



Dusk by Lisa Mozzini-McDill

Natural Resources

Natural resources shape our community. San Clemente's scenic [shoreline](#) [[link to Glossary](#)], hillsides and canyons inspire residents and visitors alike and help define our community's identity as the Spanish Village by the Sea. Properly managed, our natural resources provide stunning views, relief from the built environment, valuable watershed and wildlife habitat, enhanced property values and recreational opportunities: benefits that contribute to San Clemente's health and prosperity and make it a desirable place in which to live, work and play.

California state law requires that general plans include two different but complementary chapters addressing natural resources: the Conservation Element and the Open Space Element. In this General Plan, these chapters are combined into the Natural Resources Element. Other chapters that also address natural resources include the Beaches, Parks and Recreation, Coastal, and Public Services, Facilities and Utilities Elements.

This Element establishes goals and policies aimed at preserving and enhancing the City's biological, aesthetic, archaeological, mineral, air quality, and energy resources. Related goals and policies regarding our urban forest, water resources, solid waste management, and historic resources are included in the [Urban Design](#); [Public Services, Facilities and Utilities](#); and [Historic Preservation](#) Elements.

PRIMARY GOAL:

Restore and protect natural resources so that they continue to enhance our community identity and provide environmental, aesthetic, economic, and health benefits.

GOAL AND POLICY SECTIONS:

1. [Biological Resources](#)
2. [Aesthetic Resources](#)
3. [Archeological and Paleontological Resources](#)
4. [Mineral Resources](#)
5. [Air Quality](#)
6. [Energy Conservation](#)
7. [Dark Skies](#)
8. [Climate Action Plan](#)

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- [San Clemente Community Profile](#)
[http://san-clemente.org/sc/Services/Planning/Centennial/SCProfile_FINAL.pdf]
- [San Clemente Vision and Strategic Plan](#)
[<http://san-clemente.org/sc/standard.aspx?pageid=558>]

Biological Resources

San Clemente encompasses significant natural open space areas, including coastal canyons, riparian corridors, and coastal sage scrub-covered hillsides that are home to a variety of native plant and animal species. With much of the City built out, protecting our remaining biological resources for future generations is both a value and a necessity.

San Clemente falls within the area covered by the Orange County Southern Subregion Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), a multiple species/multiple habitat conservation plan designed to protect 32 species and ten habitat types, including seven Federally listed species. The HCP covers a planning area of 138,000 acres and creates a permanent habitat reserve of about 33,000 acres and perpetual land management program, while allowing certain development (including infrastructure). The HCP's planning area is comprised of coastal sage scrub, riparian, chaparral, and grassland habitat and includes threatened and endangered species including Riverside and San Diego Fairy Shrimp, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Arroyo Toad, and Least Bell's Vireo.

Within the City, the Marblehead Coastal Plan identifies approximately 104.1 acres of private open space to be reserved as a wetland restoration/preservation area. This would include the 2.1-acre Blochman's Dudleya ([Dudleya Blochmanae](#)) Native Plant Preserve at the southern corner of the project site.

One of the region's significant coastal foothills habitat reserve areas, the [Richard and Donna O'Neill Conservancy](#) [<http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/org242210.jsp>], is located in the City's Sphere of Influence and in The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo. The

Conservancy monitors numerous sensitive habitats and endangered species, manages the land, restores degraded habitats, and provides environmental educational opportunities and habitat-sensitive recreational opportunities.

The overarching aim of this section is to maintain local and regional biological diversity and to protect and enhance sensitive habitats, species and communities. Policies focusing on conservation of coastal bluffs and canyons are included in the [Coastal Element](#).

GOAL:

Protect and restore [significant plant and wildlife species and habitats](#) [\[link to Glossary\]](#).

POLICIES:

NR-1.01. **Information.** We acquire and maintain the most current information available regarding the status and location of sensitive biological elements (species and natural communities) and use this information to guide decisions that could affect biological resources.

