



3.1 INTRODUCTION

California Planning Law establishes the mandatory contents of local general plans. At the same time, it authorizes counties (and cities) to “address any other subjects which, in the judgement of the legislative body, relate to the physical development” of the jurisdiction (Government Code Section 65303). The following Government Element was prepared by the County as an optional element as allowed by state law.

While the entire General Plan requires the active involvement of the County and other agencies to ensure its implementation and success, the County felt that there were some specific issues related to the planning and interaction of governmental agencies in the County that would best be addressed in a separate Government Element. The following element expresses the County’s expectations in three areas:

- enhancing and collaborative planning process with other federal, state, and local governmental agencies working in the County,
- establishing issues to be considered in the transfer of land between government agencies and with the public, and
- administration and maintenance of this General Plan.

The following element is divided into five major parts as follows.

- **Definitions.** This section provides a set of definitions for terms used in this element.
- **Existing Setting.** This section provides a brief summary of the existing conditions in the Planning Area. A detailed discussion on existing conditions can be found in Chapter 3 of the *Inyo County General Plan Background Report*.
- **Issues.** A brief summary of the major issues identified during the public participation portion of the General Plan program are included to provide a context for the goals, policies, and implementation measures presented.



- **Goals and Policies.** This section contains the goals and policies that will be used by the County to guide future land use decisions.
- **Implementation Measures.** To ensure that appropriate actions are taken to implement the General Plan, a set of implementation measures are provided.



3.2 GOVERNMENT

3.2.1 Definitions

In using this element, the following definitions will apply:

Collaborative Planning Process. A system where all parties involved come together to gain a better understanding of the environment in which they make and implement plans, to gain a full understanding of each others concerns, and to work together as equals to solve issues of common concern.

Regulatory Agency. A regulatory agency is a state or federal agency that has been designated to oversee the implementation of a regulation or plan in an area.

3.2.2 Existing Setting

There are a number of roles played by a wide variety of federal, state, and local agencies; municipal utilities; and Native American tribes. Governmental agencies play the roles of land management (such as Death Valley National Park), infrastructure/service (such as Caltrans), or regulatory (such as the California Department of Fish and Game) relative to lands within Inyo County. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) plays a unique role through its massive land holdings in the Owens Valley and its export of water. The five Native American reservations or rancherias in Inyo County manage their land autonomously from County jurisdiction.

By far, the largest land manager in Inyo County is the federal government, and federal agencies have a range of current and proposed management plans that impact life in Inyo County. The National Park Service has a new draft management plan for the Death Valley National Park. The U.S. Forest Service has a management plan for the Inyo National Forest, the Ansel Adams, John Muir, and Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Areas, and a draft Sierra Nevada Forest Plan. China Lake Naval Weapons Station has a land use management plan for lands it manages in southern Inyo County. The BLM has several resource area plans, such as the West Mojave Plan and the Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan. In addition to direct land management, the federal



government’s activities in Nevada at the proposed Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository have the potential to directly impact the safety of Inyo County.

3.2.3 Government Issues

The following section lists (in no specific order) some of the critical governmental issues that must be addressed in implementing this element of the General Plan.

- Insufficient coordination by federal land managers in the preparation of plans that impact the use of lands they manage.
- Improving overall communication and coordination between the County and federal, state, and local agencies and Native American tribes.
- No further net loss of private land within the County.
- Maintaining the General Plan.

3.2.4 Goals and Policies

GOAL GOV-1	Work with agencies, districts, utilities, and Native American tribes to promote consistency with the County’s General Plan.
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Policy GOV-1.1 ***Plans for Agencies, District, Utilities, and Native American Tribes***
 The County shall work with federal and state agencies, local districts, utilities (e.g., LADWP), and Native American tribes to ensure that they are aware of the contents of the County’s General Plan and work with them to ensure that their plans are consistent with Inyo County’s General Plan to the greatest extent possible. [New]

Policy GOV-1.2 ***LADWP***
 All lands owned or leased by LADWP in Inyo County shall be required to be consistent with the Inyo County General Plan. [New]



**GOAL
GOV-2**

To ensure planning decisions are done in a collaborative environment and to provide opportunities of early and consistent input by Inyo County and its citizens into the planning processes of other agencies, districts, and utilities. [New goal]

