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PUBLIC FACILITIES ELEMENT

E I C E N T R O G E N E R A L P L A N

INTRODUCTION

The Public Facilities Element addresses the community need for public services and utilities. The majority of the City of El Centro is developed and sufficiently served by existing public services and utilities. Future development of remaining vacant land within the Planning Area will require expansion of public services and utilities to meet the increase in demand for service. Planning for this future increase in demand will ensure that the needs of future residents for public services and infrastructure are met, while avoiding adverse impacts to existing community.

Purpose of the Public Facilities Element

The purpose of the Public Facilities Element is to ensure that sufficient levels of public services are provided as El Centro develops. Working in conjunction with the Land Use Element, the Public Facilities Element plans for the necessary expansion of public services and infrastructure to coincide with new development. To ensure a sufficient level of public services, the City will work with service providing agencies to ensure that service to existing residents does not diminish with any future development and the resulting increase in population.

Scope and Content of the Public Facilities Element

The Public Facilities Element is not a State-mandated element; however, included in this element are topics mandated by the State to be included in the General Plan. The issues addressed within the Public Facilities Element closely relate to the Land Use Element. The Element is comprised of three sections: (1) Introduction, (2) Issues, Goals and Policies, and (3) the Public Facilities Plan. In the Issues, Goals and Policies section, major issues related to the provision of public services and utilities are identified and related goals and policies are established to address these issues. The goals, which are overall statements of the community's desires, are comprised

of broad statements of purpose and direction. The policies serve as guides for working with local and regional agencies for planning infrastructure and facility improvements to provide sufficient levels of service. The Plan explains how the goals and policies will be achieved and implemented, while the General Plan Implementation Program, contained in Appendix A, identifies specific implementation programs for this Element.

Related Plans and Programs

A number of existing plans and programs exist that directly relate to the goals of the Public Facilities Element. Enacted through State and local action, these plans and programs are administered by agencies with responsibility for their enforcement.

Quimby Act

Section 66477 of the Government Code provides local jurisdictions with the authority to acquire park land in association with new land divisions. Commonly referred to as the Quimby Act, this provision of State law allows a city, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land, payment of an in-lieu fee, or a combination of both, for park and recreational purposes as a condition on approving a subdivision map. El Centro has adopted such an ordinance to require the dedication of land and/or the payment of in-lieu fees for the purpose of providing park and recreational facilities.

Southern California Association of Governments Plans and Programs (SCAG)

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is responsible for regional planning in Southern California. SCAG has prepared long range growth and development plans for the Southern California region since the early 1970's as part of the ongoing Development Guide Program. This program provides a framework for coordinating local and regional decisions regarding future development and growth. An important component of this process is the preparation of growth forecast policies at intervals ranging from three to five years. The adopted growth forecast policies become the basis for SCAG's functional plans (transportation, housing, air and water) for the region. The population totals and growth distribution are used in planning the future capacity of highways and transit systems.

Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation/Transfer Programs

In 1988, a Water Conservation Agreement was forged between the IID and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). The agreement provides for the implementation of water conservation projects, which are funded by the MWD. In return, MWD is eligible to divert additional water that is equivalent to the amount of water conserved. The water conservation projects implemented through

the agreement primarily focus on increasing the efficiency of the IID's water conveyance system and conserving water in agricultural operations.

More recently, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) has approved an agreement with the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) for the transfer of conserved water from the Imperial Valley to the San Diego region. Once approved by the other affected agencies, IID and its agricultural customers would conserve water and sell it to the SDCWA for at least 45 years. In addition, the SDCWA would pay the costs of conserving water incurred to Imperial Valley farmers plus an incentive to encourage participation. The water transfer could benefit California as a whole and stimulate the Imperial Valley economy.

Water Element of the Imperial County General Plan

The purpose of the Water Element of the County General Plan is to identify the types of water resources within Imperial County and to establish goals and policies to preserve and enhance water availability and quality. Implementation of the policies of the Water Element will assure that water resources are conserved and utilized to enhance long-term availability, while providing for current supplies and demands. In addition, the Water Element facilitates the improved use and distribution of water in Imperial County, including the extension of current water conservation programs.

Water and Sewer Master Plans

The Water and Sewer Master Plans are used to evaluate a development project's water and sewer needs and the impact of those needs on the City's water and sewer systems. The City of El Centro last updated its Water and Sewer Master Plans in 1994 which identified capital improvements necessary to meet the City's water and sewer system service requirements of existing and future development.

El Centro Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

In 2008, the City adopted a Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan to further develop the projects, programs and investments necessary to implement General Plan goals. The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan focuses primarily on parks and recreation facilities and joint use with the schools. The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan recommended increasing the park acreage per 1,000 people in El Centro and provides specific recommendations around the Civic Center and other Cultural Facilities.

School District Master Plans

Three different school districts serve El Centro: (1) El Centro Elementary School District; (2) Central Union High School District; and outside the City limits, (3) McCabe Union Elementary School District. El Centro Elementary School District is experiencing

declining enrollment and currently has no Master Planning document, however the District has identified the need for several improvements to existing facilities. The Central Union High School District developed a Needs Assessment and Master Plan in 1997. Recently, the District commissioned a Yield Study that has identified the need for a new high school in El Centro and will serve as the basis of an application for a School Facility Program New Construction Grant made possible by SB 50. Additionally, the McCabe Elementary School District is in the process of creating a Master Plan which identifies efforts made by the District to acquire funds for additions to McCabe Elementary and identify sites for a proposed new school.