NR-1.02. **Natural Areas.** In natural areas that are undeveloped or essentially so, we require applicants for proposed projects to:

- a. avoid significant impacts, including retention of sufficient natural space where appropriate;
- b. retain watercourses, riparian habitat, and wetlands in their natural condition;
- c. maintain habitat linkages (wildlife corridors) between adjacent open spaces, water sources and other habitat areas and incorporated these into transportation projects and other development projects to maintain habitat connectivity;
- d. incorporate [visually open fences](#), or [vegetative cover](#) to preserve views, ensure continued access and to buffer habitat areas, open space linkages or wildlife corridors from development, as appropriate;
- e. locate and design roads such that conflicts with biological resources, habitat areas, linkages or corridors are minimized; and
- f. utilize open space or conservation easements when necessary to protect sensitive species or their habitats.

NR-1.03. **Sensitive Habitats.** We prohibit development and grading which alters the biological integrity of [sensitive habitats](#), including Riparian Corridors [\[link to map of sensitive habitats and riparian corridors\]](#) unless no feasible project alternative exists which reduces environmental impacts to less than significant levels, or it is replaced with habitat of equivalent value, as acceptable to the City Council.

- a. Where no environmentally feasible alternative exists, development within Riparian Corridors shall avoid removal of native vegetation; prevent erosion, sedimentation and runoff; provide for sufficient passage of native and anadromous fish; prevent wastewater discharges and entrapment;

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prevent groundwater depletion or substantial interference with surface and subsurface flows; and protect and re-establish natural vegetation buffers.

NR-1.04. ***Threatened and Endangered Species.*** We preserve the habitat of threatened and endangered species in place as the preferred habitat conservation strategy.

NR-1.05. ***Coastal Canyons.*** We encourage activities which improve the natural biological value, integrity and corridor function of the coastal canyons through vegetation restoration, control of non-native species, and landscape buffering of urban uses and development.

NR-1.06. ***Habitat Conservation Plan.*** We support and will follow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Orange County Southern Subregion Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Habitat Management Program.

LINKS TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN CONTENT:

- [Coastal Element \[link to Coastal Element Homepage\]](#)

ADDITIONAL LINKS:

- [Richard and Donna O’Neill Conservancy and the Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo \[http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/org242210.jsp\]](http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/org242210.jsp)
- [California Environmental Quality Act \[http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/\]](http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/)
- [Orange County Southern Subregion Habitat Conservation Plan \(HCP\) \[http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/HCPs/FAQ%20Orange%20County%20Southern%20Subregion%20HCPsjw%20web.pdf\]](http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/HCPs/FAQ%20Orange%20County%20Southern%20Subregion%20HCPsjw%20web.pdf)

Aesthetic Resources

Framed by the Pacific Ocean to the west, hillsides and ridgelines to the north and east, coastal bluffs and beaches, and with a number of winding canyons traversing the City, San Clemente offers diverse visual resources that enhance our appreciation of the natural landscape and provide relief from the built environment. Aesthetic resources include public views of natural landforms, the City’s Spanish Village by the Sea urban form and colors, natural vegetation colors and textures, and the shoreline and the Pacific Ocean. These resources help shape the City’s identity.

Our community is dedicated to protecting and enhancing these important resources. This section of the General Plan, in combination with the Urban Design, Land Use, and Mobility and Complete Streets Elements, provides goals and policies aimed at protecting these resources and minimizing or preventing development that detracts from their enjoyment by residents and visitors.

Goals and policies related to the protection of aesthetic resources in specific locations are provided in the [Focus Areas](#) [link to Focus Areas page] section of the Land Use Element. Policies regarding the protection of San Clemente's beaches and Coastal Canyons are included in the [Coastal Element](#) [link to Coastal Element Homepage]. Additional policies aimed at preserving and enhancing the character of the City, including the protection of historic resources, are included in the [Historic Preservation](#) [link to Historic Preservation Element Homepage] and [Urban Design](#) [link to Urban Design Element Homepage] Elements.

