

6. Public Facilities, Service and Safety

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GOALS

- **Public uses and facilities that are located near one another to improve access and to take advantage of interconnecting public uses**
- **A full balanced range of employment opportunities, medical facilities, public works and educational, social, and recreational facilities and services.**
- **A new expanded library in or near the village.**

DISCUSSION

The emphasis of the Public Facilities, Services and Safety Element is to identify existing facilities and services and address the capacity and needs for future services. The community plan addresses priorities for public facility improvements, and identifies potential sites and desired characteristics for future facilities. In addition to public facilities financing and prioritization, policies related to fire-rescue, police, stormwater, water and sewer infrastructure, waste management, libraries, schools, parks (See Recreation Element), public utilities, and health and safety are contained in this Element.

6.1 FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Public Facility Needs & Prioritization

As an urbanized community, San Ysidro, is faced with aging infrastructure and substandard facilities that do not meet current standards. **Figure FS-1 Public Facilities Map** illustrates where current facilities exist and identifies sites for future facilities. The City's two main funding sources for providing and improving facilities include Developer Impact Fees (DIF) and the General Fund. DIF collects a proportional fair share of capital improvements needed to offset the impact of development. The General Fund is relied on for facility improvement and upgrades and operational and maintenance costs.

The community's DIF and General Fund have helped to alleviate growing facilities needs but a deficit remains with regards to most public facilities leaving the City and community with the challenge to find alternative means of funding improvements.

There is limited funding for annual capital improvements and the City has instituted a prioritization and ranking strategy that integrates community input. This effort allows the City to strategize funding and be more responsive to the community's facility and infrastructure priorities. Although the City is making incremental changes in how CIP projects are funded to provide more timely improvements, the unfortunate reality is there remains an existing facilities and infrastructure deficit in San Ysidro. There are a number of obstacles in alleviating the infrastructure deficit, including, the increased costs in acquisition and construction, lack of available land, funding constraints, and competing needs. It is up to the City and the community of San Ysidro to work together, to find creative solutions for meeting facility and infrastructure needs, and ultimately improve the quality of life. Solutions such as clustering facilities, land value recapture, providing broader community serving facilities, offering equivalences, seeking city wide or regional initiatives for new sources of revenue, and exploring public-private opportunities are just some ways that may make it possible to accommodate new facilities for the next generation.

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Police

The San Ysidro community is served by the Southern Neighborhood Divisions of the Police Department. The Southern Division encompasses 31.5 square miles and serves the neighborhoods of Border, Egger Highlands, Nestor, Ocean Crest, Otay Mesa, Otay Mesa West, Palm City and San Ysidro. The Southern Division's offices are located in Otay Mesa at 1120 27th Street. The Southern Division has requested a small kiosk or work space be incorporated into a future ITC at the Port of Entry when patrolling the area.

Fire

Fire protection for the community is provided by Fire Station 29. The original Fire Station was built in 1958 as Station 27 and became Fire Station 29 in 1959. In 2005 a new station was opened across the street at 198 West San Ysidro Blvd. Fire Station 29 serves 6.21 square miles including San Ysidro and its surrounding areas.

Maintaining a successful fire service system is a challenge due the City's topography, fiscal constraints, and an ever growing population. The City has recognized the value of fire prevention measures to reduce pressure on the overall response system in the long term; such measures include adopting strenuous safety codes and an aggressive brush management program. City wide fire service goals, policies and standards are located in the Public Facilities, Services, and Safety Element of the General Plan and the Fire-Rescue Services Department's Fire Service Standards of Response Coverage Deployment Study (aka Citygate 2011).

Library

The existing San Ysidro Branch Library is currently 1,500-square-foot located at 101 W. San Ysidro Blvd and originally built in 1914 and is historically designated. There are plans to build a new library and depending on the site selected, an approximately 15,000 square feet new facility will replace the existing library. The existing library would be reused as a public space, for a museum, art gallery or other civic and cultural space. See General Plan policies PF-J.3 and PF-J.5 support larger service areas for library facilities.