Joint Use Agreements with the School District

The City and the School District have entered into Joint Use Agreements to allow for mutually beneficial use of playgrounds, sports fields and other amenities that serve the El Centro Community. These agreements to share facilities maximize the value of the public facilities that serve El Centro.

Relationship to Other General Plan Elements

In accordance with State planning law, the Public Facilities Element is consistent with the other General Plan elements. While all of the elements are interdependent, they are also interrelated to a degree. Certain goals and policies of each element may also address issues that are primary subjects of other elements. This integration of issues throughout the General Plan creates a strong basis for the implementation of plans and programs and achievement of community goals.

The Public Facilities Element is most directly related to the Land Use, Safety, and Circulation Elements of the General Plan.

Land use policies contained in the Land Use Element determine the pattern and intensity of future population growth and this in turn determines the type, size and location of certain public facilities. The Safety Element contains policies related to the location of public facilities that provide services such as police and fire to ensure the safety of El Centro residents. Additionally, the Element relates to the Safety Element in that it directs location and development of public facilities such as schools, libraries, and civic centers away from natural hazards such as floodplains and seismic faults. Transportation policies contained in the Circulation Element direct development in a way that provides efficient access to public facilities throughout El Centro.



ISSUES, GOALS, AND POLICIES

Public facilities are necessary to support urban development. The following nine issues are addressed by the goals and policies of the Public Safety Element: availability of and access to adequate (1) parks and recreation; (2) educational facilities; (3) library facilities; (4) police facilities; (5) fire stations; (6) civic centers; (7) cultural facilities; (8) sewer system; and (9) water system. Each issue and the related goals, policies and implementation actions are identified and discussed in the following section.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and recreational facilities serve a valuable purpose in the City of El Centro as they enhance quality of life and define community character. Maintenance of City parks is vital to the health and safety of El Centro residents. The City of El Centro's park and recreation system exists within the context of the City's overall development pattern. As the City grows, the inventory of park lands will have to be increased significantly.

Public Facilities Goal 1: Provide for adequate year round recreational activities and facilities that serve all segments of the community.

Policy 1.1: Provide accessible parks and recreational facilities within a ½ mile walking distance of all residential areas in El Centro as illustrated in the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

Policy 1.2: Require new development to provide for recreational facilities to the extent allowed by law.

Policy 1.3: Plan for the appropriate expansion of existing parks and recreational facilities to meet Statewide and City parks standards.

Policy 1.4: Provide an attractive low water-use design solution which addresses dust mitigation in retention basins.

Policy 1.5: Develop cultural and recreational facilities oriented toward the special needs of the various ethnic and age groups within the City.

Policy 1.6: Continue to maintain parks and recreational facilities in an efficient manner.

Educational Facilities

El Centro residents are primarily served by the El Centro Elementary School District and Central Union High School District. Additionally, a small portion of the Planning Area is served by the McCabe Union Elementary School District. Future school enrollment will be affected by current and future birth rates and the extent of migration (both in and out) of families with school aged children. While the El Centro Elementary School District is experiencing declining enrollment and does not anticipate the need to site a new elementary school facility, current facilities are in need of rehabilitation. The Central Union High School District includes two high schools in El Centro and the District has identified the need for a new high school in the City.

Public Facilities Goal 2: Support the local school districts by working with them to determine the most appropriate location and distribution for school facilities to serve the educational needs of the community.

Policy 2.1: Work with the local school districts in investigating potential locations and funding sources for new schools.

Policy 2.2: Encourage the joint use of school facilities to provide a range of recreational and educational opportunities for all segments of the community.

Public Facilities Goal 3: Improve and increase Joint Use Agreements with the local school districts.

Policy 3.1: Work with the local school districts to analyze existing joint-use agreements, plan and implement mutually beneficial use agreements.

Library Facilities

The City of El Centro has a main library located on State Street, and a branch library located in the Community Center on South First Street. The main library was constructed in 1910 and is in need of rehabilitation. Increased population implies increased use; therefore the City's library facilities will need to be rehabilitated and expanded. As El Centro grows in population and size, the City will need to identify locations for future branch libraries to serve the needs of the community.

Public Facilities Goal 4: Ensure adequate, well located library facilities that are equipped with books, reference materials, and educational devices to serve all El Centro residents.

Policy 4.1: Identify appropriate locations for future branch libraries, evaluating accessibility and location near to major activity centers, such as retail areas.

Policy 4.2: Identify additional funding sources to allow for the expansion of the City's library system and services.

Police Facilities

The El Centro Police Department provides law enforcement services to the City. This service is essential to the safety of the population of El Centro. The primary determinant for police manpower is growth in the residential population; however the City's large seasonal migrant worker and visitor populations complicate the matter. The Police Department prides itself on being a community-based, service-oriented, law enforcement agency that reflects and reinforces the values of the community.

Public Facilities Goal 5: Ensure the highest standards of law enforcement by providing the Police Department with personnel, equipment, and facilities that assist them in protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the community.

Policy 5.1: Periodically evaluate the level of law enforcement service provided to identify any necessary improvements or changes, as well as additional funding sources.

Policy 5.2: Utilize service areas when planning and designing new and expanded police facilities.

