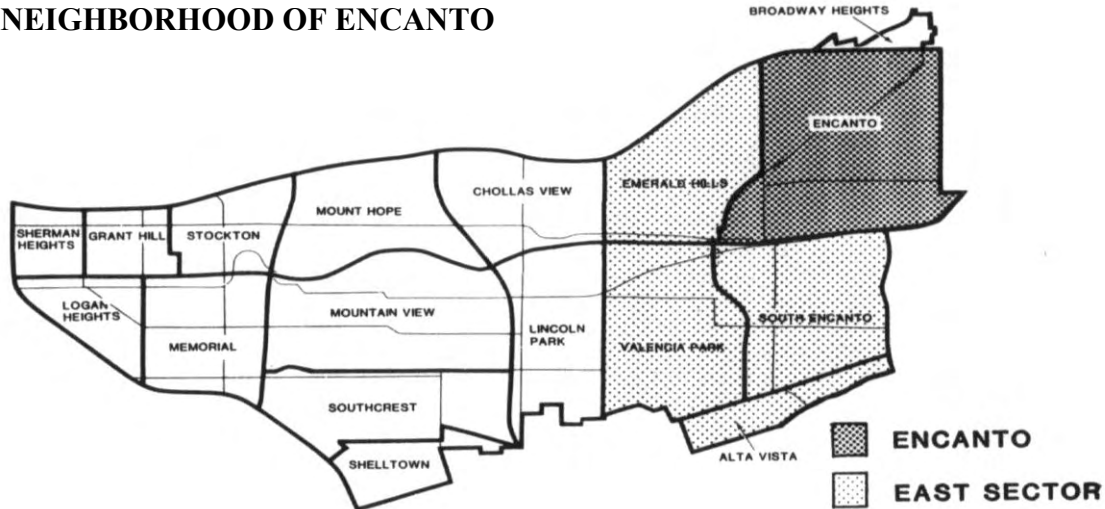


**EMERALD HILLS**  
**SOUTHEASTERN SAN DIEGO**

CITY OF SAN DIEGO • PLANNING DEPARTMENT

FIGURE 40

## THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF ENCANTO



### Setting

Encanto is situated on approximately 994 acres in the northeastern portion of Southeastern San Diego. It is bounded on the north by Mallard Street, on the south by Akins Avenue, on the east by the city of Lemon Grove, and on the west by 60<sup>th</sup> Street.

In 1889, Alice Klauber named the subdivision Encanto, the Spanish word for "enchantment." The area contains a series of natural canyons and rolling hills. Radio Canyon, which cuts diagonally from the northeast to the southwest corners of Encanto, is a major natural open space system that has been purchased by the City of San Diego for preservation as open space.

Encanto is divided into two subareas by Broadway. The northern subarea is a mixture of single-family homes on large lots, industrial uses along Federal Boulevard, and large vacant lots. The southern area, accounting for 30 percent of the total neighborhood, is bounded by Broadway on the north and Akins Avenue on the south. This area is developed with a mixture of low and medium residential densities (5-30 units per acre), commercial uses along Akins Avenue, and public facilities.

Existing Land Uses (1986)	
Type of Use	Percent
Residential	
Very-Low Density (0-5 du/ac, 1 du/lot)	80%
Low-Medium Density (10-15 du/ac)	2.5%
Commercial	1%
Industrial	2%
Institutional (Encanto Elementary School)	2.5%
Public Parks	2%
Vacant	<u>10%</u>
	100%

## Residential

Nearly 6,300 people reside in Encanto, with an overall density of about five dwelling units per acre in the northern subarea and approximately five dwelling units per acre in the southern subarea. The residential areas in Encanto are stable and quiet, with a mixture of housing conditions and types. The majority of the single-family homes are well-maintained.

The highest densities (15-30 units per acre) are north of Akins Avenue and south of Broadway where a scattering of apartment complexes have developed over the past 20 years. In many cases, these complexes are poorly maintained and landscaped, resulting in deteriorated conditions.

