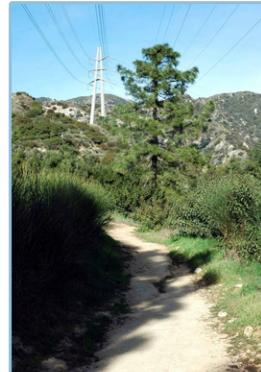




Chapter 4

Conservation Element



4.0

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

4.1 Introduction

The word *conservation* can be defined as the careful preservation, protection, or planned management of a natural resource to prevent its exploitation, destruction, or neglect (Merriam-Webster, Inc. 2008). The City of La Cañada Flintridge is fortunate to possess many topographic and biological resources—such as trees, wildlife, and stunning mountain and valley views—which contribute to its unique character, beauty, and desirability as a place to live, work, and recreate. To maintain a healthy and vibrant community, natural resources, such as water and energy, must be preserved and used in a sustainable manner, and waste must



be managed responsibly. In addition, cultural resources provide a link to a city's past and help shape its present-day character; these too must be preserved. The Vision Statement prepared for this update to the City's General Plan emphasizes the value the community places on all of these resources and the desire to conserve and protect them.

The purpose of the Conservation Element is to identify important natural and cultural resources in the City and region that are consumed or affected by the decisions and actions of those who live, work, and recreate in the City, and to provide policies and implementation programs to protect those resources and guide their utilization in a sustainable manner. The topics addressed in the Conservation Element include water, energy, and biological resources; topographic and visual resources; and cultural, historical, and paleontological resources. Air quality is addressed in Chapter 8, *Air Quality Element*. The

Conservation Element reflects the City's recognition of the importance of taking an overall sustainable and "green" approach to decision-making in the planning period. It also acknowledges the interrelationship of all of the other General Plan elements in carrying out the City's goal of promoting sustainability.

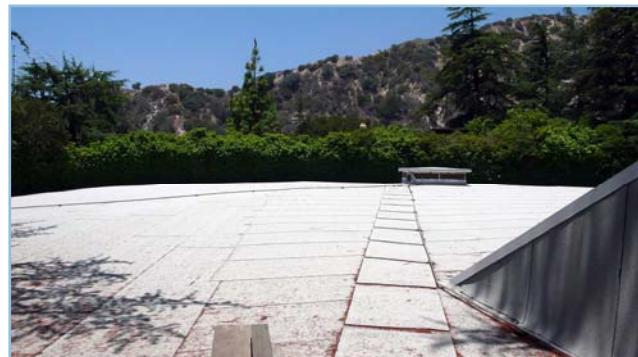
4.2 Setting

Although relatively modest in area, the City is rich in the quantity and array of natural resources it enjoys. Its location—in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains to the north and the San Rafael Hills to the south, and within the Arroyo Seco Watershed—provides the City with significant vegetative and wildlife habitats, as well as prominent landforms that contribute to its visual character. However, its location within Southern California also constrains the amount of water and energy resources that are available for the foreseeable future.

4.3 Existing Conditions

4.3.1 Water Resources

The City is located within the southern end of the Arroyo Seco Watershed, which is a subwatershed of the Los Angeles River Watershed. Within the City, streams flow through several canyons and across the foothills and flatlands into the Arroyo Seco River by way of Flint Wash, which is a major tributary to the Arroyo Seco. Flint Wash begins near Descanso Gardens and runs along the toe of the San Rafael Hills, carrying the flow from these canyons and street runoff into the Hahamongna Watershed Park, where it enters just north of Devil's Gate Dam (North East Trees and Arroyo Seco Foundation 2002). A portion of Flint Wash is a natural, unlined channel; the remainder consists of a series of lined drainage channels on a Los Angeles County Flood Control District easement, draining over 5 square miles of the City (Northeast Trees 2006). There are several debris basins within the City. These are engineered structures designed to collect sediment and any loose debris eroded from the steep hillside watershed of the San Gabriel Mountains above, and



Water Storage Facility in La Cañada Flintridge

prevent damage to downstream properties and channels. A map of the local hydrology is provided in Figure CNE-1, while surface water and drainage are shown on Figure CNE-2.

The City is located in the Raymond Groundwater Basin. Natural recharge in the basin is mainly from direct percolation of precipitation and percolation of ephemeral streamflow from the San Gabriel Mountains. The principal streams that recharge the basin are the Arroyo Seco, Eaton Creek, and Santa Anita Creek.

Surface waters of the Arroyo Seco are contaminated by urban runoff, as are most of the lower-elevation watersheds passing through urban areas in Southern California. The Arroyo Seco is listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired waterways for coliform bacteria and trash. In general, the City's groundwater supply requires dilution with other high-quality water supply sources to meet drinking water standards.

For example, high nitrate concentrations are found in water from some of the wells in Pasadena. Originally, the City managed sewage with individual septic tank systems, which have been known to leak and cause nitrate contamination in groundwater. Currently, the City has many sewer lines installed and is in the process of incorporating portions of the City into the sewer system. Once individual septic systems are removed, the nitrate-contaminated groundwater should drop below State and federal thresholds.

Four water companies serve the City: Mesa Crest Water Company, La Cañada Irrigation District, Valley Water Company, and Crescenta Valley Water District. All four are members of the Foothill Municipal Water District, which is a member of the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California. Mesa Crest Water Company, La Cañada Irrigation District, and Valley Water Company have pumping rights to the Raymond Basin. The Crescenta Valley Water District obtains its water from the Los Angeles District local wells in the Verdugo Basin. However, over 70 percent of the water distributed in the City is imported from Northern California (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California 2008).

4.3.2 Energy

Southern California Edison (SCE), a subsidiary of Edison International, provides electricity to the City. The City receives its natural gas through the Southern California Gas Company. Development proposals are required to request "will serve" letters on a case-by-case basis.

California Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, requires a reduction of the State's greenhouse



SCE Right-of-Way

gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 to address global climate change. An enforceable Statewide cap will be phased in starting in 2012 (AB 32). Although the majority of GHG emissions in California are from vehicles, increasing the use of renewable energy sources and improving efficiency requirements are two methods to assist in reducing overall GHG emissions. (See Chapter 8, *Air Quality Element*, for more detail regarding AB 32).

4.3.3 Biological Resources

The City contains significant biological resources that contribute to the community's semi-rural character. These biological resources also are part of a larger ecosystem within the Los Angeles Basin and are connected to significant resources outside of the City, including the San Gabriel Mountains, the Angeles National Forest, the Hahamonga Watershed, and the Arroyo Seco Watershed.

