Attachment K

Natural Resources Element

Chapter 4 NATURAL RESOURCES

A commitment to the conservation of natural resources ensures the ongoing availability of finite resources, such as open space, safe water supply, clean air, scenic vistas, and energy resources. This assurance contributes substantially to the physical and psychological health and well-being of the community and strengthens the vitality of the local and regional economic base. Goals and policies in this chapter address the preservation and maintenance of Agoura Hills' environmental resources, not only to benefit current residents, but also to ensure the sustainability of these resources for future generations.

A. Open Space

A ring of open space land surrounds the City of Agoura Hills. The open lands within and surrounding the City, combined with its close proximity to regional parks, provide an immediate scenic and recreational benefit to local residents and an important habitat area for wildlife. In addition, open space promotes the quality of life by providing psychological relief, and is a source of civic pride. Open space provides opportunities for tourism, and increases property values, as people find it desirable to live near open space areas. The City of Agoura Hills is situated at the gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, which offers miles of hiking, equestrian, and bicycling trails, and guided nature walks. Within the community, there are 2,000 acres of land in that are deed restricted or designated for preservation as open space. The sheer abundance of the community's designated open space areas, and the scenic hillsides that define the City, contribute to its unique character quality of life.

Cheeseboro Canyon, part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, has over 2,000 acres of rolling oak woodland

Some of the larger open space parcels located within Agoura Hills and the adjoining planning area are designated as restricted open space. This category includes areas in which development rights are assumed to exist, but where development potential is constrained because of natural habitat, visual and aesthetic value, and ownership by land conservation groups. Some dwelling units are allowed within restricted open space areas limited to densities of no greater than one unit per 5 acres. Other areas, such as Morrison Highlands, contain restricted open space/deed-restricted lands that are held by homeowners associations. Figure NR-1 (Open Space Resources) identifies open space resource areas within and surrounding the City of Agoura Hills and includes a wildlife corridor, City parks, school playgrounds, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area. Other open space areas identified on this map include private lands, such as those owned by homeowners associations (Morrison Ranch) or private development sites (Ladyface Mountain Specific Plan, and publicly owned-preserved open space (Agoura Village).Within the community, several open space corridors provide access for people and wildlife to passive and active open

space lands. The City recognizes the need to preserve and protect these corridors, while working with surrounding jurisdictions to create an efficient system.

Key open space resources—Lindero Canyon, Medea Creek, Ladyface Mountain, Palo Comado Hills, Morrison Hills, Southeast Ridge, and Indian Hills—serve as linkages through the community. Lindero Canyon, which runs along the northwest boundary of Agoura Hills, consists of an open space corridor and a golf course. Medea Creek traverses the center of the City, including an open space area. The Ladyface Mountain open space area is within the Ladyface Mountain Specific Plan area, in the southwest portion of the City. Collectively, these resources provide access to active and passive open spaces throughout Agoura Hills and the surrounding area and provide biological habitat for wildlife and visual value for the community.

There are four primary ridgelines within the City: Morrison Highlands, Fountainwood, Ladyface Mountain, and the Southeast Ridge (Figure NR-1). The Morrison Hills are located in the Morrison Ranch area in the north-central portion of the City, while the Palo Comado Hills are in the northeastern part of the City, within Old Agoura. The southwestern part of the City is the location of the Southeast Ridge/Indian Hills open space.

Goal NR-1

Open Space System. Preservation of open space to sustain natural ecosystems and visual resources that contribute to the quality of life and character of Agoura Hills.

Policies

Park land preserve on Agoura Road

NR-1.1 **Open Space Preservation.** Continue efforts to acquire and preserve open space lands for purposes of recreation, habitat protection and enhancement, resource conservation, flood hazard management, public safety, aesthetic visual resource, and overall community benefit. *(Imp LU-14, LU-15, NR-1)*