## Commercial

A mixture of commercial uses have developed along the north side of Akins Avenue, including a liquor store, auto storage, auto repair, and a plumbing supply yard. For the majority of commercial services, the residents of Encanto shop in Lemon Grove.

## Industrial

A variety of industrial uses have developed along the north side of Federal Boulevard and on the south side of Federal Boulevard between Winnett Street and Oriole Street. Motor home sales, a lumber yard, a contractor's storage yard, and an abandoned cable television facility are among the industrial uses. Access to State Highway 94 is a primary attraction for these users.

## Schools and Public Facilities

The neighborhood has one school, Encanto Elementary School, located at the southwest corner of Broadway and 65<sup>th</sup> Street. A City of San Diego Park and Recreation Center is located across the street to the north and east from the elementary school. The Encanto Recreation Center includes baseball fields, picnic areas, and shuffle board courts, and a senior citizen center.

## Vacant Parcels

Nearly ten percent of Encanto has remained vacant, with the majority of the parcels located in the western portion of the neighborhood, where steep slopes are common.

## Transportation Facilities

The neighborhood's major streets are 60<sup>th</sup> Street, which runs north and south, Broadway and Radio Drive, Federal Boulevard, Mallard Street and Akins Avenue, which run east and west.

The proposed Encanto Trolley Station site is located along the southern boundary of this neighborhood, between 62<sup>nd</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup> Streets on the north side of Akins Avenue. The station site

is 2.25 acres. Service to this station is part of the second phase of the East Urban Line development, expected to be operational by 1988. Akins Avenue runs parallel to Imperial Avenue, with the two separated by the railroad tracks.

### Encanto Objectives

1. Preserve the existing single-family large lot development.

The large-lot, single-family neighborhoods are worthy of preservation because this type of development creates the rural atmosphere which is characteristic of Encanto.

2. Preserve the natural canyons and slopes of Encanto.
3. Improve the landscaping on both private and public land on both sides of Federal Boulevard.
4. Permit residential infill and redevelopment on the north side of Akins Avenue at densities which do not conflict with surrounding uses.

### Encanto Recommendations



#### **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- C. Designate 25% or greater slopes for the Hillside Review Overlay Zone.

**RECOMMENDATIONS MAP**

- A. Maintain the character of the rural single-family neighborhood by preserving the R1-6000, R1-10000, R1-15000, and R1-20000 zones.

Preservation of the rural character of Encanto's residential areas is the highest priority for this neighborhood. The existing zoning should be retained, while adding the Hillside Review Overlay Zone in areas where the slopes are in excess of 25 percent. Public improvements should include rolled curbs and natural-appearing materials in the sidewalks, in order to retain the rural character.

- B. Designate the properties north of Akins Avenue between 60th Street and 65th Street for low-medium density residential development (10-15 units per net acre).

In consideration of surrounding land uses and low density R1-6000 zoned residential development to the north, this plan recommends that properties along a portion of Akins be rezoned to a low-medium density of 10-15 units per net acre.

- C. Designate lands in excess of 25 percent slope for the Hillside Review Overlay Zone.

Most of the vacant parcels in Encanto have significant slopes and should be developed according to the standards of the Hillside Review Overlay Zone, in order to preserve as much of the natural topography as much as possible.

