



RANCHO PALOS VERDES

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

GOALS REPORT



SEPTEMBER 2002

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Preface	i
Objectives	ii
Participation	iii
Community Development	1-1
Conservation and Resources	2-1
Fiscal Policies	3-1
Housing	4-1
Land Use	5-1
Living Environment	6-1
Open Space	7-1
Parks & Recreation	8-1
Public Facilities	9-1
Safety	10-1
Scenic Highways	11-1
Seniors	12-1
Transportation and Circulation	13-1
Urban Design	14-1

PREFACE

A review of the original September 1974 Goals Report identified eight categories of the original thirteen goals elements with the addition of a senior's element.

The first category is composed of those goals that apply to entities that no longer exist such as Marineland. These have been deleted.

The second category is composed of those goals which have been achieved by the establishment of recommended city departments and commissions such as public works and planning. These are not repeated.

The third category is composed of those goals which have been achieved by contract such as the contract with the Sheriff's department for police. These are not repeated.

The fourth category is composed of those goals that continue as a county function such as fire protection. These are funded by the current property tax and since the passage of Prop. 13 cannot be economically transferred to the city.

The fifth category is composed of those goals which have been accomplished by the passage of the appropriate ordinances. These are not repeated.

The sixth category is composed of those goals which are embodied in the city's development code. These are not repeated.

The seventh category is composed of those goals which, although as valid as they were when originally developed, need to be updated to reflect changes in the city over the past 29 + years. These are included.

The eighth and last category is composed of those new goals that also reflect changes and additions to the city over the past 29 + years. These are included.

This goals report addresses the last four categories. Some will suggest changes in ordinances and in the development code. Others will update existing goals and suggest new goals. All should be reflected in the update of the General Plan. They are of a nature that should not require a new or revised Environmental Impact Report since it is believed that none of them change any aspects that would require such an effort, rather, they are viewed as enhancements to the existing General Plan.

OBJECTIVES

- Recognize the inherent excellence of the original Goals Report.
- Recognize the changes and additions to the city that have occurred since the original Goals report.
- Acknowledge the fact that many of the recommendations of the original Goals Report have been implemented by adopting the General Plan, the Development code, the ordinances and establishing the various City departments.
- Identify the changes and additions to the original Goals Report in order to reflect this time in the City's history.
- Involve a representative cross section of the residents of the city by:
 - Including those who were here in the beginning
 - Including those who are more recent arrivals.
 - Including those who are part of the "East Side"

2002 Goals Committee

2002 Goals Committee, General Chairman:

Ken Dyda

Community Development Chairman:

Bill Lama

Members:

**Carolyn O'Brien
Betty Riedman
Yvetta Williams**

Conservation Resources Chairman:

Jim Knight

Members:

**Bill Lama
John Nieto
Barbara Sattler
Tony Baker**

Fiscal Policies Chairman:

Bruce Ross

Members:

**Andrew F. Bonacich
Richard M. Grotz
David A. Sundstrom
Alan L. Patz**

Housing Chairman:

Ken Dyda

Members:

**Martin Dodell
Steve Kolb
Daphne Clarke**

Land Use Chairman:

Milton Rosen

Members:

**Tom Redfield
Frank Kostencich
Don Richardson**

Living Environment Chairman:

Jim Moore

Members:

**Jeff Malek
Rolf Sannes
Jason Saathoff
Warren Sweetnam**

Open Space Chairman:

Ron Stankey

Members:

**Barbara Dye
Dick Grotz
Don Reeves
Jim Slayden**

Parks & Recreation Chairman:

Vic Quirarte

Members:

**Joan Berry
Bill Lama
Rose Jensen
Alyda White**

Public Facilities Chairman:

Ken Dyda

Members:

**Ann Shaw
Bob West
Bill Lama**

Safety Chairman:

Glenn Arbuthnot

Members:

**Barbara Covey
John Abdulian
Linda Fuentes
Steve La Pine**

Scenic Highways Chairman:

Bob West

Members:

**John Beringer
Joseph Gasperov
Richard Grossi
Thomas Wall**

Senior Issues Chairwoman:

Ann Shaw

Members:

**Terry Bowen
Tom Ford
June Cunningham
Bill Ritchie**

Urban Design Chairman:

Michael Neilson

Members:

**Colleen Neilson
Mark Colopy
Luis De Mores**

Transportation Chairwoman:

Barbara Covey

Members:

**Glenn Arbuthnot
Susan Van Wagner
Sam Van Wagner
Tom Wall**

NOTE:

Each committee is composed of at least one member who resided in the city at the time of incorporation, one member who is a new resident having moved to the city within the last few years and one member who is a resident of the area annexed to the city after the original General Plan was prepared. Further, each member contacted, on average, four other neighbors and/or friends for input. The total citizen participation in this report was over 210 residents.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL SERVICES, CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT AND COORDINATION & COMMUNICATION

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes needs, and currently enjoys, comprehensive programs to serve the social services, cultural development, civic needs and advanced education desires of the community. These programs are provided, for the most part, by various organizations and volunteer groups. The city needs to support these critical citizen efforts.

