

CHAPTER 8

Environmental Resources Element

Introduction

A healthy natural environment contributes directly to existing and future quality of life, and to the identity of a community. Clean air and water, wise use of energy and other renewable resources, reduction in the generation of greenhouse gas emissions, and protection of unique biological and cultural resources are vital to the well-being of a community and to society as a whole. Thoughtful conservation of environmental resources is not only beneficial to current residents and businesses, but to the quality of life of future generations.

Pico Rivera values and is committed to protecting and enhancing its environmental resources. One of the community's core values is to minimize the impacts of urban activities on natural environmental systems and functions. The intent is to live in balance with the community's environmental setting, and manage resource needs and conservation for the common good.

This element addresses the long-term management of Pico Rivera's environmental resources including air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, water resources, biological resources, mineral resources, and cultural resources.

Sustainable Communities Strategy

California Senate Bill 375 requires each of the 18 metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) in the State to prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to demonstrate how development patterns and transportation network, policies, and programs will work together to achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for cars and light trucks, if there is a feasible way to do so. If a MPO cannot meet the targets through a SCS, then the region is required to develop an alternative planning strategy that demonstrates how GHG reduction targets could be achieved.

In essence, the SCS includes four building blocks:

- A land use component that accommodates the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and includes the protection of sensitive resources, including areas protected under habitat conservation plans;
- Transportation networks including highways, transit, and local streets and roads;

- Transportation demand management strategies; and
- Transportation system management programs and policies.

Unique to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments which is made up of 27 cities and the County of Los Angeles including Pico Rivera was one of two sub-regions which developed its own SCS for incorporation into SCAG's 2012-2035 RTP/SCS.

The Gateway Cities SCS was developed by selecting greenhouse gas reduction strategies that work for and would be implemented by each individual city over the next 25 years. These local strategies were then integrated with subregional and regional transportation projects which are part of the 2012-2035 SCAG RTP. The SCS contains transportation and land use programs, plans and strategies that each jurisdiction will implement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and 2035 below regional targets set by the California Air Resources Board (ARB).

The greenhouse gas reduction strategies selected by the City of Pico Rivera and included in the Gateway Cities SCS are reflected in this element, as well as within the Housing Element and Circulation elements of the General Plan. These strategies include the following.

- Sites to accommodate the City's share of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA);
- Compressed work week for City employees;
- Bus pass sales at City Hall;
- Bicycle/pedestrian initiatives, including citywide bicycle system and improved pedestrian facilities, as well as incorporation of complete streets programs into the Circulation Element;
- Safe routes to school program;
- Transportation Demand Management Ordinance;
- Traffic signal synchronization along Beverly, Whittier, and Washington boulevards, as well as along Telegraph Road;
- Various traffic signal improvements; and
- Possible construction of the Gold Line light rail.

Air Quality

The City of Pico Rivera is located in the South Coast Air Basin within the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD is responsible for ensuring that air quality within the South Coast Air Basin conforms to federal and state air quality standards, and is also responsible for planning, implementing and enforcing programs designed to attain and

maintain ambient air quality standards in the South Coast Air Basin and Mojave Desert air basins.

The SCAQMD has achieved some success in the efforts to improve the air quality of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, which has historically had some of the worst air quality in the nation. Even with these successes, air quality remains poor, and of high concern for Southern California residents.

Existing air quality is measured based upon ambient air quality standards, which represent the levels of air quality that are considered safe, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect the public health and welfare. Federal, State, and local agencies are responsible for the implementation of the Federal Clean Air Act (1977), and the California Clean Air Act. The Federal Clean Air Act requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. The California Clean Air Act established state ambient air quality standards that either meet or exceed federal standards. The California Air Resources Board (ARB) oversees the implementation of this act and oversees emission reduction activities.

If an area does not meet air quality standards, it is considered to be an area of "non-attainment." The pollutants of concern in Los Angeles County are ozone (O₃), fine particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and lead (Pb), of which O₃, PM, CO are in nonattainment status.

