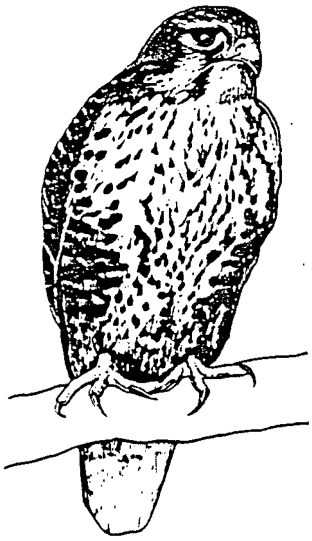
VI.
CONSERVATION ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Conservation Element is required for the purposes of establishing a management plan for natural resources to prevent waste, destruction or neglect. This element of the General Plan is concerned with the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources such as water, soils, rivers, harbors, wildlife, minerals and other natural and cultural resources. This element specifically addresses the following principal categories:

- Managed production of resources,
- Conservation of natural resources, and
- Conservation of cultural resources.



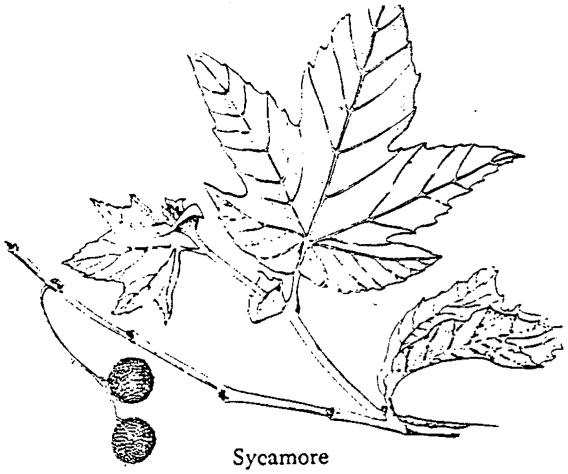
Hawks are found in the canyon areas of the City

The Conservation Element overlaps those categories of the Open Space Element which deal with open space for the preservation of natural resources and open space for the managed production of resources they are discussed in this section.

A comprehensive conservation baseline setting, existing conditions and community attitudes regarding conservation are detailed in the Technical Appendix.

FINDINGS

The following findings summarize a comprehensive conservation analysis consisting of interviews, review of existing documents, community attitude survey, community-wide workshops and numerous work sessions with the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) including:



Sycamore

- Managed production of resources,
- Conservation of natural resources, and
- Conservation of cultural resources.

These findings form the basis for this element's goals, objectives, plan proposals and implementation measures.

Managed Production of Resources

A detailed analysis was undertaken in determining the City's managed production of resources; they include:

- Water resources,
- Agricultural soils,
- Aggregate resources,
- Mineral resources, and
- Solid waste recycling.

Water Resources

The analysis of the City's water resources included:

- Watersheds,
- Groundwater,
- Surface Drainage, and
- Water purveyors.

Water Sheds

There are two agencies responsible for the protection of water sheds in the City of San Dimas: the United States Forest Service and Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles County U.S. Forest Service

The United States Forest Service is responsible for the management of the watershed in the Angeles National Forest. The Forest Service has been conducting an on going experimental forest program to protect water sheds and natural habitats. The program has five primary objectives:

- Measure air and water quality effects,
- Measure stream and watershed levels,
- Reduce damages resulting from flood and soil erosion,
- Perform controlled burns, and
- Erosion control resulting from fires.

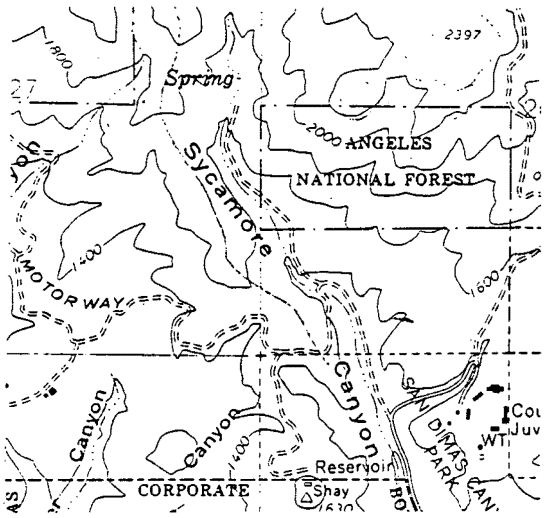
There are two departments within the Los Angeles County government which are responsible for watershed areas. These are the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works - Flood Control and Maintenance Division and to a lesser degree the LAFCO Fire Department.