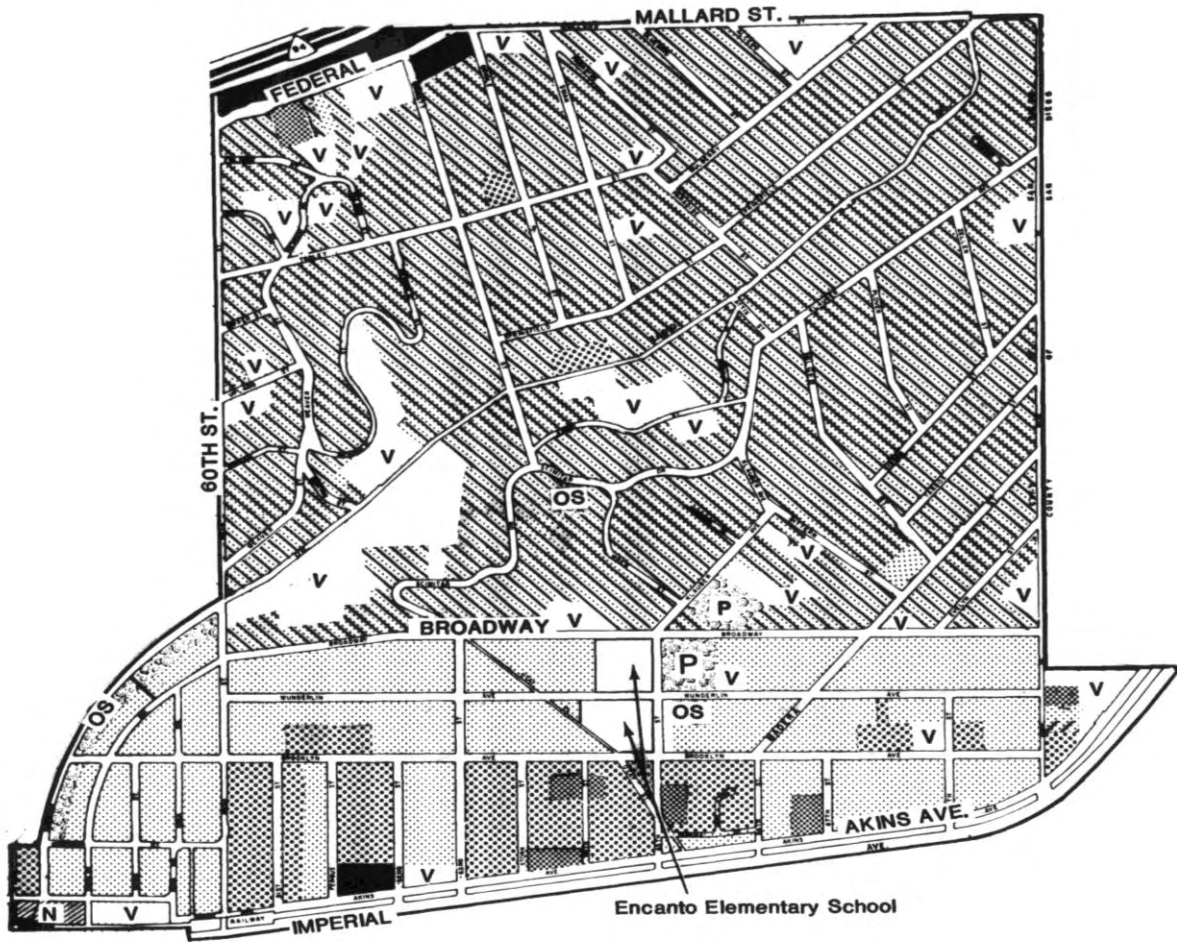
- D. Acquire the eastern branch of Radio Canyon through the City of San Diego's Open Space Acquisition Program.

The City of San Diego should purchase the remaining eastern branch of Radio Canyon as soon as possible in order to complete acquisition of this important natural open space.

- E. The Encanto Elementary School should only be developed with compatible private development after it has been determined that it is not needed for use as a public facility through the Institutional Overlay Zone review process. In the event that residential re-use is considered, the density should be at 5-10 units per acre.





- F. Designate the 1.02-acre site at the northwest corner of Akins Avenue and 62<sup>nd</sup> Street to medium-high density at 15-30 units per acre. Designate the San Diego Trolley Parking Lot at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Trolley Station for Neighborhood Commercial, Residential Allowed and Residential 30-44 du/ac consistent with the Village/Mixed Use Element. Apply the CN-1-3 zone to the corner of Akins Street and 62<sup>nd</sup> Street and RM-1-3 zones for the remainder of the parking lot.