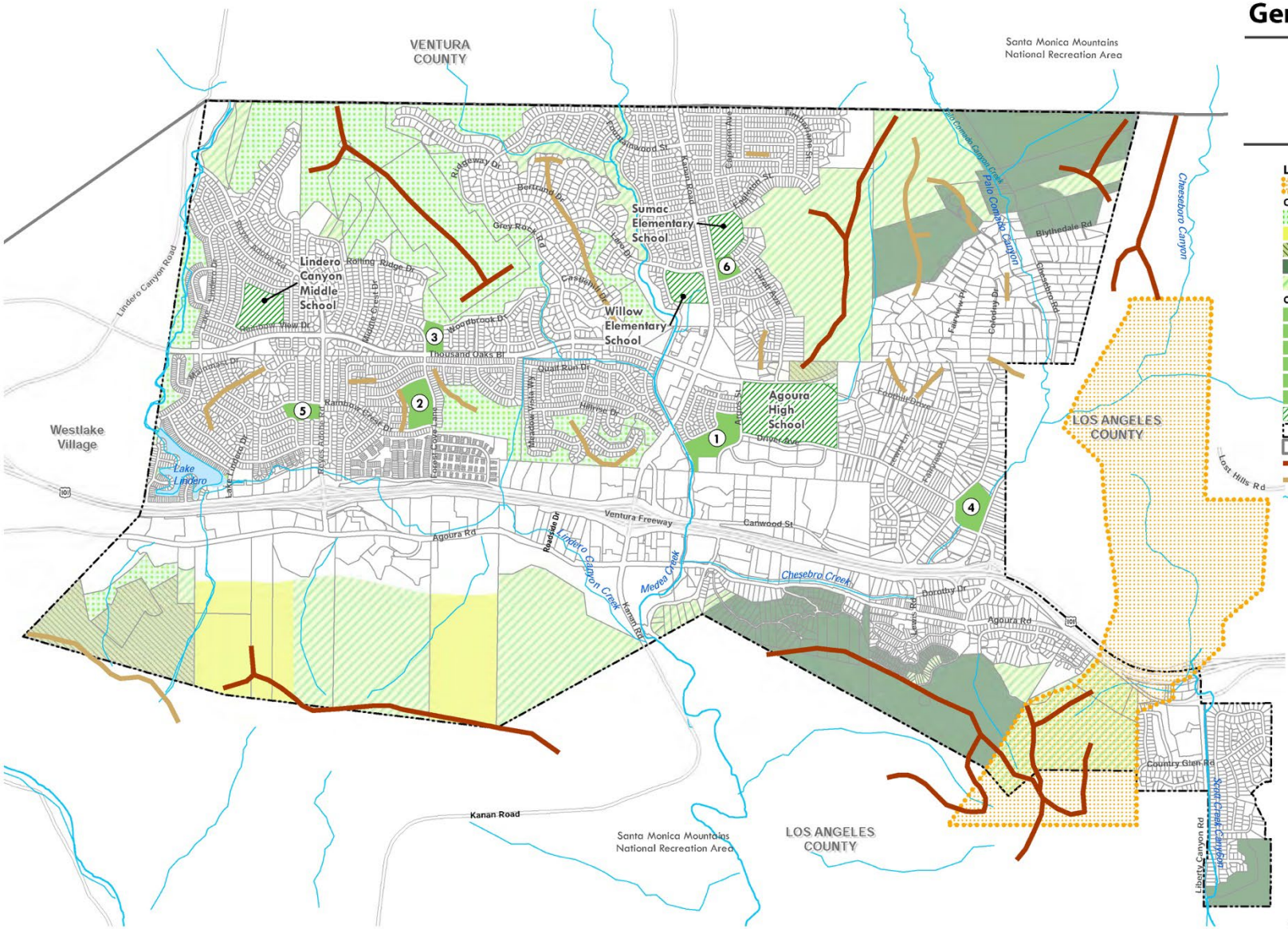
NR-1.2 **New Development.** Require new development to create a transition area between open space resources and development to minimize the impacts affecting these resources. *(Imp NR-2)*

NR-1.3 **Slope Preservation.** Require that uses involving grading or other alteration of land maintain the natural topographic character and ensure that downstream properties and watercourses are not adversely affected by siltation or runoff. *(Imp LU-11, LU-12, NR-3)*

NR-1.4 **Wildlife Habitat.** Prioritize preservation of open space in its natural form to support sensitive, endangered, threatened, or otherwise protected species as part of a contiguous system that allows the movement of wildlife from one habitat area to another. *(Imp NR-1, NR-4, NR-5)*

CITY of AGOURA HILLS
General Plan Update

Open Space Resources



Legend

- Wildlife Corridor

Open Space

- HOA Owned and Preserved
- Ladyface Mountain Specific Plan Open Space
- Possible Future Open Space
- Private Open Space
- Publicly Owned or Preserved Open Space

City Parks

1. Chumash Park
2. Forest Cove Park
3. Morrison Park
4. Old Agoura Park
5. Reyes Adobe Park
6. Sumac Park

- School Playgrounds
- City Limits
- County Boundary
- Primary Ridgeline
- Secondary Ridgeline
- Creeks/Drainage Corridors

Source: City of Agoura Hills, 2009.

Miles 0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75

Figure NR-1

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NR-1.5 **Funding.** Pursue and apply for grant funding from existing and anticipated county, state, federal, private, and other funding sources to support the purchase of open space and the restoration of open space resources. *(Imp NR-1)*

B. Visual Resources

Hillsides

Situated within the Santa Monica Mountains, the City of Agoura Hills has many hillsides within its jurisdiction; however, six primary ridgelines dominate the community's landscape. These ridgelines remain generally undeveloped; however, some construction has occurred at the base of the hillsides. The ridgelines identified below have slopes greater than 25 percent and are the primary topographical features viewed from the Ventura Freeway corridor and major arterials within Agoura Hills.

View of Ladyface Mountain

Ladyface Mountain between Kanan Road and the western City limits on the southern border of Agoura Hills reaches a peak elevation of 2,036 feet. One ridgeline in the northwestern portion of the community is situated above Thousand Oaks Boulevard and west of Kanan Road, and the two others are located in the northeastern corner of Agoura Hills. A ridgeline in the southeast corner of Agoura Hills between Kanan and Liberty Canyon Roads creates the City's southern boundary. Outside Agoura Hills' boundaries to the northeast is a ridgeline situated within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

A number of secondary ridgelines are located in Agoura Hills. These ridgelines, while important visual form-giving and space-defining features, are of lesser significance than primary ridgelines because views of these features are partially blocked or the s have been developed with urban land uses. Topographical features within Agoura Hills create important viewsheds in the community, and development should be limited within these areas as outlined in the City's Hillside Development Ordinance.