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District maintains considerable amounts of lands for flood control and water conservation purposes. These lands consist of channels and parcels related to existing drainage patterns. There are two reservoirs in the City: Puddingstone Reservoir and San Dimas Canyon Reservoir. The Flood Control Maintenance Division is responsible for maintaining flood control improvements. The Los Angeles County Fire Department also participates with its program of replanting burned watershed areas.

Groundwater

The City overlies three groundwater basins. They include the San Dimas Basin, Way Hill Basin, and Foothill Basin. A fourth basin, outside of the City, the San Gabriel Valley Basin is fed by the water from San Dimas Canyon; this basin is managed by the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. The depth to groundwater varies yearly, however the general trend is towards increased depth from overdrafting of the water resources.

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LAFCD) is responsible for flood control and groundwater recharge along the San Dimas Canyon wash and Walnut Creek.



Sycamore Canyon is a major drainage feature

Surface Drainage

There are four major surface drainage courses in the City; they include the:

- Wildwood Canyon wash,
- Sycamore Canyon wash,
- San Dimas Canyon wash and
- Walnut Creek wash.

The Wildwood Canyon wash drains into the Big Dalton Wash located to the west of San Dimas in the City of Glendora. The Sycamore Canyon wash drains into the San Dimas Canyon wash which is diverted to the Puddingstone Diversion Dam and reservoir. The Walnut Creek wash is located at the northern base of the San Jose Hills, it drains the central section of the City and the San Jose Hills. It eventually drains into the Big Dalton Wash and ultimately into the San Gabriel River.

All of these drainage courses are a part of the Los Angeles County Flood Control System and are maintained by them. In the northern sections of the San Dimas Canyon wash the flood control channels are not paved but are levees with natural bottoms that eventually become paved channels. The Walnut Creek wash is entirely natural.

Water Purveyor

Southern California Water Company (SCWC) is responsible for supplying all water to the City of San Dimas; with the exception of the upper northwest corner of San Dimas, which is served by the City of Glendora.

There are three sources from which Southern California Water serves the City of San Dimas:

- Three Valleys Metropolitan Water District
- Covina Irrigation, and
- Local Wells.

Interviews with SCWC indicate that the district currently has ten wells with a current capacity of 21 million gallons/day (mgd). The average daily consumption is 15 mgd.

Because of the current capacity and the multiple water supply sources, SCWC is confident they can continue to serve existing and future customers in the City of San Dimas.

Southern California Water does offer suggestions on water conservation to the residents of San Dimas including:

- Household conservation,
- Drought tolerant planting and
- Landscape irrigation information.

Agricultural Soils

The City of San Dimas began as an agricultural town. Citrus orchards and row crops, such as strawberries were grown in the City. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service has analyzed the soils in San Dimas area into Land Capability Classification groups. These soil classifications are based on their ability to produce common cultivated crops and pasture plants without soil deterioration over an extended period of time. The broadest category places all soils into eight classes arranged from I through VIII. Conservation of Class I (prime agricultural) and Class II (potential prime agricultural) soils is of major concern of this element.

As Exhibit VI-1 illustrates, there are no Class I (prime agricultural) soils within the City of San Dimas. There are Class II (potential prime agricultural) soils located in the northern half of the City.and areas north of Bonelli Regional Park. About 507 acres of Class II soils remain undeveloped.