# EXISTING LAND USE



## LEGEND

### RESIDENTIAL (units per acre)

-  0-5
-  5-10
-  10-15
-  15-30

### COMMERCIAL

-  G-GENERAL
-  N-NEIGHBORHOOD

### INDUSTRIAL

-  INSTITUTIONAL

#### Schools

- E Elementary
- J Junior High
- S Senior High
- T Trolley Station

-  OPEN SPACE

-  VACANT

-  PARK



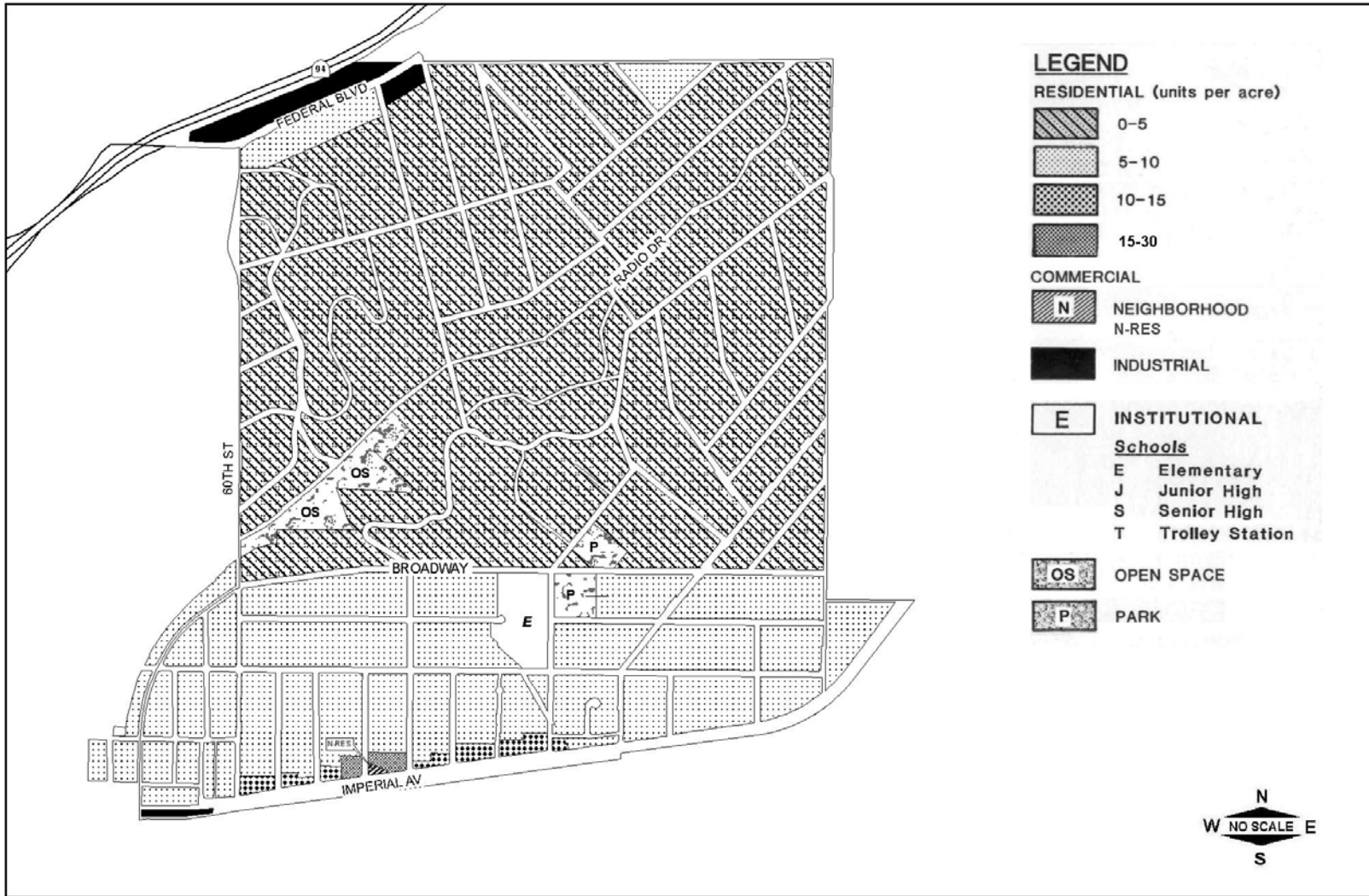
## ENCANTO

SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO

CITY OF SAN DIEGO · PLANNING DEPARTMENT

FIGURE 41

# RECOMMENDED LAND USE



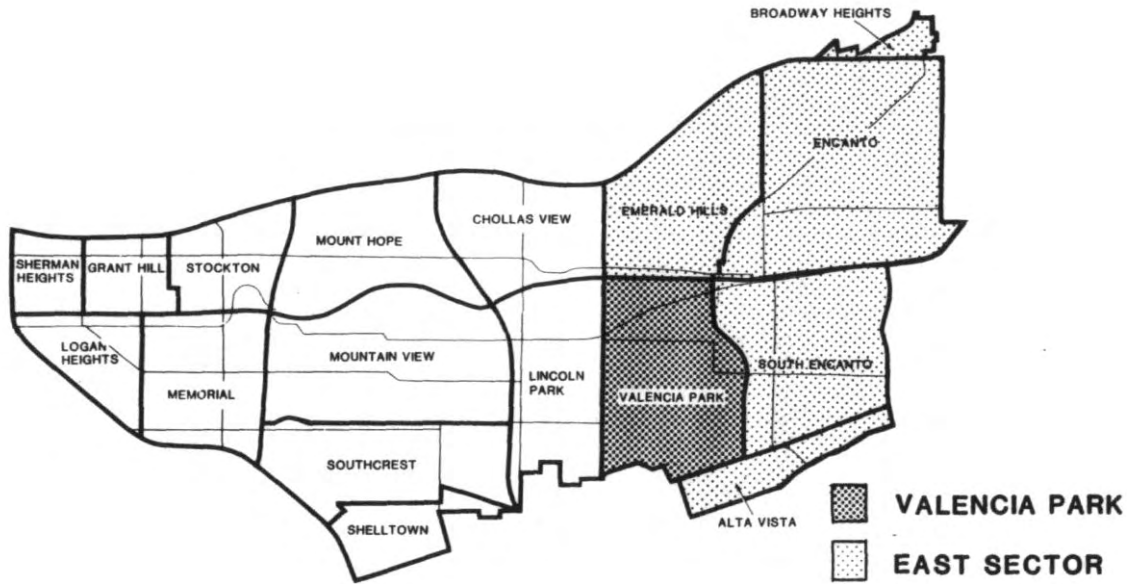
## ENCANTO

SOUTHEASTERN SAN DIEGO

CITY OF SAN DIEGO • PLANNING DEPARTMENT

FIGURE 42

## THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF VALENCIA PARK



### Setting

Valencia Park is situated on approximately 657 acres in the south-central portion of Southeastern San Diego. It is bounded on the north by Market Street, on the south by the city of National City and Division Street, on the east by Valencia Parkway, and on the west by Euclid Avenue.

The area contains a wide range of topographic features including steep slopes and rolling hills, plateaus, canyons and floodplains. The highest point, located in the southeastern corner of the neighborhood near 58<sup>th</sup> Street and Arroyo Avenue, provides a 360 degree view of San Diego. Valencia Canyon, located north of Valencia Park Elementary School, is a major natural open space area that is being acquired by the City of San Diego through its open space acquisition program.