Scenic Resources

View of the Santa Monica Mountains from Morrison Ranch

The massive volcanic structure of Ladyface Mountain within the Santa Monica Mountains provides a dramatic backdrop to the City as viewed from along the freeway corridor and other arterials. Ladyface Mountain, which rises to a dramatic elevation of over 2,000 feet, is a focal point of community pride and parallels the US 101 corridor. Other important scenic resources include Strawberry Hill (located north of Canwood Street and south of Thousand Oaks Boulevard, just east of Forest Cove Park), Morrison Ranch Hills, the Morrison Ranch Hills (north of Thousand Oaks Boulevard, generally between Reyes Adobe Road and Kanan Road), Palo Comado Hills (in the northeastern corner of the City), and the higher more distant Simi Hills that border the City on the north.

Agoura Hills is known as the "Gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area." The trailhead for the Zuma Ridge, or Simi-to-Sea, Trail that connects the national parklands both north and south of the freeway is within close proximity to the Ventura Freeway and City arterials. The hills of the Santa

Monica Mountains provide panoramic vistas, majestic oak trees, and dramatic backdrops of picturesque canyons and hillsides. Scenic corridors provide an opportunity to take advantage of the natural environment. Scenic corridors can help carry the feeling of rural character throughout the City, both by providing views of open and rural areas from a variety of locations, and by carrying more natural design themes along the roadway and parkway landscaping of the scenic highway itself.

The following road segments are valuable scenic resources in the community that provide scenic views of the Santa Monica Mountains, including Ladyface Mountain.

1. Reyes Adobe Road from Thousand Oaks Blvd. to Agoura Road
2. Thousand Oaks Blvd. from westerly City limits to easterly City limits
3. Agoura Road from westerly City limits to easterly City limits
4. Kanan Road from Agoura Road south to the City limits

Reyes Adobe Road provides scenic vistas to the north and south along the roadway axis, including prominent views of Ladyface Mountain. Single-family residential uses predominate along Reyes Adobe Road, with commercial nodes at Agoura Road and Canwood Street. The landscape theme is varied as the areas between the residential walls and the sidewalk along most of this corridor are owned by private individuals.

Thousand Oaks Boulevard runs east/west though the heart of the residential sections of the community. It provides vistas from key high locations near Strawberry Hill and Reyes Adobe Road. From these high points, there are views of the developed areas of the City with the backdrop of mountains and foothills.

Thousand Oaks Boulevard has landscaping of suburban character and a City landscaped median. Adjacent uses along Thousand Oaks Boulevard are predominantly residential with commercial nodes at Lake Lindero Drive and Kanan Road.

Agoura Road runs east/west through the southern section of the community, along the base of the Santa Monica Mountains foothills. The view along Agoura Road is characterized by close-in foothill views to the south, with occasional vistas beyond the City to the north with the backdrop of rolling hills and the higher, more distant Simi Hills. Through the old commercial district of the City near Chesebro Road, Agoura Road is lined with large mature oak trees. An open rectangular concrete drainage channel carries the Cheeseboro Canyon Wash along the north side of Agoura Road from Medea Creek beyond Waring Place.

Generally, Agoura Road east of Kanan Road is a two-lane arterial developed to rural standard without curb and gutter.

Curb, gutters, and sidewalk requirements have been established by the Agoura Village Specific Plan for portions of Agoura Road in that Plan area. Additionally,

Agoura Road will remain two lanes through the Plan area, generally from Cornell Road to Kanan Road. Portions of the road west of Kanan Road are four lanes. From Kanan Road westerly to the City limits, the roadway in its entirety will eventually become a four-lane arterial.

In general, land to the south of Agoura Road is undeveloped or developed with scattered hillside residential units. Between Agoura Road and the Ventura Freeway are older commercial uses and more recently developed research and development parks and office buildings with surface parking. Between Cornell Road and Kanan Road, Agoura Road runs through the Agoura Village Specific Plan area, forming the primary backbone of the mixed-use development village.

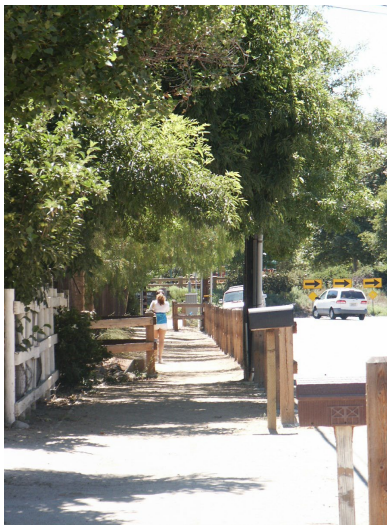
West of Reyes Adobe Road, the south side of Agoura Road is primarily vacant until just before the City limits. However, these parcels are expected to be developed in the future pursuant to the Ladyface Mountain Specific Plan.

Landscaped medians are located along portions of Agoura Road, west of Kanan Road. The Agoura Village Specific Plan establishes guidelines for median landscaping along the segment generally between Cornell Road and Kanan Road while the Ladyface Mountain Specific Plan provides standards for the portion west of Kanan Road to the westerly City limits.

Kanan Road runs north/south through the City. The segment south of Agoura Road to the City limits provides excellent views of Ladyface Mountain. South of Agoura Road, it is currently a two-lane road through undeveloped areas with no landscaping. This segment serves as a scenic entry at the southerly City limits.

Goal NR-2

Visual Resources. Preservation of significant visual resources as important quality of life amenities for residents, and as assets for commerce, recreation, and tourism.