SOCIAL SERVICES:

- The City should continue to support organizations and work to ensure that all the citizens of RPV are served, including those with special needs. (e.g. the elderly, teenagers, shut-ins, the mentally or physically disadvantaged).
- The City should supplement the available programs with events that draw the citizens together, such as the Fourth of July Festival, and Whale of a Day.
- The City should continue to encourage and support sub-community groups such as homeowner's associations as a source of community input.
- The City staff should continue to play an active role in the coordination and widespread communication of the social programs available to all the RPV residents.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

- The City should ensure that the cultural desires of all the citizens are addressed, including all age groups, minority groups and those with special needs.
- The City should provide programs that enrich the citizens, such as Shakespeare by the Sea, Concerts in the Park and the RPV History Days (which were discontinued in 1990).
- The City should support the enrichment programs that are offered by organizations such as the Palos Verdes Arts Center and the Norris Theater for the Performing Arts.
- Some of these programs should be inexpensive if not free of charge.

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT:

- The educational curricula available in the school district should be supplemented with programs for all ages stressing appreciation of the arts, of nature and of the beautiful and unique Palos Verdes Peninsula. Most of these advanced education programs could not exist without the strong support of large numbers of Docents and other volunteers.
- Lifelong learning should be encouraged and supported through organizations and programs available to all the RPV residents. Nature appreciation programs are offered by organizations such as the Los Serenos de Point Vicente, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and the South Coast Botanic Garden. Most of these advanced education programs could not exist without the strong support of large numbers of Docents and other volunteers.

COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION:

- The City should play a coordinating and communication role in relation to the social, cultural, advanced education and civic needs and desires of the citizens.
- The use of Town Hall Meetings should be encouraged within neighborhoods/regions of the city to address local and regional issues.
- A City staff person should be assigned the task of working with the coordinating organizations (Coordinating Council, PV on the Net, Preschool Peninsula Directory, Peninsula Seniors, New Neighbors Club, Council of Homeowners Associations, etc) to coordinate the many programs available to the residents.
- A comprehensive and up-to-date directory of social, cultural, educational and civic programs, both hard copy and on-line, should be readily available.
- Cox Cable should be encouraged to run a scrolling page of organizations, another of programs and another of current week events.
- Events should also be published in the PVP News Community Calendar page and the Daily Breeze. The City should solicit Docent or Volunteer help for these tasks.

CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES

**NATURAL FEATURES
WATER
SOILS
FLORA & FAUNA
MINERAL RESOURCES
HISTORICAL SITES
and
OTHER RESOURCES**

It is the objective of the City to conserve its natural resources, natural beauty, historical heritage and other land and water resources. This shall be accomplished through sound planning, effective ordinances, and consistent enforcement.

The City is currently developing a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) which will establish what areas within the City are to be designated for conservation and which areas designated for development. In writing these goals it is intended to provide guidelines that will affect the City's policies on conservation and resources.

NATURAL FEATURES:

- The City should provide improvements and access to beaches and natural open spaces making them available for enjoyment, education and study while at the same time establishing ordinances and enforcement policies that protect the wildlife and natural habitat.
- Trails, picnic areas and beach play areas, including Abalone Cove Shoreline Park, should be clearly marked to minimize any impact to protected natural habitat areas.
- No motorized vehicles should be allowed on any trails.
- Trails should be engineered and maintained to limit erosion while at the same time sustaining safety criteria.
- The City should plan for multiple trails for uses such as hiking, equestrian or biking so as to avoid conflicts or impacts to users and habitat.
- Canyons are one feature that should be protected and form the basis for ordinances. The ordinances should restrict cut and fill of canyon properties. They form the principal sanctuaries for flora and fauna in the City and are an important part of our rural atmosphere.
- Restrict flag lot development in canyons.
- Planners shall strive for developmental plans that require the minimum amount of impact to Rancho Palos Verdes' natural land contours. .
- The City should insist that all land development be done with care so that natural surface drainage is disturbed no more than necessary. Past policies of paving channels have depleted the supply of sand, which would normally replenish beaches.
- Measures should be adopted to preclude storm drains from upsetting natural surface drainage patterns and effects while at the same time complying with National and State water quality requirements.
- The soils of the area should be protected from erosion by such ordinances as may be necessary to limit slopes, form contours, promote protective plantings, and/or use other effective means of conservation.
- Care should also be taken to limit pollution of our surface waters.
- Efforts to mitigate land movement by controlling water infiltration should, to the extent possible, not adversely affect natural drainage patterns.

WATER:

- The City should encourage, both with the general public and itself, drought tolerant landscaping and the minimum use of pesticides and herbicides.
- Organic and Integrated Pest Management techniques should be encouraged. Appropriate local native plantings should be used in park settings, scenic turnouts, medians and other city controlled public areas where possible.
- Although there may be times when dewatering wells are needed for landslide abatement, wells and springs that still exist shall be protected as much as possible.
- The City should take the steps necessary to prevent pollution of the ocean, including sensitive intertidal zones, from storm runoff.
- Storm drains should be marked so the public understands they lead directly to the ocean.

SOILS:

- Existing agricultural uses should be allowed to continue and can be an important source of learning for educational programs. However, the City should not add any additional agricultural uses to natural areas.
- Manure from horses should not be spread out into natural areas and should be recycled and/or disposed of appropriately.

