



Casa de Lopez. Photo courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, HABS CAL,37-OLTO,3--3.

9

CONSERVATION

9. Conservation

GOAL

- Sustainable development consistent with the community's historic character.

The concepts of conservation and sustainability address the relationship of the built environment to the natural environment, and the environmental benefits that can be obtained through sustainable development. The General Plan's Conservation Element identifies the following goals: for the City of San Diego to become an international model of sustainable development; and to provide for the long-term conservation and sustainable management of the City's natural resources which define the City's identity, contribute to its economy, and improve its quality of life. Sustainable development in Old Town will incorporate building features and streetscape design that reduce energy and water consumption, improve water and air quality, reduce waste, and preserve natural features.

Sustainable features can be designed to maintain Old Town's community's character as well as conserve natural resources. In order to convey the importance of resource conservation and sustainable building and site design, conservation policies have been incorporated into the Urban Design Element in the Building Design: Sustainability, Site Design, Landscaping, Streetscape, and Street Corridors and Gateways sections.

As the birthplace of California, the conservation of Old Town San Diego's historic buildings and sites is essential to preserving its historic character and cultural heritage. The Historic Preservation Element addresses the conservation of historical and cultural resources in Old Town.



Reducing the use of impervious surfaces by incorporating native and drought-tolerant landscaping areas into site design can help minimize storm water runoff.



Thick building walls, clay tile roofs, and shade-providing porticos help reduce solar heat gain.



Site design that incorporates storm water bio-retention or filtration features that manage storm water runoff should be designed to be compatible with Old Town's historic character.