Multi-purpose trail along Driver Avenue

Policies

NR-2.1 **Maintenance of Natural Topography.** Require development to be located and designed to maintain the visual quality of hills, ridgelines, canyons, significant rock outcroppings, and open space areas surrounding the City and locate and design buildings to minimize alteration of natural topography. *(Imp LU-11, LU-12, LU-13, LU-14, LU-15, NR-1)*

NR-2.2 **Trails, Recreation Areas, and Viewing Areas.** Provide public trails, recreation areas, and viewing areas near significant visual resources, where appropriate. *(Imp LU-14, LU-15, CS-2, CS-21)*

NR-2.3 **Protect Ridgelines.** Maintain the community's primary and secondary ridgelines. *(Imp LU-11, LU-12, LU-14, LU-15)*

NR-2.4 **Location and Design of Developments.** Require development within visually sensitive areas to minimize impacts to scenic resources and to

preserve unique or special visual features, particularly in hillside areas, through the following:

- Creative site planning
- Integration of natural features into the project
- Appropriate scale, materials, and design to complement the surrounding natural landscape
- Clustering of development so as to preserve open space vistas and natural features
- Minimal disturbance of topography
- Creation of contiguous open space networks *(Imp LU-10, LU-11, LU-14, LU-15, NR-2)*

NR-2.5 **Signage.** Ensure that building and site signage is appropriate to the use and location, and is not visually intrusive. *(Imp LU-20, NR-28)*

Goal NR-3

Scenic Roads. Maintenance and enhancement of the visual quality of City roads that have valuable scenic resources in order to create a special awareness of the environmental character and natural and man-made resources of the community.

NR-3.1 **Development along Scenic Roads.** Ensure a quality visual experience along the entire length of the scenic roads through protection and enhancement of views and development of appropriate landscaping. *(Imp LU-10, LU-11, LU-14, LU-15)*

NR-3.2 **View Protection.** Preserve the hillside backdrop and natural landforms visible from the scenic roads in their present state to the extent possible. *(Imp LU-10, LU-11, LU-12, LU-14, LU-15)*

C. Biological Resources

A number of sensitive animals and plants live in Agoura Hills' open space areas. (Figure NR-2 [Habitats and Sensitive Species]). These resources may diminish as the City continues to grow, and therefore need to be protected. The County has identified two significant ecological areas (SEAs) with portions in Agoura Hills: the Las Virgenes SEA #6 and Palo Comado Canyon SEA #12. The Las Virgenes SEA, situated southeast of the Kanan and Agoura Road Intersection, and the Palo Comado SEA, located in the northeast corner of Agoura Hills, contain species of sensitive plant life (Figure NR-2).

The majority of this land is, however, currently under private ownership and may be subject to development pressures. The City of Agoura Hills and Los Angeles County have policies and regulations influencing development activities within the SEAs. Agoura Hills' adopted Zoning Ordinance contains measures to protect the SEA from incompatible development, preserve the natural terrain, and maintain a quality environment and aesthetic character of the City while limiting development. The adopted ordinance requires new development to obtain a conditional use permit or architectural review approval prior to the commencement of development within the SEA.

The Liberty Canyon Wildlife Corridor is part of a larger habitat linkage between the Santa Monica Mountains, the Simi Hills, the Santa Susana Mountains, and the Sierra Madre Mountains. The corridor passes through the City in the southeastern corner, as shown on Figure NR-1.