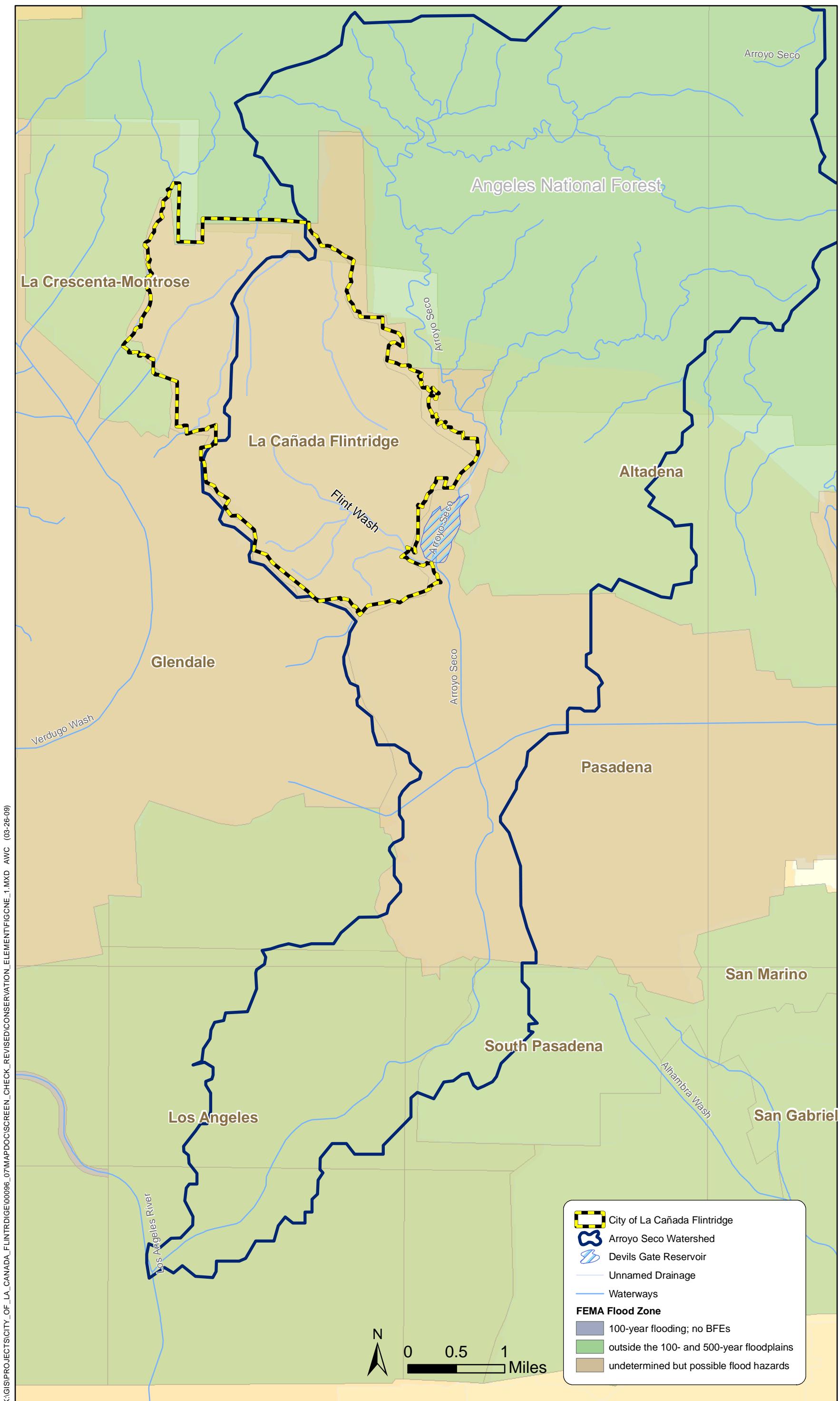
Open space areas with biological resources include: Cherry Canyon in the San Rafael Hills abutting the southwestern edge of the City; wooded canyons in the San Gabriel Mountains and the San Rafael Hills in which spring-fed, permanent, and seasonal streams flow; private and government owned open space on the slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains; the Angeles National Forest, located on the City's northern boundary, which provides substantial open space resources; and the SCE easement, which serves as open space for visual and low intensity recreational purposes and as a wildlife corridor.



Cherry Canyon

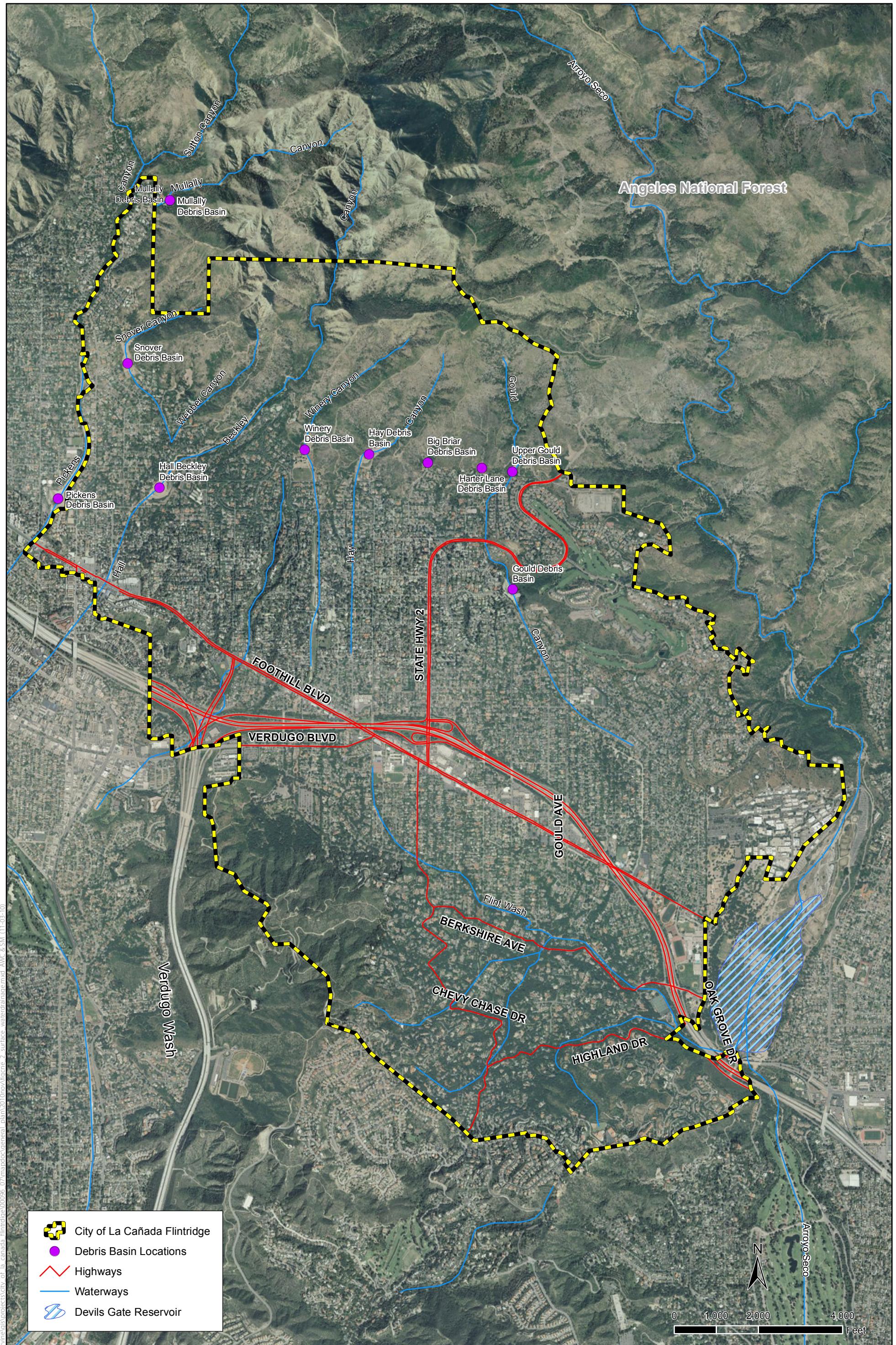
Within the open space areas of the City containing native vegetation, four dominant vegetation communities were identified.

