

## *VII Housing & Social Services Element*

City residents currently enjoy and the City continues to work to provide comprehensive programs to serve the social, cultural, and civic needs as well as the educational desires of the community. Since the provision of social services is important to the community, a Social Services Section that defines roles and responsibilities, and provides guidelines for the future in the planning and coordination of social services is an important component of the City's General Plan. Unlike other elements of the General Plan that deal with specific areas of concern, the Social Services Section addresses the broad concerns of human problems and the effective use of available resources in meeting those problems. While these concerns are mirrored in the General Plan requirements now in effect, human or social concerns have been largely de-emphasized. Needless to say, human needs are complex, and their identification and fulfillment remain difficult due to the many and varied factors interacting in today's society. In order to address the human needs of our community and ensure that these needs are considered, human factors must be integrated into the comprehensive planning and implementation processes.



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In addition to addressing Social Services, this Element also addresses the housing needs of the community. The State of California requires every city and county to prepare and adopt a Housing Element within the community's General Plan. According to State law, the Housing Element must include four major components:

- A statement of the City's goals, quantified objectives and policies relative to the construction, rehabilitation, conservation and preservation of housing.
- An implementation program which sets forth a schedule of actions which the City is undertaking or intends to undertake to implement the policies and achieve the goals and objectives of the Housing Element.
- An assessment of the community's housing needs.
- An inventory of resources to meet needs and of the constraints that impede public and private sector efforts to meet the needs.

Thus, this Element is a compilation of the Social Services aspects of the community combined with the State mandates of housing law.

## SOCIAL SERVICES COMPONENT

The Social Services Component of this Element includes four sections.

**Social Services Goals:** A statement of the City's goals relative to the provision of social services.

**Social and Cultural Development:** This section looks at the programs and organizations within the City which provide social, cultural and educational enrichment and development for members of the community and surrounding areas. In addition to looking at who these various organizations and volunteer groups are, this section also addresses the role that the City plays in coordinating and communicating with the groups in the provision of these services.

**Senior Services:** Almost 30% of the City's population are residents age 60 and older (Year 2010 Census). As such, the City has made an effort to provide and/or make available specific and appropriate services addressing this portion of the population. This section discusses the organizations and services which acknowledge and support the needs of this large segment of the population.

**Social Services Policies:** A statement of the City's policies relative to the provision of social services.



## Social Services Goals

1. Aid in matching the facility needs of the community with existing and future facility resources throughout the City.
2. ~~It is the goal of the City to~~ Involve its residents in community and civic activities.  
(PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO GOAL)
3. ~~It is a goal of the City to~~ Encourage and provide facilities and resources for recreational, social, cultural, and educational programs for its residences.  
(PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO GOAL)
4. ~~It is a goal of the City to~~ Support mechanisms for participation with area wide districts and jurisdictions for the betterment of the residents of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.  
(PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO GOAL)

## Social and Cultural Development

Prior to City incorporation in 1973, responsibility for the planning and delivery of human services in the past had largely fallen on non-local levels of government and a variety of private agencies. This frequently resulted in considerable duplication of services, program fragmentation, and frequent waste of already limited resources. In October, 1973, The League of California Cities adopted a resolution as part of their Action Plan for social responsibilities of cities, encouraging cities to begin to develop social service elements as part of their General Plan.

*"We all recognize, whether it was our desire or not, that all social needs of our citizens are increasingly being laid on our doorstep for solution and resolution.... Cities for years have been in the social field with leisure activities, youth citizens, etc. Social services is not a new activity for cities, This area of service, however, is becoming more complex and fragmented.... This being the case each city should be aware of plans relating to human services and the services that are being delivered by other agencies, public and private, to its citizens. The city should establish a means or procedure for making an input into the plans of these other agencies and for monitoring the services which are provided.... Each city should prepare and adopt a social services element to its general plan...."*

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is involved in the development of the community's human resources assets. The City's involvement is primarily reflected in the operations of the City's Recreation and Parks Department. The Recreation and Parks Department is responsible for coordinating a comprehensive park system and numerous community activities. In order to coordinate these resources, this Department currently manages five programs: Administration, Recreational

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Facilities, Special Events, Point Vicente Interpretive Center (PVIC), and the REACH program. These five programs are described as follows:

**Administration:** Overseeing the management of the City's parks system and



various community programs, the Administration handles the coordination of recreational facilities, works with volunteers, and organizes City events for the community. The Department's Administration Division consists of the Director of Recreation and Parks who oversees a small staff of City employees.