Oak trees are valuable natural resources in the community

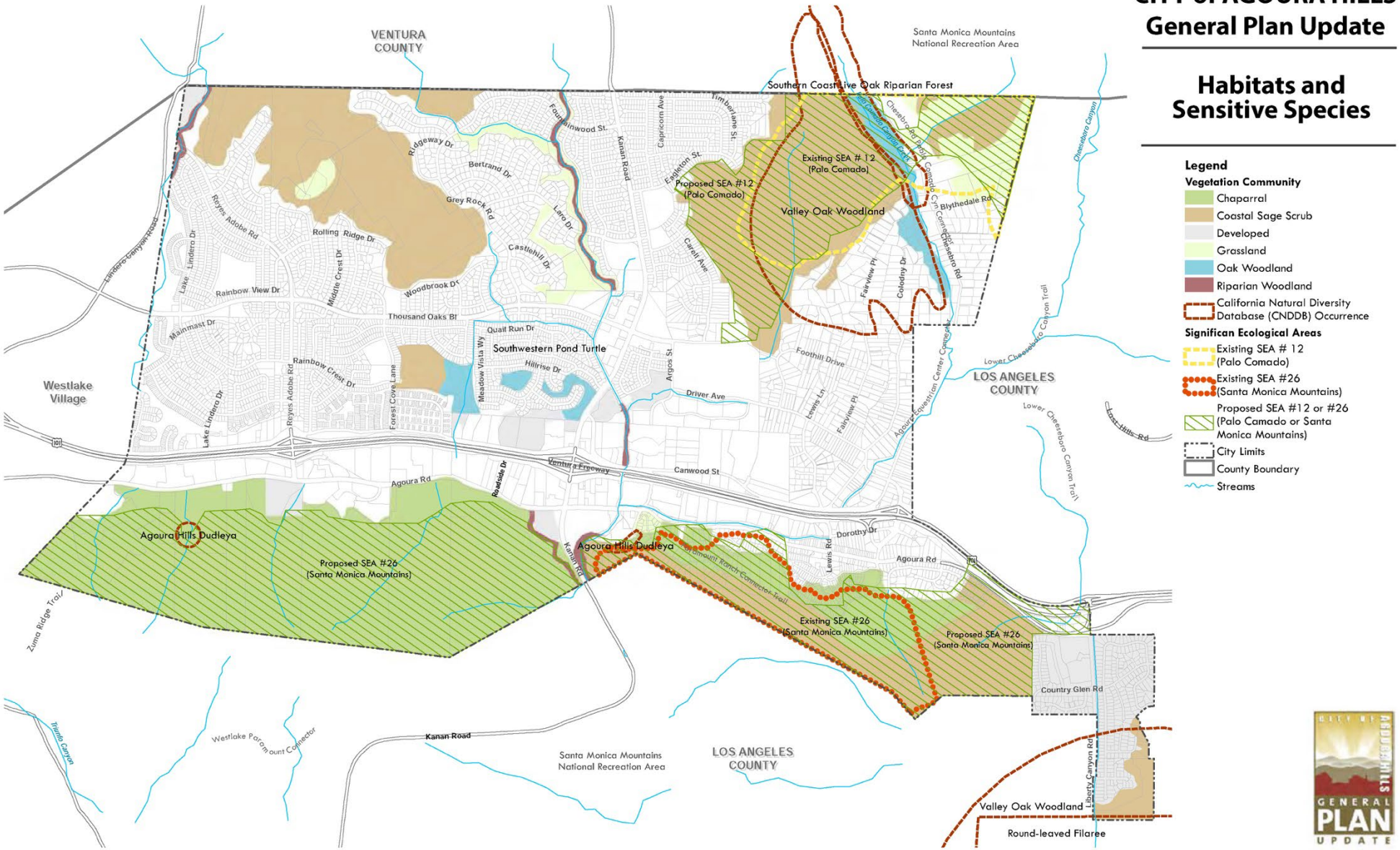
Native oaks are considered a valuable resource by the California Department of Fish and Game and the City of Agoura Hills. A significant number of oak trees remain scattered throughout Agoura Hills despite development pressures. Concentrations of oak trees are clustered in the northeastern area of the City and along the foothills of Ladyface Mountain. Oak trees have additionally been incorporated into subdivision designs and commercial developments throughout the community. The trees are protected by the City of Agoura Hills Oak Tree Ordinance and the preservation of these oak trees remains a high priority in recognition of their historical, environmental, and aesthetic values to the community, present and future.

Goal NR-4

Natural Areas. Protection and enhancement of open space resources, other natural areas, and significant wildlife and vegetation in the City as an integral component of a sustainable environment.

CITY of AGOURA HILLS General Plan Update

Habitats and Sensitive Species



Legend

Vegetation Community
- Chaparral
- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Developed
- Grassland
- Oak Woodland
- Riparian Woodland
- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Occurrence

Significan Ecological Areas
- Existing SEA # 12 (Palo Comado)
- Existing SEA #26 (Santa Monica Mountains)
- Proposed SEA #12 or #26 (Palo Camado or Santa Monica Mountains)
- City Limits
- County Boundary
- Streams

Source: City of Agoura Hills, 2009.

Miles
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75

Figure NR-2

Intentionally Blank.

Policies

NR-4.1 **Resource Protection.** Preserve Agoura Hills' two significant ecological areas (SEAs) from incompatible development through City policies and coordination with Los Angeles County and other relevant agencies to protect habitats of sensitive plants and animals. *(Imp LU-11)*

NR-4.2 **Conserve Natural Resources.** Continue to enforce the ordinances for new and existing development in the City's hillside areas, such that development maintains an appropriate distance from ridgelines, creek and natural drainage beds and banks, oak trees, and other environmental resources, to prevent erosion, preserve viewsheds, and protect the natural contours and resources of the land. *(Imp LU-11, LU-14, LU-15, LU-29, NR-3, NR-6, NR-7)*

NR-4.3 **Development and Environmental Review.** Ensure that the development and environmental review process is sensitive to the preservation and protection of sensitive wildlife and plant species, wildlife corridors, significant ecological areas (SEAs), and other sensitive habitat communities. *(Imp NR-8)*

NR-4.4 **Cluster Development.** Encourage clustered development in sensitive areas to preserve and reduce the impact to natural lands. *(Imp LU-11, LU-14, LU-15)*

NR-4.5 **Open Space Preservation.** Place a high priority on acquiring and preserving open space lands for purposes of recreation, habitat preservation and enhancement, resource conservation, flood hazard management, public safety purposes, and overall community benefits. *(Imp LU-14, LU-15, NR-1)*

NR-4.6 **Connected Open Space System.** Ensure that new development does not create barriers or impede the connection of the City's open space systems. *(Imp LU-11, LU-14, LU-15, M-31, NR-1, NR-2, CS-21)*

NR-4.7 **Green Infrastructure.** Maintain a multi-functional "green infrastructure," consisting of natural areas, open spaces, urban forest, and parklands, that serves as a defining physical character of Agoura Hills, provides visitors and residents with access to open spaces and recreation, and is designed for environmental sustainability. *(Imp M-31, M-34, CS-1, CS-2, CS-9, NR-1, NR-9, NR-10)*

NR-4.8 **Open Space and Activity Centers.** Link open space to activity centers, parks, other open space, and scenic routes to help define urban form and beautify the City. *(Imp LU-14, M-34, CS-21)*