FLORA AND FAUNA: (the following is intended to be in compliance with the NCCP)

FLORA:

- The City should set policies that protect the remaining rare native plants and native habitat such as Coastal Sage Scrub or Bluff Scrub.
- The City should adopt policies which encourage appropriate plantings in all regions of the city including local native, drought tolerant and non-invasive species.
- All efforts possible should be made to minimize the loss of native plants where clearing is required to reduce the fire hazard.
- Impacts of fire clearance setbacks should be minimized by requiring non-combustible auxiliary structures, fences and walls.
- A City sponsored committee should be formed with knowledgeable members of the community such as botanists, biologists and members of the California Native Plant Society to help guide habitat preservation and restoration for new developments, City parks and open spaces.

- The City should encourage educational programs on native flora and fauna in coordination with local groups such as the Land Conservancy, South Coast Botanical Gardens, Los Serenos de Point Vicente or the P.V. School district.

FAUNA:

- Planning should take measures necessary to protect those rare species that make their home in Rancho Palos Verdes and their respective habitats.
- The City should implement educational and control programs to minimize the impact of domestic and feral animals on the natural habitat and wildlife.

MINERAL RESOURCES:

- The principal mineral resources of Rancho Palos Verdes, (sand, gravel, diatomaceous earth, and Palos Verdes Stone), shall be conserved along with other mineral resources which are important.
- The City should oppose any extraction of oil from any coastline area as a potential threat to marine life.

HISTORICAL SITES:

- All exposed geological formations and fossil-bearing sedimentary rocks, which reveal very early forms of life and fossils, should be protected from removal and preserved for educational value.
- Artifacts from Native American Indian sites should be preserved and cataloged.
- All artifacts from sites identified in any development EIR should be properly cataloged and preserved.
- The City should take steps to protect sites of importance to our historical heritage including whale watching points, Indian grounds, home sites of early settlers and military sites.

OTHER RESOURCES:

AIR QUALITY:

- Request monitoring closer to our location than is now done.
- Limit additional pollution sources in our area by discouraging polluting types of industry and limiting automobile caused air quality impacts by encouraging more efficient or alternative fuel vehicles, providing bike lanes along roads and providing a public transportation system.

LIGHT POLLUTION:

- The City should set policies to protect the naturally dark night sky from light pollution that might emanate from existing or proposed development.

WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- The City should encourage recycling to reduce the demand on landfills.
- All contracts with waste disposal collection should have mandatory glass, paper, plastic and green waste collection.
- Burning of trash as a waste reduction method should be discouraged.
- The City should facilitate periodic hazardous waste collection.

FISCAL ELEMENT

SERVICES and FACILITIES
LEGISLATIVE REGULATION
INTEGRATION
REVENUE and EXPENDITURES
DEVELOPMENT
FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes needs to follow an effective means of measuring the cost and benefit to the community of the services provided by city government. All means of raising revenue must be carefully examined. All ways of spending the taxpayer's money have to be carefully evaluated to make sure the community and its citizens receive the best possible benefit for their tax dollars.

SERVICES AND FACILITIES:

- Identify projects and services that contribute to the quality of life for RPV residents. Consider the cost effectiveness and community benefits of all new major services and facilities.
- Evaluate the dependence on proposed revenue sources to ensure long term viability.
- Require that wherever appropriate, special benefit services be paid for by the users in the form of specified fees or taxes.
- Evaluate using full cost accounting, including assessment of both the monetary and the intangible costs of various alternatives.
- Continually evaluate the merits of contracting for services versus in-house staffing.
- Improve training of city employees to improve service contract monitoring.
- Develop criteria to evaluate contractors in their claimed area of expertise.

LEGISLATIVE REGULATION:

- Monitor actions at the Federal, State and County levels that would impact local revenues or services.
- Assess current administrative and enforcement capabilities before imposing new regulations, to insure that such new regulations can be effectively administered without undue costs.
- Utilize regulatory methods in a fair and equitable manner to reduce public costs and increase effectiveness.

INTEGRATION:

- Expand the integration of common services among the four Peninsula cities for improved cost effectiveness.
- Investigate previous attempts to integrate common services and reevaluate potential of such integration.
- Develop regular lines of communications with surrounding cities and other agencies such as the Contract Cities and League of California Cities to serve our residents better.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES:

- Ensure that our City Government identifies revenue opportunities from other governmental sources.
- Obtain a fair share of revenues available from other governmental sources with due consideration being given to the impact on local control and obligations incurred.
- Encourage private contributions and donations to the City in addition to public funding to support those projects.
- Finance recurring expenditures from recurring revenues.

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Consider additional commercial development in order to add resources and facilities to residents.
- Ensure that infrastructure costs do not exceed the development's benefits and create a future burden on the City
- Ensure that additional development preserves the quality of our neighborhoods and open spaces.

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

- Monitor progress toward stated Goals and report on a periodic basis.
- Propose alternate plans when long term goal achievement does not meet expectations.
- Consider the financial impact of City decisions, as they affect costs other than taxes, to our residents.

HOUSING

COMMUNITY IDENTITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY DIVERSITY STANDARDS

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes should endeavor to preserve and enhance the community's quality living environment to maintain and improve the visual character and physical quality of all existing neighborhoods and to encourage a modest amount of high quality development of a carefully controlled variety of new housing to adequately serve the needs of all present and future residents of the community. The desirability of Rancho Palos Verdes as a place to live will continue to result in a demand for quality.