- *Coastal sage scrub-chaparral* is the most dominant native vegetation type within the open spaces of the City. It can be found in Cherry Canyon and the San Gabriel Mountains and on open space hillsides near the City's eastern border.
- *Oak woodlands* can be found in Cherry Canyon and the San Gabriel Mountains along the City's northern border and in other isolated canyons and near the flood control basins.



Source: ESRI Hydro (2003)

Figure CNE-1
Hydrology Map
City of La Cañada Flintridge



Source : California Department of Water Resources (2002); ESRI USA Imagery (1m; 2007)

Figure CNE-2
Surface Water and Drainage
City of La Cañada Flintridge

- *Riparian communities* can be found in Cherry Canyon and Flint Wash and toward canyon bottoms where seasonal and intermittent streams flow.
- *Disturbed nonnative grassland* can be found on open hillsides near the eastern and southwestern borders of the City, along the northern border of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), in Flint Canyon, and over parts of several trails.

The City has an extensive urban forest that contributes to the City's scenic beauty and enhances resource conservation. The urban forest also provides habitat for wildlife, especially birds. The City's Preservation, Protection, and Removal of Trees Ordinance (Chapter 4.26 of the Zoning Ordinance) is intended to preserve and encourage the regeneration of the urban forest.

The open spaces and urban forest described above provide valuable habitats for a variety of wildlife species, including resident and migratory birds and animals. Many of these species, such as squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, and deer, have adapted to the urbanization of their environment and often can be found within residential neighborhoods.

A California Native Plant Society (CNPS) list of special-status plant species and a California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) list of special-status wildlife species were reviewed for this update to the Conservation Element. The review found that many special-status plant and wildlife species are known to occur, or have a reasonable probability of occurring, in or near the City. Special-status biological resources are species listed under federal or State Endangered Species Acts, species listed as Species of Special Concern by the State, species protected under official conservation programs, resources considered sensitive under CEQA, and species or habitats designated by legislation as requiring protection. Legal protection for special-status species varies widely, from the relatively comprehensive protection extended to listed threatened and endangered species to no legal status at present.

4.3.4

Topographic and Visual Resources

The City is located in the east end of the Crescenta Valley, nestled between the San Gabriel Mountains to the north and the San Rafael Hills to the south. The

San Gabriel
Mountains
and Angeles
National
Forest
provide a
dramatic



panoramic backdrop for the City to the north, while the north face of the San Rafael Hills frames the City's southern border. The views of the valley, including the Los Angeles Basin and the Arroyo Seco, sweep from the northeast to the southwest through the City. In addition to the spectacular topography of the mountains and hills, the City is lushly vegetated in the valley and up the flanks of the foothills with an extensive urban forest, which also contributes to the overall beauty of the community. Although the City is nearly fully developed, it retains a semi-rural atmosphere that contributes to its scenic beauty.

These topographic and visual resources are highly valued by the residents and appreciated by those who work, recreate, and drive through La Cañada Flintridge. The vistas and scenery can be experienced throughout the City, both from private and public vantage points. Private vantage points include views from individual residences, commercial and other buildings, and private recreational facilities. Public vantage points are those locations within the City that can be accessed by every viewer group; key public vantage points include the Interstate (I) 210 and State Route (SR) 2 freeways, as they enter and pass through the City; Foothill Boulevard; Angeles Crest Highway (from I-210 north to the Angeles National Forest); and public recreational and open space areas, such as Cherry Canyon and trails throughout the City.

Of special concern is the negative visual effect that future development on remaining hillsides could create as seen from private and public vantage points. The majority of these undeveloped properties are steep, with slopes in excess of 30 to 40 percent; many are visually prominent and contain or are surrounded by significant aesthetic resources, such as prominent ridgelines, canyons, and knolls.

New development along roadways also has the potential to obstruct views of the mountains and hills as seen by those working, walking, and driving on them. In 1980 the City adopted scenic corridors as a part of the approval of the Environmental Resource Management Element of the General Plan. The designated scenic corridors include Foothill Boulevard, I-210, SR-2, and Verdugo Boulevard east of SR-2.

4.3.5 Cultural, Historical, and Paleontological Resources

Each city has its own unique history – the people, events, and forces that determine how it was settled in recent times; its place in a historical context, which often shaped its recent history; and its prehistoric past, which reveals itself through archaeological investigations. Together, these components of a city's history and origin contribute to its present-day uniqueness and community heritage. Cultural resources include physical remains of past human activities:

prehistoric and historical archaeological remains; historical architectural remains, including building, structures, and other features of the built environment; and places of importance to Native Americans.

The first known inhabitants of the area were most likely the Gabrielino (Tongva) Indians, whose territory included the watersheds of the nearby Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers, and extended into the San Gabriel Mountains to the north. Archaeological studies in the vicinity of the City indicate the presence of Native American archaeological sites. The records search conducted for this update to the General Plan indicated that no prehistoric or historical archaeological sites have been recorded in the City. However, considering the history of the area, any redevelopment activities have the potential to expose buried deposits. Sensitive archaeological sites are likely to exist within areas that have not been systematically surveyed.

The foundation of the present-day City was established in the early 1920s when developers began to subdivide the area to attract buyers with the beautiful scenery (City of La Cañada Flintridge 1980). In 1976, the two unincorporated communities of La Cañada and Flintridge joined to become one incorporated city, called La Cañada Flintridge.