NR-4.9 **Landscaping.** Encourage landscaping that minimizes the need for herbicides and pesticides and that provides food, water, shelter, and nesting sites for birds, butterflies, beneficial insects, and other creatures that both help maintain the landscape and restore the larger ecosystem. Landscape design can re-create habitat lost to urban

development and attract resident and migratory wildlife. *(Imp NR-11, NR-12, NR-13, NR-14)*

NR-4.10 **Tree Preservation.** Continue to sustain the City's oak trees, which are an integral part of the character of the City, and continue to plant and maintain these trees in a manner that will allow them to mature and thrive. *(Imp NR-6)*

Palo Comado Canyon Creek is a natural waterway in the community

NR-4.11 **Creeks and Natural Resources.** Support the restoration of creeks and other natural resources. Activities include creek cleanup, erosion and urban runoff control, and weeding of non-native plants. *(Imp NR-15, NR-16, NR-17)*

NR-4.12 **Wildlife Corridors.** Protect and maintain wildlife corridors, particularly the Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor, and adjacent areas as appropriate, to help the continued survival of wildlife. *(Imp NR-4)*

NR-4.13 **Public Education.** Support educational programs for residents and visitors about the uniqueness and value of the natural resources, plants, and wildlife in the region, and about how to manage development to preserve native wildlife populations. *(Imp CS-13, CS-16, NR-18)*

Wildlife corridor located within Liberty Canyon

NR-4.14 **Volunteer Programs.** Create opportunities for volunteers to participate in maintaining the City's biological and other natural resources. *(Imp U-39)*

D. Water

Policies in this section guide development and infrastructure practices to support water conservation and protect surface water and groundwater from the degradation of runoff and pollution. Agoura Hills has a number of blue-line streams that intermittently transport water. The four primary creeks are Medea, Lindero Canyon, Chesebro, and Palo Comado. Medea Creek flows through the center of Agoura Hills, encompassing unimproved and improved channels and an open space corridor. Lindero Canyon Creek runs through the canyon in the northwest quadrant of the City to empty into Lake Lindero then daylights again just south of Agoura Road west of Kanan Road. Palo Comado Creek crosses the northeast section of Agoura Hills. Chesebro Creek in the City runs along the north side of Agoura Road between Lewis Road and Medea Creek. In addition to these watercourses, a number of streams throughout Agoura Hills intermittently transport water.

Lindero Canyon Creek

Preserving watercourses in their natural state, where feasible, is a community priority. Clean water is essential in sustaining present and future generations, as well as plants and animals.

Water Conservation

Goal NR-5

Water Conservation. Minimization of water consumption through conservation methods and other techniques.

Policies

NR-5.1 **Water Conservation and Education.** Continue to support the efforts of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District in water conservation in the City, both through minimizing the consumption of water and through public education. *(Imp U-3, U-4)*

NR-5.2 **Water Conservation Measures.** Require water conservation measures/devices that limit water usage for all new construction projects, including public facilities, such as the use of water-efficient landscaping and irrigation, on-site stormwater capture as feasible, low-flow and efficient plumbing fixtures, and the use of recycled water for irrigation. *(Imp U-4, U-6, U-7, U-8, U-9, U-22)*

NR-5.3 **Water-Efficient Landscaping and Irrigation.** Require that drought-tolerant landscaping, water-efficient irrigation systems be installed, and recycled water be used for landscaping, as feasible, for all private and City landscaping and parkways. Encourage such landscaping and irrigation, as appropriate, in private development. *(Imp U-3, U-6, U-7, U-8, U-9, NR-19)*

A number of areas of the City are irrigated with reclaimed water

NR-5.4 **Optimum Timing for Water Irrigation.** Require that all irrigation systems irrigate at optimum times of the day, as recommended by the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, and consider the use of weather sensors, to facilitate optimum irrigation and other technology for monitoring and control. Encourage such irrigation timing for private development. *(Imp NR-5)*

NR-5.5 **Recycled Water.** Work with the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District in further creating opportunities for recycled water to irrigate the public landscape, provided that the heavy metal and salt content of recycled water will not interfere with plant growth. *(Imp U-7, U-8)*

Water Quality

Goal NR-6

Water Quality. Protection of the water quality of local watersheds and groundwater resources.

Policies

NR-6.1 **Riparian Habitat.** Protect and enhance the natural qualities of riparian habitat. *(Imp NR-5, NR-7, NR-14, NR-15, NR-16, NR-17)*

Percolation swale

NR-6.2 **Percolation.** Design trails, landscaped areas, and other open areas in development projects to capture stormwater runoff and percolate into the groundwater basin, to the extent feasible. *(Imp U-22, U-23, CS-21)*

NR-6.3 **Permeable Surfaces.** Encourage maximizing permeable surfaces for new or substantially renovated public, institutional, residential, and commercial projects. *(Imp U-22, U-23)*

NR-6.4 **Protect Open Space Areas and Water Resources.** Conserve undeveloped open space areas and drainage courses and channels for the purpose of protecting water resources in the City's watershed. For construction and post-development runoff, control sources of pollutants and improve and maintain urban runoff water quality through stormwater protection measures consistent with the City's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. *(Imp U-22, U-23, U-24, NR-1, NR-3, NR-7, NR-14, NR-15, NR-16, NR-17)*

NR-6.5 **Watershed Education.** Participate in regional and inter-agency watershed awareness and water quality educational programs for community organizations, the public, and other appropriate groups. *(Imp NR-17)*