Rancho Palos Verdes should strengthen its General Plan Element on Housing with the objective of establishing a long term Housing Needs Inventory defining mechanisms for compliance with regulatory requirements and to protect the established Planning Guidelines regarding density, location, views/vistas, open space and neighborhood compatibility.

COMMUNITY IDENTITY:

- The overall identity of Rancho Palos Verdes should be consistent with its view-oriented atmosphere, rolling hills, its serenity and its clean air.
- The City should take advantage of its distinctive natural landmarks insuring that they be preserved and specify areas where future landmarks should exist to preserve community identity.
- The City should take advantage of the dominant topographic forms and existing road patterns to create a series of definable "sub-communities" sharing a sense of place with the rest of the city.
- Through appropriate use of open space and landmarks, a distinctive entrance motif for each access street of Rancho Palos Verdes and each sub-community should be created.
- The City should develop guidelines covering all signs including sub-community identity signs. Use of signs should be controlled by ordinance.
- Each sub-community should be encouraged to establish at least one park designed for the use of the residents of the community and to encourage community pride, use and identity.
- Sub-communities should capitalize on the potential for hillside development, areas of scenic vistas, changes in vegetation patterns, varying wildlife habitats and to give each sub-community an identity of its own while providing a variety of housing types.
- Sub-community committees should take an active role in maintaining a high quality of housing in their areas

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- The City should strive to preserve its semi-rural atmosphere.
- The major orientation of residential development should be towards a low-density community.
- New residential development should only occur where adequate public services and facilities exist.
- New housing development should be prevented in areas subject to hazards (e.g., flooding, slide areas, fault lines).

COMMUNITY DIVERSITY:

- ❖ The City should explore the possibility of some mixture of residential units in certain commercial areas where it has been determined that residential (affordable housing) use
- ❖ Public access into residential areas should be designed to limit non-local traffic.
- ❖ There should be an equitable and uniform distribution of public services in residential areas.
- ❖ Approval of plans for new developments should give strong consideration to the need to
- ❖ Residential use of mobile homes should not be permitted.
- ❖ The City should make development guidelines, zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, housing and building codes strong enough to bring about the high quality community it wants but also flexible enough to respond to the special needs of different types of development.
- ❖ The City should cooperate with the county, state and federal agencies, monitoring all housing programs offered, and studying their viability of implementation within the Rancho Palos Verdes environment.
- ❖ The City should work with other communities and the County Housing Authority in developing viable housing programs to serve the needs of low to moderate income families.
- ❖ Guidelines should be established indicating minimum landscape requirements for new residential developments.
- ❖ An inventory of existing deed restrictions within the various developments of the City should be made. An effort should be made to incorporate the compatible features within the general community residential development standards.
- ❖ A current inventory should be maintained of housing types (multi-family, single-family, cluster housing and condominiums) location, value, standards of construction, quality of maintenance, density, mix, income levels of occupants and undeveloped land including applicable restrictions on use, slide area, topography and deed restrictions. Utilizing the results of the inventory as a foundation, a general housing plan should be designed to fit the estimated future needs of the citizens.
- ❖ Any new developments with new streets should provide adequate right-of-way widths for possible future needs and to provide for traffic patterns necessary for future growth. Intersections at collector roads and other major streets should consider using traffic circles as calming mechanisms and avoid traffic lights.

- No canyons should be filled to permit additional housing to be built, and homes on hillsides should fit into the natural terrain without extensive land movement to create housing pads.
- Guidelines should be developed for any housing where amenities, such as storage, trash deposit, etc. are shared.

STANDARDS:

- The City should establish neighborhood compatibility guidelines for the Planning Department to approve the design of any new structure or proposed modification to an existing structure.
- The height of any structure or planting should be strictly limited so that it has a minimum visual impact on its surroundings, does not interfere with views, and relates compatibly with neighboring structures and land forms within its sub-community environment.
- The guidelines and restrictions should ensure every citizen in Rancho Palos Verdes, when building or buying a home, that his neighbor will create an attractive structure.
- Rancho Palos Verdes should encourage energy saving concepts and construction economies while maintaining high quality development.
- The City should try to control and prevent deterioration of established residential areas through sub-community committees keeping the City advised on any housing maintenance problems that may develop.
- The City should use sub-community committees to set up public meetings at which suggestions for neighborhood improvements will be solicited. This could include public improvements (streets, side-walks, and trees), code enforcement and new ordinances for protection of neighborhood quality.
- The City should encourage proper private maintenance by setting and maintaining high standards of cleanliness and upkeep for sanitation service, parks, streets and city facilities with emphasis on timely action.
- The City should discourage the creation of limited access neighborhoods or developments. Gated or controlled entry, even if not restricted, should be discouraged.

LAND USE

RESIDENTIAL CIVIC COMMERCIAL OPEN LANDS

Because of its unique location, beautiful hills and magnificent views, Rancho Palos Verdes will be subject to continuing unprecedented population growth pressures. Such growth should therefore be carefully controlled and directed toward making a positive contribution to all elements of the present community. It should be a cautious, evolutionary process that follows a well conceived set of general guidelines and specific controls. The underlying growth philosophy should be to preserve and enhance the present semi-rural residential community with abundant open space. This will require a new reality of minimal growth.

While the traditional focus has been on residential development, an opportunity for enhancement exists in the form of upgrading the infrastructure, undergrounding utilities and beautifying the medians and community entrances. For remodeling and for the individual developable lots that remain, the focus needs to be one of effectively managing the development. To maintain the character of Rancho Palos Verdes, neighborhood compatibility guidelines for owners, architects and contractors must be developed and enforced.

