

Introduction

CONTENT OF THIS ELEMENT

Many of the sustainability policies included here for both public services and facilities, and safety refer to existing programs, providing supporting policies, and linking them more effectively to land use planning. Other policies aim to ensure hazards and safety are adequately addressed in development. Noise is included in this element because it is a form of hazard or nuisance

In development of Santa Barbara's General Plan, new goals and policies were identified for all aspects of a more sustainable community. This was necessary because sustainability in itself is an acknowledgement of the interrelationships of all facets of the community. This is not to say that the initial set of goals and policies is complete, only that the new goals and policies were the result of holistic planning with the understanding that the General Plan is a living, evolving document. As the City focuses its planning resources on the various separate elements of the General Plan, all of the goals, policies and implementation actions will also evolve.

The sustainability goals, policies and implementation actions presented here provide interim guidance for resource conservation, use and development. The sustainability policies include policies that have been drafted and revised over the course of the *Plan Santa Barbara* process, existing policies transferred from either the existing Land Use or Housing elements, and policies required or recommended as mitigation measures in the Draft EIR. These latter policies are annotated using italics and the mitigation measure number since the measures have not been adopted yet.

This element also includes the existing text for the Safety and Seismic Safety, and Noise elements, including any existing goals and policies.



Sustainability Goals and Policies

GOALS

- ***Present and Future Service Needs.*** Ensure that public infrastructure and services are planned, sited, upgraded and maintained to meet present and future service needs efficiently, economically and in a manner consistent with a sustainable community and climate change.
- ***Safety and Preparedness.*** Emphasize safety and emergency preparedness as an integral part of land use planning.

City Infrastructure Policies

- PS1. **City Services and Facilities.** City services and facilities shall be built, maintained and operated in a manner to provide adequate services to all residents and coexist compatibly with surrounding land uses.

Implementation Action

- PS1.1 Service and Facility Performance. Monitor services and facilities and report status regularly to the Planning Commission.

- PS2. **Financing Capital Improvements.** The City shall pursue a variety of financing sources for the maintenance and enhancement of capital improvement projects.

Implementation Actions

- PS2.1 Fees. Investigate increasing fees to finance the cost of capital improvements.
- PS2.2 Bonds. Pursue voter approval of general obligation bonds for major capital improvements.
- PS2.3 Impacts to City-Wide Service. Individual projects shall be evaluated for their impacts on the City's ability to provide adequate services and facilities.
- PS2.4 Timing. Services and facilities shall be available for developments prior to approving projects and/or issuing occupancy or use certificates.

- PS3. **Planning for Climate Change Adaptation.** The City shall include in the Climate Action Plan an estimated timeline of anticipated potential climate changes over the next 100 years to the extent information is available. This timeline will be periodically updated as part of the Adaptive Management Program and will be considered in all City capital projects.

Water Supply and Wastewater Policies

- PS4. **Long-Range Water Supply Plan.** The City shall update and maintain the currency of the City Long-Range Water Supply Plan to accommodate needs for the next 20-year period, including measures addressing:
- Water supply changes from State Water Project, local surface and groundwater sources, recycled water use, the desalinization plant and water conservation,
 - Water demand changes for both current and future development, population, and annexations, and
 - Possible effects of climate change. (PS1)
- PS5. **Water Conservation Program.** The use of water conservation practices shall be both encouraged and required, as appropriate, for all development projects.

Implementation Actions

- PS5.1 Water Conservation Programs. Continue and expand the City programs to require, or encourage water conservation measures, such as services to water customers (e.g., free water check-ups, smart irrigation controller program, rain sensor rebate), public information and education measures to water customers, web site, elementary students, and Green Gardener training, and public brochures, videos, and advertising; water-conserving landscape design standards, City building conservation standards, and inverted block rate billing to promote conservation. (PS2)
- PS5.2 Recycled Water. Expand existing programs for use of recycled water for irrigation at parks, schools, golf courses and new development proximate to supplies. Evaluate methods to optimize the feasible use of recycled water in place of potable water, including potential system extensions, and additional uses such as toilet flushing in major commercial, industrial and recreational facilities. (PS3)
- *Require dual plumbing to provide recycled water for flushing all toilets and urinals in new commercial and industrial buildings within 0.25 mile of existing or planned recycled water lines. [RM PU-1.b]*
 - *Provide incentives for all new development and major remodels adjacent to existing recycled water lines to install dual plumbing and utilize recycled water for toilet flushing. [RM PU-1.b]*
- PS5.3 On-Site Storage and Reuse. Identify more detailed guidelines for use of cisterns and grey water in new development and retrofitting existing development. (PS5)

- PS6. **Regional Cooperation on Water Conservation.** Work with the County and other jurisdictions to develop regional water conservation programs and projects.