The portion of Valencia Park north of Imperial Avenue is a mixture of industrial uses and medium-high residential development (30-45 units per acre). The central portion is developed predominantly with a medium residential density (15-30 units per acre). The southern part of Valencia Park is developed with a low residential density (5-10 units per acre) and public facilities.

### Transportation Facilities

The neighborhood's major streets are Euclid Avenue and Valencia Parkway, which run north and south, and Market Street, Imperial Avenue, and Churchward Street which run east and west. The City is now in the process of acquiring lands necessary to construct an extension to complete the construction of Valencia Parkway through to Market Street. At present, the Parkway ends at 59<sup>th</sup> Street, immediately north of Valencia Park Elementary School.



Although the San Diego Trolley Euclid Station is outside the neighborhood, the trolley stop, located at the intersection of Euclid Avenue and Market Street is a focal point for the eastern portion of Southeastern San Diego in the near future.

Existing Land Use	
Type of Use	Percent
Residential	
Low Density (5-10 du/ac, 1 du/lot)	70%
Low-Medium Density (10-15 du/ac)	5%
Medium-High Density (15-45 du/ac)	5%
Commercial	1%
Industrial	5%
Institutional (Valencia Park Elementary)	4%
Vacant	<u>10%</u>
	100%

### Residential

Nearly 7,500 people reside in Valencia Park, with an overall density of about ten dwelling units per acre. The residential areas in Valencia Park are stable and quiet, with a mixture of young and old families. The majority of the single-family homes are well-maintained. The highest densities (15-45 units per acre) are north of Churchward Street, in the northern and central subareas. A 90-unit trailer park is located north of Imperial Avenue, just east of 54<sup>th</sup> Street. Although the zoning varies, the residential densities south of Churchward Street are generally low with one home per lot.

### Commercial

The northeast and southeast corners of Imperial Avenue and Euclid Avenue have developed with commercial uses including a gas station and a convenience store. For the majority of commercial services, the residents of Valencia Park shop in National City.

### Industrial

A variety of industrial uses have developed south of Market Street and north of the railroad tracks east of Euclid Avenue. Light manufacturing (building materials, luggage, pottery), and warehousing/distribution (beer distribution) are included in the industrial uses. Access to the railroad tracks has been a primary attraction for these users.

### Schools and Public Facilities

The neighborhood has one elementary school, Valencia Park Elementary School, located on Skyline Drive near Valencia Parkway. The school yard serves as an eight-acre neighborhood park which has been developed with two softball fields (which can also serve as two soccer fields or three football fields). Although the fields are scheduled and programmed through the City Park and Recreation Department, the field is open to the general public.