Fire Stations

Fire protection services are an essential function of local government. As El Centro expands, planning for new fire stations needs to be compatible with the City's growth plan. Included in planning for the expansion of fire services are fire stations, equipment, and essential and supportive personnel.

Public Facilities Goal 6: Ensure adequate standards of fire protection are met by providing the Fire Department with personnel, equipment, and facilities that assist them in protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the community.

Policy 6.1: Establish and maintain the optimum fire insurance rating for the community.

Policy 6.2: Periodically evaluate the level of fire protection service provided to identify any necessary improvements or changes, as well as additional funding sources.

Policy 6.3: Utilize service areas when planning and designing new and expanded fire protection facilities.

Civic Center

City Hall, the Police Station, County Government Complex, County Courthouse, and the Imperial Irrigation District Headquarters comprise a central civic complex in the City of El Centro. Grouping of governmental agencies in a civic center facilitates efficient service to the public.

Public Facilities Goal 7: Provide for and maintain a variety of buildings in the Civic Center to satisfy the requirements of the many diverse governmental agencies within the City and allow the agencies to adequately serve the public.

Policy 7.1: Develop and adopt a precise plan to direct future development and improvements within the Civic Center area.

Cultural Facilities

It is important that available cultural facilities continue to reflect El Centro's diverse community. By encouraging a range of facilities to be provided in El Centro, the quality of life for residents is improved since they will have a wider range of recreational opportunities within the community.

Public Facilities Goal 8: Provide for a range of cultural facilities that serve the community's diverse cultural groups and activities.

Policy 8.1: Coordinate with residents and community groups to identify needed facilities and improvements to existing facilities and explore funding sources to meet these needs.

Policy 8.2: Identify a site for a Cultural Arts Center, ideally located close to or within the downtown commercial area due to its central location and revitalization benefit.

Sewer System

The City of El Centro presently has full sewage treatment capabilities. New facilities will need to be planned, however, as future growth causes existing facilities to reach capacity. Additional collection infrastructure will also need to be extended to serve areas as they develop.

Public Facilities Goal 9: Provide for a sewer system that continues to serve existing development as well as future City growth.

Policy 9.1: Plan and design new sewer facilities to provide adequate capacity to serve new growth, while continuing to provide a high level of service to existing development.

Policy 9.2: Allow new development to occur outside the existing service area only if new sewer services will be provided by the developer or City.

Policy 9.3: Continue to monitor the existing sewer system to identify any needed improvements to ensure adequate levels of service.

Policy 9.4: Ensure that waste water treated at the El Centro treatment center fulfills the minimum secondary treatment standards.

Water System

A well maintained water system is a prerequisite for future development to occur. The system will need to be expanded to increase the available water supply and distribution system to meet the needs of the future population.

Public Facilities Goal 10: Provide for a well maintained water system that continues to serve existing development as well as provides for future City growth.

Policy 10.1: Plan and design new water facilities to provide adequate capacity to serve new growth, while continuing to provide a high level of service to existing development.

Policy 10.2: Continue to correct low water pressure in older portions of the City and use “looping” of water lines to maintain pressure and adequate water delivery when expanding or upgrading the water delivery system.

Related Goals and Policies

The goals and policies described in the Public Facilities Element are related to and support subjects included within other General Plan elements. In turn, many goals and policies from other elements directly or indirectly support the goals and policies of the Public Facilities Element. These supporting goals and policies are identified in Table PF-1.

Table PF-1
 Related Goals and Policies by Element

General Plan Elements	Public Facilities Issue Area								
	Parks and Recreation	Educational Facilities	Library Facilities	Police Facilities	Fire Stations	Civic Center	Cultural Facilities	Sewer System	Water System
Land Use	1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 2.2, 2.3	1.12, 1.13, 2.2, 2.3	1.12, 1.13, 2.2, 2.3	1.12, 1.13, 2.2, 2.3	1.12, 1.13, 2.2, 2.3	1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 2.2, 2.3	1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 2.2, 2.3	1.12, 1.13, 2.2, 2.3	1.12, 1.13, 2.2, 2.3
Economic Development								1.1, 1.3	1.1, 1.3
Housing									
Circulation	3.1, 3.2	2.3, 3.1, 3.2	2.3, 3.1, 3.2	3.2	3.2	2.3, 3.1, 3.2	2.3, 3.1, 3.2		
Public Facilities									
Conservation/ Open Space	2.5, 3.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2							2.4, 3.3	2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.3
Safety		1.3, 1.4	1.3, 1.4	1.3, 1.4, 4.1, 4.2, 6.1, 6.2	1.3, 1.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 6.1, 6.2	1.3, 1.4		1.3, 1.4, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7	1.3, 1.4, 2.5, 2.7
Noise									



PUBLIC FACILITIES PLAN

The provision of sufficient public facilities to its residents is a primary function of a City. The City of El Centro currently provides basic services and facilities, contracts with appropriate agencies to serve the City, or is served by special districts. Community services and facilities provided to the community include: parks and recreation, educational facilities, library facilities, police facilities, fire stations, civic center, cultural facilities, sewer system, and water system. Figure PF-1 shows the location of public facilities within El Centro.

Parks and Recreation

The City of El Centro Community Services provides a wide range of recreational activities and facilities for the City residents. There are currently 13 parks and several retention basins within the community. Table PF-2 depicts the acreage, location, and amenities of the existing parks. Table PF-3 depicts the school district facilities subject to Joint Use Agreements with the City. Table PF-4 depicts the size, location, and amenities associated with other public facilities.