GOAL:

Preserve natural aesthetic resources of the City, including coastal bluffs, beaches, visually significant ridgelines, coastal canyons and significant public view corridors.

POLICIES:

- NR-2.01. **Hillside Development and Ridgeline Protection.** We require that development in hillside areas comply with the Hillside Development Ordinance.
- NR-2.02. **Coastal Canyon Areas Protection.** We preserve designated, undeveloped "natural" coastal canyon areas that were originally intended to be open space buffers, pursuant to the [Coastal Element](#) [link to Coastal Element Homepage].
- NR-2.03. **Coastal Canyon Areas Restoration.** We promote the restoration of coastal canyons as a visual resource in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the California Coastal Commission and the City's [Coastal Element](#) [link to Coastal Element Homepage].
- NR-2.04. **Public View Corridors of Ocean.** We preserve designated public view corridors to the ocean.
- NR-2.05. **Street Design.** We respect and enhance public view corridors in the design and layout of new streets.
- NR-2.06. **Parks and Trails.** We locate and design parks and trails to take advantage of ocean, canyon and hillside views.
- NR-2.07. **Underground Utilities.** The City will develop and implement a utilities undergrounding plan to avoid the adverse impacts to aesthetic resources caused by public utilities and unmanned telecommunications facilities, where feasible and where costs of such undergrounding does not pose economic hardship. Where undergrounding is determined by the City to not be physically possible, such features shall be located and designed to reduce their visibility and in developed areas, consistent with prevailing architectural character and scale. In beaches, parks and open spaces areas, such facilities shall be designed and located to blend in with natural colors, textures and landforms.
- NR-2.08. **Trees as Screening Tool.** Where screening of public utilities and/or telecommunication facilities is determined by the City to be desirable, the strategic location, selection, planting and maintenance of trees or other plant materials will be considered as a tool for screening or redirecting views

NR-2.09. **Public View Corridors.** The City will preserve and improve the view corridors, as designated in Figures NR-1 and NR-2 and encourage other agencies with jurisdiction to do so. Specifically, in its capital improvement programs and discretionary approvals, the City will seek to ensure that:

- a. Development projects shall require a view analysis to ensure they do not negatively impact a public view corridor.
- b. Utilities, traffic signals, and public and private signs and lights shall not obstruct or clutter views, consistent with safety needs.
- c. Where important vistas of distant landscape features occur along streets, street trees shall be selected and planted so as to facilitate viewing of the distant features.

GENERAL PLAN FIGURES

- [Figure NR-1, Aesthetic Resources Map \(Citywide\)](#)
- [Figure NR-2, Aesthetic Resources Map \(North Beach and Pier Bowl\)](#)

LINKS TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN CONTENT:

- [Land Use Element, Focus Areas](#) [link to Focus Areas page]
- [Circulation Element \(Scenic Corridors\)](#) [link to Roadway System page, which is where Scenic Corridors policies are included]
- [Coastal Element](#) [link to Coastal Element Homepage]

ADDITIONAL LINKS:

- [San Clemente Coastal Bluffs and Canyons Management Guidelines](http://san-clemente.org/sc/inf/Current/CoastalCanyons/Guidelines.pdf) [http://san-clemente.org/sc/inf/Current/CoastalCanyons/Guidelines.pdf]
- [San Clemente's Coastal Canyons and Bluffs Information](http://san-clemente.org/sc/Inf/Forms/Planning/Download/430700%20San%20Clemente's%20Coastal%20Canyons%20and%20Bluffs%20brochure.pdf) [http://san-clemente.org/sc/Inf/Forms/Planning/Download/430700%20San%20Clemente's%20Coastal%20Canyons%20and%20Bluffs%20brochure.pdf]
- [Ordinance No. 1307](http://san-clemente.org/sc/inf/Current/CoastalCanyons/Ord1307.pdf). A City ordinance that establishes setback standards for ancillary improvements to coastal canyon and bluff properties. [http://san-clemente.org/sc/inf/Current/CoastalCanyons/Ord1307.pdf]

Archeological and Paleontological Resources

The City of San Clemente protects its archeological and paleontological resources. These resources are sometimes exposed during development-related activities such as grading and construction. Federal and state regulations guide their assessment, handling and preservation. State law also requires consultation with local Native American tribes during local planning processes to ensure that archeological and cultural resources are protected, preserved and archived.