Schools

One of the most important public services is the provision of schools and the offering of quality education to the residents of the community. The San Ysidro community is served by one South Bay Union School District elementary school, the San Ysidro School

District for preschool through grade 8 and the Sweetwater Union High School District for grades 9 through 12. The San Ysidro School District has preschool classes, a childcare center, a K-8 district with five elementary schools, one K-8 elementary school, and one middle school 7-8. The district serves over 5,550 students and is projected to double in the next 10 years. In addition, there are charter schools, private schools, and neighboring community schools which help to serve the community. In 2012, voters approved a \$250 million dollar school bond, which will be utilized to upgrade the existing schools and build new schools based on projected growth.

Schools in San Ysidro are centrally located near other facilities and services and walking distance to transit. School sites are also often used as joint use facilities providing additional recreational opportunities. If opportunities arise to acquire school district property or that of private schools within the community the city should make every effort to reserve the property for public use.

Undergrounding Utilities

Gas and electricity are provided by the San Diego Gas & Electric Company and several gas and electric lines traverse the area. San Diego Gas and Electric Company has a number of programs related to conservation, including commercial and residential energy audits, low interest loan programs for energy conservation, retrofit installations and rebates for solar water heaters. In addition, the City is actively involved in undergrounding of existing overhead power lines.

Water, Sewer and Stormwater Infrastructure

On average, San Diego must import nearly 90 percent of its water from other areas, specifically northern California and the Colorado River. Potential water supply offsets such as conservation and water reclamation have only recently entered the water supply picture, but even the most optimistic projections credit those offsets with no more than 20 to 25 percent of total demand. San Diego will therefore continue to rely heavily upon imported water for its water supply needs far into the foreseeable future.

Beginning in 2007, the City increased water and sewer rates to replace and improve both the water and sewer systems infrastructure. Some pipelines have been in operation for a hundred years and need to be replaced. The City of San Diego Water Department's Capital Improvement Program Guidelines and Standards provides the framework for the design and construction of new water facilities and address water efficiency, conservation, recycled and reclaimed water, cost effectiveness and timely construction.

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In a continuing main replacement program, concrete sewer mains and cast iron water mains are being replaced and the City schedules many of these water and sewer main replacement projects for the same time and location to minimize the impact on the community. Replacement is currently scheduled based on breaks or blockages in the mains. As incidents mount, main replacement is scheduled for accomplishment through the annual Capital Improvements Program.

Since the 1972 Clean Water Act, considerable strides have been made in reducing conventional forms of pollution, such as from sewage treatment plants and industrial facilities, through the implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program and other federal, state, and local programs. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region requires the City to develop and implement a jurisdictional Urban Runoff Management Program. The General Plan discusses the City's Stormwater programs in more detail; however, San Ysidro is located within the Tijuana River Valley watershed and reduction of pollutants in urban runoff and storm water is critical to the health of this watershed. A Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team was established to address pollution issues in the valley and a future Tijuana River Valley Comprehensive Load Reduction Plan (CLRP) will address areas where storm water infrastructure and green streets can be built to improve water quality within the area.

Policies

PF.A-1 Provide educational facilities, law enforcement, fire protection, libraries and public utilities in accordance with City standards.

- a. Cluster public facilities such as library, post office, fire station, public space, and public amenities together to create active centers and take advantage of shared uses like parking and open space areas.
- b. Incorporate art in public facilities.
- c. Incorporate a space within the future San Ysidro ITC for Police officers to use while at the Port of Entry.

PF.A-2 Provide facilities that accommodate a full range of City programs to serve residents and cultivate civic involvement.

- a. Encourage public education facilities to participate in this community process.
- b. Use joint-use agreements to increase recreational opportunities and activate school sites with residents after hours.



Library

- PF.A -3 Invest in a new library that serves the San Ysidro community and meets current standards.
- a. Locate the new library within the El Pueblito Viejo village or with walking distance from the village.
 - b. Incorporate public space or a pocket park and public art into the library site.
 - c. Design the library to advantage of public views if available.
 - d. Coordinate bike and pedestrian facility improvements and wayfinding to the new site to encourage multi-modal travel to the new library.