The parks are utilized for structured and unstructured activities and special events such as: Children's Fair at Buckling Park, POA Circus at Big Stark, and Cesar Chavez Festivities at Stark Field. Other recreational facilities include a Community Center located at 375 South First Street, Conrad Harrison Youth Center at 750 Park Avenue, and City Plunge at 401 N. Eighth Street. The Community Center offers a variety of summer recreation programs, senior programs, day camps, and many specialized classes including dance, art, and crafts. Conrad Harrison Youth Center offers sports programs for the youth as well as for the adults. City Plunge Aquatics Program offers public swim hours, swim lessons, lifeguarding, and other classes.

The City's goal is to provide for adequate year round recreational activities and facilities that serve all segments of the community, including the various ethnic and age groups within the community. Accessible parks and recreational facilities should be located within a ½-mile distance of all residential areas in El Centro. While retention basins may not be substituted for useable parks to meet the Quimby Act requirements, retention basins may be utilized to a limited extent for recreational uses; The City will work with developers to ensure developed and usable recreational facilities are provided as allowed under the Quimby Act. Additionally, new developments are required to provide for recreational facilities to the extent allowed by law. The City will plan the expansion of existing parks and recreational facilities to meet statewide parks standards.

Table PF-2
El Centro Public Parks Summary

Park	Acres	Location	Amenities
Adams Park	7.00	4 th and 8 th Streets	Open space, restrooms, shelter/picnic areas, children's playground, gymnasium, swimming pool, ramada, and roller hockey area.
Bucklin Park	20.00	8 th and Aurora/Ross	Open space, restrooms, shelter/picnic areas, children's playground, lake, pavilion area, horseshoe pit, and walking path.
Buena Vista (retention basin)	-	8 th Street and Manuel Ortiz	Open space/non-structured (7.96 acres not included in total developed park acreage).
Carlos Aguilar Park	4.75	W. Pico Ave and Imperial Avenue	Open space, restrooms, shelter/picnic area, children's playground, soccer fields, and basketball courts. Lighted facility.
Countryside North Park	2.00	Countryside North Subdivision	Open space / non-structured. 5.90 acres of retention basin not included in total developed park acreage.
Debbie Pittman Park	4.73	La Brucherie and Orange Avenue	Girls youth softball fields, BBQ areas, restrooms and off street parking. Lighted facility.
Farmers Park	1.29	18 th Street and Whitney	Shaded picnic area and picnic area.
Frazier Field	5.41	North 6 th Street	Little league baseball fields and restrooms. Lighted facility.
Gomez Park	5.09	South Hope Street	Open space, 2 ramadas with BBQ and restrooms. Lighted facility.
Legacy Ranch Memorial Plaza	1.50	New park in Countryside North Subdivision	Play structure, shade structure and walking path.
Leeper Park (retention basin)	-	250 S. Lotus Ave.	Open space/non-structured (3.71 acres not included in total developed park acreage).
Lotus Park (retention basin)	-	650 S. Lotus Ave.	Open space/non-structured (3.85 acres not included in total developed park acreage). Used for motor cross.
McGee Park	5.31	Brighton and Fairfield Drive	Community Center, children's playground, soccer field, shelter/picnic area, and basketball courts. Lighted facility.
Stark Field	11.44	4 th and Lenrey Avenue	Baseball complex (bleachers, lights), practice fields, restrooms, shelter/picnic areas, and children's playground.
Swarthout Field	15.49	4 th and Euclid Avenue	Adult softball fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, restrooms, shelter/picnic areas, children's playground, and volleyball area.
Town Square	0.50	Main Street	Stage, Marquee, Water Feature and lawn.
Wildflower Park (retention basin)	-	950 S. Lotus Ave.	Open space/non-structured (3.96 acres not included in developed park acreage). Used for soccer.
Subtotal	84.51		

Table PF-3 School District Joint Use Facilities

School	Acres Not Available	Acres Included in Joint Use Calculations	Location	Amenities
Central Union High School		17.50	1001 Brighton Ave.	Pool access, gym baseball, football, softball, soccer fields, basketball, volleyball, tennis courts, and track field.
De Anza Magnet School		14.73	1530 S. Waterman	Baseball field, joint use during baseball season
Desert Garden Elementary School		13.32	1900 6 th Street	Track, two backstops
Harding School		8.13	950 S. 7 th Street	Baseball, soccer fields, two backstops
Hedrick Elementary School		10.93	550 S. Waterman	Play structure, softball field, two backstops
Kennedy Elementary-Middle School		16.65	900 N. 6 th Street	Gym, basketball court, back fields are available for City use
King Elementary School	12.20		1950 Villa Avenue	No recent joint use at this location
Lincoln School		7.67	200 N. 12 th Street	Baseball field, play structure, two backstops
McKinley School		10.38	1177 N. 8 th Street	Two backstops, two soccer goals
Southwest High School		16.50	2001 Ocotillo Drive	Baseball, football and soccer fields, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts, lighted facilities, all weather track.
Sunflower Elementary School	4.15		2450 Main Street	Lighted facility , play structure
Sunflower Park		16.65	Lotus and Evan Hewes Highway	Owned by ECUSD with joint use agreement, drinking fountain, dirt parking area, lighted facility, two backstops, two soccer fields and a play structure.
Washington Elementary School		9.37	223 East 1 st Street	
Wilson Junior High School		14.40	600 S. Wilson Ave.	Gym and basketball courts
Total Joint Use Acreage		156.23		
Subtotal for City's Calculations (25% of total)		39.06		