Air quality monitoring sites help determine whether a region's air quality is considered in attainment or non-attainment by comparing contaminant ambient air samples to standards set forth by federal and state agencies. The South San Gabriel Valley monitoring station is located in the city, and samples indicate that O₃, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} concentrations have exceeded standards over a three-year time period.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are often referred to as "greenhouse gases." Greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere by both natural sources and human activity. Without the natural greenhouse gas effect, the earth's average temperature would be cooler than it is currently. The accumulation of these gases in the earth's atmosphere is considered to be a cause for the observed increase in the earth's temperature.

Although California's rate of growth of greenhouse gas emissions is slowing, the state is still a substantial contributor. Recent legislation in California requires that greenhouse gas emissions and climate change be addressed by state and

regional agencies, specifically greenhouse gas reduction targets established by Executive Order S-3-05, Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), and Senate Bill 375 (SB 375). In addition, GHG emissions from individual developments are being addressed during the environmental review process required by CEQA.

Because transportation, and in particular automobile travel, is the largest source of GHG emissions, GHG reduction strategies focus on reducing vehicle miles traveled through a combination of reducing commute distances (higher density, more compact communities) and increasing the use of transit. Other major sources of GHG emissions include water and wastewater delivery, treatment, and disposal; energy consumption in buildings, and solid waste management. Thus GHG reduction strategies also include programs aimed at minimizing water and energy consumption, as well as at minimizing solid waste generation.

Energy Conservation

Energy conservation can result in both environmental and economic benefits for the Pico Rivera residents and businesses. This can be accomplished through a variety of methods such as: increasing energy efficiency through building and site design; educating the community on the benefits of conserving energy; providing incentives for utilizing renewable energy systems; and working with the local utility provider to provide rebates for energy retrofits.

Water Resources, Quality, and Conservation

There are two major surface water bodies in Pico Rivera, the Rio Hondo River located along the western boundary of the City, and the San Gabriel River located along the eastern boundary. In the central part of the City are the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds for the rivers, which are two large, off-channel percolation basins. The spreading grounds temporarily hold water, which allows sufficient time for it to percolate through the bottoms and sides of the ponds and replenish the groundwater basin. **Figure 8-1** illustrates the location of these water resources.



Rio Hondo Spreading
Grounds

Groundwater in the area is drawn from the Central Basin, which underlies the entire San Gabriel Valley. Groundwater depths vary, primarily depending on the amount of water extracted through groundwater pumping. Local precipitation in the Basin does not directly influence the groundwater supply to any great degree. This is due to the presence of a layer of impermeable material that lies between the surface and the producing aquifers. As a consequence, very little of the annual rainfall reaches the aquifers. Natural replenishment of the groundwater supply is limited to surface inflow through the Whittier Narrows, located north of the City. Groundwater levels are maintained through artificial replenishment overseen by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD).

Annual water quality reports published by the City of Pico Rivera, the Pico Water District, and the San Gabriel Valley Water Company indicate that the water supplied to customers meets state and federal standards. Groundwater in the Basin is of generally good quality and is suitable for use by the public.

Open Space

Open space and recreational facilities for the enjoyment and needs of all citizens are essential for the well being of people in Pico Rivera. Open space areas define the boundaries of and provide relief from urbanization and the built environment. Parks not only serve the physical and social needs of individuals, they also serve as gathering places and create opportunities for families and neighbors to meet and interact with one another, as well as break up the monotony of surrounding urban environments. When the City incorporated in 1958, it inherited an existing park system from the County of Los Angeles. In the first eight years following incorporation, the City allocated all capital funds available to improvement of existing facilities rather than acquisition of additional sites. The result is a well-developed parks system throughout the city.

Pico Rivera is a highly urbanized community bounded by three major open space areas: the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel rivers which form the community's western and eastern boundaries, and the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area (WNRA), located north of the city straddling the area between the San Gabriel River above the Whittier Narrows Dam and the Rio Hondo River. In addition to these regional open space areas, the city contains an extensive system of local park land.