Schools

- PF.A-4 Improve public education facilities and the image of schools in San Ysidro so families stay and send their children to neighborhood schools and maximize the use of the facilities.
- a. Encourage full-time use of school facilities, including community use during non-school hours for educational, recreational and cultural needs.
 - b. Coordinate CIP projects with school facility upgrades to improve the interface between the public realm and the facility.
 - c. Explore the possibility of joint use buildings for commercial and educational uses.
 - d. Acquire excess school district property or that of private schools within the San Ysidro community to reserve the property for public use. Or incorporate parks and public space in future projects.

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Water, Sewer and Stormwater Infrastructure

PF.A-5 Implement water improvements programs so there are systematic improvements and gradual replacement of water and sewer and stormwater facilities throughout the community. Also see General Plan PF-F.6 PF-G.2, PF-H.3, and PF-I.1.

- a. Collaborate with the San Ysidro community and other entities when funding and siting improvements to coordinate timing and replacement of infrastructure.
- b. Provide purple pipe opportunities throughout the community.
- c. Coordinate street improvements, undergrounding efforts, street tree planting and urban beautification efforts when upgrading storm water infrastructure and creating green streets.
- d. Where possible, incorporate parks or public spaces in collaboration with stormwater improvements.
- e. Focus infrastructure pilot projects and prioritization in village areas.

PF.A-6 To help meet stormwater permit requirements identify suitable sites to be used as communitywide stormwater retention areas. Prioritize areas that could co-locate both stormwater and other much needed public facilities such as parks, public space, and recreational trails. Potential locations could include:

- Beyer Blvd along the rail from Dairy Mart Rd to the Beyer Trolley Station.
- Beyer Trolley Station along the rail from Seaward Ave to Cypress Dr. to the San Ysidro Linear Park.
- Willow Road and San Ysidro Blvd near pedestrian bridge.
- Olive Drive
- North side of Calle Primera from Willow Rd to Via de San Ysidro.
- Potential excess Right of Way in the Border Village District.
- Trails connecting to Dairy Mart Pond open space area.

Undergrounding Utilities

PF.A-7 Program the undergrounding of telephone and electric power lines to underground all utilities and boxes. See General Plan policy section PF-M.

- a. Revisit prioritization of undergrounding with the San Ysidro community and coordinate other improvements in the same location.
- b. Support efforts to move utility boxes and obstructions out of the public right of way to create a clear path of travel.

6.2 HEALTH & SAFETY

Health

San Ysidro is engaged in efforts to understand the relationship between land use/mobility and personal health. San Ysidro is an identified case study location for assessing comprehensive approaches to integrating transportation and land use planning with health initiatives to improve quality of life and sustainability of local communities. The San Ysidro's proximity to the border crossing facility makes it a unique challenge for mitigating congestion, air quality, and mobility and understanding the public health ramifications. Health studies along the border improve the community's knowledge on health issues and help citizens and jurisdictions make informed decisions based on health analysis.

Geological and Seismic Hazards

The General Plan provides policy support for disaster preparedness and Seismic Safety in the Public Facilities, Services & Safety Element sections PF-P and PF-Q. Design considerations with regards to safety are located in the Urban Design Element.



Policies

PF.B.1 Support and promote community health in San Ysidro through land use and transportation planning. Refer to Land Use, Mobility, Urban Design, Conservation and Recreation Elements regarding policies which promote the following concepts.

- Cyclist and pedestrian safety
- Parks, trails and recreation
- Sidewalks and connectivity
- Transportation support
- Youth safety and physical activity

PF.B-2 Continue to evaluate how mobility and the built environment factors in the community of San Ysidro are related to the health of the people who live and work in the community.

- Consider incorporating health research, analysis and related technologies in future studies in order to improve the quality of life for residents;
- Improve health related data collection to better understand health impacts;
- Incorporate technologies to better manage congestion and support improved air quality;
- Use of air filtration systems to improve air quality;
- Pursue subsidies to retrofit existing structures with air filtration technologies;
- Pursue subsidies to retrofit existing structures with energy efficiency technologies; and
- Improve access to healthy foods.