GOAL:

Protect archaeological and paleontological resources in a manner which preserves history or cultural traditions, provides scientific or cultural knowledge or provides educational value.

POLICIES:

NR-3.01. **Project Impacts.** We require assessment and mitigation of potential impacts to archaeological and paleontological resources as part of applications for general plan amendments, zoning changes, or any projects requiring environmental review per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

NR-3.02. **Notification.** We require the notification of cultural organizations, including California Native American organizations, of proposed projects that have the potential to adversely impact archaeological or cultural resources.

NR-3.03. **Inventory of Archeological and Paleontological Resources.** We maintain up-to-date information regarding archaeological and paleontological resources and contact information for responsible organizations and qualified individuals who can analyze, record, and preserve findings.

ADDITIONAL LINKS:

- [CEQA Documentation of Archaeological and Paleontological Resources \[TBD\]](#)
- [Senate Bill 18 \(Consultation with California Native American Tribes\) \[http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/03-04/bill/sen/sb_0001-0050/sb_18_bill_20040930_chaptered.html\]](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/03-04/bill/sen/sb_0001-0050/sb_18_bill_20040930_chaptered.html)

Mineral Resources

California’s Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 focused on the continuing need for mineral resources and required that significant impacts of surface mining be mitigated. The California Geological Survey Minerals Resources Project helps chart information on nonfuel mineral production.

Given the extensive exploration for mineral resources that has occurred in Southern California, it is doubtful that significant (economically viable), undiscovered mineral resources exist within the City.

Policies in this section seek to ensure consistency with State regulations, compatibility with adjacent uses, and protection of environmental resources.

GOAL:

Properly manage mineral resources and protect land uses and environmental resources near mining or mineral extraction operations.

POLICIES:

- NR-4.01. **Mineral Resource Extraction.** We do not permit extraction of significant mineral resources, except for sand and gravel mining for use in beach sand replenishment, including such extraction as an interim use prior to development.
- NR-4.02. **Offshore Oil Drilling and Support Facilities.** We oppose offshore oil drilling and Liquefied Natural Gas facilities, and prohibit on-shore support facilities for such extraction uses.
- NR-4.03. **Compatibility.** We ensure that mining activities are compatible with adjacent uses by reviewing and applying appropriate conditions of approval.
- NR-4.04. **Discretionary Approval.** We require that specific development proposals for mineral extraction and all reclamation plans be subject to the discretionary approval of the Planning Commission and City Council.
- NR-4.05. **Project Impacts.** We require assessments and mitigation of potential impacts to mineral resources as part of applications for general plan amendments, zoning changes, or any projects requiring environmental review per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), consistent with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).
- NR-4.06. **Sensitive Design.** We require resource extraction operations be designed to maintain the integrity of areas of "high environmental quality" and scenic areas designated by the City.

ADDITIONAL LINKS:

- [Surface Mining and Reclamation Act](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/omr/smara/Pages/index.aspx)
[<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/omr/smara/Pages/index.aspx>]

Air Quality

The City of San Clemente lies in the South Coast Air Basin (SoCAB), which includes all of Orange County as well as the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. The Basin is located in a coastal plain with connecting broad valleys and low hills, and is bounded by the Pacific Ocean in the southwest quadrant, with high mountains forming the remainder of its perimeter. Due to its coastal location and prevailing wind patterns, San Clemente enjoys good to excellent air quality. Local [air pollutants](#) [[link to Glossary](#)] are blown by prevailing winds from much of the basin toward inland areas.