Portions of the San Gabriel River adjacent to the city and most of the Rio Hondo River remain in a fairly natural state, supporting stream-side vegetation of willows, sycamores, cottonwoods, and mule fat. The Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds along the western boundary of the city provides a refuge for many species of birds but is void of significant natural vegetation.

The city currently maintains a comprehensive system of parks and recreational facilities. Residents, workers and visitors enjoy the city's recreation facilities including athletic fields, gymnasiums and community centers, a nine-hole executive golf course and aquatic facilities.

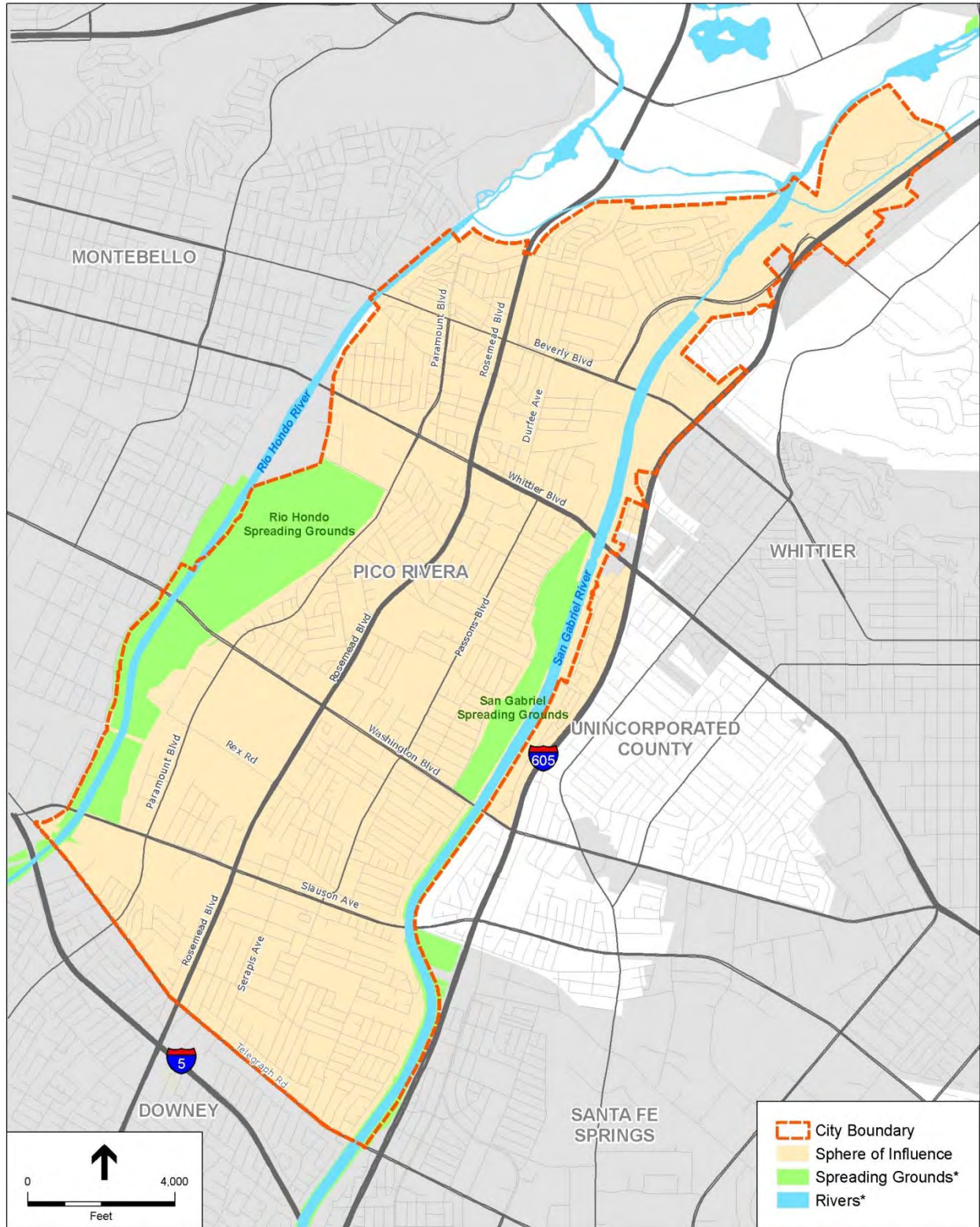
In 2002, the City developed a Parks Master Plan of conceptual drawings to provide a comprehensive, collective vision of restoration and modernization of all of the city's major park facilities. As part of the city's effort to enhance the provision of vital city services, the City has initiated numerous park renovation projects, and has also entered a joint use facility agreement with El Rancho Unified School District for use of recreational facilities.