RESIDENTIAL:

- Average housing density in new developments should be no more than 2 units per acre and 1 per acre for homes larger than 4,000 sq. ft.
- The City of Rancho Palos Verdes has been adequately served with multiple dwelling units. With our increasing senior population, special needs facilities are required. Guidelines need to be created with emphasis on low density.
- All new developments should be required to have underground utilities and no canyon filing should be permitted.
- Spot zoning should not be allowed.
- Special attention must be exercised in older areas where unique patterns exist and options are limited. (Miraleste)
- Sub-community committees should be consulted by the City to help determine appropriate growth and development standards for their sub-communities. The focus should shift from a sequential growth plan to a virtual no growth approach.

CIVIC:

- The City should identify those areas suitable for development to meet special needs (athletic fields, cultural facilities, senior and civic centers, etc.).

COMMERCIAL:

- If the needs of the people dictate that further commercial development is desirable, such development should be carefully and strictly controlled, and limited to consideration of nearby convenience service facilities.
- The existing topography, the scarcity of suitable vacant land, and limited road system does not enable the formation of a large center business district.
- All existing commercial developments should be made to comply with the landscape and building codes of the City.
- Expansion of existing commercial facilities should be carefully controlled but encouraged if they contribute to furthering the basic character and goals of the City.
- The Long Point property is the only large commercial parcel and should be developed as a semi-passive facility (non industrial, non amusement park) in keeping with the character of Rancho Palos Verdes.

OPEN LANDS:

- All slide areas and other geologically unstable land should remain open space indefinitely because of its unstable soil condition.
- The Nike Site should be developed as a civic center.
- Point Vicente Interpretive Center, which is reopening, should remain as the centerpiece of the open space surrounding it.

LIVING ENVIRONMENT

AIR QUALITY
NOISE
VIEWS
WATER
MEDIATION

The Living Environment compasses, not only noise but other attributes, such as vision, atmosphere and water. The city shall develop ordinances, policies and programs which will restore and preserve the Living Environment which attracts people who become residents of this serene and stimulating City with a minimum of required restrictions on citizen activity.

NOISE:

- Disruptive hours in Residential Zones shall be limited to 7am to 7pm, Monday through Saturday.
- Maximum noise levels shall be established for neighborhoods to include, but not be limited to, such sources as animals, horns or sirens (other than emergency equipment), motor vehicles (including motorcycles) passing or being repaired or tested, airplanes, construction equipment, musical instruments or sound amplifiers.
- The City should develop and adopt an enforceable ordinance to control noise levels within the community. The ordinance should contain a concise policy statement easily understood by the citizens.
- The noise ordinance should be integrated with other city ordinances, such as building codes and zoning. Compatible land use criteria shall be a major factor in the ordinance integration.
- The City should encourage the use of noise abatement measures, which will also enhance the aesthetic qualities of the environment.
- The ordinance should contain specific noise standards consistent with health and quality of life goals and employ effective techniques of noise abatement, as well as a standardized procedure for measuring noise levels. Those specific noise levels not permitted in the City shall be clearly set forth.
- The City should establish a Community Task Force and Appeals Board to assist in the setting of noise standards and to review cases of citizen complaints.
- Areas contiguous to major arterial traffic corridors should be buffered through the use of appropriate controls.
- In conjunction with development of the ordinance, a noise study should be conducted which will categorize and describe the major noise sources within the community, e.g. motorcycles, amplifying systems, airplanes, etc.
- The City should coordinate with other local governments in standardizing the noise ordinances so as to prevent unwanted noise intrusion.
- It should be the policy of the City to protect areas that are presently quiet from future noise impact.

VIEWS:

- Visual impacts shall be minimized from view impairment, property maintenance, utility items placement, and neighborhood business where allowed.
- Trimming criteria should be view dependent not time dependent. View criteria should be part of the permit process with monetary incentives to achieve both compliance and avoid unnecessary inspections to reduce costs to the City.
- The City's View Restoration/Preservation Ordinance Guidelines should be clarified by removing subjective terms open to arguable interpretation such as "lacing" and "significant".

AIR QUALITY:

- Activities within the City that degrade air quality shall be strictly regulated if not prohibited.
- Activities within the City which produce pollution and toxic odors are to be prohibited.

WATER QUALITY:

- Water supply shall meet or exceed the current and expected needs of the City.
- Controls for runoff or contamination sources shall be developed to meet Federal Standards.

MEDIATION:

- The City should establish a community mediation group, like the View Arbitration Board, to assist in resolving complaints by residents and to recommend new standards as they are required in the future.

OPEN SPACE
PRESERVATION
USES
MANAGEMENT

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes recognizes that open space land is a limited and valuable resource, and that many of the unique characteristics and much of the atmosphere of the City depends upon it to a degree impossible to achieve elsewhere.

The residents of Rancho Palos Verdes therefore desire that highest priority be given to the acquisition and preservation of large amounts of open space within the City.

By definition, open space land shall be considered to be large acreage agricultural land or raw undeveloped land, canyons, coastline and present park sites.