Air pollution generated by mobile and stationary sources in the City of San Clemente is subject to the rules and regulations imposed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Emissions criteria are governed by the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) as well as the National AAQS. These standards are designed to protect "sensitive receptors", or those most susceptible to respiratory distress, such as

persons with asthma, the elderly, very young children, people already weakened by other disease or illness, and persons engaged in strenuous work or exercise.

In addition to air pollutants, state law requires cities to address future impacts on climate change. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 was the first legislation recognizing the link between global warming and air pollution. This legislation requires cities to reduce cumulative Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions due to public and private development projects.

Other goals and policies addressing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions are included in the [Land Use \[link to Land Use Element Homepage\]](#), [Urban Design \[link to Urban Design Element Homepage\]](#) and [Mobility and Complete Streets \[link to Mobility and Complete Streets Element Homepage\]](#) Elements. These policies address mixed uses, urban forestry, and alternative modes of transportation, among others. Furthermore, the City implements many of these goals and policies through implementation of its [Climate Action Plan \[staff to provide link\]](#) and [Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan \[staff to provide link\]](#).

GOAL:

Reduce levels of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions so that the City meets or exceeds regional, State, and Federal mandates.

POLICIES:

- NR-5.01. ***New Development.*** We require new development to utilize appropriate SCAQMD [<http://www.aqmd.gov>] air quality mitigation measures.
- NR-5.02. ***Sensitive Land Uses.*** We prohibit the future siting of [sensitive land uses \[link to Glossary\]](#), within distances defined by the California Air Resources Board for specific source categories, unless such uses include sufficient mitigation.
- NR-5.03. ***Greenhouse Gases (GHG) Emissions Reductions.*** We will reduce GHG emissions in accordance with regional, State and Federal regulations*, consistent with the adopted Climate Action Plan.
- NR-5.04. ***Indoor Air Quality.*** We comply with State Green Building Codes relative to indoor air quality.
- NR-5.05. ***Transportation.*** We provide non-motorized, multi-modal mobility options (e.g. pedestrian and bicycle facilities) and work with other agencies and organizations to provide transit opportunities to reduce air pollutant emissions.*
- NR-5.06. ***Particulate Matter.*** We support efforts to reduce particulate matter to meet State and Federal Clean Air Standards.
- NR-5.07. ***Street Trees.*** We maintain a healthy stock of park, public area and street trees and encourage the planting of trees with significant canopies that provide numerous benefits, including reduced urban heat gain, natural shading and wind screening, air filtration, and oxygen production.

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NR-5.08. **Beach Fire Pits.** We oppose (AQMD) efforts to prohibit the use or reduce the number of fire pits existing in 2014 on San Clemente's public beaches.

LINKS TO GENERAL PLAN CONTENT:

- [Land Use Element \[link to Land Use Element Homepage\]](#)
- [Mobility and Complete Streets Element \[link to Mobility and Complete Streets Element Homepage\]](#)
- [Urban Design Element \[link to Urban Design Element Homepage\]](#)
- [Urban Design Element, Urban Forest Section \[link to Urban Forest page\]](#)

ADDITIONAL LINKS:

- [San Clemente Climate Action Plan \[staff to provide link\]](#)
- [San Clemente Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan \[staff to provide link\]](#)
- [South Coast Air Quality Management District \[http://www.aqmd.gov\]](http://www.aqmd.gov)
- [California Air Resources Board \[http://www.arb.ca.gov/homepage.htm\]](http://www.arb.ca.gov/homepage.htm)
- [Assembly Bill 32 \(AB 32\) \[http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ab32/ab32.htm\]](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ab32/ab32.htm)
- [Senate Bill 375 \(SB 375\) \[http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/sb375.htm\]](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/sb375.htm)

**Note: Numerous policies are provided throughout the General Plan that address greenhouse gases emissions, including sections on mixed use, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian transportation, and urban forestry, among others. Implementation programs such as those in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and Climate Action Plan provide specific measures and actions that improve air quality for the region and reduce impacts on climate change.*

Energy Conservation

Whether it is fuel to operate automobiles or electricity to light, heat, and cool buildings, energy is continuously being used to meet our daily needs. Generating enough energy to meet California's increasing demand calls for sustainable energy resources and practices. With the passage of State legislation to decrease reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate impacts of global warming, cities must comprehensively address energy management issues.