Rio Hondo River



Pico Rivera
Municipal Golf Course



*These areas may accommodate floodwater for purposes of groundwater recharge and stormwater management.

Figure 8-1: Water Resources

Biological Resources

The Los Angeles County General Plan designates the 4,145 acre Whittier Narrows Recreation Area as a local Significant Ecological Area. The WNRA includes a mix of oak, sycamore and willow riparian woodland, freshwater marsh, grasslands and coastal sage scrub. It also supports resident and migratory bird species, and many regional biological values, including protection of existing core populations of rare species, presence of plant communities with restricted distribution, essential habitat for resident species and migratory birds, and potential habitat linkages along and between the San Gabriel River and the Puente Hills corridor.

Based on recent research of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), there is a potential for special status species to be present in the northeastern portion of the city along the San Gabriel River, north of Whittier Boulevard, as well as in the far northern portion of the city near the WNRA.

The WNRA effectively isolates the city from the significant wildlife habitat areas on the dam's upstream side. This location and the disturbed condition of the vegetation in Pico Rivera combine to minimize the amount of wildlife in the city. No rare or endangered species are known to be present within the city.

Cultural Resources

Pico Rivera and the surrounding area have a long and varied history of human occupation, which includes origins with Native American villages, Spanish and Mexican ranchos, and post-World War II settlements. Due to this rich history, the City contains historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources.

There are many locations of historic interest in Pico Rivera; however, no sites are currently listed in Federal register. One site is California registered and is located at 9235 Whittier Boulevard; the old National Bank of Pico Rivera. Two prehistoric sites, LAN-182 and LAN-1179H have been identified and are reported to be located near the Pico adobe structure near Pio Pico State Historical Park. .

Mineral Resources

The San Gabriel Valley has historically been an important source of nonmetallic minerals and rocks. Over the past century, a number of exploratory wells were drilled in Pico Rivera; however, none have indicated the presence of oil or natural gas. Although the city is surrounded by riverbeds, there are no commercially viable sand and gravel resources in the area.



San Gabriel River Trail



Pico Rivera Historical Museum

Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions

Sustainable Communities Strategy

Goal 8.1

A sustainable community where land use and transportation improvements are consistent with regional planning efforts and adopted plans to reduce dependence on the use of fossil fuels and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy 8.1-1 Regional Efforts. Continue to work with the Gateway Cities COG and member agencies in regional planning efforts, and to implement regional plans and programs.

Policy 8.1-2 Gateway Cities SCS. Continue to implement sustainable strategies identified in, and maintain consistency with, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments 2012 Subregional Sustainable Communities Strategy and updated versions incorporated into SCAG's RTP/SCS.

Policy 8.1-3 Environmental Integrity. Foster sustainable living by reducing community dependency of fossil fuels and other non-renewable resources, minimizing air pollutant and GHG emissions, retaining existing open space lands, and restoring habitat areas along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers.

Policy 8.1-4 Efficient Land Use Patterns. Promote efficient land use patterns and compact development that supports widespread walkability and bicycle use, providing for a modest and incremental overall increase in community development intensity that complements the existing community fabric by:

- Encouraging infill and redevelopment of vacant and underutilized sites;
- Facilitating the development of engaging and livable streetscapes characterized by benches, vegetation-appropriate architecture, and pedestrian/bicycle linkages.
- Providing opportunities for non-motorized transportation and linkages between new development and transit.