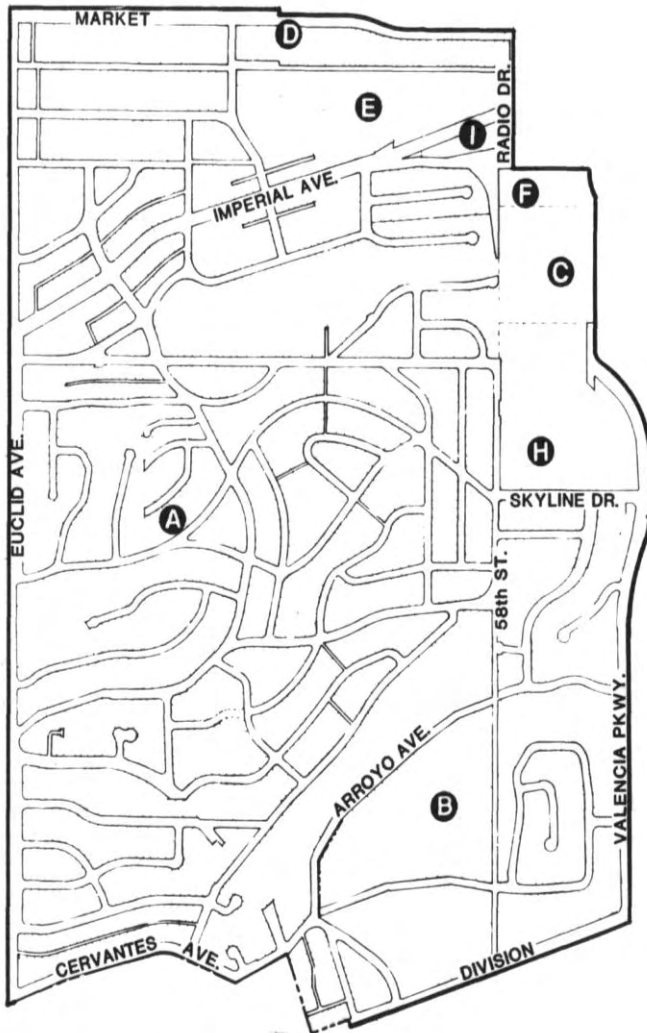
### Vacant Parcels

Nearly ten percent of Valencia Park has remained vacant, with four major vacant. The first, located south of the railroad tracks and east of 54<sup>th</sup> Street, is known as the "Potter Tract." The 13-acre Potter Tract is located in the 100-year floodplain and is several feet lower than surrounding parcels. The property had been designated for industrial use on the 1969 community plan.

The second and third parcels are west of 58<sup>th</sup> Street and south of Olvera Avenue. Both parcels are very steep. The fourth parcel is located just east of Euclid Avenue and south of Trinidad Way in the southern subarea. This acre parcel is a steep natural state canyon with a branch of Las Chollas Creek flowing through it.

### **Valencia Park Objectives**

1. Preserve the existing, well-maintained single-family development.
2. Valencia Canyon is an attractive natural canyon and should be preserved for future generations.
3. Improve the appearance of Imperial Avenue and Euclid Avenue.
4. Take advantage of the strategic location of the vacant Potter Tract to provide needed goods and services or other community-serving uses such as an employment center.
5. Ensure that move-on houses are treated in an aesthetic manner or not permitted.
6. The vacant parcels south of Arroyo Avenue and west of 58<sup>th</sup> Street should be developed in such a way as to minimize disturbance of the land's natural topography and vegetation.



**RECOMMENDATIONS MAP**

**GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

G. Require special permits for all move-ons.

C. Preserve the natural state of Valencia Canyon with a rezoning to R1-40000 and through acquisition by the City of San Diego as open space.

The City of San Diego should complete its acquisition of Valencia Canyon in order to preserve this valuable resource. In the interim, the property should be rezoned to R1-40000.

D. Designate the properties south of Market Street from 51<sup>st</sup> Street to Pitta Street, and south of the railroad tracks from 51<sup>st</sup> Street to approximately San Jacinto Drive, for industrial use.

**Valencia Park Recommendations**

A. Maintain the character of the neighborhood by preserving the single-family areas and their R1-5000 zones.

Preservation of the existing stable, well-maintained single-family neighborhood is a high priority for Valencia Park. The existing R1-5000 and R1-10000 zoning should be retained by designating these areas for very-low and low residential densities (0-5 and 5-10 units per net acre). Detached units are recommended.

B. Require the use of the Hillside Review Overlay Zone in order to preserve natural hilly terrain.

The properties presently zoned R1-10,000 should be rezoned to the standards of the Hillside Review Overlay Zone. The property located east of Euclid Avenue and south of Trinidad Way should also be developed according to the standards of the Hillside Review Overlay Zone.

E. Rezone the Potter Tract to an industrial zone.

Alternative 1. The vacant Potter Tract should be rezoned and developed with a light industrial center with some office and accessory retail uses. The tract is in a strategic location, serving as an entry into the eastern portion of Southeastern San Diego.