Table VI-1 shows that of the remaining 507 available acres of Class II soils, 172 acres are designated open space while the remaining 335 acres are undeveloped parcels of various sizes. These remaining parcels have been identified for future development and are fragmented throughout the City with the largest undeveloped parcel approximately 26 acres,

GENERAL PLAN

SOIL CLASS

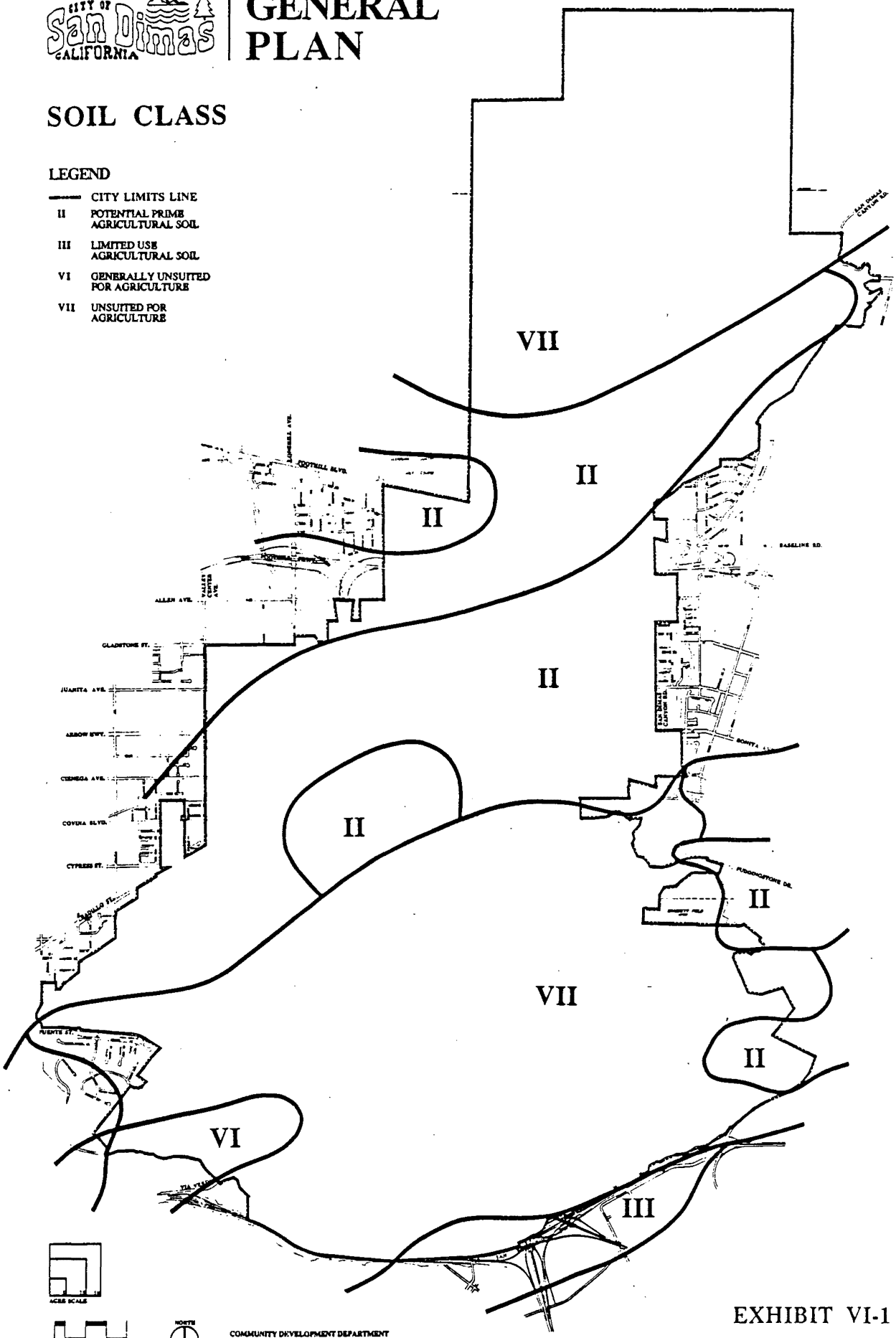
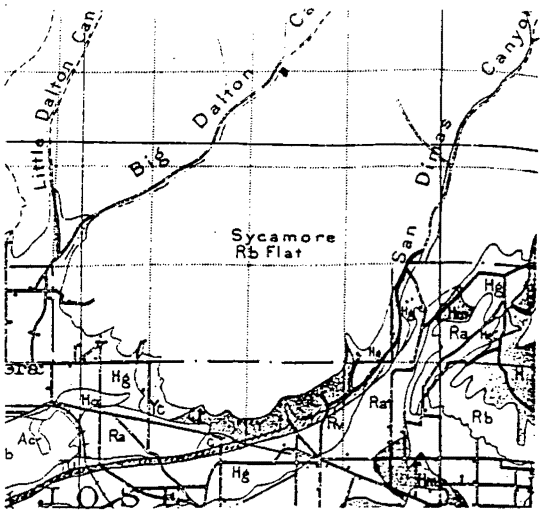