Electricity

San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) provides electricity to and maintains a distribution network for San Clemente. The City's electrical grid includes above ground and buried power lines. A major transmission line travels west to east through the City, terminating at State Route 74, also known as the Ortega Highway. SDG&E formerly produced some of its electricity from the now decommissioned San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). The City intends to encourage SONGS's owners, other energy purveyors and

regulatory agencies to: 1) identify alternative energy sources to help meet local and regional electricity needs, 2) decommission SONGS in a safe and timely manner, and 3) seek a long-term solution for the relocation and storage of fuel rods away from SONGS to a location distant from urbanized areas.

Natural Gas

Southern California Gas Company (The Gas Company) provides natural gas for San Clemente.

Conservation

Both SDG&E and The Gas Company offer conservation programs and assistance for residents, businesses, and property managers. These include rebates for the purchase of energy efficient appliances, equipment, and materials, financial incentives for the installation of renewable energy systems, home energy efficiency surveys and energy calculators.

This section of the Energy Element establishes goals and policies to guide the efficient use, conservation and generation of energy within the community. Policies aimed at reducing the use of fossil fuels for transportation purposes are addressed in the [Land Use, Circulation](#), and [Urban Design](#) Elements. Together, the goals and policies of these elements provide the foundation for two key implementation documents: the [San Clemente Climate Action Plan \[staff to provide link\]](#) and [San Clemente Sustainability Action Plan \[staff to provide link\]](#).

GOAL:

Reduce consumption of non-renewable energy sources and ensure efficient use, development and conservation of sustainable, non-polluting energy sources.

POLICIES:

- NR-6.01. **Conservation Strategy.** We require conservation as the first strategy to be employed to meet energy-saving standards.
- NR-6.02. **Site Planning and New Building Design.** We require energy-efficient subdivision, site planning and building design. Measures to be considered include building orientation and shading, landscaping, maximum use of natural daylight, reflectance of building, natural ventilation, active and passive solar heating and hot water system, etc. In establishing these energy related design requirements, we balance energy-efficient design with good planning principles.
- NR-6.03. **Retrofit of Commercial and Residential Buildings.** We encourage and provide incentives for voluntary retrofitting of commercial and residential buildings to reduce energy use.
- NR-6.04. **Public Buildings.** We require all new and substantially renovated City buildings in excess of 10,000 square feet to achieve a LEED Silver Certification standard, as determined by the U.S. Green Building Council, or the equivalent.

- NR-6.05. **City Operations.** We routinely seek ways to improve the energy efficiency of City operations to save energy, reduce consumption of non-renewable materials, reduce municipal costs and set a positive example for the community.
- NR-6.06. **City Vehicles and Equipment.** We purchase and use vehicles and equipment that are fuel efficient and meet or surpass state emissions requirements and/or use no- or low-emission sources of energy, if economically feasible.
- NR-6.07. **Renewable Energy Resources.** We work with other agencies and utility providers to develop safe, economical and renewable energy resources, and we help reduce non-renewable energy use through public education and participation in energy conservation programs.
- NR-6.08. **Public Awareness.** We work with local utilities to develop and provide energy conservation information to the public.
- NR-6.09. **Reduce Water Consumption.** We will continue to help reduce per capita potable water consumption and related energy use through implementation of water conservation programs and through public education and outreach.
- NR-6.10. **Alternative Fueling Stations.** We encourage the private sector to provide vehicle fueling stations that cater to electric and other alternative fueled vehicles and require such facilities for City operations and facilities, where appropriate.

