

February 21, 2007

## **Conservation Element CPC Summary Sheet**

The Conservation Element of the General Plan calls for the City to be a model for sustainable development and to preserve quality of life in San Diego. Conservation is the planned management, preservation, and wise utilization of natural resources and landscapes. The Conservation Element contains policies to guide the conservation of the resources that are fundamental components of San Diego's environment, that help define the City's identity, and that are relied upon for continued economic prosperity. San Diego's resources include, but are not limited to: water, land, air, biodiversity, minerals, natural materials, recyclables, topography, viewsheds, and energy. Over the long-term, conservation is the most cost-effective strategy to ensure that there will be a reliable supply of the resources that are needed now and in the future.

Policies in this element are designed to:

- conserve natural resources;
- protect unique landforms;
- preserve and manage open space and canyon systems, beaches, and watercourses;
- prevent and reduce pollution; and
- promote clean technology industries.

The CPC General Plan Subcommittee reviewed the July 2005 Draft General Plan Conservation Element on November 29, 2005, and the full CPC made recommendations on the Element on January 24, 2006. CPC recommended edits to the July 2005 Draft Conservation Element are reflected in the attached table. The table also indicates staff's responses to the recommended edits, and tracks where policies noted are found in the October 2006 Draft General Plan. Additionally, four members of the CPC General Plan Subcommittee reviewed the October 2006 Draft General Plan Conservation Element on November 13, 2006. Key recommendations raised at the November 2006 were to: make promoting and providing incentives for sustainable energy and "green" policies be one of the main priorities of the General Plan; and to facilitate the process to convert designated open space into dedicated open space. The subcommittee also proposed specific wording changes to refine various policies.

<p><b>CPC Recommendations on Conservation Element (CE) made at CPC Meeting of January 24, 2006</b></p> <p><b>References refer to July 2005 Draft General Plan</b></p>	<p><b>Staff Responses to CPC Recommendations</b></p> <p><b>References refer to October 2006 Draft General Plan</b></p>
<p><b>Subsection A</b>, “Open Space and Landform Preservation,” discussion section should provide an explanation of the differences, and definitions of, both public and private open space.</p>	<p>Definitions for “Open Space Land” and “Parks, Parkland” are included in the Glossary (pp. GL-16-GL-17) . The Recreation Element (p. RE-7 and Table RE-1) defines and describes the various types of parks and open space.</p>
<p><b>Subsection A:</b> Policy CE-A.3 states: “Balance the city’s housing goals and conservation goals, through the City of Villages strategy of targeting mixed-use development into the existing commercial fabric of the city.” This policy should be revised to speak more broadly; the word “commercial” should be replaced with “<i>urban</i>,” protection of vacant and open land should receive emphasis.</p>	<p>Policy CE-A.3 was deleted, as the concepts are addressed in the Land Use Element Policies LU-A.2, A.3, A.5, and LU-C.2. In addition, the protection of open space is called for in policies CE- B.1, CE-B-2, UD-A.1, and UD-A.2</p>
<p><b>Subsection B</b>, “Water Supply,” Policy CE-B.1 (b) After the first three words “potential groundwater resources,” the following clause should be added: “<i>with consideration for capacity and recharge.</i>”</p>	<p>Policy CE-D.1(b) incorporates this comment through the “integrated approach” language as follows (p. CE-18): “Manage groundwater and surface water resources and capacity through an integrated approach to meet overall water supply and resource management objectives (see also Public Facilities, Services and Safety Element, PF-H.1).”</p>
<p><b>Subsection E</b>, “Biological Diversity,” Policy CE-E.2 . The entire policy should be deleted. This issue should be discussed in the Housing Element.</p>	<p>The policy was deleted from this section, as the implementation of the City of Villages strategy is adequately covered in the Land Use Element, Section A.</p>
<p><b>Subsection E</b>, Policy CE-E.5. The word “consider” should be replaced with “<i>protect.</i>”</p>	<p>This policy (now CE-G.4) was not edited due to potential conflicts with existing, adopted regulations (“protect” was too stringent regarding environmental/floodplain regulations). The City of San Diego’s project review process requires consideration/evaluation and protection of all environmentally sensitive resources if development is proposed, consistent with the City’s MSCP/ Environmental Sensitive Lands regulations, and other related regulations. Some development in floodplains is permitted with appropriate mitigation.</p>
<p><b>Subsection H</b>, “Sustainable Development and Urban Forestry,” Policy CE-H.7 (d). This policy should be edited to further explain the significance of trees that lose their leaves.</p>	<p>This policy (now CE-A.8.d) was edited to read as follows: “Increase use of deciduous trees (which lose their leaves at the end of the growing season) and drought tolerant native vegetation.”</p>
<p><b>Subsection H</b>, Policy CE-H.8. Additional language should be added to exempt solar devices.</p>	<p>This policy (now CE-A.9) was not changed as the installation of photovoltaic cells on buildings is clearly encouraged in Policies CE-I.5 and further supported in CE-A.2 and CE-A.3.</p>
<p><b>Subsection H</b>, in Policy CE-H.9 (Urban Forestry)- A new subpart “g.” should be added which places emphasis on water conservation in urban forestry, and the planting of drought resistant trees.</p>	<p>This policy (now CE-J.1) was not changed. Sustainable landscaping and the emphasis on drought-tolerant species is addressed in Policy CE-A.8. Additionally, Policy CE-J.2. calls for community street tree master plans to be used to determine appropriate tree species for each community. There may be established trees that are a part of a community’s character, that are not drought resistant.</p>