A number of buildings within the City have been identified as significant historical resources at the federal, State, and local levels. The City has one structure, the Lanterman House, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Lanterman House was opened as a museum and archive in 1993. It is owned by the City and its management is supported by the Lanterman House Foundation. Over 50 historical structures identified by the local historical society as significant predate 1935, and are noted in a previous study for sanitary sewer improvements (McKenna 2000).



Lanterman House

Under the Mills Act, State law authorizes cities to enter into contract with the owners of qualified historic properties to provide property tax reduction as an incentive for the use, rehabilitation, and restoration of historically designated properties. In early 2012 the City adopted a Mills Act Ordinance to establish the use of Mills Act contracts to foster the preservation of qualifying landmark and historic properties in La Cañada Flintridge.

4.3.6 Solid Waste/Recycling

The City does not provide trash collection services and requires all generators to contract with one of the waste haulers permitted by the City. All waste haulers operating within the City must enter into an agreement and sign a contract with the City. The contracts include minimum waste diversion (recycling) requirements for waste collected from each of the services' sectors (i.e., residential [35 percent], commercial [28 percent], and roll-off boxes [70 percent]).

The City has mandatory green waste collection and recycling programs for all single-family residences, which assists in diverting waste from the landfill. The City will investigate expanding the program to commercial operations and multi-family residences. The City currently requires demolition and building permit applicants with projects of 1,000 square feet or more to submit a Building Debris Management Report and performance security. Such "Covered Projects" are required to divert (recycle) at least 50 percent of all project-related construction and demolition debris.

La Cañada Flintridge adopted the State "Model Ordinance Relating to Areas for Collecting and Loading Recyclable Materials in Development Projects" pursuant to California Assembly Bill 2176 (Chapter 879, Statutes of 2004). This ordinance requires provision of adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials in development projects. The City Code also includes provisions pertaining to multi-family development standards and guidelines for the Residential Planned Development (RPD) Zone and R-3 Multi-family Zone specifying minimum design standards for trash and recycling enclosures.

4.4 Planning for Resource Conservation, Efficiency, and Sustainability

The terms *sustainable* and *green* have become common parlance when referring to principles, practices, and application of techniques that conserve energy, water, and other natural resources; manage the use of renewable and non-renewable resources in an efficient and responsible manner; preserve and improve the environment, from the local to the global level; reduce pollution; improve human health and safety; and strengthen the economy. Green Technology, a California-based non-profit initiative, defines *sustainability* as "Meeting the needs of society in ways that can continue indefinitely into the future without damaging or depleting natural resources. In short, meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Green Technology 2006).

As the City is nearly built out, the minimal amount of additional development that is possible within the planning period will not have a significant impact on the City's natural resources or the supply of water and energy resources. However, the sustainable and efficient use and management of resources can reduce the existing demand for energy and water. Those "green" practices and techniques also can assist the City, as well as State and federal agencies, in their goals and responsibilities to reduce the use of non-renewable resources, reduce GHG emissions, conserve water, and improve the overall quality of the environment. The City is committed to preserving and protecting all of the valuable resources that make it special and unique, including natural, topographic and visual, and cultural resources. The City also recognizes that local decisions can have far-reaching impacts, from the regional to the global scale.

California is taking a leadership role in energy efficiency and conservation, sustainability, GHG emission reduction, green building techniques, and green purchasing practices. In 2004, the Governor issued Executive Order S-20-04, known as the "Green Building Initiative," which calls for all levels of government and the private sector to follow the State's example by implementing sustainable building practices and energy efficiency efforts Statewide.

The Conservation Element reflects the City's commitment to "going green" in this planning period and its goal to encourage the community to do the same. It also reflects the City's intent to work cooperatively with other agencies and community partners to manage resources responsibly, efficiently, and in a sustainable manner. The City's plan to conserve its valuable resources is summarized below and described further in Section 4.5, *Goals, Objectives, and Policies*. In addition, policies and programs have been incorporated into other General Plan elements to work collectively to support land use, open space and recreation, circulation, air quality, and other decisions to implement sustainable resource management principles. Conservation of air resources is addressed in Chapter 8, *Air Quality Element*.

4.4.1 Water Resource Sustainability

During the planning period, the City will undertake efforts to protect and enhance water resources through water conservation and water quality improvement efforts.

Each of the four water companies that serve the City already participates in a Water Conservation Alert System and promotes voluntary water conservation guidelines. During the planning period, the City will work with the local water agencies and the Foothill Municipal Water District to encourage residents and other water consumers to increase their water conservation efforts. In addition, new development and rehabilitation projects will be encouraged to make maximum use of water conservation techniques.

In 1993, the City recognized the need to conserve water through adoption and implementation of its existing Water Efficient Landscaping Chapter (Chapter 4.23) of the Zoning Ordinance. This ordinance currently applies to “all new and rehabilitated landscaping for public agency projects and nonresidential private development projects that require a grading permit, building permit, or use permit” and “all new or rehabilitated landscaping in any common area in any residential project, whether single-family or multi-family” (La Cañada Flintridge Municipal Code, Section 4.23.030). Lush landscaping and an extensive urban forest are two signature features of the City’s character. However, since over 60 percent of the land in the City is devoted to single-family uses, considerable opportunity still exists to reduce water usage for landscaping without sacrificing the value that landscaping brings to the community. The City will evaluate whether to extend its existing Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance to single-family residences or develop a modified version of the ordinance for that use.

Another water conservation measure the City will pursue is promoting compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 407 (Chapter 587, Statutes of 2009) prior to the mandatory time frames (between January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2019). This statute (Civil Code Section 1101.1, et seq.) establishes Statewide requirements for the replacement of old, non-compliant plumbing fixtures in existing residential and commercial property (built and occupied on or before January 1, 1994) with new, water conserving models. Water conserving models would meet the requirements of current building standards.

The City will also address water quality issues and concerns during the planning period through efforts to manage stormwater runoff, reduce water pollution, and enhance groundwater recharge through public and private sector efforts.

The City will coordinate and cooperate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other governmental and environmental partners to restore and preserve the natural hydrological functions of the Arroyo Seco Watershed. One of the key projects for the City is to pursue implementation of the proposed Flint Wash Restoration Project, which would involve removal of substantial amounts of existing debris, restoration of natural riparian plant species and habitat, and protection of the Flint Canyon Trail in areas where it is vulnerable to erosion.