EXHIBIT VI-1

TOTAL REMAINING CLASS II SOILS			
	ACRES UNDEVELOPED	ACRES OPEN SPACE	TOTAL REMAINING ACRES
CLASS II SOILS	335	172	507
		Source: U.S. Soil Conservation Services,	
		Los Angeles County Report and General Soils Map -	
		December 1969, Takata Associates - 1990	

TABLE VI-1
PRIME AGRICULTURAL SOILS



Parcels in the City are too small for agriculture

undeveloped parcel approximately 26 acres, for the most part they are too small to be suitable for significant agricultural production. Most of these parcels are adjacent to existing residential developments, making the agricultural uses incompatible because of the use of pesticides, fertilizers and equipment noise.

San Dimas is in the Claremont-Upland Aggregate Production-Consumption Region. Exhibit VI-2 identifies the City's aggregate resources. There are three categories of (Mineral Resource) ratings:

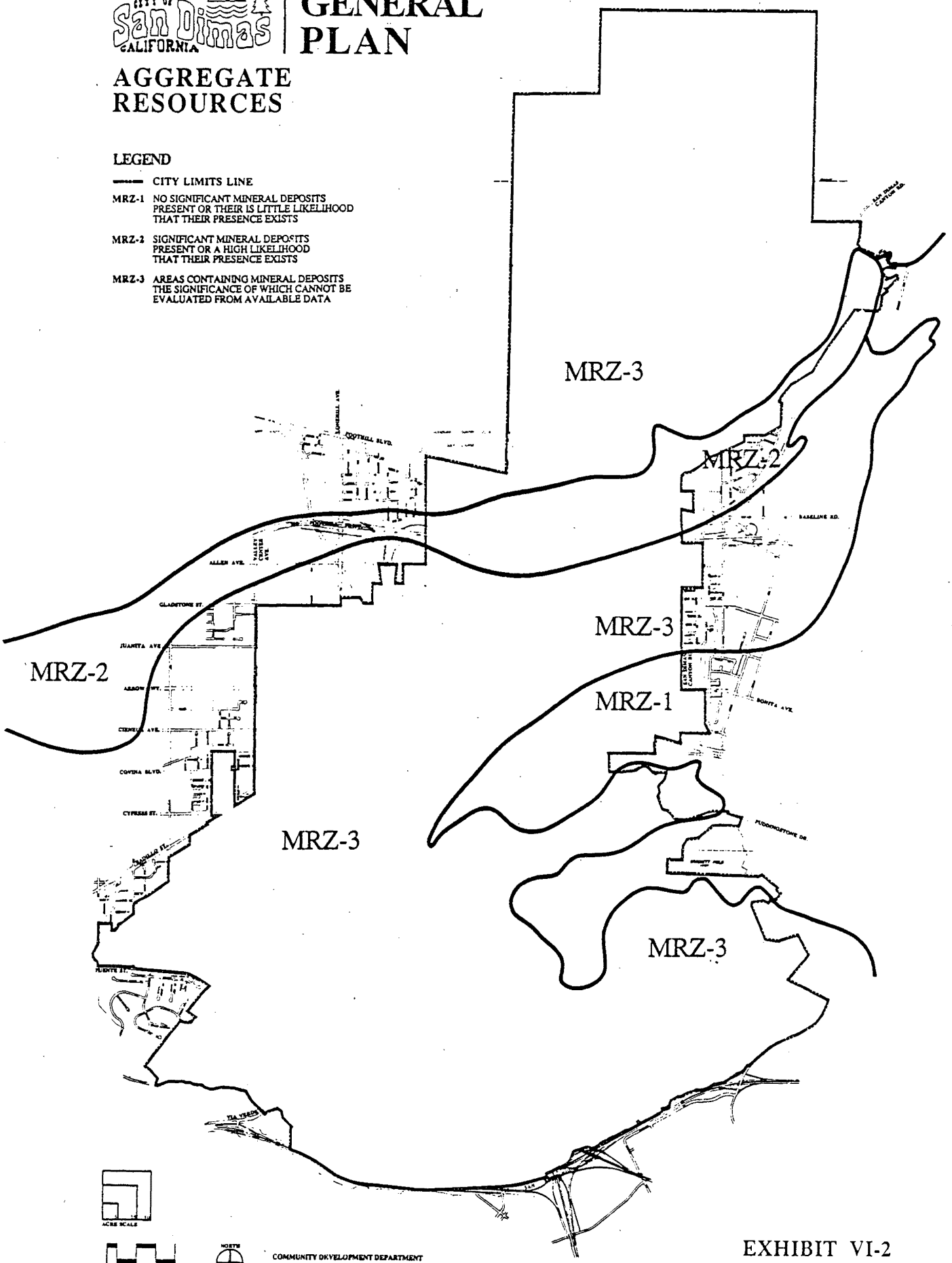
- MRZ-1, no significant resources;
- MRZ-2, significant resources; and
- MRZ-3, not enough evidence to make a finding.