LINKS TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN INFORMATION

- [Land Use Element \[link to Land Use Element Homepage\]](#)
- [Mobility and Complete Streets Element \[link to Mobility and Complete Streets Element Homepage\]](#)
- [Urban Design Element \[link to Urban Design Element Homepage\]](#)

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- [Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan \[staff to provide link\]](#)
- [Climate Action Plan \[staff to provide link\]](#)
- [Sustainability Action Plan \[http://san-clemente.org/sc/Inf/Forms/WaterQuality/Download/550002%20Final%20Sustainability%20Action%20Plan%2015Jun10.pdf\]](#)

Dark Skies

A dark sky is the night sky with minimal light impact from urban land uses or structures. Light intrusion into the night sky obstructs views of astrological features, has been shown to disrupt animal behavior and natural plant cycles, and negatively impact human health. Focusing lights where they are needed reduces light glare and light pollution, allowing the sky to be observed and enjoyed in a more natural state. Furthermore, strategies to

reduce light impacts can also help conserve energy, lower energy costs and improve safety.

San Clemente's night skies benefit from being surrounded by areas and uses which emit little or no light: the Pacific Ocean, Camp Pendleton and the open space lands to the east. In addition, land uses that generate significant amounts of light pollution, such as shopping centers, are limited and concentrated in only limited areas of the City. The City intends to reduce the level of light pollution from 2013 levels, maintain dark skies and explore opportunities to address [light trespass](#).

GOAL:

Minimize light trespass and pollution caused by public and private structures, new development, and public facilities to ensure safety, protection of the natural environment, and preservation of dark nighttime skies.

POLICIES:

- NR-7.01. ***New Residential Development and Remodeling Projects.*** We require development projects and major remodel projects to minimize light pollution and trespass while enhancing safety and aesthetics.
- NR-7.02. ***Public Facilities, Buildings and Streets.*** We use outdoor light shielding measures to minimize light trespass and glare while enhancing safety and aesthetics.
- NR-7.03. ***Commercial and Industrial Buildings.*** We require that site lighting for commercial and industrial uses be unobtrusive and constructed or located so that only the intended area is illuminated, off-site glare is minimized, and adequate safety is provided.
- NR-7.04. ***Public Education and Outreach.*** We support programs that provide public education on the importance of dark skies and how to protect them. We collaborate with non-profit and other public agencies to help achieve our goals.