Source: The City of El Centro Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2008

Table PF-4 Public Facilities

Facility	Building Square Footage	Site Acreage	Location	Amenities
Conrad Harrison Youth Center	26,000 (approx)	1.48	750 Park Avenue	Gymnasium with one full basketball/volleyball court, small conference facility, summer camps, open gym, Special Olympics, outdoor restrooms
El Centro Community Center	8,450 (approx)	2.50	375 S. First Street	Main office for Parks & Recreation Department, play structure, community building with full-size kitchen, restrooms, senior lunches, migrant head start, day camps, after school programs
El Centro Library	13,660 (approx)	1.00	539 W. State St.	Library, offices, restrooms
336 First Street	1,400 (approx)	0.15	336 S. First Street	Summer Arts Program , classrooms, full-size kitchen, restrooms, storage, parking lot
Old Post Office Pavillion	10,000 (approx)	0.02	230 S. Fifth Street	Building of historic significance, theatre, lobby, classrooms and restrooms
Plunge Swimming Pool		1.03	750 Park Avenue	25 meter pool, ramada, restrooms, BBQ facility with shade structure
Posada del Sol Apartment Complex				Private facility. Pool used for recreation activities
Ryerson Center	6,000	2.00	1100 North 4 th St.	Banquet facility, gym, Quinceanera, youth athletic league programs
Additional City owned acreage for recreation		8.18		

Source: The City of El Centro, Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2008
 Public Facilities include 6 acres of developed park land.

Figure PF-1
Public Facilities

Parkland Standard and Future Park Needs (based upon build-out to full capacity)

To ensure sufficient parks and recreational opportunities to meet the community’s needs, the City’s goal is to provide five acres of developed public parkland per 1,000 residents. This standard is useful in determining existing parkland deficiencies and predicting the demand from future population growth.

Using the adopted park standard, future demand for parkland facilities at buildout has been estimated as part of this General Plan update. Table PF-5 summarizes the parkland requirements for the existing population and the anticipated population from development of planned land uses as established by the Land Use Policy Map, based on the parkland standard of five acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The City currently exceeds three acres per 1,000 resident but an additional 80 acres of park land should be developed to meet the 5 acre per 1,000 resident standard. Additionally, some of the existing facilities require improvement and maintenance to provide adequate and safe facilities for the population.

As indicated in Table PF-5, the City will need to provide an additional 500 acres of parkland to meet the needs of the population at buildout. New development shall be conditioned to provide all the land and improvements required to achieve the parkland standard of five acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents generated by the proposed project in order to meet park acreage needs (See Table PF-5).

**Table PF-5
Existing and Future Park Acreage Needs (based upon buildout to full capacity)**

	Population	Park Acreage Required (3-ac/1,000)	Park Acreage Required (5-ac/1,000)	Available Acreage from Existing Parkland	Additional Parkland Required for 5-ac/1,000 Standard (Surplus)
Existing	43,316 (a)	129.95	216.58	131.75	84.83
Future	134,238 (b)	402.70	671.20	131.75	539.54

Notes:

a Existing population based on Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, page 33 (Golden Associates 2008).

b Based on future land use plan and 3.23 persons per household.

Trails Network

The City is continuing to promote an extensive pedestrian and bicycle trails network to link major activity centers, parks and recreational facilities, and transit nodes within the City (Figure C-3 in the Circulation Element). This network encourages the use of bicycles and walking for commute, recreational, and other trips. The City seeks to maintain and improve the biking and walking environment by providing safe and attractive sidewalks, walkways, and bike lanes and paths for both recreational and commuting purposes. The pedestrian and bicycle classification system and requirements are discussed in more detail in the Circulation Element.

Educational Facilities

Three school districts serve the community of El Centro: the El Centro Elementary School District and the Central Union High School District serve school age residents living within City limits. McCabe Union Elementary School District provides K-8 education to students residing outside the City limits, but within the Planning Area. The El Centro Elementary School District serves approximately 6,350 students in nine elementary schools, one middle school and one junior high school. The Central Union High School District comprises three high schools, including one alternative education school (Desert Oasis Continuation School), El Centro High School, and Southwest High School. The Central Union High School District serves approximately 3,600 students.

El Centro Elementary School District is experiencing declining enrollment and currently has no Master Planning document, however the District has identified the need for several improvements to existing facilities. The Central Union High School District developed a Needs Assessment and Master Plan in 1997. Recently, the District commissioned a Yield Study that has identified the need for a new high school in El Centro and will serve as the basis of an application for a School Facility Program New Construction Grant made possible by SB 50. Additionally, the McCabe Elementary School District is in the process of creating a Master Plan which identifies efforts made by the District to acquire funds for additions to McCabe Elementary and identify sites for a proposed new school.