Policy 8.1-5 Energy Conservation. Promote energy conservation through:

- Partnerships with Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company programs;
- Improving the energy efficiency and increasing conservation in existing and new city buildings;
- Improving energy efficiency of outdoor lighting, including upgrading of city-owned street lights, as well as outdoor lighting within parks and municipal parking lots to more energy efficient models;
- Increasing water efficiency and water conservation in existing city buildings and new development projects; and
- Providing for renewable energy generation at city facilities with the aim of achieving five percent of city facilities' energy needs with renewable energy generation by 2030.

Policy 8.1-6 Water Conservation. Promote water conservation programs that reduce per capita consumption of water and increase the use of recycle water supplies for non-potable uses.

Policy 8.1-7 Solid Waste Management. Practice and promote responsible waste management with the aim of exceeding mandated waste diversion targets when economically feasible to do so.

Policy 8.1-8 Social Equity. Foster quality of life by building social sustainability, promoting lifelong learning, and ensuring a healthy, connected, and equitable social environment for all residents.

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Goal 8.2

Continued improvement in local and regional air quality with reduced greenhouse gas emissions to maintain the community's health.

Policy 8.2-1 Regional Efforts. Coordinate local air quality improvements and greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts with surrounding communities, and regional agencies such as the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments.

Policy 8.2-2 GHG Reduction Measures. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the City and the region through the following measures including, but not limited to:

- Implementing land use patterns that reduce automobile dependency by increasing housing and employment densities within mixed use settings and transit-oriented developments;
- Reducing the number of vehicular miles traveled through implementation of Transportation Demand Management Programs;
- Encouraging the use of alternative modes of transportation by supporting transit facility and service expansion, expanding bicycle routes and improving bicycle facilities, and improving pedestrian facilities;
- Increasing building energy efficiency through site design, building orientation, landscaping, and incentive/rebate programs;
- Implementing water conservation measures;
- Requiring the use of drought-tolerant landscaping; and
- Increasing solid waste diversion through recycling efforts.

Implementation Program for Policy 8.2-2:

- *Implement the projects set forth in the Gateway Cities 2012 Sustainable Community Strategy and updated versions.*

Policy 8.2-3 Construction Emissions. Require new development projects to incorporate feasible measures that reduce emissions from construction, grading, excavation, and demolition activities to avoid, minimize, and/or offset their impacts consistent with South Coast Air Quality Management District requirements.

GHG Reduction Target:
Reduce per capita and municipal greenhouse gas emissions to 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, consistent with State law.

Refer to Section 10.3, Safe Transportation Systems in the Healthy Community Element for policies on modifying truck routes to avoid residential areas.

Policy 8.2-4 Operational Emissions. Require new development projects to incorporate feasible measures that reduce operational emissions through project and site design and use of best management practices to avoid, minimize, and/or offset their impacts consistent with South Coast Air Quality Management District requirements.

Policy 8.2-5 Toxic Air Pollutants. Locate uses, facilities and operations that may produce toxic or hazardous air pollutants (e.g., industrial uses, highways) an adequate distance from sensitive receptors, consistent with California Air Resources Board recommendations.

Implementation Program for Policy 8.2-5:

- *Require projects for new industrial development or expansion of existing industrial uses that produce air pollutants or toxic air contaminants to conduct a health risk assessment and establish appropriate mitigation prior to approval.*

Policy 8.2-6 Odors. Require that adequate buffer distances be provided between odor sources such as industrial users and sensitive receptors.

Policy 8.2-7 Consolidate Industrial Uses. Consolidate truck-intensive industrial uses within the southern portion of the city to separate truck routes from neighborhoods and minimize potential impacts of diesel emissions on existing residential uses.