Environmental enhancement opportunities that were identified in the list of potential Link/West Gateway Corridor Improvement Recommendations, prepared in 2004, also will be undertaken during this planning period. The first project includes enhancement of Rockland Place Street-End where it terminates on the north side of Foothill Boulevard, at the east end of the existing Big Lots! parking lot. This project involves redeveloping the area into a pocket park with native landscaping, dry stream rockscaping to direct runoff, and permeable surfaces for groundwater recharge. Another project includes protection and restoration of creek/drainage sites along Foothill Boulevard and the creation of a

comprehensive look to the bridges over the numerous stream crossings along Foothill Boulevard.

Many simple and cost-effective techniques can be applied to any site to manage stormwater, reduce runoff and pollution, and assist in maintaining or restoring the natural hydrology of the site. This stormwater management strategy is known as Low Impact Development (LID). LID techniques that can be implemented easily on commercial or residential projects include:

- installation of permeable paving material,
- use of bioretention areas and bioswales in landscaped areas,
- use of rain barrels and cisterns,
- planting of street trees, and
- installation of vegetated filter strips.

The City will encourage use of LID techniques through public outreach and education, and will consider adding design guidelines and/or development standards to require the use of LID techniques in new or rehabilitated projects. The City also will apply LID techniques in its own public projects and will publicize and promote them as demonstration projects for the community. An example of a potential drainage enhancement demonstration project on private property is the Ross Dress-for-Less drainage enhancement project that was identified in the list of potential Link/West Gateway Corridor Improvement Recommendations prepared in 2004.

Finally, continued construction of sewers to eliminate septic systems will reduce the rate of infiltration of nitrates to the groundwater system.

4.4.2 Energy Resource Sustainability

The City will encourage conservation of energy resources and will address its responsibilities under AB 32 (regarding global climate change) and other energy conservation legislation during the planning period through implementation of sustainability principles and green programs. The City will encourage implementation of green building and site design programs through implementation of the California Green Building Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations [CCR]), development of incentive programs and/or development guidelines and regulations, such as Build It Green and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building and construction standards and Cool Communities Measures. It also will evaluate the extent to which the State's *Green Building Action Plan* could be applied to existing or proposed City facilities. (See Chapter 8.0, *Air Quality Element*, for air quality conservation strategies.)

Some of the City's service providers are already implementing strategies to address global climate change and energy efficiency and sustainability. SCE is working toward reducing GHG emissions by providing customers with energy from renewable resources, such as solar, biomass, hydropower, and geothermal. SCE is also working with the California Action Registry on a new program called the "Cool Planet Project," which will provide SCE customers with incentives when they participate in energy efficiency programs. The Southern California Gas Company also encourages environmental consciousness by offering rebate programs for energy efficient homes. The City will support and encourage these and future energy conservation efforts.

4.4.3 Biological Resource Sustainability

The City will implement policies and programs to preserve its biological resources, including vegetation and wildlife. These efforts also will support the conservation of other resources, including water and energy, and will benefit regional resources, such as the Hahamonga and Arroyo Seco Watersheds. The City will consider evaluating and mapping all vegetation and habitat communities on property that is designated open space on the Land Use Map in order to make informed decisions regarding development and/or preservation.

Riparian corridors and coastal sage scrub-chaparral communities represent significant biological resources in the City. These native vegetation communities provide a physical connection between the mountains and the ocean, provide refuge for wildlife in urban areas, enhance water quality and groundwater recharge, reduce flooding, and potentially support many special-status species. The City will take measures to preserve and enhance the riparian corridors and sage scrub-chaparral communities, such as through participation in the Flint Wash Restoration Project and implementation of the Hillside Development Ordinance.

La Cañada Flintridge's urban forest is also a valuable biological resource; therefore, the City will continue to implement its Preservation, Protection and Removal of Trees Ordinance. In addition, the City will encourage the planting of native tree species on public and private lands.

A key to protecting biological resources is to preserve the open spaces in which they exist. The Land Use Element redesignates approximately 43 acres of government-owned Hillside Residential property north of the A/B Line to Open Space, and redesignates a total of 20.4 acres of other property to Open Space.

4.4.4 Prominent Landform and Viewscape Conservation

The City continues to place a high priority on preserving and protecting its prominent landforms and viewscapes, including ridgelines, knolls, valleys, creeks, and other unique topographic features.

Much of the remaining undeveloped property in La Cañada Flintridge can be described as visually prominent and containing significant environmental and aesthetic resources.

Figure CNE-3 shows

certain specific features that the City will preserve during the planning period. Goal 2 and objectives and policies of this element, as well as implementing regulations (such as hillside development), call for the maintenance of additional landforms and/or preservation of viewscapes. Some of the ways the City will conserve prominent landforms and viewscapes in the planning period are highlighted below.

The Land Use Map redesignates certain properties with prominent landforms from currently developable designations (including Hillside Residential and Very Low Density Residential) to Open Space. This includes all government-owned property north of the A/B Development Line and City-owned property in Cherry Canyon.

The City will continue to implement Chapter 11.35 of the Zoning Ordinance (Hillside Development), which pertains to all residentially zoned and used property that has an average slope of 15 percent or greater. The Hillside Development Chapter acknowledges the value of the hillsides as a significant aesthetic feature, and was enacted to ensure that hillside development proceeds in an orderly, regulated manner that is consistent with surrounding development, enhances public safety and welfare, and maintains the community's "hillside character." Regulations and guidelines in the Hillside Development Chapter require maintenance of prominent landforms and aesthetic resources.

Figure CNE-3 includes City-designated scenic corridors that offer key public vantage points from which prominent viewscapes can be seen. Foothill Boulevard, Verdugo Boulevard, and the portion of the I-210 Freeway that traverses La Cañada Flintridge were City-designated Scenic Corridors in the



Panorama of the San Gabriel Mountains

City's 1980 General Plan. Angeles Crest Highway (SR-2) is an "officially designated" State Scenic Highway north of the City boundary, and it is considered an "eligible" route within the City from the I-210 Freeway north to the City boundary (Caltrans 2008). It is being added as a City-designated scenic corridor as part of this General Plan update, and the City may consider pursuing its designation as a State Scenic Highway.

Protection of viewscapes was addressed for a portion of Foothill Boulevard in the *City of La Cañada Flintridge Downtown Village Specific Plan* (DVSP) by requiring new development to mitigate impacts on views as seen from Foothill Boulevard. The City may consider implementing similar guidelines or standards to protect views as seen from the portions of Foothill Boulevard not covered by the DVSP and from other City-designated scenic corridors.