New residential development in the City will create additional demand for schools. To meet this demand, additional school facilities will be required. Future school enrollments will also be affected by current and future birth rates and the extent of migration of families with school aged children. The City continues to work with the El Centro Elementary School District, the Central Union High School District, and the McCabe Union Elementary School District to determine the most appropriate locations and funding sources for new school facilities and will coordinate with them in updating relevant Master Plans. Additionally, the City encourages the joint use of school facilities to provide a range of recreational and educational opportunities for all segments of the community.

Library Facilities

Public libraries serve several community purposes including, education, recreation, and dissemination of public information. The City of El Centro is served by two public libraries. The main El Centro Public Library is located at 539 State Street and the Community Center Branch Library is located at 375 South First Street. The main library has more than 14,000 square feet of space and owns more than 111,000 books, magazines, and audiovisual materials. Additionally, the library owns a total of 11 public access computers to connect to the internet or for general word-processing functions.

The City will continue to work through the Library Administrative Board to ensure the public participates in the identification of service deficiencies and funding sources for library system and service expansion. As development occurs, the City will ensure that adequate library facilities are provided and equipped with books, reference materials, and educational devices to serve all El Centro residents.

Police Facilities

Sufficient law enforcement is necessary to ensure the public health and safety. The City provides its own law enforcement. The El Centro Police Department was formed in 1908. The department is located at 150 North 11th Street and is made up of 47 officers, including: Chief of Police, one Captain, three Lieutenants, six Sergeants, and 36 Police Officers. The department also has an active Reserve Officer program, a Police Auxiliary Team (PAX) program, and an Explorer program. Currently there are 23 civilian employees assigned to Records, Communication, Evidence, Animal Control, Crime Prevention, Community Service Officer, Crime Analysis Unit, Computer Information Services, and Parking Enforcement.

In August 1996, the El Centro Police Department expanded and started using space provided by the El Centro Community Center, at 375 South First Street. Due to the expansion, the department now has a Community Oriented Police Office, Crime Prevention Specialist, Training Office, and Volunteer Services office located at the Community Center sub station.

In addition to the Community Center sub station, the department has a sub station at Posada del Sol, 1400 North Imperial Avenue. The station is primarily used for report writing. The department's active police Athletic League is located at 1100 North 4th Street. In addition to the auxiliary sites, the department has two School Resource Officers. One officer is permanently assigned to the high schools (Central and Southwest) and the second officer is assigned to the junior high schools.

In 1999, the department re-constituted their Traffic Unit, which consists of one Sergeant, one Motor Officer, and a Community Service Officer. The Community Service Officer is also in charge of the PAX Team. Additionally, an Active Emergency Response Team and a Special Enforcement Unit has been assigned for gangs.

The Police Department's goal is to have 1.75 police officers per 1,000 population. Response to calls for service is prioritized based on urgency and need. Average response time for routine calls is currently 5 to 10 minutes, while for emergency calls the response time is about three to five minutes. An average of 4,070 calls is made per month to the City of El Centro Police Department, as of July 2001.

For law enforcement, ensuring public safety requires maintaining adequate staffing, equipment, and facilities. The City periodically evaluates the level of law enforcement service provided in order to identify any necessary improvements or changes, as well as additional funding sources. The City will continue to ensure the highest standards of law enforcement by providing the Police Department with personnel, equipment, and facilities that assist them in protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the community.

Fire Stations

As with law enforcement, fire protection is necessary to ensure the public health and safety. The City of El Centro Fire Department provides service within the City limits, as well as some unincorporated areas adjacent to the City limits. The El Centro Fire Department was established in May 1908, as a Volunteer Fire Department. The volunteer program ended in the early seventies and El Centro became a full service department. The City currently operates two fire stations: Fire Station No.1, located at 775 State Street and Fire Station No.2, located at 900 Dogwood. The Department consists of 33 safety members and three administrative assistants. The Department is led by a Chief and four Battalion Chiefs.

The Fire Department provides a full range of services, including: 1) fire prevention, 2) company inspections, 3) plan review, 4) nuisance abatement, 5) public education, 6) school inspections, 7) public relations, 8) flammable liquid storage tank program, 9) fire investigations, 10) juvenile firesetter program, 11) fire suppression operations, 12) emergency medical services (paramedic level), 13) hazardous materials, 14) technical rescue, 15) public assistance, 16) disaster preparedness, 17) bomb unit, 18) information management citywide, 19) 9-1-1 data base, and 20) CPR and first aid training.

The Department currently responds to an average of 10.5 emergency calls per 24-hour shift. The standard response time is approximately 7 to 10 minutes for emergencies and 10 to 15 minutes for non emergencies.

The provision of adequate fire protection staffing, equipment and facilities is necessary to ensure the public's safety. As growth continues, the City will need to construct two new fire stations: one along the eastern side of La Brucherie Road, south of Wake Avenue; and one at Cruickshank Drive, east of Imperial Avenue and west of 8th Street. The City will periodically evaluate the level of fire protection service provided to identify any necessary improvements or changes, as well as additional funding sources.

Civic Center

The City's Civic Center, centered on and around Main Street, has a City Hall, County Government Complex, County Court House, Imperial Irrigation District Headquarters, and a Police Station. This area's structures constitute an important feature of the City's basic structure. There is an intimate relationship between the public buildings, schools, commercial, and residential blocks in this area. In order to maintain a high level of visual quality of the Civic Center area, the City plans to develop and adopt a precise plan to plan for new structures and improvements within the area. The City's goal is to provide for and maintain a variety of buildings in the Civic Center to satisfy the requirements of the many diverse governmental agencies within the City and allow the agencies to adequately serve the public.