The MRZ-2 is of particular interest because it is an area which has significant aggregate deposits. The total MRZ-2 area is 521 acres of which the majority of land is urbanized. The State Department of Conservation, Department of Mines and Geology has determined that the only significant remaining undeveloped sector is 194 acres of deposits primarily found in the San Dimas Wash, an area currently devoted to percolation basins, undeveloped park land and flood control. The majority of this sector is owned and managed by the City of San Dimas and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

CITY OF San Dimas CALIFORNIA

GENERAL PLAN

AGGREGATE RESOURCES



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

CONSULTANTS: CASTANEDA/TAKATA ASSOCIATES

EXHIBIT VI-2

There is no aggregate mining currently in the City.

Mining these remaining resources would cause considerable impact to the existing adjacent and surrounding residential neighborhoods and parks. The noise, dust and truck traffic generated by the extraction activities would decrease the quality of life of the community.

Mineral Resources

Mineral resources in the City of San Dimas have included mining for precious metals and oil and gas.

Mining for precious metals on a small scale primarily have taken place in the Angeles National Forest. The mining has been administered by the U.S. Forest Service on a permit basis. Recent interviews with the U.S. Forest Service indicate that no permits are being issued for mining and no permits have been authorized for the last fifteen to twenty years.

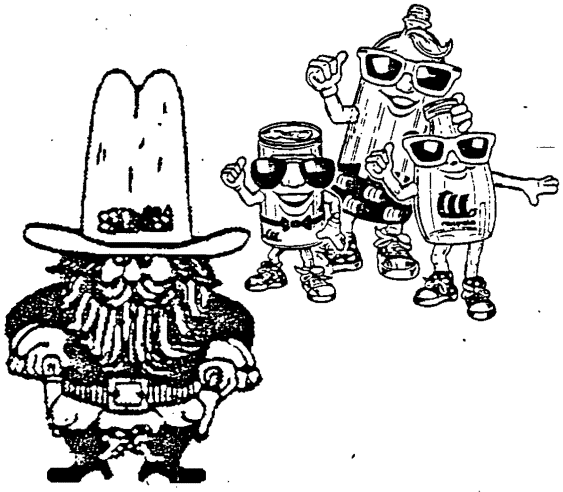
Discussions with the State Division of Oil and Gas indicate that the there are no significant major oil or gas fields within the City of San Dimas. There may be some wildcat wells drilled in the past, however, there are currently no oil or gas drilling or active wells currently within the City.