NR-6.6 **Cooperation with Other Agencies.** Coordinate and collaborate with other jurisdictions and regional agencies in the watershed to address water quality issues of regional or local importance. *(Imp NR-17)*

NR-6.7 **Stormwater Quality.** The City shall control sources of pollutants and improve and maintain urban runoff water quality through stormwater protection measures consistent with the City's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. *(Imp U-22, U-23, U-24)*

NR-6.8 **New Development.** The City shall require new development to protect the quality of waterbodies and natural drainage systems through site design, stormwater treatment, and best management practices (BMPs) consistent with the City's NPDES Permit. *(Imp U-20, U-22, U-23, U-24)*

E. Air Quality

Smoke from fires can be a major contributor to point source pollution

Pollutants emitted into the air from stationary and mobile sources affect air quality. Stationary sources can be divided into two major subcategories: point sources and area sources. Point sources consist of one or more emission sources at a facility with an identified location and are usually associated with manufacturing plants or a localized event, such as a fire. Area sources are widely distributed and produce many small emissions.

Mobile sources refer to emissions from motor vehicles, including tailpipe and evaporative emissions, and are classified as either on-road or off-road. On-road sources are a combination of emissions from automobiles, trucks, and indirect sources. Indirect sources are sources that by themselves may not emit air contaminants; however, they indirectly cause the generation of air pollutants by attracting vehicle trips or consuming energy. Examples of indirect sources include an office complex or commercial center that generates commuter trips and consumes energy resources through the use of natural gas for space and water heating. Indirect sources also include actions proposed by local governments, such as redevelopment districts and private projects involving the development of either large buildings or tracts. Off-road sources include aircraft, ships, trains, and self-propelled construction equipment.

Although air quality improvements have occurred in Southern California and Los Angeles County over the past two decades, the region continues to experience significant air pollution problems. Agoura Hills is located within the South Coast Air Basin, where the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is responsible for bringing air quality within the basin into conformity with the established state and federal standards pursuant to the South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (SCAQMP). These air quality regulations pertain to a variety of air pollutants and their control. Some of these regulations are administered by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in its role as the regional metropolitan planning organization within the south coast air basin. ~~The following goals and policies balance the City's management of land use, circulation and other regulatory actions with their potential effects on local and regional air quality.~~

The U.S. Highway 101 bisects the City west-east, with medium and high-density residential land uses planned on either side of the freeway. Residential areas also border major arterials in the City, such as Kanan Road, Agoura Road west of Kanan Road, and Thousand Oaks Boulevard. Exposure to traffic pollution, especially from high volume roadways, can be associated with health issues, including worsening of asthma and other respiratory health impacts. The foremost strategy for reducing pollution exposure near high volume roadways is to minimize creation of vehicle traffic itself. Additionally, traffic control mechanisms, such as signal management systems, can reduce stop and go driving and vehicle idling, resulting in less localized pollutant concentrations.

Goals and policies in the Community Conservation and Development (Land Use), Infrastructure and Community Services (Mobility), and Safety (Climate Action) Elements aim to reduce vehicle miles travelled, promote active modes of travel (such as bicycling and walking), address signal timing, and reduce greenhouse gases through electrifying vehicle fleets. Specific goals and policies in these Elements that can assist in minimizing pollution include:

Community Conservation and Development Element	
Goal LU-5	City Sustained and Renewed
	Policy LU-5.4: Sustainable Land Use Practices
Goal LU-7	Livable and Quality Neighborhoods
	Policy LU 7.5: Walkable Neighborhoods
	Policy LU 7.6: Neighborhood Connectivity
Goal LU-13	Well Designed and Attractive Districts
	Policy LU-13.5: Connectivity to Neighborhoods
Goal LU-14	Mixed-use
	Policy LU-14.1: Land Use Mix
Infrastructure and Community Services Element	
Goal M-2	Complete Streets
	Policy M-2.1 Complete Streets
	Policy M-2.4: Interconnected System
	Policy M-2.5: Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian System
Goal M-3	Intelligent Transportation Systems
	Policy M-3.2: Signal Timing Optimization
Goal M-4	Ensuring Quality of Life
	Policy M-4.3: Traffic Control Devices
Goal M-6	Alternative Transportation
	Policy M-6.1 Efficient Systems
	Policy M-6.2 Mode Choice
	Policy M-6.3: Design of Alternative Modes
	Policy M-6.4: Design Enhancements
	Policy M-6.7: Vehicle Miles Travelled
Goal M-7	Pedestrians
	Policy M-7.1: Walkability
	Policy M-7.2: Pedestrian Connectivity
	Policy M-7.3: Pedestrian Experience
	Policy M-7.4: Walkable Developments
Goal M-8	Bikeways
	Policy M-8.1 Bikeway Linkages
	Policy M-8.2: Continuous Bikeway Connectivity
Goal M-9	Transit
	Policy M-9.1: Transit Community
	Policy M-9.2: Transit Planning
	Policy M-9.3: Citywide Shuttle Service
Goal M-10	Transportation Demand Management
	Policy M-10.2: Trip Reduction
	Policy M-10.3: Ride Share

Safety Element	
Goal S-21	Vehicle Miles Travelled Reduction
	Policy S-21.1: Bicycle Use
	Policy S-21.2: Electric Vehicles
Goal S-22	Clean Energy
	Policy S-22.1: Clean Power Availability

Pollutant levels and air quality near a freeway or major roadway can vary significantly based on air flow patterns, temperature, time of day, season, presence of sound barriers, vegetation, height of structures and other variables. Development plans for housing should consider reducing both peak and long-term pollution exposure through site layout and design features.