Policy GOV-2.1

Continue Participation on Collaborative Planning Team

The County shall continue its participation on the Collaborative Planning Team and work to expand participation to all affected government agencies. [New]

Policy GOV-2.2

Public Participation

The County shall work with federal and state agencies, local districts, utilities (e.g., LADWP), and Native American tribes to ensure that the County and the public are involved early in any planning process and that routine feedback and public input is requested. [New]

**GOAL
GOV-3**

To provide opportunities for the private ownership of land by maintaining (and expanding when possible) the amount of privately owned land available in the County. [New goal]

Policy GOV-3.1

No Net Loss

The County shall work with federal and state agencies, local districts, utilities (e.g., LADWP), and Native American tribes to ensure that land exchanges do not result in a net loss to the County's tax base or revenues. [New]

Policy GOV-3.2

Private Land Increase

The County shall work with federal and state agencies, local districts, and utilities to find opportunities to expand private land ownership in the County through land transfers or other mechanism. [New]

Policy GOV-3.3

Land Release Locations

The County shall work with federal and state agencies, local districts, and utilities to target desired locations for land releases to private ownership. [New]



- ① For further policies related to Goal GOV-3, please see:
 - Policy LU-1.1, "Community Expansion"
 - Policy LU-1.2, "New Growth"
 - Policy LU-1.10, "LADWP Land Holdings"
 - Policy LU-1.11, "LADWP Land Releases"
 - Policy LU-1.12, "Other Public Agency Land Holdings"
 - Policy LU-1.13, "Manzanar Land Release"
 - Policy LU-1.14, "Planning for Future Land Releases"
 - Policy LU-4.11, "Land Releases and Exchanges"

GOAL GOV-4	To provide for the ongoing administration and implementation of the Inyo County General Plan. [New goal]
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- Policy GOV-4.1** **Maintaining a Current General Plan**
The County shall maintain the General Plan to ensure that it reflects the needs and desires of those who live, work, and vacation in Inyo County. [New]

① See also Policy LU-4.10, "Industrial Land Availability"
- Policy GOV-4.2** **Maintaining Planning Consistency**
The County shall review and revise other County planning documents to ensure consistency with the General Plan. [New]
- Policy GOV-4.3** **Providing Planning Information**
The County shall ensure that the public is informed on the status of planning in the County. [New]



3.2.5 Implementation Measures

Table 3-1, Government Implementation Measures, identifies the implementation measures the County should take to implement the goals and policies of this General Plan. The implementation program lists each specific implementation measure, a reference to the General Plan policy it is implementing, who is responsible to implement the program, and the timeframe for implementation.

Table 3-1. Government Implementation Measures

	Implementation Measure	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	Timeframe				
				2001- 2003	2003- 2005	2005- 2010	2010- 2020	On- going
1.0	The County shall prepare a resolution to be sent to land management agencies, districts, utilities, and Native American tribes in the County stating the County's desire for their plans to be consistent with the County's General Plan, and the County's desire to work with them in this matter.	GOV-1.1	Board of Supervisors	■				
2.0	The County shall also make sure all land management agencies, districts, utilities, and Native American tribes have current copies of the County's General Plan and any subsequent amendments.	GOV-1.1	Planning	■				■
3.0	The County shall review the plans of land management agencies, districts, utilities, and Native American tribes for consistency with the General Plan and related planning documents and provide comments and alternative solutions where inconsistencies exist.	GOV-1.1	Planning					■



Table 3-1. Government Implementation Measures


	Implementation Measure	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	Timeframe				On- going
				2001- 2003	2003- 2005	2005- 2010	2010- 2020	
4.0	Due to the extensive state and federal ownership in the County, it is noted that the management of these areas should include: provisions for continued and improved access through and within the County; continued provision of public recreational facilities and access; multi-use management where applicable; and interconnection or coordination of state, federal, and local facilities and programs when possible. [New]	GOV-1.1	Planning					■
5.0	The County shall prepare a resolution to be sent to land management agencies in the County stating the County's desire to be involved in all steps of the planning process.	GOV-2.2	Board of Supervisors	■				
6.0	The County shall help facilitate public disclosure by arranging community meetings or preparing written updates on the status of various agency plans and assisting with public input.	GOV-2.2	Planning Public Works					■
7.0	The County shall discourage public entities from acquiring private holdings in or adjacent to established communities. [Existing Action under Policy 1, revised]	GOV-3.1	Planning					■
8.0	The County shall develop a map showing preferred locations for land releases that would benefit the communities they area near.	GOV-3.3	Planning	■				