Alternative 2. If a light industrial center is not feasible, the vacant Potter Tract could be developed with community serving commercial uses. A rezone from industrial to a commercial use should not require an amendment to this plan. The trailer park site north of Imperial Avenue and east of 54<sup>th</sup> Street could also be rezoned in the future, without the need for a plan amendment, to allow light industrial uses similar to those in Gateway Center East. The site is too small to be redeveloped for new mobile home use and may add needed acreage to the Potter Tract for development.

F. Extend Valencia Parkway all the way to Market Street to give the community better north/south access.

G. Require special permits for all move-ons.

Move-ons should be carefully regulated to ensure that the siting and character are compatible with surrounding development and that there is minimal disturbance to the natural hilly topography.

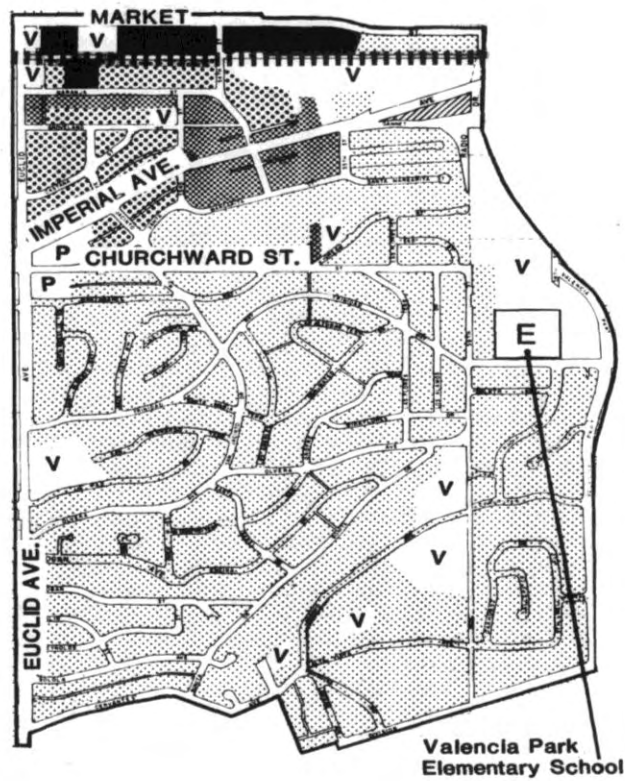
H. Valencia Park Elementary School should be rezoned to the Institutional Overlay Zone. This site should only be developed with compatible private development after it has determined that it is not needed for use as a public facility through the Institutional Overlay Zone review process. In the event that residential development is considered for the site, the density should be compatible with the density of the surrounding neighborhood, 5-10 units per acre.

I. The vacant site at Radio Drive and Imperial Avenue, owned by St. Steven's Church, may be developed with a senior citizen housing project subject to a Conditional Use Permit provided that such use is church-sponsored and fully subsidized. The density of the project should be compatible with the density of the surrounding neighborhood and in no case should exceed 30 dwelling units per acre.

J. The low-medium density (10-15 dwelling units per net acre, MF-3000 Zone) multi-family portion of the neighborhood located on the north side of Churchward Boulevard between San Jacinto Drive and Manzanares Way should be identified as a "Special Character Multi-Family Neighborhood" that would be protected with development standards recommended by the Urban Design Element.

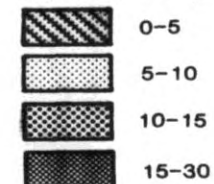
## EXISTING LAND USE

## RECOMMENDED LAND USE



### LEGEND

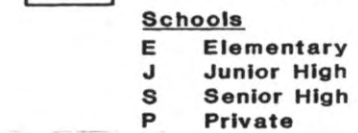
#### RESIDENTIAL (units per acre)



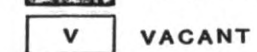
#### COMMERCIAL



#### INSTITUTIONAL



#### OPEN SPACE



## VALENCIA PARK SOUTHEASTERN SAN DIEGO

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FIGURE 43