

**SENSITIVE LANDS AND OPEN SPACE  
PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION**

## SENSITIVE LANDS AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION

**POLICY: PRESERVE AND PROTECT OUR SENSITIVE LANDS AND OPEN SPACE  
AREAS**

### **Introduction**

The protection and preservation of open space in the region is one of the public's top priorities. As the region continues to develop, public pressure will increase on local governments and developers to plan for a comprehensive regional open space system. Open space means different things to different people. To some it means regional parks and beaches for picnics and ballgames, while to others it means protecting endangered plant and animal species. From a regional perspective open space means both of these things and more.

An integral part of this quality of life factor includes the integration of various habitat conservation activities within the region through the identification, design and management of a regional open space system. These efforts will create habitat areas that will be responsive to the need for preserving the ecological systems and enhancing the biologically diverse habitats necessary to support a variety of sensitive plants and animals.

A Regional Open Space Element is being prepared as a part of the Strategy to ensure that we protect and preserve a variety of open space types while protecting private property rights and providing public access.

### **Quality of Life Standards and Objectives**

A "Definition of Regionally Significant Open Space" has been prepared to help identify the types of open space we want to preserve in the San Diego region. This definition is the first section of the Regional Open Space Element now being prepared as a part of the Strategy.

Regionally significant open space includes bodies of water and land which should remain natural, or remain relatively undeveloped or rural in character. The purpose of these areas is to define and separate the region from surrounding regions (Region-Defining), preserve natural resources (Natural Resource Areas), serve recreational needs (Region-Serving) and provide a contrast to the urbanized areas of the region (Rural Lands). Specific definitions for sensitive lands (Natural Resource Areas) such as steep slopes, floodplains and wetlands,

and the other types of significant open space are provided in the "Definition of Regionally Significant Open Space."

Our beaches, one of our greatest natural assets and recreation areas, are being studied as a part of a separate project, the Regional Shoreline Preservation Management Strategy. This strategy will establish standards and objectives for beach preservation, enhancement and access.

### **Recommended Actions**

To protect and preserve our open space areas, the local jurisdictions and other affected agencies should:

1. Adopt ordinances for steep slopes, floodplains and wetlands that are consistent with the recommendations contained in the Definition of Regionally Significant Open Space.
2. Reach a consensus regarding how our remaining open space will be used, preserved and managed;
3. Acquire areas designated for use as regional parks;
4. Encourage agricultural uses as appropriate, but not in resource sensitive areas;
5. Assist in the mapping of regionally significant open space;
6. Participate in the coordination and implementation of regionwide comprehensive habitat conservation planning efforts; and
7. Identify programs and funding sources for the acquisition/protection of sensitive lands and open space.

The recommended actions contained in the Regional Shoreline Preservation Management Strategy will also be included in the Strategy once adopted.

# **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

## SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

**POLICY: RECYCLE AND REDUCE OUR SOURCES OF SOLID WASTE AND PROVIDE ADEQUATE DISPOSAL FACILITIES**

### Introduction

Solid waste, or trash, is familiar to all of us because we set it out at our homes once a week to be picked up and hauled to a landfill. Most of us are also familiar with recycling because a number of communities in the region have curbside pick-up of aluminum, glass, plastic, newspaper and white or mixed paper, and other people recycle at buyback centers. Less well known are the recycling activities of business and industry; for example, cardboard packaging, wooden pallets and scrap metal are widely recycled. Technologies, like recovering recyclables at material recovery facilities and composting wastes and sewage sludge are now being evaluated as a partial alternative to using landfills.

Solid waste management is a prominent issue for the San Diego region, as well as the rest of the state. Today, our region generates about 4 million tons of trash per year, over 1½ tons per person. Population and economic growth over the next 20 years is expected to more than double the region's solid waste by 2010. We're starting to run short of landfill space, and a number of factors are increasing the costs of managing our trash at a dramatic rate. One example is the additional costs of stronger environmental controls, such as lining landfills to minimize water pollution.

The siting of solid waste facilities is a difficult challenge. There are many political and environmental constraints involved that will need to be overcome to successfully site these facilities.

### Quality of Life Standards and Objectives

The state established solid waste management objectives for each local jurisdiction and the region when the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) became law in 1990. This law was passed in response to the state's solid waste crisis. The objectives of the law are to:

1. Have each city and county reduce and recycle 25% of the solid waste it generates by 1995, increasing to 50% by the year 2000; and