from a number of sources, including cogeneration, geothermal, hydroelectric, solar, and wind sources. Its most important generating facilities are the Big Creek hydroelectric system, a complex of hydroelectric facilities located on the western slope of the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains, which comprises approximately 90% of SCE's hydroelectric generation capacity. SCE recently closed its San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), which it jointly owned with San Diego Gas & Electric and the cities of Riverside and Anaheim. This facility is now closed and in the process of being decommissioned. In 2017, 38 percent of SCE's power supplies came from fossil fuels (Coal and natural gas) and 9 percent came from nuclear.

SCE offers a wide range of programs that promote energy conservation and help residential and business consumers reduce their electricity costs. These include rebates for customers who install energy-efficient home appliances, air conditioners, insulation, and insulated windows. SCE's Design and Engineering Services department conducts technical analyses to encourage and facilitate the creation and use of new energy-efficient technologies. The company showcases a variety of residential, business, industrial and agricultural energy solutions at technology centers and offers training courses and special events to present these solutions to the public. SCE also provides a number of tools to analyze and improve energy usage habits, such as home and small business energy surveys, which evaluate energy usage and recommend methods for reducing energy costs and consumption. A series of low-income programs provides qualified customers with energy-efficient refrigerators, discounted cooling systems, and weatherization services.

SCE's facilities include high-voltage transmission lines, lower voltage distribution lines, and substations, which "step down" voltage so that it can be distributed to homes and businesses. SCE's transmission system includes high-voltage lines rated at 500, 230, 115, 66, and 55 kilovolts (kV). These lines connect substations and feed into the distribution network serving businesses, homes, and other electric power customers. Distribution lines are those rated below 55 kV. Electric power is transported to individual homes and businesses from substations through 33 and 12 kV distribution lines. Some distribution lines are supported by wooden and steel poles, while others are undergrounded.

Within Cathedral City, SCE's facilities include four substations, major transmission lines (including those on Date Palm Drive, Landau Boulevard, and Dinah Shore Drive), and distribution lines which carry electricity to homes and businesses.

Planning for future electricity infrastructure involves determining the need for additional facilities, assessing potential environmental impacts, preparing applications for necessary regulatory permits, and regulatory review and approval. SCE performs annual five-year and ten-year growth and service forecasts to assure that its electrical transmission system will be adequate to serve future populations.

Natural Gas

Southern California Gas (SoCalGas; The Gas Company) provides natural gas services and facilities to Cathedral City. The natural gas originates in Texas and is transported to the Coachella Valley through three east-west trending gas lines, which cross the valley just north of Interstate-10 and continue west to Los Angeles. These include one 30-inch line and two 24-inch lines, with pressures of 2,000 pounds per square inch (psi). In 2019, SoCalGas announced it filed a request with the California Public Utilities Commission seeking to offer renewable natural gas to its customers. Renewable natural gas is produced from waste and agriculture; it can help California reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and decrease costs to consumers.

High-pressure gas lines are typically steel pipes with pressures greater than 60 psi. Within Cathedral City, major high-pressure gas lines are located within the rights-of-way of Date Palm Drive, Vista Chino, Varner Road and Mountain View Road. Two high-pressure lines are also located along East Palm Canyon Drive, one on the north side of the street and one on the south. Medium-pressure distribution lines typically consist of plastic pipes (older pipes may be constructed of steel) with pressures less than 60 psi. Most residences are fed through pipes rated at 25 to 40 psi. The Cove and most other residential neighborhoods in the planning area are connected to medium-pressure distribution lines.

Most development in Cathedral City is connected to the natural gas system; however, several small pockets of development are not connected and use propane as an alternative fuel source.

Telecommunication Services

Frontier Communications, formerly Verizon California, provides a wide range of residential and commercial telephone services to the City. Telephone services include local and long distance services, calling cards, business 800 numbers, and voice mail. Frontier also provides state-of-the-art data services such as FiOS fiber-based and DSL internet and high-speed data connections, offering speeds of up to 150 Mbps. The backbone of Frontier's communications system consists of central switching offices, which are responsible for the connection of telephone and data transmissions. The City is connected to three central switching offices located outside the City limits, including the following: 1) on the west side of DaVall Road, north of Gerald Ford Drive in Rancho Mirage, 2) on the southwest corner of Sunrise Way and Amado Road in Palm Springs, and 3) on the east side of Palm Drive at 1st Street in Desert Hot Springs. A smaller, unmanned sub-switching unit, located on the east side of Date Palm Drive south of McCallum Way in Cathedral City, is fed by the Rancho Mirage central switching office. All calls to the City are handled out of these switching stations.

Cable Television

Cable television services is provided to the City by Spectrum and Frontier. The City also has access to Channel 17, a public service channel, which it uses to broadcast City Council meetings. Access to this channel is not exclusive to Cathedral City, but is shared with other cities in the Coachella Valley.

