

PUBLIC FACILITIES ELEMENT

PUBLIC FACILITIES ELEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The Public Facilities Element is an optional general plan element which the City of Imperial has chosen to include in the revised General Plan. The Public Facilities Element includes goals, objectives, and policies for the development of public facilities within the City, such as schools, libraries, and police and fire stations. The purpose of the Public Facilities Element is to outline projected public facilities improvements needed to support the future population of the City.

Limited public financial resources constitute the largest single constraint upon the City's ability to provide a consistent level of public facilities and services over an extended period of time. Shrinking tax dollars strain the City's and other public agencies ability to provide a consistent service level, let alone accommodate any additional growth. Financial limitations increase the need for private sector financing of needed improvements and maintenance that becomes necessary as a result of increased growth.

Accordingly, the facility, utility, and service policies included herein are guidelines in the on-going process of facility provision and service delivery. The Public Facilities Element addresses the following facilities and services: education, library, government, emergency services, and public utilities.

Public Facility Planning Factors

Even though Imperial is a relatively small city, it is very fortunate to have a reasonably well developed public facility system. This is due to the outstanding efforts of the City, County and school district. Therefore, the majority of the public investment needed to create a facilities system appropriate to the community's

needs in 1992 has already been made. The real test is not in today's ability to provide public facilities and services, but the ability of public agencies to continue the same level of service in the future.

The population of the City of Imperial is projected to increase significantly in the future to reach a population of 19,500 in the year 2015. This is a very substantial population increase over the 4,113 persons living in the City in April 1990. With the pressures for growth control in San Diego and Riverside Counties, residential, commercial, and industrial developers will be seeking to develop new projects in areas where constraints to growth are significantly less.

While there is adequate capacity to serve additional development, the utility systems will need upgrading in the near future. An improvement maintenance fund, paid for by development dollars and user fees will continue to permit Imperial to provide a consistent level of public facilities and services while maintaining the existing systems.

Public Facilities Goal

The provision of public facilities and services should be at a level which allows for adequate service at minimum cost and insures that developers pay their fair share to expand needed facilities.

Educational Facilities

Objective No. 1

Land uses should not overburden the ability of the Imperial Unified School District to provide a consistent level of quality educational facilities and services to community residents.

Policy 1

- A. The City should consider the impact of residential development on the existing and design capacity of all affected educational facilities as defined by the Imperial Unified School District.
- B. The City shall provide copies of all submitted development proposals that may cause an increase in student enrollment to the Imperial Unified School District.
- C. The City shall provide the Imperial Unified School District with regular reports of building permit activity.
- D. The City shall encourage and assist, if requested, the Imperial Unified School District to maintain on a regular basis a ratio between enrollment and capacity for all Imperial schools.

Library Facilities

Objective No. 2

The City shall support the continuation of library services as a necessary and desirable community service facility.

Policy 2

- A. Maximum efforts to share services with other library systems should be encouraged.

- B. The City should explore the possibility of obtaining grant funds to make needed improvements to existing library facilities.
- C. The City should collect a library impact fee from developers of new projects to establish a fund for future library improvements
- D. The City should implement user fees, if necessary, to help offset the costs for maintenance and operation of the library.

Public Buildings

Public buildings include those owned by either the City, the Imperial Irrigation District or the County that are used primarily as places of meeting, assembly, or public information. This includes the existing City Hall and any future buildings.

Objective 3

The City should encourage the development of a Local Government Center that will become a central focal point for all services.

Policy 3

- A. The City should plan all new public-oriented government offices to be located in and around the existing City Hall.
- B. The City should encourage the County of Imperial to

locate any new public buildings or offices serving the Imperial area in the Local Government Center area.

Objective 4

All public buildings shall be designed to minimize energy usage.

Policy 4

- A. The City shall annually assess the energy usage of each public building.
- B. The City shall promote energy conservation in existing public buildings through the initiation of retrofit energy conservation measures where feasible.
- C. All new public buildings shall be designated to be as energy efficient as financially feasible.

Water Services and Facilities

Objective 5

The City should maintain a consistent level of quality water service through minimizing the impacts of new land use changes on the existing system.

Policy 5

- A. The review of all development applications shall include

an assessment of necessary water conservation measures.

- B. The extension of water service facilities such as transmission lines or pumps to accommodate new development projects should be limited to one-half mile across an undeveloped area.
- C. The dedication, construction and maintenance of pumps, transmission and storage facilities to service new developments and expand the City's water system capacity should be reviewed with each new development project application.
- D. All improvements to the existing water service system necessitated by the approval of a new development project shall be financed entirely by the project proponent either by actual construction or by bonding.
- E. The City shall maintain treated water storage equal to a 10 day water supply when and if feasible.

Sewer Service and Facilities

Objective 6

The City should maintain a consistent level of quality sewer service through minimizing the impacts of new land use changes on the existing system.

Policy 6

- A. Sewer service capacity shall exist prior to the approval of any new development project application which requires community sewer service.
- B. Future sewer service expansions should be designed to maintain an adequate level of service.
- C. The extension of sewage transmission lines or pumping facilities to accommodate new development projects should not be extended over undeveloped areas unless necessary.
- D. All improvements to the existing sewer service system necessitated by the approval of a new development project shall be financed entirely by the project proponent either by payment of fees or actual construction.
- E. The City should examine the feasibility of utilizing reclaimed water for non-contact usage and should require new residential construction to be preplumbed to readily accept reclaimed water for home landscaping irrigation.

Solid Waste Facilities

Objective 7

The City should provide opportunities for residents to dispose of refuse locally at transfer stations, encourage recycling, and support regional efforts to solve the County solid waste disposal needs.

Policy 7

- A. The City should explore a suitable location for a solid waste transfer station.
- B. The location of the transfer station should be readily accessible and not in conflict with adjoining existing or planned land uses.
- C. The City should encourage recycling projects through its own efforts and the efforts of individuals, non-profit organizations, or corporations.
- D. The City should support regional efforts to solve the solid waste disposal problem through assisting the County of Imperial in expanding existing landfills primarily and, if necessary, locating new landfills.

Emergency Services Facilities

Objective 8

The City should construct a new fire station to be located east of the railroad tracks.

Policy 8

- A. Developers of new projects shall contribute monetarily through a fire impact fee to the construction fund for the new fire station.
- B. The new fire station shall be strategically located to ensure a five minute or less response time to all areas of the City east of the railroad tracks.
- C. The new eastside fire station should be staffed 24 hours a day to ensure adequate fire protection services.