Solid Waste Recycling

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB939) requires that cities reduce waste going to landfills by at least 25% by 1995 and 50% by the year 2000. To achieve these goals, cities are required to prepare a comprehensive waste management plan called Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE).

The City Source Reduction and Recycling Element shall include, but not be limited to, all the following coponents for solid waste generated in the jurisdiction:

- Waste characterization component
- Source reduction component
- Recycling component
- Composting component
- Solid waste facility capacity component
- Education and public information component
- Funding component
- Special waste component
- Household hazardous waste component

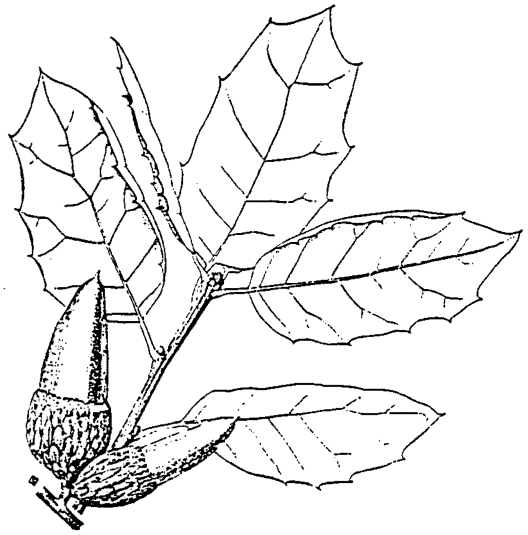


The City of San Dimas instituted a Solid Waste Recycling Program in 1989. The community attitude survey indicated that there was very strong support for solid waste recycling. The respondents to the community attitude survey were willing to pay an additional dollar per month for recycling efforts. The City is currently reviewing a Green Waste Program for composting gardening waste, in which the City's Parks and Maintenance will compost 90% of its waste.

90% of its waste.

A Joint Powers Authority with other East San Gabriel cities is drafting a solid waste source reduction plan (see Land Use Element).

A Regional Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) was prepared by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). One of the implementation measures is for the City to develop an air quality element at the local level. Please refer to Section II, Land Use Element for further detailed discussion.



Native oak trees are found in the City's canyons

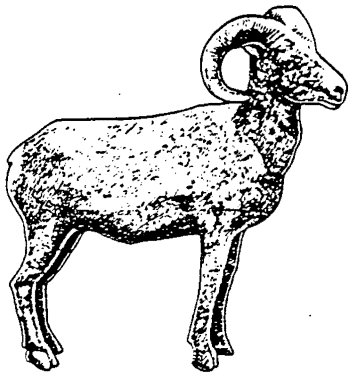
Conservation of Natural Resources

This subsection summarizes the two major components of the conservation of natural resources:

- Wildlife habitat and
- Native plant areas.

The City of San Dimas has extensive undeveloped areas of potential wildlife habitat. The City's open foothills and canyons provide an environment for numerous animal and plant species to flourish. The Technical Appendix, details and lists animal and plant life known to exist in the City. The majority of the habitats and native plant species are found in the following areas of the City:

- U.S. Forest Service Land
- Puddingstone Reservoir,
- Bonelli Regional Park,
- San Dimas Canyon,
- Walnut Creek,
- Cinnamon Creek,
- Wildwood Canyon, and
- Sycamore Canyon.



Big Horn Sheep roam the San Gabriel Mountains

Representative animals include deer, raccoons, coyote, hawks, owls and other species common to the area. The California Big Horn Sheep is identified by the State Department of Fish and Game (DFG) as rare. There are no known endangered species. Except for the Big Horn Sheep, there are no rare or unique species known to habitat the San Dimas area. The DFG is responsible for the fish and wildlife at Puddingstone Reservoir. Wildlife migration patterns are disrupted when fences are placed within wildlife corridors. Current development standards and CC & Rs in private developments need to be improved to address this issue.

The plant species found in these areas include large stands of sycamores, oaks, alders and other vegetation found in the chaparral and riparian environments. There are no endangered, rare or unique plant species identified in the San Dimas area. However, the City's plant environment is a major scenic and visual resource which should be protected (see the Open Space Element for additional discussion). The City currently utilizes a preservation ordinance to protect all significant mature trees within the City.