PRESERVATION:

- The City should acquire the lands designated in the Natural Communalities Conservation Plan for acquisition. Among the priorities should be:
 - a) The remaining parcels in the Portuguese Bend Regional Open Space Park.
 - b) The Point Vicente Lighthouse parcel.
 - c) Canyon parcels that provide habitat and trail options.
- The City should consider all possible options to acquire open space:
 - a) Obtaining state, county and federal grant dollars, making sure to analyze and make public restrictions on the use of the land that accompany the funds.
 - b) Working with nonprofit groups to provide private donations.
 - c) Providing property owners with tax benefits for charitable donations.
 - d) Providing naming opportunities for major donors.
 - e) Placing a local bond measure before the voters.
 - f) Utilizing funds acquired by the City through the Quimby Act or extractions from developers for park or open space acquisition.
 - g) General fund revenues if the City reserves exceed budget requirements.
- Public-private partnerships with organizations such as the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy are encouraged in order to provide additional expertise and resources for land acquisition efforts.
- All acquisition transactions should include funding for ongoing maintenance of the parcels.

USES:

- The City should balance the needs of residents for uses of City-owned open space land within the City. Each property should be evaluated for appropriate uses, such as:
 - a) Habitat preservation, enhancement and revegetation.
 - b) Public access (pedestrian, equestrian and off-road bicycle use).
 - c) Educational programs.
 - d) Sports facilities.
 - e) Other communality-serving uses.
- This evaluation should take into account sources of funding for:
 - a) On-going maintenance costs.
 - b) Construction costs for primary improvements such as sports fields, Equestrian Center, major trails, etc.

- c) Construction costs of ancillary improvements such as parking, rest rooms, access trail(s), signage, fencing, etc.
- Other factors to be included in a review of uses include.
 - a) Restrictions on properties due to grant funds used for purchase
 - b) Appropriateness of land for specific uses due to accessibility, land stability,
 - c) Impacts of uses on adjacent neighborhoods
 - d) Impacts of uses on existing habitat and sensitive species, including the marine environment.
 - e) Preservation of areas of scenic beauty and view corridors
 - f) Preservation of historic sites.
 - g) Fire danger caused by human activity and the associated requirements for fuel modification.
 - h) Risk factors such as fire danger or steep cliffs.

MANAGEMENT:

- The City budget should include line items for costs associated with maintenance of City lands, trails, and facilities.
- Developers of any remaining parcels should be required to provide ongoing maintenance of open space areas associated with their projects.
- The City should enter into partnerships where appropriate with qualified community groups (for example, Los Serenos de Point Vicente, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, athletic organizations) to manage open space parcels or to perform certain functions associated with those parcels.
- An audit committee should be established to assure that non-city partners are financially responsible and are performing as the management agreements require.
- Conservation easements should be placed over any parcels acquired for habitat preservation purposes. These easements should include language permitting work necessary for land stabilization, fuel modification, or other work necessary to insure public health and safety.

PARKS AND RECREATION

ACQUISITION DEVELOPMENT PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes shall acquire, develop and preserve facilities and maintain recreational programs to provide a variety of activities for persons of all ages and in all areas of the community.

A significant aspect of recreation in our community is the open space which remains within the City. Whether used for free creative play and learning experiences by our children, or for its aesthetic beauty, as much land as possible should be kept free from earth moving or building.

ACQUISITION/RETENTION:

- The City should attempt to acquire as much open space as practical:
 - a) Surplus federal lands
 - b) Land in the slide area
 - c) Parcels of coastal lands
 - d) County lands
 - e) Unused school sites
- Agriculture should be preserved as a significant aspect of the City's open space plan, in part for the scenic recreational beauty afforded by this type of land use and in part for its historical value.

DEVELOPMENT:

- The City should develop additional athletic fields for non-specific usage in cooperation with other Peninsula cities. These sites should be developed to be compatible with needs for local recreation programs. The sites should provide outlets for:
 - a) Youth centers
 - b) Adult recreation
 - c) Special events
 - d) Outdoor educational activities
 - e) Athletic fields.
 - f) A dog park
- The unused area around City Hall (until such time as a civic center is built) could be used for:
 - a) An enhanced lower passive park
 - b) Additional tennis courts

PRESERVATION:

- The City should preserve, mark, and protect local sites of natural, geological, archaeological, historical or aesthetic merit.
- The City should institute special zoning measures for these areas.
- The City should be given first right of purchase to preserve these sites.
- Brochures should be made available showing the various trails in the City for both hiking and equestrian use indicating the degree of difficulty.
- Signage should be posted indicating trail heads.

- Native habitat areas should be marked with signage indicating their sensitive nature.
- Tide pools, such as at Abalone Cove, should be protected and maintained as no-take zones.

ACTIVITIES:

- The City should continue to sponsor recreation programs at City parks.
- The City should support local, public non-profit youth recreation and cultural activities which provide outlets for citizens on a non-discriminatory basis.
- Where programs require fees for support, differential fees should be assessed favoring residents of the City.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Rancho Palos Verdes should improve and complete, in appropriate priority sequence, the necessary public facilities to meet the governmental, educational, and recreational needs of its citizens, either by the city or by encouraging private profit or non-profit development. The public facilities should be developed with a concern for maintaining and enhancing the physical environment.

The City should identify sources of recurring and reliable sources of revenue, without onerous taxes, to operate and maintain the public facilities.