Implementation Program for Policy 8.2-7:

- *Where feasible and appropriate, provide assistance to existing truck-intensive industrial uses adjacent to residential neighborhoods in the northern portion of the City to relocate within industrial areas in the southern portion of the City away from residential neighborhoods.*

Policy 8.2-8 Truck Schedules. Encourage businesses to alter local truck delivery schedules to occur during non-peak hours, when feasible.

Policy 8.2-9 Park and Ride Lots. To encourage carpooling, work with the city of Whittier to develop additional park and ride facilities along the I-605 freeway, and with the cities of Downey and Commerce to develop additional park and ride facilities along the I-5 freeway.

Policy 8.2-10 Employers. Encourage employers to allow flexible work hours and telecommuting where feasible, and to provide incentives for employee use of public transit, biking, walking, and carpooling for home to work commutes.

Policy 8.2-11 City Employees. Encourage city employees through incentives and other methods to use alternative modes of transportation for home to work commutes including public transit, carpooling, and biking/walking. Allow telecommuting and flexible work schedules, when feasible.

Policy 8.2-12 Municipal Fleet. Purchase low-emission vehicles for the City's non-emergency fleet and use clean, alternative fuel sources for trucks and heavy equipment, when feasible.

Policy 8.2-13 Contractor Preference. Give preference to contractors that commit to apply methods to minimize greenhouse gas emissions in building construction and operations, such as the use of low or zero-emission vehicles and equipment.

Policy 8.2-14 Transit Vehicles. Encourage and work with local and regional transit providers to use transit vehicles and facilities that are powered by alternative fuels and are low emissions.

Policy 8.2-15 Indoor Air Quality. Encourage the use of landscaping, ventilation systems, or other mitigation measures to achieve healthy indoor air quality in sensitive uses.

Policy 8.2-16 Funding. Pursue regional, State, and federal funding opportunities for transportation projects or improvements that improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy 8.2-17 Education. Participate in efforts that educate the public about air quality, its effects on health, and actions that can be taken to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy 8.2-18 Electric Vehicles. Encourage provision of or readiness for charging stations and related infrastructure for electric vehicles within new development and redevelopment proposals and within City operations.

Energy Conservation

Goal 8.3

A community with improved energy conservation and efficiency.

Policy 8.3-1 Energy Conserving Land Use Practices. Implement energy conserving land use practices including higher density and mixed-use development in proximity to transit along with infill development; improvements to the community's bicycle system; and expansion of transit routes, facilities, and services.

Implementation Program for Policy 8.3-1:

- *Work with Metro and Montebello Bus Lines to find ways of increasing transit services and facilities within Pico Rivera.*

Policy 8.3-2 Heat Gain Reduction. Ensure that site and building designs reduce exterior heat gain and heat island effects (e.g., tree planting, reflective paving materials, covered parking, cool roofs), when feasible.

Policy 8.3-3 Tree Planting. Continue to provide shade trees along street frontages, and promote planting shade trees on private property.

Implementation Program for Policy 8.3-3:

- *Establish a citywide shade tree program to increase the planting of shade trees in Pico Rivera and to minimize heat island effects.*

Policy 8.3-4 Building Orientation. Encourage building orientations and landscaping designs that promote the use of natural lighting, take advantage of passive summer cooling and winter solar access, and incorporate other techniques to reduce energy demands. Where feasible, place the long access of buildings along an east-west axis.

Policy 8.3-5 Renewable Energy. Encourage new development to install, and consider providing incentives for, onsite renewable energy systems and facilities (e.g., solar).

Implementation Program for Policy 8.3-5:

- *Work with the Southern California Edison Company to provide information to Pico Rivera residents and businesses regarding the availability of programs to assist in the provision of on-site renewable energy generation.*

Policy 8.3-6 Industrial Users. Encourage new industrial users to install cogeneration facilities and renewable energy systems such as solar, when economically feasible.

Policy 8.3-7 Energy Efficiency. Encourage all new development to implement additional energy efficient measures beyond what is required by State law to exceed minimum energy efficiency requirements.