Cultural Facilities

Presently the City supports an archaeological museum, a Community Center, a variety of informal theatre and recreation groups, and a number of community groups. A state of the art Southwest High School auditorium provides the facility for theatrical plays, master choral performances, and concerts.

In order to provide for a range of cultural facilities that serve the community's diverse cultural groups and activities, the City plans to coordinate with residents and community groups to identify needed facilities and improvements to existing facilities and explore funding sources to meet these needs.

Sewer System

The City of El Centro provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services within the City limits and to some unincorporated areas of Imperial County. The City owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant with a capacity of eight million gallons per day (mgd) that provides secondary level treatment of wastewater generated within the service area. Treated water is discharged to the Alamo River. The City also owns and operates a wastewater collection and transmission system comprising collector sewers, trunk sewers, lift stations, and force mains. The City will continue to ensure that waste water treated at the El Centro treatment center fulfills the minimum secondary treatment standards.

The City will continue to monitor the existing sewer system to identify any needed improvements to ensure adequate levels of service. Additionally, the City will plan and design new sewer facilities to provide adequate capacity to serve new growth, while continuing to provide a high level of service to existing development. New development is allowed to occur outside the existing sewer service system only if new sewer services will be provided by the developer or City. The City will also implement and update the 1994 Sewer Master Plan as needed.

Water System

The City of El Centro provides water treatment and distribution services within the City limits and to some unincorporated areas of Imperial County. The City owns and operates a water treatment plant that provides clarification, filtration, and disinfection of water from the Colorado River. Untreated water is delivered to the plant via the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) All American Canal and Date Canal. Treated water is then pumped from storage tanks to users via a grid of distribution pipelines and water mains.

According to the City's Water Master Plan Update, completed in 1994, the existing raw water storage and treatment facilities have adequate capacity to meet the demands of the existing service area as well as several years of future development. The Water Master Plan estimated that the treated water storage facilities would reach capacity when the City's population grows to 42,600, while the existing distribution system would reach capacity when the population grows to 49,700. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) projects that the population of El Centro will reach 52,362 by the year 2020. Therefore, the water storage and piping capacity are adequate to meet the projected population through 2020. However, water system improvements identified in the Water Master Plan will be needed in order to provide potable water service for all Tier I and Tier II Growth Areas.

The City of El Centro will continue to plan and design new water facilities to provide adequate capacity to serve new growth through the Master Planning process, while continuing to provide a high level of service to existing development. Additionally, the City will continue to correct low water pressure in older portions of the City and use "looping" of water lines to maintain pressure and ensure adequate delivery when expanding or upgrading the water delivery system.



PUBLIC FACILITIES ELEMENT

E I C E N T R O G E N E R A L P L A N

This Implementation Program provides actions to implement the adopted policies and plans identified in the Public Facilities Element. The Public Facilities Element Implementation Program is a series of actions, procedures and techniques that includes a description of the responsible agency/department, funding source, time frame and related policies in the Public Facilities Element.

Parks and Recreation

PF-1: Improve Existing Parks: Work through all City Departments to share resources and activities to improve existing parks by:

- Providing funds to improve infrastructure of the existing fields in accordance with the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan;
- Providing funds to upgrade and improve restrooms, concession stands, shade structures, drinking fountains, ADA access and parking;
- Providing funds in increase staff maintenance levels and security;
- Providing funds to increase recreational programming staff.

Responsible Agency/Department: Parks and Recreation, Finance

Funding Source: General Fund, Development Impact Fees

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 1.6

PF-2: Maximize the Value Provided by Future Parks and Recreation Facilities: Require new development to provide usable parkland or pay in-lieu fees to provide five acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. Leverage future planning efforts to:

Public Facilities Implementation Program

- Purchase additional land adjacent to existing parks to enable the expansion of programs;
- Secure 40 to 60 acres (through purchase or agreements with developers) to accommodate a Sports Athletic Complex to provide tournament quality fields and practice fields;
- Provide additional baseball, softball, soccer and football fields;
- Provide additional play structures and a swimming pool.

Responsible Agency/Department: Parks and Recreation, Planning & Zoning, Public Works

Funding Source: Project proponents, Development Impact Fees

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4

PF-3: Create Standards for Parks: Work through the appropriate City Departments to establish standards for parks and recreation. The standards should provide the following:

- A comprehensive list of park features and standards taken into account the special needs of the desert climate including shaded play structures, water fountains at all parks, night lighting to maximize use and indoor facilities;
- A standard set of operating schedules;
- A recommended list of materials.

Responsible Agency/Department: Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Planning and Zoning

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 1.3, 1.6

PF-4: Maximize Funding Dollars: Work with developers, the school district, community organizations and local business owners to maximize the funding available to the program. Encourage the business community to support leagues and encourage private entertainment investment. Maximize the use of volunteers to develop, build and maintain new parks. Seek grants.

Responsible Agency/Department: Parks and Recreation

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 1.6

PF-5: Undertake Regular Updates to the Parks and Recreation Facilities

Master Plan: Review the effectiveness of programs and safety and appropriateness of existing parks by undertaking regular review of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. Evaluate the quality of the parks and confirm that community needs are being met.