GOVERNMENT FACILITIES:

- The City Hall should have ample space for operations of all departments of city government including conference rooms for the Mayor, Council Members and city departments.
- A proper council chamber should be provided.
- There should be liaison "desk(s)" to other governmental agencies supplying services to the residents of Rancho Palos Verdes such as family counseling, health department, animal control, fire and police protection etc..
- The feasibility of combining a city hall with a community and cultural center into a civic center at one site should be studied.
- The Civic Center should be on a site large enough to provide ample parking with a green belt area around it.

EDUCATIONAL:

- Maintain and enhance the Point Vicente Interpretive Center and its programs of education.
- Continue to make Hesse Park available for educational programs.
- Expand the availability, to the extent possible, of other city sites for educational programs.

RECREATIONAL:

- Explore enhancements to the existing recreational facilities at the city parks.
- Explore locations and funding opportunities to provide facilities, beyond those available at the schools, for the growing sports programs for both girls and boys.

SAFETY

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

FIRE PROTECTION

GEOLOGIC HAZARD

LAW ENFORCEMENT

TRAFFIC CONTROL

It is the goal of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes to provide for the maximum protection of life and property from both natural and man-made hazards within the community through the development and effective implementation of programs. These programs include law enforcement, fire protection, animal control, traffic control, geologic hazard evaluation and regulation, and emergency preparedness. Gated communities (except where the streets are private since their maintenance is not a city function) should be discouraged. The safety and security of all the residents must be paramount and create an atmosphere where gated communities would not be necessary.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

- Increase public awareness of the current volunteer emergency response organization.
- Involve the community organizations (i.e. Homeowner's Associations) in a voluntary canvas of neighborhood preparedness.

FIRE PROTECTION:

- Expand brush clearing notification (using the city newsletter) to include all landscaping hazards.
- Offer fire safety presentations at Homeowner's Association meetings.

GEOLOGIC HAZARDS:

- Reemphasize a very conservative approach when applying the art of geology to proposed development.
- Maintain the moratorium in potentially unstable geologically hazardous areas to avoid any city liability, either direct or indirect, as a result of any failure.
- Prepare and make available a pamphlet informing the citizens of geologically hazardous areas and their potential consequences.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

- Continue to support of the Neighborhood Watch Program.
- Emphasize traffic enforcement where traffic accidents appear to be increasing.
- Encourage volunteer auxiliary.

TRAFFIC CONTROLS:

- Survey the bicycle traffic and install bike lanes where required and not currently provided.
- Provide bike lanes on all new collector roads and arterials.
- Minimize collector roads (through streets) in new developments.
- Consider traffic calming measures that do not reduce emergency response times yet reduce speeding.
- Consider traffic circles (roundabouts) in new construction at major intersections.
- Catalogue traffic accidents to identify accident patterns and increase traffic speed law enforcement.
- Vigorously enforce speed limits on arterials and collector streets experiencing traffic accidents (Crenshaw, Hawthorne, etc.).
- Adopt a policy of participating in a Crossing Guard Program at the schools.

SCENIC HIGHWAYS

The 14-mile coastline of the Palos Verdes Peninsula is graced with vistas which can only be compared with those found along the Mediterranean Sea. It is also endowed with unique tide pool areas, coves with beautiful surf action, and resurgent kelp beds--all of which have led to its being declared a marine preserve area. It is the responsibility of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes to act as steward of this magnificent creation, to enhance the natural beauty and resources, to preserve those resources for the public benefit and to provide and maintain access for public enjoyment, while not promoting additional traffic into Rancho Palos Verdes.

A review of the September 1974 Goals reports finds it to be as relevant today as it was in 1974. No changes are presented or required with the provision that access should be coordinated with the Conceptual Trails Plan.

SENIORS

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

SUPPORT SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION

The senior population (those over 65) in Rancho Palos Verdes has grown to over 20% of the total city population. The residents, between 55 and 65, account for another 15% of the population. Since most residents remain in the city after retirement, a conservative estimate of the senior population in the next ten years is 30%. It is the responsibility of the city of Rancho Palos Verdes to acknowledge and support the needs of this large segment of its population.

Further, it should be recognized that, for many, their apparent wealth is in the value of their home and not their income. The "living" income for many is limited with some being at or below subsistence levels in Rancho Palos Verdes.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES:

- Augment and support the existing senior's organization in providing the following: social, physical and intellectual stimulation.
- Professional services including legal and financial counseling, social worker, podiatrist, ombudsman and notary.
- Referral services.
- Establish a Senior Affairs Committee to advise the city on senior issues.

SUPPORT SERVICES:

- The city should assume a leadership role in providing financial support (much as most cities do) for the facility and operational costs of a Senior Center.
- The city should take the lead on the peninsula to elicit support from the other peninsula cities because peninsula seniors are not boundary limited.
- Encourage private companies to provide goods and services to seniors at a discount.
- Include a Senior Issues feature in the city's newsletter.

TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION

TRANSPORTATION FOR AN AGING POPULATION TRANSPORTATION FOR SCHOOLS

The City should seek to provide a safe and efficient transportation system. Emphasis should be placed on the creation of a non-vehicular network to increase the mobility of the residents. All parts of the circulation system should be made visually attractive.

Emphasis should be placed on the needs of seniors and on traffic safety at the schools.