Policy 8.3-8 City Facilities. Install energy-efficient lighting, appliances, and alternative-energy infrastructure (e.g., solar panels) in city facilities, where economically feasible.

Policy 8.3-9 Retrofit Existing Buildings. Coordinate with local energy providers to increase energy efficiency by promoting the retrofit and renovation of existing buildings through energy rebates and incentives.

Policy 8.3-10 City's Fleet. Improve the fuel efficiency of the City's fleet by purchasing the most energy-efficient equipment that is cost-effective over its useful life.

Policy 8.3-11 Education. Coordinate with local energy providers to increase awareness of energy conservation through public education programs.

Water Resources, Quality, and Conservation

Goal 8.4

Protection of the City's water resources and quality with implementation of sustainable water use practices that meet the needs of its residents and businesses.

Water Resource Protection

Policy 8.4-1 Surface Water. Protect surface water resources in Pico Rivera, including the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers.

Policy 8.4-2 Groundwater. Work with applicable agencies to monitor and protect the quality and quantity of groundwater from the Central Basin.

Policy 8.4-3 Recharge. Protect provide important groundwater recharge capabilities along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel rivers.

Water Quality

Policy 8.4-4 Regional Coordination. Coordinate and collaborate with agencies in the region and watershed to address water quality issues.

Policy 8.4-5 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System. Regulate construction and operational activities to incorporate stormwater protection measures and best management practices in accordance with the City's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

Policy 8.4-6 Industrial Users. Regulate discharge from industrial users in accordance with local, regional, and State regulations to protect the City's natural water bodies.

Policy 8.4-7 Underground Storage Tanks. Monitor underground storage tanks containing hazardous materials on a regular basis in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

Policy 8.4-8 New Development. Require new development to protect the quality of surface and groundwater bodies and natural drainage systems through site design, stormwater retention and treatment, and implementation of low impact development measures (LID).

Water Conservation

Policy 8.4-9 Water Conservation on City Property. Incorporate water conservation techniques into City-owned buildings and property including water efficient fixtures, drought-tolerant and native landscaping, efficient irrigation systems, on-site stormwater capture and reuse systems, and water reuse, in accordance with state and other relevant standards, including the city's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.

Policy 8.4-10 Water Conservation in New Development. Require new development to incorporate water conservation techniques into building and site design including the use of water efficient fixtures, drought-tolerant and native landscaping, efficient irrigation systems, on-site stormwater capture and reuse systems, and water reuse in accordance with state and other relevant standards, including the city's Water Efficient Landscape ordinance.

Policy 8.4-11 Recycled Water. Continue to use, and expand opportunities to increase the use of, recycled water in the city parks, landscaped areas along roadways, and the municipal golf course, if supplies are available.

Implementation Programs for Policy 8.4-11:

- *Continue to work with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and other applicable agencies to facilitate the availability of recycled water within the City.*
- *Develop measures that would require the use of recycled water within the community parks and roadway landscape areas in the city.*
- *Apply for county, state and federal grants to develop infrastructure for the use of recycled water.*

Policy 8.4-12 Groundwater Replenishment. Work with the Water Replenishment District to actively pursue the feasibility of retaining more local storm runoff for groundwater replenishment.

Policy 8.4-13 Education. Educate residents and businesses about the importance of water conservation and potential techniques and programs.

Mineral Resources

Goal 8.5

Mineral resource extraction activities compatible with adjacent uses.

Policy 8.5-1 Compatible Activities. Require that any future oil, gas, and mineral resource extraction activities be compatible with and minimize impacts on adjacent uses.

Biological Resources

Goal 8.6

Preservation of the City's open space and significant biological resources as components of a sustainable community.

Policy 8.6-1 Open Space Conservation. Conserve areas that serve as interim and permanent open space in the City, including the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel river corridors and their spreading grounds, other publicly maintained open space, and utility corridors.