Implementation Actions

- PS6.1 Gibraltar and Cachuma Reservoirs. Work with the County and other jurisdictions to prepare watershed management plans with the purpose of protecting and extending the useful life of the Gibraltar and Cachuma reservoirs. (PS7)
- *Reservoir Protection and Enhancement. Coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service and other watershed landowners to improve controlled burns and other ecologically-appropriate wildland management practices to reduce the severity of wildfires and associated potential for sediment inflow into Lake Cachuma and Gibraltar Reservoir; consider providing funding for controlled burns, erosion control, installation of sediment detention or debris basins and other techniques, use of City firefighters for management of controlled burns, and other assistance as appropriate to management of the watersheds above the City's reservoirs.*
 - *Initiate a study to consider if silt removal from Gibraltar Reservoir is feasible to increase supply flexibility in adapting to climate change impacts on supply reliability. [RM PU 1.d]*
- PS6.2. Groundwater Banking. Investigate agreements with other water purveyors that have available groundwater storage capacity to store surplus water for later use during drought. (PS4)
- PS6.3 Agricultural Water Marketing Agreements. Pursue with the County and other jurisdictions a regional approach to agreements with the agricultural industry to purchase water in times of drought for use by urban communities. (PS6)

Waste Management, Recycling and Disposal Policies

- PS7. **Solid Waste Management Programs.** Continue and expand City recycling programs for resource reduction, reuse, and recycling of solid waste. (PS8)

Implementation Actions

- PS7.1 Construction/Demolition Materials Reuse and Recycling. Upgrade standard development requirements for recycling of construction/demolition debris or architectural salvage and incentives for use of renewable, or reused or recycled materials. (PS9)
- PS7.2 Local Recycled Materials. Promote the use of recycled carpeting, furnishings, wall coverings, and architectural salvage or other building materials – per LEED or comparable standards – in new construction and major renovations. Promote and/or support local stores for reusable and recycled building materials. (PS10)
- PS7.3 Design and Space Requirements for Waste Management for Private Development. Provide more detailed guidance on space needs and designs for recycling in both new development and to retrofit existing development. (PS11)

- PS7.4 Methane Conversion Facilities. *Continue to coordinate with and provide support to the County in its existing partnership with other South Coast agencies to facilitate construction of a waste-to-energy facility at the Tajiguas Landfill. If the waste-to-energy facility proves infeasible, the City will work with the County as needed to identify an appropriate site within the North County for a new solid waste disposal facility.* [MM PU-1; RM CLIMATE-2]
- PS7.5 Fuel Cell. *The City will consider the feasibility of installation of a fuel cell at the former Las Positas landfill site.* [RM CLIMATE-2]

Hazards Avoidance Policies

- PS8. **Hazardous Materials Exposure.** Seek to provide facilities and guidance so that new development and redevelopment projects avoid exposure to hazardous materials and provide for their safe disposal.

Implementation Action

- PS8.1 Household Hazardous Materials and Wastes. *Coordinate with other South Coast jurisdictions and the waste management industry to develop additional household hazardous waste collection facilities on the South Coast.* [MM HAZ-2]
- PS9. **Bluff Retreat.** *All development and redevelopment, renovations and additions on bluff-top parcels shall consider the potential effects of climate change on bluff retreat for the life of the project.*

Implementation Action

- PS9.1 Bluff Retreat Formula. *Update the existing Seismic Safety Element bluff retreat formula to reflect updated information for the 75-year bluff setback line.* [MM GEO-1.a]

Noise Policies

- PS10. **Noise Guidelines for Non-Residential Zones.** Take into consideration the surrounding existing and future legal land uses in establishing noise standards for residential uses.

Implementation Actions

- PS10.1 Update the General Plan Noise Element Land Use Compatibility Guidelines including establishing 65 dB(A) CNEL as the appropriate maximum outdoor noise level for residential land uses. This ambient noise guideline for residential building construction shall assure indoor noise levels meet building code requirements of 45 dB(A) level. (ER37)
- PS10.2 **Construction Noise.** Establish different construction noise standards for mixed-use urban and suburban residential areas, including standards for days, hours, and types of construction. (ER38)

- PS11. **Sound Barriers.** The City supports and will assist in the provision of sound barriers along the Hwy 101 transportation corridor.

Implementation Actions

PS11.1 Local Share Funding. The City should pursue funding toward the extension and connection of the sound attenuation wall along the entire U.S. Hwy 101 and Union Pacific Railroad corridor within City boundaries.

PS11.2 Interagency Coordination. *Work with neighborhoods, the California Department of Transportation, and Union Pacific Railroad to identify and implement specific measures to reduce future freeway noise increases affecting expanded areas of existing residential neighborhoods with noise levels of 65 dBA or more. Noise attenuation measures may include added sound walls along portions of the freeway and/or local measures.* [MM NOISE-1]

Emergency Preparedness Policies

- PS12. **Emergency Workforce.** Work cooperatively with other jurisdictions in the South Coast Region to ensure in the event of a disaster, essential workers are available and resourced to be able to respond adequately and with timeliness.
- PS13. **Consideration of People with Disabilities in Emergency Planning.** Update evacuation plans and other emergency or contingency plans with provisions addressing the special needs and measures required to ensure the safety of people with disabilities.