View of San Gabriel Mountains from Foothill Boulevard

The General Plan includes policies that encourage sustainable energy sources, such as solar energy systems, which may have negative aesthetic impacts on the City's viewscapes. However, the State has, or may adopt in the future, codes that affect a local agency's ability to regulate them. For example, the Solar Rights Act (Government Code Section 65850.5) precludes local agencies from adopting "...ordinances that create unreasonable barriers to the installation of solar energy systems, including, but not limited to, design review for aesthetic purposes..." While the City recognizes the importance of encouraging sustainable energy systems and its requirement to enforce any applicable State codes, such as the Solar Rights Act, it will encourage their design and/or installation in a manner that minimizes negative aesthetic impacts to the extent practical.

4.4.5 Cultural, Historical, and Paleontological Resource Conservation

Cultural, historical, and paleontological resources contribute to La Cañada Flintridge's heritage and character. During the planning period the City will undertake actions to assist in conserving these important resources.

The City will continue to implement the Mills Act Ordinance, which provides a process to enter into Mills Act Contracts with owners of qualified properties to assist them in preserving, rehabilitating, and maintain their landmark and

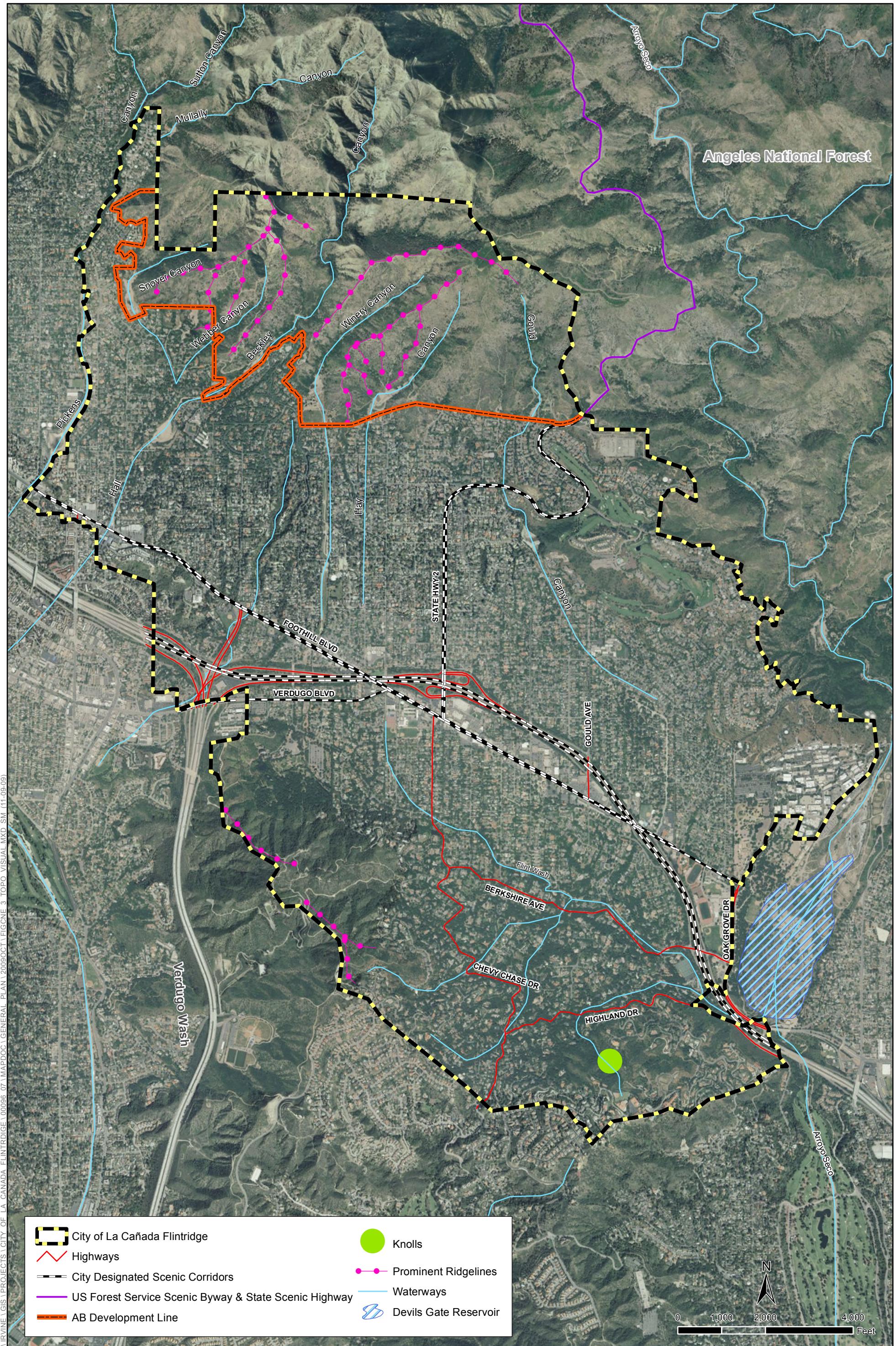


Figure CNE-3
Topographic and Visual Resources
City of La Cañada Flintridge

historic properties. In addition, the City will provide information to residents about environmental benefits of preserving and revitalizing existing structures rather than demolishing them and rebuilding from scratch. Information will be provided to residents about opportunities to place structures on the National Register of Historic Places voluntarily.

If buildings within La Cañada Flintridge that have been identified as significant historical resources at the federal, State, and local levels become available for purchase and/or are threatened with demolition, the City may consider acquiring them if they could be used for public purposes.

If significant archaeological sites or artifacts are discovered on a site, or if excavation uncovers significant archaeological sites or artifacts, the City will require coordination with professional archaeologists, relevant State agencies, and concerned Native American tribes regarding preservation of sites or professional retrieval and preservation of artifacts prior to development of the site.

4.4.6 Solid Waste Reduction

To reduce the environmental impacts of increased amounts of solid waste disposal, the City will comply with the Integrated Waste Management Act by maintaining an up-to-date Source Reduction and Recycling Element and Non-Disposal Facility Element. The City will continue to implement its mandatory green waste collection and recycling programs for all single-family residences, which assists in diverting waste from the landfill. The City will investigate expanding the program to commercial and multi-family uses. The City currently requires demolition and building permit applicants with projects of 1,000 square feet or more to submit a Building Debris Management Report and a performance security.

The City will continue to encourage the community to produce less waste by reducing the amount and toxicity of trash discarded, reusing containers and products, and recycling as much as possible. This effort also supports the goals of conserving energy and reducing pollution and GHG emissions.

4.4.7 Interrelationship of Sustainability Principles

The Land Use, Circulation, Air Quality, and Open Space and Recreation elements of this plan include many sustainable principles through goals, objectives, policies, and programs to support conservation and preservation of the City's resources. They are described in more detail in the various elements, but are noted here for reference. Some of them include:

- creation of new Mixed Use land use designations to promote walkability and reduce the need for use of personal vehicles;
- promotion of green and sustainable building and site design policies and principles via design guidelines and/or development standards and City-sponsored demonstration projects;
- continued implementation of the DVSP and expansion of its design guidelines and development standards to the remainder of Foothill Boulevard;
- redesignation of certain properties to the Open Space land use designation; and
- increased emphasis on alternative modes of transportation to the personal automobile.