Responsible Agency/Department: Parks and Recreation

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Every five years

Related Policies: 1.1, 1.3, 1.6

PF-6: Keep Program Estimates and Development Impact Fees Current:

Assure adequate funding for the program by updating cost estimates at each phase of the project design and by updating the Development Impact Fees to reflect current cost estimates.

Responsible Agency/Department: Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Finance

Funding Source: General Fund, Development Impact Fees

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 1.2, 1.3

Educational Facilities

PF-7: Schools to Serve the Community: Review development proposals for consistency with school facility requirements, work with the district to collect student impact fees and require the dedication of necessary school sites when appropriate.

Responsible Agency/Department: Public Works, El Centro Elementary School District, Central Union High School District, McCabe Union Elementary School District

Funding Source: Project proponent

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 2.1

PF-8: School Districts' Master Plans: Work with the school districts serving El Centro in future updates of their Master Plans. Provide information about existing and planned land use to the districts. Coordinate with the districts in establishing new school facility sites, student generation formulas and facility improvement plans.

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Responsible Agency/Department: Planning and Zoning, El Centro Elementary School District, Central Union High School District, McCabe Union Elementary School District

Funding Source: General Fund, state and federal funds

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 2.1

PF-9: Joint Use Agreements with Schools: Work with School Districts to improve joint-use agreements in order to resolve specific issues including:

- Security;
- Availability of Facilities;
- Shared parking and restrooms that can be accessed from outside of the buildings;
- Clear definition of responsibilities in terms of maintenance, repairs, scheduling and insurance liability.

Responsible Agency/Department: Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Finance, El Centro Elementary School District, Central Union High School District, McCabe Union Elementary School District

Funding Source: General Fund, State and Federal Funds

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 3.1

Library Facilities

PF-10: Library Administrative Board: Continue to work with the El Centro Public Library Administrative Board to ensure that community needs for library services are being met.

Responsible Agency/Department: Library, Public Library Administrative Board

Funding Source: General Fund, development fees, state and federal funds

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 3.1, 3.2

Police Facilities

PF-11: Law Enforcement: Review the level of services and funding levels at budget time, adjusting when necessary to ensure that adequate levels of service are provided and facilities are maintained.

Responsible Agency/Department: Police Department

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Annual basis at budget time

Related Policies: 4.1

Fire Stations

PF-12: Fire Protection: Review the level of services and funding levels at budget time, adjusting when necessary to ensure that adequate levels of service are provided and facilities are maintained.

Responsible Agency/Department: Fire Department
Funding Source: General Fund
Time Frame: Annual basis at budget time
Related Policies: 5.2

Civic Center

PF-13: Civic Center Precise Plan: Create and implement a Precise Plan for the City's Civic Center that maximizes the efficiency of public agencies.

Responsible Agency/Department: Planning and Zoning
Funding Source: General Fund
Time Frame: 2003-2004
Related Policies: 6.1

Cultural Facilities

PF-14: Community Based Organizations: Continue to coordinate with community organizations to provide facilities that serve the diverse cultural groups and activities in El Centro.

Responsible Agency/Department: Parks and Recreation
Funding Source: General Fund
Time Frame: Ongoing
Related Policies: 7.1

Sewer System

PF-15: Sewer Master Plan: Update, as necessary, and implement the Sewer Master Plan. As part of the Master Plan update, the City will evaluate the need for additional pump station and piping capacity.

Responsible Agency/Department: Public Works
Funding Source: General Fund
Time Frame: Ongoing
Related Policies: 8.1, 8.3, 8.4

Water System

PF-16: Water Master Plan: Update, as necessary, and implement the Water Master Plan. As part of the Master Plan update, the City will evaluate the need for additional piping capacity.

Responsible Agency/Department: Public Works

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 9.1

PF-17: Water and Sewer Service: Review development proposals and require necessary studies, as appropriate, and water conservation and mitigation measures to ensure adequate water and sewer service is provided and maintained.

Responsible Agency/Department: Planning and Zoning, Public Works

Funding Source: General Fund, project proponent, development fees

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 9.1

PF-18: Improve Surface Water Quality: Reduce pollutants in urban runoff, by requiring new development projects and substantial rehabilitation projects to incorporate Best Management Practices pursuant to the National Pollutant System Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) to ensure that the City complies with applicable State and Federal regulations.

Responsible Agency/Department: Planning and Zoning, Public Works

Funding Source: General Fund, state and federal funds, project proponent

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 2.1

PF-19: Watershed Management Initiative: Cooperate with regional agencies to implement the Watershed Management Initiative.

Responsible Agency/Department: Planning and Zoning, Public Works, Imperial Irrigation District, County of Imperial

Funding Source: General Fund, state and federal funds

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 9.1, 9.2

PF-20: Water Quality Education: Coordinate in the development and implementation of a public education program to inform the public of the harm caused by pollutants and litter that can be carried on the surface of land to the drainage systems, creeks, rivers, groundwater, and Salton Sea.

Responsible Agency/Department: Planning and Zoning, Public Works, Imperial Irrigation District, County of Imperial

Funding Source: General Fund, state and federal funds

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 9.1, 9.2

PF-21: Imperial Irrigation District Rules and Regulations: Continue to implement the Imperial Irrigation District Rules and Regulations governing the distribution and use of water.

Responsible Agency/Department: Planning and Zoning, Public Works, Imperial Irrigation District

Funding Source: General fund, state and federal funds

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 9.1, 9.2