**Recreational Facilities:** As described in the Conservation and Open Space Element, the City has multiple active and passive recreational sites which provide the community not only with usable outdoor areas for picnics and hiking, but also

various other amenities for the public. The Recreation and Parks Department handles the rental and usage of these facilities, providing the community with meeting facilities for private and non-profit groups, as well as playing fields for multiple uses by various recreational groups from the Peninsula and surrounding areas.



**Special Events:** Each year, the City hosts three different events, which are coordinated by the Recreation and Parks Department: Whale of a Day; July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebration; and Shakespeare by the Sea. Each of these three free events are located at City parks and provide opportunities for social, recreational, cultural and educational interactions between residents as well as people from around the Peninsula and South Bay areas.



**Point Vicente Interpretive Center (PVIC):** This beautiful park and facility, located adjacent to the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse, offers recreational and educational opportunities to the public. In addition to a Museum presenting the unique features and history of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, there is also meeting rooms for private parties and meetings, a gift shop, areas for whale watching and an outdoor amphitheatre. The City trains volunteers (docents) to lead tours inside the Center, with the Los Serenos de Point Vicente being the City's volunteer docent organization.



## REACH Program:

Administered by the City's Recreation and Parks Department, REACH is designed to serve the social and recreational needs of youth and young adults with developmental disabilities in Palos Verdes and the South Bay.



## Senior Services

The population of those 60 years and older in Rancho Palos Verdes has grown to almost 30% of the total City population. As such, the City acknowledges and works to support the needs of this large segment of its population. In addition to coordinating for recreational classes for seniors, the City helps in assisting seniors through organizations such as Peninsula Seniors.

Picture from Pen. Seniors to be added

**Peninsula Seniors:** Established in 1982 with help from the League of Women Voters, Peninsula Seniors is a non-profit membership organization that caters to the needs and interests to the senior-citizen community. Having over 2,000 members, consisting of Rancho Palos Verdes residents as well as those from surrounding cities, Peninsula Seniors provides a variety of programs and services designed to help seniors.

In addition to Peninsula Seniors, other services available in the area include:

- H.E.L.P., Healthcare and Elder Law Programs



- Peninsula Transit Authority's Dial-a-Ride Program
- South Bay Senior Services

The City works with each of these organizations to assist in addressing concerns for this specific demographic. Due to the activity and involved participation of the City's senior citizens throughout the community, the City is continuously receiving input and suggestions for new or improved services to be provided, and the City works with the members of the community to help in any way possible.

## Policies

1. Provide leadership in solving the need for community meetings, cultural events, and recreational facilities.
2. Plan for a Civic Center.
3. Encourage the building of meeting facilities by private or nonprofit groups. Existing and new businesses, churches, utilities, etc., should be encouraged to allow some use of their facilities by community groups.
4. Encourage the development of homeowners associations and other community groups as a vehicle for increased participation in government.
5. Seek input from residents and address their concerns during the planning process.
6. Continue the use of town meetings and forums to obtain public input. Encourage community events.
7. Develop information services designed to reach as many residents as practical, which lists organizations, events, issues and services available to City residents.
8. Create recreational opportunities for all City residents.
9. The City will be an advocate for the efficient delivery of services to its residents.
10. Recognize the residents' cultural, educational, and recreational needs and encourage programs in these areas.
11. Work with neighboring jurisdictions and organizations to identify and address common issues. This should include the encouragement of dialogue between the professional City employees of neighboring jurisdictions and organizations.
12. Establish City committees to utilize resident skills to benefit the community.

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13. The City shall work with neighboring cities, other agencies and senior citizen organizations to identify, assist with providing, and/or to promote services specialized for the large population of seniors within the City.

(THIS IS A NEW POLICY RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION)



## HOUSING ELEMENT COMPONENT

The State of California mandates every City and County to prepare a General Plan Housing Element to address the City or County's future housing needs. The current City Housing Element was adopted by the Council on January 19, 2010 and certified by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on March 24, 2010. The certified Element contains many lengthy and technical appendices that would not be beneficial to include in this General Plan document. As such, this portion of the Housing and Social Services Element merely outlines the main contents within the separate stand-alone certified Housing Element. To view a copy of the entire certified Housing Element, one can either contact the Community Development Department or visit the City's website at [www.palosverdes.com/rpv](http://www.palosverdes.com/rpv).

The Housing portion of this Element contains three Sections:

**Goals, Policies and Objectives:** A statement of the City's goals, quantified objectives, and policies relative to the maintenance, preservation, improvement, and development of housing. Quantified objectives are the City's estimate of the maximum actual numbers of housing units that can be constructed, rehabilitated, conserved and preserved during the planning period (currently January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2014).