4.5 Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The goals, objectives, and policies in the Conservation Element promote the conservation, preservation, and sustainability of the City's significant resources. They also emphasize and support the interrelationship of all General Plan elements to achieve a sustainable community.

CNE GOAL 1: Preserve and conserve natural resources in the community.

CNE Objective 1.1: Promote water conservation and increase the use of recycled water to reduce the projected demand for water service.

CNE Policy 1.1.1: Work with water providers to reduce per capita water consumption by 20 percent by 2020.

CNE Policy 1.1.2: Establish a water conservation plan that may include such policies and actions as:

- a. tiered rate structures for water use;
- b. restrictions on time or use for landscape watering and other demand management strategies;
- c. performance standards for irrigation equipment and water fixtures; and
- d. requirements that increased demand from new construction be offset with reductions so that there is no net increase in water use, where feasible.

CNE Policy 1.1.3: Work with water providers to establish criteria and standards consistent with State regulations to permit the safe and effective use of gray water (on-site water recycling), and review and appropriately

revise, without compromising health and safety, other building code requirements that might prevent the use of such systems.

CNE Policy 1.1.4: Work with water providers to comply with State mandates to implement or enhance programs to educate the community about the importance of water conservation and methods to reduce water use.

CNE Policy 1.1.5: Work with water providers to update the City's existing Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance to ensure that it remains at least as effective as the State's Model Efficient Landscape Ordinance pursuant to AB 1881 and/or any subsequent legislation.

CNE Policy 1.1.6: Encourage the installation of water-efficient landscaping and irrigation, including:

- a. planting drought-tolerant and native species;
- b. covering exposed dirt with moisture-retaining mulch; and
- c. installing water-efficient irrigation systems and devices, including advanced technology such as moisture-sensing irrigation controls.

CNE Policy 1.1.7: Require new development and rehabilitation projects to make maximum use of water conservation techniques, pursuant to SB 407 (Chapter 587, Statutes of 2009) and subsequent legislation, and to document efforts through the development review process.

CNE Policy 1.1.8: Encourage Caltrans to expand the use of reclaimed water on freeway rights-of-way.

CNE Policy 1.1.9: Encourage early compliance with SB 407 (Chapter 587, Statutes of 2009), which establishes Statewide requirements for the replacement of old, non-compliant plumbing fixtures in existing residential and commercial property (built and occupied on or before January 1, 1994) with new, water conserving models.

CNE Objective 1.2: Preserve and improve local water quality.

CNE Policy 1.2.1: Ensure that new projects are designed to preserve and protect the watershed in and near the City from pollutants, excessive changes in natural drainage courses, wildfires, and other natural or human-made detrimental effects on the watershed system. Where practical and feasible, the City may undertake programs to accomplish these ends.

CNE Policy 1.2.2: Require the implementation of Low Impact Development stormwater management techniques in new or rehabilitated commercial or residential projects. Actions include:

- a. Minimizing pollutant loading and changes in hydrology; ensuring that post-development runoff rates from a site do not negatively impact downstream erosion and stream habitat; minimizing the amount of stormwater guided to impermeable surfaces; and

- maximizing percolation of stormwater into the ground where appropriate.
- b. Preserving wetlands, riparian corridors, and buffer zones.
 - c. Establishing reasonable limits on the clearing of vegetation from a project site.
 - d. Requiring incorporation of structural and non-structural best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate projected increases in pollutant loads and flows, such as the use of tree boxes, retention basins, bioswales, rain gardens, and roof gardens; to minimize impacts on the groundwater basins; and to allow stormwater to percolate into the groundwater basins.

CNE Policy 1.2.3: Work with governmental and environmental partners to improve water quality in the Arroyo Seco Watershed through support of water quality improvement programs.

CNE Policy 1.2.4: Encourage the implementation of the Flint Wash Restoration Project.

CNE Policy 1.2.5: Undertake environmental enhancement opportunities that were identified in the list of potential Link/West Gateway Corridor Improvement Recommendations (2004), during this planning period. Publicize these projects as demonstration projects for protection and enhancement of the watershed.

CNE Policy 1.2.6: Develop best management practices for water quality and watershed enhancements and encourage their implementation voluntarily and through review of development applications.

CNE Policy 1.2.7: Improve water quality through public education programs.

CNE Policy 1.2.8: Continue to implement upgrades to the local drainage system, including storm water collection and curbs and gutters and other appropriate measures.

CNE Policy 1.2.9: Require review of all development projects that have a potential for causing a deterioration of groundwater quality beyond standards imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board to assure compliance with State and federal standards. Methods should be developed to control activities that have detrimental impacts on groundwater quality.

CNE Policy 1.2.10: Prior to issuance of permits on existing vacant lands designated for residential and mixed-use uses, require confirmation that a wastewater treatment facility (sewer or septic) will treat the wastewater generated by the new development and the development will connect to that facility.

CNE Objective 1.3: Promote efficient and sustainable use of energy resources through conservation and demand-reduction activities.

CNE Policy 1.3.1: Encourage implementation of green building techniques.

CNE Policy 1.3.2: Encourage implementation of Cool Communities Measures, including use of light-colored or porous paving materials in parking lots and light-colored roofs and increased use of trees and other shading vegetation around parking lots and buildings to reduce the amount of energy needed for cooling.

CNE Policy 1.3.3: Evaluate the extent to which the City could implement the State's *Green Building Action Plan*, which is the detailed direction that accompanied the Governor's Executive Order S-20-04.

CNE Policy 1.3.4: Continue to support the City's Green Team to identify ways the City could implement green programs in its own operations and projects; create incentives for those who implement green programs; and develop green best management practices to share with the public and to use when reviewing applications for development.

CNE Policy 1.3.5: As green technology continues to develop, the City will monitor its changes and enhancements and add policies and/or programs, as appropriate.

CNE Policy 1.3.6: Encourage new development to exceed Title 24 Green Building energy efficiency standards.

CNE Policy 1.3.7: Establish outdoor lighting standards in the Zoning Code, including requirements that:

- a. all outdoor lighting fixtures be energy efficient; and
- b. light levels in all new development, parking lots, and street lighting do not exceed State standards.

CNE Policy 1.3.8: Provide good examples of the best available technologies and methods for minimizing energy consumption and waste through all City facilities, actions, and policies. Examples may include:

- a. replacing fleet vehicles and equipment with the most fuel efficient vehicles practical;
- b. implementing a comprehensive plan to improve energy efficiency of municipal facilities, which could include installing energy efficient appliances, lighting, air conditioning, heating, and building retrofits; and
- c. providing bicycle facilities, ridesharing, ride-home programs, and transit passes to employees.