Policy 8.6-2 Valuable Natural Resources. Preserve and restore unique and valuable natural resources and associated habitats, primarily located along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel river channels and spreading grounds, including special-status species, in coordination with federal, state, and local resource agencies.

Implementation Programs for Policy 8.6-2:

- *Conduct a study of existing habitats, primarily located along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel river corridors, to determine where restoration is possible.*
- *Work with the Watershed Conservation Authority and Corps of Engineers to pursue funding sources for habitat restoration.*

Policy 8.6-3 New Development. Require discretionary development proposals that could potentially impact natural resources to conduct a biological resource assessment to ensure that project-related impacts are considered and mitigated consistent with federal, state, and local regulations.

Policy 8.6-4 Tree Preservation. Preserve significant native and heritage trees, and reduce the loss of these trees through mitigation and replanting programs, when feasible.

Implementation Program for Policy 8.6-4:

- *Adopt a community tree protection ordinance and establish a Community Forestry program that identifies goals for the protection and preservation of trees in Pico Rivera, and establishes specific performance standards for the care and protection of public trees.*

Policy 8.6-5 Wildlife Movement. Preserve and enhance interconnected open space and natural areas along the river corridors and spreading basins, and its connections to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, to provide for wildlife movement.

Policy 8.6-6 Native Plants. Use native and drought tolerant plants and trees in all public and private landscaping.

Cultural Resources

Goal 8.7

Preservation of important cultural and paleontological resources that contribute to the unique identity and character of Pico Rivera.

Policy 8.7-1 Resource Preservation. Protect and preserve significant historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources, including those recognized at the national, state, and local levels.

Policy 8.7-2 Identification. Undertake programs to identify significant historic and archaeological resources that meet local, state, and federal criteria.

Implementation Program for Policy 8.7-2:

- *Develop a process and schedule to conduct a study that identifies historic and archaeological resources that meet local, state, and federal criteria.*

Policy 8.7-3 Consultation. As part of the development review process, ensure that potential impacts to historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources are minimized.

Implementation Program for Policy 8.7-3:

- *Consult with the following organizations and individuals regarding any known historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources that may be present: Pico Rivera History and Heritage Society; Information Centers of the California Historical Resources Information System; Native American Heritage Commission; and Native American groups and individuals.*

Policy 8.7-4 Resource Assessment. Require new development necessitating discretionary approval that could potentially impact historic, archaeological, and/or paleontological resources to conduct a resource survey to ensure that potential sites are identified for avoidance or special treatment.

Implementation Programs for Policy 8.7-4:

- *Require the preparation of a historical resource assessment by a professional architectural historian who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for projects subject to discretionary approval that involve the demolition, relocation, or alteration of a building or structure over 45 years old or that would result in a change to the building or structure's immediate setting and would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.*
- *Require, as a condition of project approval, the implementation of appropriate and feasible measures to reduce any potential impacts associated with a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource identified in an historical resource assessment.*
- *Require that when any subsurface cultural resources, paleontological resources, or human remains are encountered, all work within 100 feet of the discovery be stopped and the area protected from further disturbance until the discovery is evaluated by a qualified professional. The appropriate City personnel shall be notified immediately. The resources shall be examined by qualified personnel to determine their significance and develop appropriate protection and preservation measures, if necessary. If human remains are discovered, they shall be treated in compliance with applicable state and federal laws, including notifying the County Coroner and consulting with the California Native American Heritage Commission, as appropriate.*

Policy 8.7-5 Incentives. Consider providing financial incentives to private owners and development in order to maintain, rehabilitate, and preserve significant historic resources.

Implementation Program for Policy 8.7-5:

- *Pursue federal, state and local funding sources in order to maintain, rehabilitate, and preserve significant historic resources.*

Policy 8.7-6 Adaptive Reuse. Encourage the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic sites and structures, and require the adaptive reuse of historic structures to meet Secretary of Interior Standards for such reuse.

Policy 8.7-7 Informational Kiosks. Work with the historic society to develop signs within the City to highlight locations of historical or cultural significance.