Conservation of Cultural Resources

The cultural resources of San Dimas include:

- Paleontological,
- Archaeological, and
- Historic

A detailed discussion of these resources are discussed in the Technical Appendix.

Paleontology

Paleontological sites yield specimens of fossil flora and fauna which are a resources for scientific knowledge Within the City of San Dimas there are certain fossil bearing rocks. There are specific shale and siltstone strata in the Via Verde area and around Bonelli Park. Care should be taken to conserve these fossil bearing sites. Future development should avoid needless destruction of the remaining paleontological sites.

Archeology

There is evidence that the Gabrielano Indians, nomadic food gatherers, inhabited the San Dimas area. There may be some archaeological sites of value within San Dimas. These probable sites include:

-Cienega Springs,

-San Dimas Canyon ,
-Walnut Creek, and
-Way Hill.

It is important that opportunities remain so that study, record and salvage artifacts can occur before development takes place on a specific site.

Historic

Within the City boundaries the San Dimas Historical Society has identified twenty four structures of cultural and historic importance. These structures are clustered in the residential areas north and south of Bonita Avenue between Cataract Avenue and San Dimas Avenue and are part of a walking tour designed by the Historical Society. The City is currently developing an historical element, which would develop goals, objectives, policies and implementation measures for the preservation of historical and cultural resources. Furthermore, historic neighborhoods which are significant and reinforce toe City's heritage are also to be protected (see Land Use Element Goal L-1.1)

There is a strong desire to have an agricultural heritage park to preserve some orchards and structures that contributed to the City's farm environment.

DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

A development policy is a general plan statement that guides action; it includes:

- Goal,
- Objectives,
- Policies,
- Plan Proposals and
- Implementation Measures

Please refer to Section I for a detailed definition and explanation of how the Plan proposals and implementation measures are referenced.

These development policies are summarized in a matrix on page VI-25.

GOAL STATEMENT CN-1:

MANAGE AND CONSERVE SAN DIMAS' NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH CONTRIBUTE AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE

OBJECTIVES:	POLICIES:
1.1 Promote the conservation of natural resources,encouraging those measures that maintain clean air, water, earth resources and energy resouces.	1.1.1 Protect the remaining MRZ-2 aggregate resource areas and sectors in the San Dimas Wash. 1.1.2 Discourage mining of aggregate resources where potential conflicts (such as, traffic, noise, and dust impacts) may be experienced with adjacent land uses. 1.1.3 Evaluate the MRZ-3 areas on a case by case basis prior to development to determine if there are significant ag gregate resources. 1.1.4 Encourage alternative sources of en ergy to conserve non-renewable re sources.

Plan Proposals: A (see page VI-23)

Implementation Measures: b, c, d, e, f, i (see page VI-23)

GOAL STATEMENT CN-2:

CONSERVE THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF SAN DIMAS

OBJECTIVES:	POLICIES:
2.1 Promote the conservation of historical and cultural resources through programs and policies to identify and protect these resources.	2.1.1 Preserve significant paleontological and archaeological sites. Evaluate the significance of each site on a case by case basis.
	2.1.2 Preserve significant historical resources within the City of San Dimas. Evaluate each historical structure, place, and site on a case by case basis.

Plan Proposals: A

Implementation Measures: g, h, j (see page VI-23)

GOAL STATEMENT CN-3:

MANAGE AND CONSERVE SAN DIMAS' WATER RESOURCES TO MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF QUALITY AND SUFFICIENT QUANTITY TO ITS CITIZENS.

OBJECTIVES:	POLICIES:
3.1 Protect the remaining natural watersheds and ground water with open space systems coordinated with multiple use flood plain management.	3.1.1 Retain flood control areas in their natural state, where possible as passive open space for habitate preservation, viewing, and recreation.

Plan Proposals: A

Implementation Measures: a, e, f (see page VI-23)

GOAL STATEMENT CN-4:

CONSERVE SAN DIMAS' NORTHERN FOOTHILLS.