CNE Policy 1.3.9: Promote, support, and require, as appropriate, the development of solar energy.

CNE Policy 1.3.10: Encourage that, where appropriate, all new buildings be constructed to allow for easy, cost-effective installation of solar energy systems in the future by incorporating “solar-ready” features.

CNE Policy 1.3.11: Encourage that residential projects of 6 units or more and commercial and mixed-use developments participate in available rebate programs.

CNE Policy 1.3.12: Provide, where possible, incentives for renewable energy projects (e.g., reduced fees and expedited permit processing), creative financing (e.g., subsidized or other low-interest loans and/or the option to pay for system installation through long-term assessments on individual property tax bills), as well as other support for community members or developers seeking funding for such projects.

CNE Policy 1.3.13: Work with energy providers to develop or enhance communication and outreach strategies to inform the community about the need for and benefit of energy conservation and green programs, SCE’s energy conservation opportunities and programs, and City programs.

CNE Objective 1.4: Reduce the amount of solid waste generated and diverted to landfills.

CNE Policy 1.4.1: Comply with the Integrated Waste Management Act by maintaining an up-to-date Source Reduction and Recycling Element and Non-Disposal Facility Element.

CNE Policy 1.4.2: Continue the City’s mandatory green waste collection and recycling program for all single-family residences.

CNE Policy 1.4.3: Consider creating a mandatory green waste collection and recycling program for multi-family residences and commercial and retail operations.

CNE Policy 1.4.4: Encourage the community to produce less waste by reducing, reusing, and recycling, including encouraging individual on-site composting.

CNE Objective 1.5: Preserve biological resources, including vegetative communities and wildlife and its habitat, subject to the safety of residents and property.

CNE Policy 1.5.1: Retain publicly owned open space land as such. Make reasonable efforts to acquire from willing sellers large portions of hillside and other properties that contain significant biological resources, such as coastal sage scrub-chaparral, oak woodlands, riparian communities, and wildlife habitat. Open space areas of particular value include Cherry Canyon, Weber Canyon, Gould Canyon, Winery Canyon, Hall-Beckley Canyon, Snover Canyon, Hay Canyon, and their surrounding hillsides.

CNE Policy 1.5.2: Consider conducting evaluations and mapping of all vegetation and/or habitat communities on vacant and undeveloped land that is ½-acre or greater in area property.

CNE Policy 1.5.3: Require development proposals in areas expected to contain important vegetation and wildlife communities to conduct biological assessments and mitigate impacts, as appropriate.

CNE Policy 1.5.4: In areas that are adjacent to sensitive vegetation and/or wildlife communities and/or open spaces, require new development to employ site design techniques that provide buffers between the development and the biological resources and to landscape their sites with vegetation that is consistent with the adjacent resources, in balance with “fire safe” considerations.

CNE Policy 1.5.5: Preserve and protect the City’s urban forest, which contributes to clean air, soil conservation, shade and windbreak protection, moderation of climatic extremes, and reduction of flood hazards and risk of landslides.

CNE GOAL 2: Preserve the remaining natural ridgelines, canyons, streams, springs, urban forest, and other natural resources and attributes that contribute to the aesthetic and scenic qualities of the community.

CNE Objective 2.1: Require new development to be compatible with the natural and existing human-made resources that make the community special.

CNE Policy 2.1.1: Protect natural and aesthetic resources through continued implementation of the Hillside Development Ordinance.

CNE Policy 2.1.2: Maintain prominent landforms within the community in their natural state to the maximum extent feasible, including but not limited to: ridges, knolls, waterways, creeks (either dry or active), canyons, or other unique topographic features or viewscapes. The most significant landforms are identified on Figure CNE-3 in the Conservation Element.

CNE Policy 2.1.3: Protect major hillside viewscapes visible from points within the City from detrimental alteration by the intrusion of highly visible cuts and/or fill slopes, building lines, and/or road surfaces.

CNE Policy 2.1.4: Minimize the visual impact of grading. Irrigate and landscape human-made slopes to prevent erosion and soften the visual appearance of the finished slope.

CNE Policy 2.1.5: Preserve and protect the City’s urban forest in order to maintain the community’s wooded character and protect the scenic beauty of the area, through continued implementation of the City’s Preservation, Protection, and Removal of Trees Ordinance.

CNE Policy 2.1.6: Pursue opportunities to acquire from willing sellers undeveloped land that includes prominent landforms and other natural and scenic resources.

CNE Objective 2.2: Preserve the scenic beauty of viewscapes as seen from public vantage points and designated streets and locations.

CNE Policy 2.2.1: Consider adopting special scenic corridor design criteria for development and maintenance of properties adjoining designated scenic corridors, which may include regulation of architectural design, setbacks, building height, signing, and landscaping.

CNE Policy 2.2.2: Preserve the unique views of the mountains and foothills as seen from Foothill Boulevard by continuing to implement the development standards and design guidelines in the Hillside Development Ordinance and DVSP.

CNE Policy 2.2.3: Consider pursuing official State Scenic Highway Designation for the portion of Angeles Crest Highway between the I-210 Freeway north and the City boundary.

CNE Goal 3: Encourage the preservation of significant historical resources within the City.

CNE Objective 3.1: Mitigate the loss or compromise of significant archaeological, historical, and other cultural resources within the City.

CNE Policy 3.1.1: Encourage designation and preservation of local historical resources.

CNE Policy 3.1.2: Encourage use of the Mills Act as economically feasible.

CNE Policy 3.1.3: Encourage public awareness of the significance of the area's cultural resources and historic features.

CNE Policy 3.1.4: Identify landmarks by means of appropriate monuments, plaques, displays, or other means to publically designate historic sites and commemorate their significance to the City.

CNE Policy 3.1.5: Require that archaeological reports (prepared by a certified archaeologist and including a literature search and a site survey) be completed for large, undeveloped parcels for which development is proposed, consistent with CEQA.

CNE Policy 3.1.6: If any archaeological excavations are recommended on a project site, require that such investigations include Native American consultation prior to project approval.

CNE Policy 3.1.7: If any significant archaeological sites or artifacts are discovered on a site, require coordination with professional archaeologists, relevant State agencies, and concerned Native American tribes regarding

preservation of sites or professional retrieval and preservation of artifacts prior to development of the site.

CNE Policy 3.1.8: Consult with Native American tribes under Senate Bill 18 for amendments to the General Plan.

CNE Policy 3.1.9: Consider acquisition of identified historical buildings for public uses.

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