Solid Waste Management

Burrtec Recovery and Transfer provides solid waste collection and disposal services to Cathedral City through a franchise agreement. Standard residential pick-up occurs once a week, and commercial pick-up is offered up to six days per week. Additional collection services are offered to large waste generators, such as restaurants and hotels. Burrtec collects solid waste from its service area and transfers it to the Edom Hill Transfer Station in northern Cathedral City. Edom Hill is permitted to receive a maximum of 3,500 tons of waste per day. From Edom Hill, waste is trucked to Lamb Canyon Sanitary Landfill in Beaumont, Badlands Landfill in Moreno Valley, or El Sobrante Landfill in Corona. These landfills are owned and operated by Riverside County and have a combined remaining capacity of 178.8 million cubic yards.

Burrtec uses a two-cart automated collection system throughout Cathedral City. Customers are provided with one bin for trash and one for green waste; the bins are lifted and dumped into garbage trucks mechanically. Recyclables are placed in curb-side 18-gallon tubs, which are lifted and dumped manually. During 2017, a total of 43,045 tons of trash were collected in Cathedral City.⁸

Recycling

In 2016, Governor Brown signed a mandate that California would reduce, recycle, or compost 50% of waste by 2020 and a 75% reduction by 2025. The City's recycling program has proven beneficial in the preservation of landfill space for non-recyclable materials. During 2017, a total of 3,590 tons of recyclable materials were collected in Cathedral City. This includes 1,532 tons from residential curb-side sources; 570 tons from commercial sources; and 1,488 tons of concrete and other debris from construction sites. Green waste is recycled at BioMass in Thermal. Other recyclables, including glass, plastic and newspaper are transported by a third-party hauler to a recycling company in Los Angeles.

Street Sweeping

Routine street sweeping helps reduce PM₁₀ blowsand throughout the Coachella Valley. Many of Cathedral City's arterial streets are part of the Regional PM₁₀ Street Sweeping Program managed by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG). CVAG administers arterial street sweeping through funds the City receives from the Air Quality Fund. The City Public Works Department manages street sweeping on local streets. The City is divided into eight (8) zones, and streets in each zone are swept once a month.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Nationally and locally, we are in a revolution of evolving water, sewer and utility services. All utilities are seeking ways to make service more efficient and less resource intensive. Lowering water demand at every level, reducing solid waste and the amount that gets to the landfill, and converting sewage waste into soil amendments and energy, and converting other waste to methane to generate "renewable natural gas" are just some of the examples of current efforts. And the City is working to get more out of its buildings and services, while continuing to improve the quality of life for its residents, visitors and business. Meanwhile, our schools are providing the intellectual backbone or infrastructure for more conscientious consumers and the development of young entrepreneurs that will help all of these advances take root. While the role the City can play in many of these areas is indirect, it can provide important encouragement and support to help make them a reality.

⁸ CalRecycle Jurisdiction Disposal by Facility: Cathedral City 2017

GOALS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Goal 5: Economical utility services and facilities that adequately and safely meet the immediate and long-term needs of the community.

Policy 1: The City shall encourage CVWD and DWA to implement short- and long-term plans for a fully integrated, city-wide sewer system.

Program 1.A: Confer and coordinate with CVWD and DWA on methods to finance the upgrading and expansion of the sewer and domestic water systems, including the establishment of assessment and/or community facilities districts that also provide financial assistance for economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Responsible Parties: City Manager, Public Works, Finance, CVWD, DWA

Schedule: Ongoing

Policy 2: Monitor resource management activities of the CVWD, DWA, and California Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRWQCB) to preserve and protect water resources and quality.

Program 2.A: The City shall support the efforts of DWA and CVWD to construct and expand facilities that treat and distribute reclaimed water.

Responsible Parties: DWA, CVWD

Schedule: Ongoing

Policy 3: The City shall encourage and, to the extent practicable, facilitate the diversification of the energy resources through the development of renewable sources of electricity, natural gas and hydrogen fuels.

Program 3.A: The City shall explore avenues for the expansion of roof-top solar and utility-scale wind energy development, and the implementation of domestic and utility-scale storage systems.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Public Works, SCE

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 3.B: The City shall explore avenues for the expansion of renewable sources of natural gas from landfills, hydrogen fuels, and associated storage systems.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Public Works, SoCal Gas, SunLine Transit Agency

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 4: To enhance their long-term viability and to protect against service disruptions due to earthquakes, floods and extreme weather, utility lines shall be undergrounded wherever practicable. Those most subject to disruption and located along major streets and image corridors shall have primary consideration for undergrounding.

Program 4.A: The City shall confer and coordinate with SCE to identify existing above-ground power lines that are candidates for cost-effective undergrounding, with a special emphasis on those occurring along City image corridors.

Responsible Parties: Planning, Public Works, SCE

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 5: The City shall confer and coordinate with the local solid waste hauler/manager and identify and evaluate the potential to expand waste recycling, encourage use of packaging materials that are most recyclable, and eliminate non-recyclable packaging from the waste stream.