**Program Administration and Other Actions:** Describes the tools the City will use to continue existing and create new program endeavors, explains who is responsible for program implementation, shows how the Housing Element achieves consistency with General Plan elements and describes the public participation effort. Specifically, this section addresses:

- Administration of land use and development controls
- Provision of regulatory concessions and incentives
- Utilization of federal and state financing and subsidy programs
- Utilization of moneys in the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund
- Agencies and officials responsible for program actions
- Consistency of the Housing Element with other General Plan Elements
- Public participation in the development of the Housing Element

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**Housing Programs:** Presents the Housing Program according to five categories:

- Identify actions that will be taken to make sites available to accommodate that portion of the City's share of the regional housing need for each income level that could not be accommodated on sites identified in the sites inventory.
- Assist in the development of affordable housing.
- Remove governmental constraints.
- Conserve the existing stock of affordable housing.
- Promote equal housing opportunity.



The Housing Element also includes detailed information contained in Technical Appendices. A description of each Technical Appendix is given below:

- **Technical Appendix A** contains all the detailed data, statistics and analyses pertaining to the City's housing needs, existing and future.
- **Technical Appendix B** describes potential and actual governmental constraints that impede efforts at addressing housing needs.
- **Technical Appendix C** describes non-governmental constraints such as the cost of land and construction.
- **Technical Appendix D** contains the detailed information on the inventory of residential sites and explains how the sites accommodate the City's share of regional housing needs.



- **Technical Appendix E** is the Housing Element Progress Report. This Technical Appendix assesses the progress made toward implementation of the prior Housing Element that was adopted in 2000.

## Goals and Policies

The following are the City's Housing goals and policies for the planning period that began on January 1, 2006 and ends on June 30, 2014.

### Construction Goals and Policies

#### Goals

1. Accommodate the housing needs of all income groups as quantified by Regional Housing Needs Assessment.
2. Facilitate the construction of the maximum feasible number of housing units for all income groups.

#### Policies

1. Designate sites that provide for a variety of housing types.
2. Implement the Land Use Element and Development Code to achieve adequate sites for the moderate- and above-moderate income group.
3. Continue to pursue development of an affordable housing project at the RDA-owned Crestridge site.
4. Continue to implement the Housing Component of the Redevelopment Agency's Implementation Plan.
5. Prefer that persons, entities and/or developers that are obligated to provide affordable housing units provide the affordable housing units on-site as part of their development project rather than paying in-lieu fees to the City.

### Rehabilitation Goals and Policies

#### Goals

1. A housing stock free of substandard structures.

#### Policies

1. Continue to implement the current Housing Code Enforcement Program.
2. Continue to implement the Housing Rehabilitation Program.

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## Conservation Goals and Policies

### Goals

1. Conserve and improve the existing stock of affordable housing.

### Policies

1. Provide rental assistance to extremely low-, very low, and low- income households through programs administered by the City, Redevelopment Agency and/or the County of Los Angeles Housing Authority.
2. Continue to support a Housing Code Enforcement Program to help maintain the physical condition of housing.
3. Continue to support a Housing Rehabilitation Program finance by Community Development Block Grant Funds.

## Preservation Goals and Policies

### Goals

1. Remove existing governmental constraints to the maintenance, preservation, improvement and development of housing.
2. Preserve the existing and future supply of affordable housing that is financially assisted by the City, County, State or Federal governments.

### Policies

1. Continue to implement land use regulations that facilitate meeting affordable housing needs.
2. Continue the processing of new housing developments designed to address the needs of the entire range of income groups.
3. Monitor and protect the supply of affordable housing by enforcing existing regulations and affordability restrictions.
4. Ensure the long-term affordability of future affordable housing developments.

## Fair Housing Goals and Policies

### Goals

1. Attain a housing market with "fair housing choice," meaning the ability of persons of similar income levels regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap and familial status to have available to them the same housing choices.



### **Policies**

1. Continue to promote fair housing opportunities through the City's participation in the County's Community Development Block Grant Program.
2. Promote fair housing through the provision of information and referral services to residents who need help in filing housing discrimination complaints.

To review the Program Administration and Other Actions Section, the Housing Programs Section, and the Objectives and Technical Appendices of the Housing Element, please contact the Community Development Department. You may also view the Housing Element on the City's website at [www.palosverdes.com/rpv](http://www.palosverdes.com/rpv).