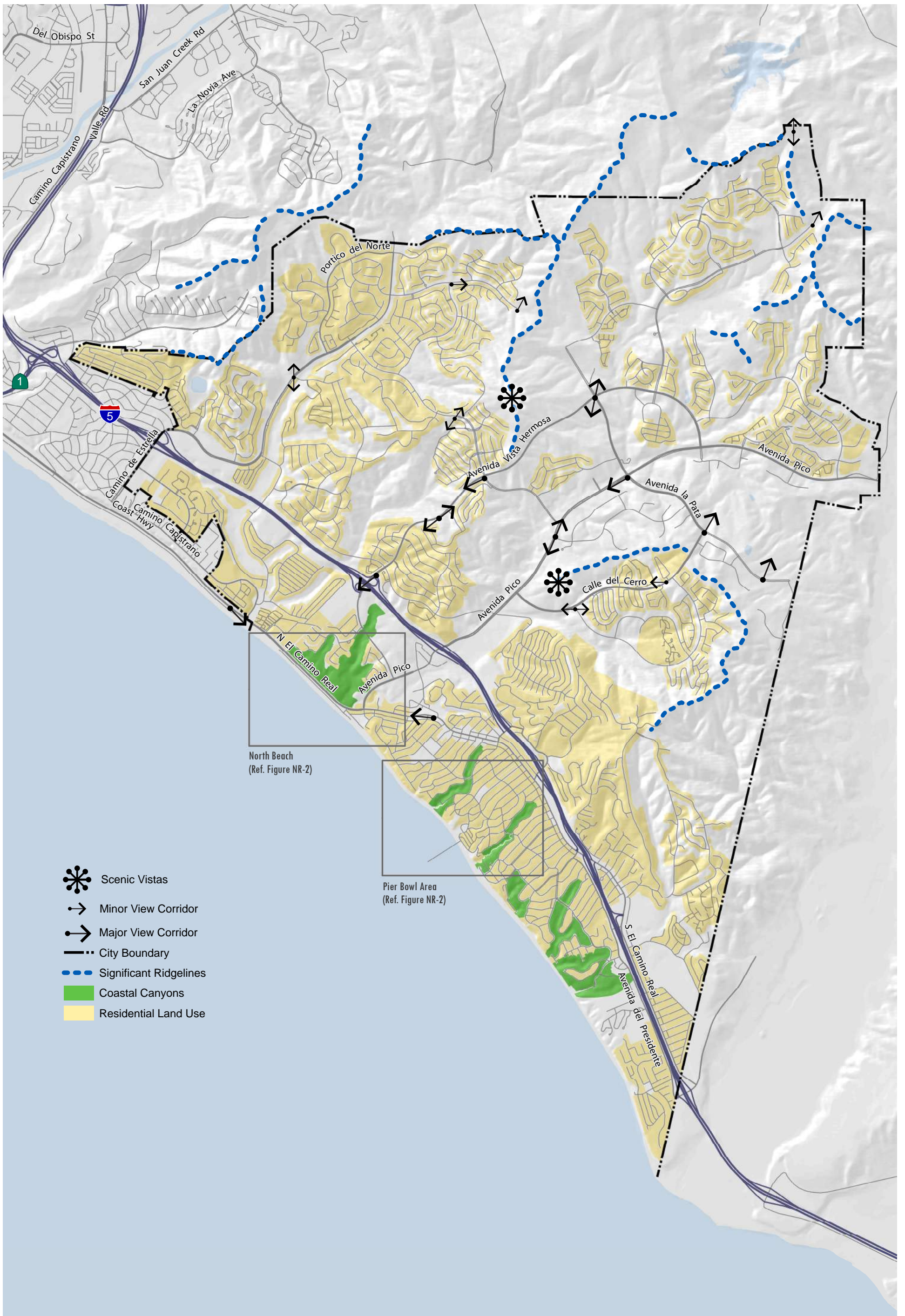
ADDITIONAL LINKS

- [Zoning Ordinance, Lighting Standards](http://library.municode.com/HTML/16606/level2/TIT17ZO_CH17.24GEDEST.html#TIT17ZO_CH17.24GEDEST_17.24.130LI)
[http://library.municode.com/HTML/16606/level2/TIT17ZO_CH17.24GEDEST.html#TIT17ZO_CH17.24GEDEST_17.24.130LI]

Implementation Measures

General Plan Implementation Measures are contained in the Strategic Implementation Program (SIP). The SIP contains Implementation Measures for one-time projects that end with a specific goal, and ongoing projects that requires routine activity with no specified end date. The SIP is updated by the City Council with the City budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) to ensure the effective implementation of the Centennial General Plan. This coordination ensures that the General Plan remains a dynamic, up to date, responsive guide to public decision making and expenditures.

Click [here](#) to access Implementation Measures for this element in the latest Strategic Implementation Program.



Data Source: City of San Clemente Master Landscape Plan for Scenic Corridors, 1992; City of San Clemente Specific Plans
 Note: For more detail, please refer to specific plans.



Figure NR-1
AESTHETIC RESOURCES

11.19.13

0 1,300 2,600 5,200 Feet



North Beach - Public View Corridors



Pier Bowl Area - Public View Corridors

Data Source: City of San Clemente Master Landscape Plan for Scenic Corridors, 1992; City of San Clemente Specific Plans
 Note: For more detail, please refer to specific plans.



Figure NR-2
AESTHETIC RESOURCES