The following goals and policies balance the City's management of land use, circulation and other regulatory actions with their potential effects on local and regional air quality. They also specifically address air pollution from high volume roadways on residential uses.

Goal NR-7

Air Quality. Improvement of the City and the region's air quality.

Policies

NR-7.1 **Regional Cooperation.** Cooperate with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in their efforts to implement provisions of the region's Air Quality Management Plan. *(Imp NR-20)*

NR-7.2 **Truck Deliveries.** Encourage businesses to alter local truck delivery schedules to occur during non-peak hours, as feasible. *(Imp M-14)*

NR-7.3 **Federal and State Regulations.** Comply with and promote state and federal legislation that improves vehicle/transportation technology and cleaner fuels. *(Imp U-46, NR-20, NR-21)*

NR-7.4 **Dust and Particulate Control.** Adopt incentives, regulations, and/or procedures to minimize particulate emissions from paved and unpaved roads, parking lots, and building construction. *(Imp NR-22, NR-23)*

NR-7.5 **Minimize Pollution to Residential Uses.** Minimize pollution exposure of residential uses near the freeway and along major arterials, such as Kanan Road, Agoura Road west of Kanan Road, and Thousand Oaks Boulevard *(Imp NR-29).*

NR-7.6 **Design That Promotes Ventilation Along Roadway Corridors.** New multi-family housing projects in areas of high levels of localized air pollution shall be designed in consideration of the following components to assist in pollutant dispersion *(Imp NR-29):*

- High efficiency filtration systems to achieve good indoor air quality
- Buildings of varying heights, shapes, articulation and other design features to break up massing
- Site design with open spaces between buildings to encourage air flow (e.g., outdoor landscaped or recreation spaces)
- Vegetation, including trees and shrubs, selected and arranged for their ability to alter pollutant transport and dispersion
- Consider the use of decoratively treated solid barriers and walls in conjunction with screening landscaping, where appropriate along freeway proximate properties, to increase the vertical dispersion of pollutants.

F. Mineral Resources

According to the California Division of Mines and Geology (DMG), no significant mineral deposits are known to exist within the City of Agoura Hills. The City was surveyed by DMG as part of a regional study to determine the existence of aggregate construction materials such as sand, gravel, and crushed rock. The survey identified Agoura Hills as being part of the "Simi Production-Consumption Region," and delineated Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) boundaries within the City.

Most of the City north of Agoura Road is classified in the DMG report "Mineral Land Classification of Ventura County" as MRZ-1. This classification defines areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence. The remaining areas of the City, including Ladyface Mountain, a small portion of Palo Comado Canyon, and the Liberty Canyon area, are classified as MRZ-3. This classification includes areas containing mineral deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data.

The Liberty Canyon area is the only location within Agoura Hills where mining activities have been documented. For a brief period, sand was extracted from this area and was used for general filling purposes at local construction sites. Elsewhere in the City, large-scale movements of earth materials have been associated with grading operations for urban developments only, not for the purpose of extracting minerals or construction aggregates.

Goal NR-8

Mineral Resources. Protection of access to and availability of mineral resources, while maintaining protection of the surrounding environment.

Policies

NR-8.1 **Mineral Resource Zones.** Protect access to and availability of lands designated MRZ, as mapped by the California Geological Survey, for potential further mining, and regulate any such activities consistent with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, mineral land classification information, and the California Environmental Quality Act. *(Imp NR-24)*

G. Energy Conservation

Energy use contributes significantly to emissions of air pollutants as well as greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Energy conservation provides one of the major avenues of achieving clean air through a reduction of the emissions that contribute to pollution and increase global warming. Important to the community's goals for environmental sustainability, efforts to conserve energy further energy independence and the availability of natural resources for future generations.

Ground-mounted solar panels

Goal NR-9

Energy Conservation. Provision of affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy resources to residents and businesses.

Policies

NR-9.1 **Public Outreach.** Promote energy conservation measures and options to all residents, businesses, contractors, and consultants. *(Imp U-43, U-44, U-45, U-46)*

NR-9.2 **Energy Conservation for City Facilities.** Implement energy-conserving measures for all existing City facilities, as feasible. For new City facilities, incorporate energy-conserving measures to the extent practical. *(Imp U-49)*

H. Climate Change

The concentration of green house gases in the atmosphere has significantly increased as a result of the combustion of fossil fuels primarily associated with automobile use and energy production. Scientists have already observed some of the negative effects of climate change, and expect more changes in the future. Worldwide, governments, organizations, and private citizens are looking for ways to address the issue of global warming and climate change.

Goal NR-10

Greenhouse Gas Reduction. Reduce emissions from all activities within the City boundaries to help mitigate the impact of climate change.

NR-10.1 **Climate Change.** Comply with all state requirements regarding climate change and greenhouse gas reduction and review the progress toward meeting the emission reductions targets. *(Imp NR-25)*

NR-10.2 **Regional Coordination.** Ensure that that any plans prepared by the City, including the General Plan, are aligned with, and support any regional plans to help achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. *(Imp NR-26)*

NR-10.3 **Outreach and Education.** Partner with local agencies and organizations to coordinate outreach and education regarding the effects of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. *(Imp NR-27)*