

CHAPTER TWO

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Imperial is located in a region which consists of vast amounts of valuable agricultural and grazing land. The topography of the City is relatively flat with few features except for the irrigation canals and drains of the Imperial Irrigation District. The Environmental Management Chapter includes the General Plan Open Space, Conservation, and Parks and Recreation Elements.

The Environmental Management Chapter contains provisions to conserve and manage the City's natural resources. Identified in the chapter are those areas of significant value to the community such as:

- o Wildlife Conservation
- o Soil Conservation
- o Agricultural Preservation
- o Open Space Preservation
- o Water Conservation

The goals, objectives and policies included herein are directed at ensuring that the development of the City does not interfere with the intrinsic value of these resources unless the overall community need is overriding. One additional area of consideration in this chapter is parks and recreation. The Parks and Recreation Element discusses the policies for acquisition, development and management of recreation and park facilities.

State law requires cities and counties to identify environmental resources and to prepare and implement policies relating to the utilization and management of these resources. The specific sections that are addressed by this chapter include:

Section 65302(d) of the Government Code which requires the preparation of a Conservation Element to specify policies for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers, and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources.

Section 65302(e) of the Government Code which requires preparation of an Open Space Element that addresses the use of land for preservation of natural resources, outdoor recreation, and public health and safety.

Section 65303 of the Government Code permits a community to prepare additional elements if they are deemed to be important. The City of Imperial has chosen to include a Parks and Recreation Element in order to meet the requirements of the Quimby Act. The element contains policies for the acquisition, development and management of recreation facilities as well as providing standards for the dedication of park lands by developers.