OBJECTIVES:	POLICIES:
4.1 Conserve the integrity of the northern foothills and maintain a reasonable economic return for the landowner.	4.1.1 Designate the northern foothills as very low density residential development to minimize grading and protect its natural appearance.

Plan Proposals: A

Implementation Measures: a (see page VI-23)

GOAL STATEMENT CN-5:

STRIVE FOR AIR QUALITY THAT IS COMPATIBLE WITH HEALTH, WELL BEING AND ENJOYMENT OF LIFE FOR ALL CITIZENS

OBJECTIVES:	POLICIES:
5.1 Support the regional air quality goal to attain and maintain National Air Quality Standards while continuing economic growth and improvement in the quality of life afforded to the citizens of San Dimas and Los Angeles County.	5.1.1 Separate sensitive areas and uses (e.g., schools, child care centers, playgrounds etc.) from significant sources of air pollution. 5.1.2 The City shall coordinate with SCAQMD, SCAG, ARB and other local, state and national agencies in efforts to plan and implement clean air strategies for the South Coast Air Basin.
5.2: Coordinate air quality planning and implementation efforts with other responsible agencies.	

Plan Proposals: none

Implementation Measures: i (see page VI-23)

GOAL STATEMENT CN-6:

CONSERVE PUDDINGSTONE HILLS

OBJECTIVES:	POLICIES:
6.1 Conserve the integrity of the Puddingstone Hills and maintain a reasonable economic return for the land owner.	6.1.1 Designate the Puddingstone Hills as very low density residential development and minimize grading and protect its natural appearance.

Plan Proposals: A

Implementation Measure: a (see page VI-23)

A. Retain the following areas as conservation overlay areas (see Exhibit II-4):

1. U.S. Forest Service Land
2. Puddingstone Reservoir
3. Bonelli Regional Park
4. San Dimas Canyon
5. Walnut Creek
6. Cinnamon Creek
7. Wildwood Canyon
8. Sycamore Canyon
9. Northern Foothills
10. Puddingstone Hills

Implementation Measures:

a: The City shall develop standards, special requirements, and revise the City's zoning ordinance and conservation overlay zones where necessary, to protect natural resources within areas to be preserved or developed. Specific sections shall address fences which impact wildlife habitats and corridors. (See Land Use Element Implementation Measure g.)

b: The City shall support programs to promote natural resources conservation, such as solid waste recycling, water conservation, efficient irrigation systems, drought tolerant planting materials, and soil conservation.

c: The City shall pursue a composting program (green waste) in conjunction with Cal Poly University and the Los Angeles County Sanitation District.

d: The City shall pursue a program with interested parties for the recycling of paper, glass, and aluminum.

e: The City shall utilize and promote more efficient water management. The City shall consider the use of reclaimed water for irrigation of public areas, such as medians, parkways, golf courses, and selected public landscaped areas.

f: The City shall consider the establishment of drought tolerant landscaping for public areas and for commercial, industrial and residential planned unit development.

g: The City shall develop a Historical Preservation Plan.

h: The City shall encourage development of a Heritage Citrus Grove Park to preserve San Dimas' agricultural heritage.

i: The City shall prepare an Air Quality Element, or equivalent, of the General Plan.

j: The City shall seek a corporate sponsor to assist in the development and promotion of a Heritage Citrus Grove Park.

k: The City shall support programs to promote energy conservation, such as, but not limited to: solar panels, hot water loop systems, insulation, energy audits, and other appropriate means to conserve energy.

Conservation Element - Goals / Implementation Matrix

Goals / Implementation	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k
CN-1. Manage and conserve San Dimas' natural resources which contribute and enhance the quality of life.		■	■	■	■	■			■		■
CN-2. Conserve the historical and cultural resources of San Dimas.							■	■		■	
CN-3. Manage and conserve San Dimas' water resources to maintain a high level of quality and sufficient quantity to its citizens.	■				■	■					
CN-4. Conserve San Dimas' northern foothills.	■										
CN-5. Strive for air quality that is compatible with health, well being and enjoyment of life for all citizens.									■		
CN-6 Conserve Puddingstone Hills	■										