TRANSPORTATION FOR AN AGING POPULATION:

- To maintain their quality of life and avoid their becoming isolated, it is important to provide senior citizens with access to reliable public transportation. Consideration should be given to a door-to-door van program of the nature of The Wave in the neighboring beach cities.
- A study should be conducted on a regular basis as to the needs of senior citizens in regard to public transportation, focusing on location of bus stops, frequency of service, routes of the buses and bus fares. Results of said study should be used by the City to ensure the needs of the senior riders are being met.
- Information concerning public transportation for senior citizens in the City and connections to other sites should be widely promoted. The routes, time tables, and fares should be updated and published annually in the city's newsletter.
- Increase timing of "walk" signs at intersections to allow seniors as well as the disabled to cross the intersection.

IMPROVING TRAFFIC SAFETY AT THE SCHOOLS:

- The City should adopt a policy of participating in a Crossing Guard Program and funds should be provided in the budget for this expense.
- A staff person should be assigned the responsibility for overseeing efforts to improve school traffic safety.
- Delete pedestrian access for children to schools as a primary objective and treat on a case by case basis.

URBAN DESIGN

The unique character and natural environment of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, with its shoreline and rolling hills, needs to be enhanced and preserved.

Quality is established in the General Plan and implemented through the zoning, neighborhood compatibility criteria, the development code and other requirements established by the City Council through the Planning Commission and the local tract C.C. & R's. In this regard, the city should be a party to any new CC&R's to insure compliance.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA:

- Consultants should survey and catalog the natural environment of the entire City to identify sensitive areas and indicate the affected flora and fauna. Such a “baseline” survey would aid the Planning Commission with its project review and further development of the City.
- Close coordination with the Utility companies regarding energy efficiency and alternate energy sources is strongly suggested.
- In addition to current requirements, a precise plan and design should be submitted to include its relationship to adjoining properties so as to fully evaluate the planned structure or development.
- Quality is established via zoning, view ordinance and neighborhood compatibility requirements established by the City Council and the local tract C.C. & R’s
- The Planning Department should exchange information regularly with the similar entities of the adjacent municipalities to review “lessons learned” which would be advantageous for all parties.

NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Housing design shall reflect a proper relationship of structure to the landscape and to existing structures.
- Open space shall be designed to provide the greatest utility to residents.
- Developments shall include plans for open space such as parks, walkways and bicycle paths. Where appropriate, horse trails should be included.
- Large setbacks and height limitations should be required to create the appearance of open space and low density and to protect views.
- Setbacks and height should be in keeping with the lot size. Establishment and adherence to a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) must not exceed the area remaining after setbacks are deleted.
- Separation of pedestrian walkways from roads should be encouraged. Safe access to local schools should be a factor.

- Cluster zoning should be considered as a means of increasing the amount of open space available to the residents of a development.
- Buffering of such clustered structures by means of Architectural or landscape features is a necessity. The extent of buffering is to be established by the Planning Commission at the time of project approval.
- Landscaping should be required with new construction. Specific guidelines for landscaping need to be established for the different types of projects; residential, multi-family, commercial, such as:

“Front yard is to be ground cover with 5% of area to be shrubbery”

or

“Front yard to be ground cover with a 3’-0” planting strip at the house”

- Efforts should be made to preserve the natural topography. Aspects of a development such as layout, roads and sitting of structures should provide for the highest possible visual quality. The Planning Commission would provide final approval of any project that would incorporate all possible concerns regarding quality.
- With the increase in automobile ownership, adequate off-street parking should be provided.
- The City should provide incentives to encourage the maintenance of existing housing and the rehabilitation of any deterioration. While it is assumed that every owner will “properly” maintain his property, facts are different.
- Codes should be flexible enough to incorporate technological changes.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Further commercial development should be very limited and geared to the needs of the City's residents.
- The possibility of combining community and social needs with commercial development in such areas as Miraleste Plaza should be studied.
- Spot commercial zoning should be eliminated.
- Height limitations and buffer zones with extensive landscaping should be required for aesthetic reasons and to minimize the impact of the development on the environment. There will be projects that do not fit into the standard definitions. It will be the

responsibility of the Planning Commission to interpret the existing zoning and ordinances for those projects.

HILLSIDE DEVELOPMENT:

- Major emphasis should be placed on the protection of scenic vistas and views from any encroachment.
- All future grading projects should be viewed as detrimental and development should be designed to fit into existing topography with an absolute minimum of grading.
- Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the developer or his agent shall submit to the City an inventory of all the natural characteristics of the site (canyons, creeks, slopes, vegetation, vistas, etc.) and their locations. The City should then determine which features are worthy of preservation.
- Developers should prepare three-dimensional models to show in what ways physical plans have mitigated the effect of development on the natural environment and the adjoining properties.
- All planting and landscaping plans should take into consideration the need for erosion control or fire retardation where relevant. In open areas such as parks or canyons, the preservation of the natural wildlife should be a factor.
- The Planning Commission should give consideration for incentives with respect to using “zero-scape” or landscaping with native plant materials.

UNDERGROUND UTILITIES AND SEWERS:

- All new power lines and telephone lines should be underground and programs implemented to place existing lines underground.
- A committee should be established to study alternative methods of financing the under grounding of overhead lines in existing residential areas. The City should take all reasonable steps to facilitate under grounding by homeowners.
- Programs for the phasing out of existing septic tanks should be implemented in areas where septic tanks create a geologic hazard or health problem.