Table 3-1. Government Implementation Measures

	Implementation Measure	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	Timeframe				
				2001- 2003	2003- 2005	2005- 2010	2010- 2020	On- going
9.0	The County shall annually review the General Plan Goals and Policies Report, focusing primarily on actions taken in the previous year to carry out the implementation measures of the General Plan. The Planning Commission shall complete this review and report its findings to the Board of Supervisors by October 1 st of each year. The Planning Commission’s report shall include, as the Planning Commission deems appropriate, recommendations for amendments to the General Plan. This annual report shall also be used to satisfy the requirements of the Public Resources Code (§2108.6) for a mitigation monitoring program.	GOV-4.1 GOV-4.2 GOV-4.3	Planning Commission Planning					■
10.0	The County shall amend the Zoning Ordinance to conform to the goals, policies, and implementation measures in this General Plan.	GOV-4.2	Planning	■				
11.0	The County shall review its capital improvements plan and budgets to ensure consistency with the General Plan.	GOV-4.2	Planning Public Works					■
12.0	The County shall rescind the Darwin Specific Plan, Starlite Estates Specific Plan, and Bishop Community Plan.	GOV-4.2	Board of Supervisors	■				

3.2.6 Other Related Policies

In the other elements included in this General Plan (Chapters 4 through 9), a number of policies were noted as requiring significant cooperation or input from another agency or from a district or utility. To make sure the reader knows this policy requires a significant interaction by another agency, district, or utility, a  symbol will appear following the policy’s title.



The following is a listing of these related policies. Please see the appropriate section in the General Plan to see the text for each policy.

Land Use Element

Land Use (Section 4.2)

- Policy LU-1.1, "Community Expansion"
- Policy LU-1.2, "New Growth"
- Policy LU-1.10, "LADWP Land Holdings"
- Policy LU-1.11, "LADWP Land Releases"
- Policy LU-1.12, "Other Public Agency Land Holdings"
- Policy LU-1.13, "Manzanar Land Release"
- Policy LU-1.14, "Planning for Future Land Releases"
- Policy LU-4.10, "Industrial Land Availability"
- Policy LU-4.11, "Land Releases and Exchanges"

Public Services and Utilities (Section 4.3)

- Policy PSU-1.7, "Undergrounding Utilities"
- Policy PSU-9.3, "Law Enforcement Support"
- Policy PSU-11.1, "Provision of Facilities"
- Policy PSU-11.2, "Planning for New Facilities"
- Policy PSU-11.3, "Location of Facilities"
- Policy PSU-11.4, "Cooperation with School Districts"
- Policy PSU-11.5, "Community Centers"
- Policy PSU-11.6, "Funding"

Economic Development Element

Economic Development (Section 5.2)

- Policy ED-1.2, "Visitor Capacity on Public Lands"
- Policy ED-1.3, "Visitor Usage of LADWP Lands"
- Policy ED-3.2, "Public Sector Employment"



Circulation Element

Roadways and Highways (Section 7.2)

- Policy RH-1.6, "Minimize Environmental Impacts"
- Policy RH-1.7, "Maximize State and Federal Funds"
- Policy RH-2.1, "Improve U.S. 395"
- Policy RH-2.2, "New Regional Roadways"

Bicycles and Trails (Section 7.5)

- Policy BT-1.2, "Bikeway and Trail System in Region"

Aviation (Section 7.7)

- Policy AVI-1.4, "Light Industrial at Bishop Airport"

Conservation/Open Space Element

Agricultural Resources (Section 8.3)

- Policy AG-1.1, "Identify Important Agricultural Lands"
- Policy AG-1.6, "Public Lands for Agriculture"
- Policy AG-1.7, "LADWP Lands for Agriculture"

Water Resources (Section 8.5)

- Policy WR-2.1, "Restoration"
- Policy WR-3.3, "Water Resolutions"
- Policy WR-3.4, "Return of Water Rights"
- Policy WR-4.1, "Mitigation for Contamination"
- Policy WR-4.2, "Federal Responsibilities"



Biological Resources (Section 8.6)

- Policy BIO-1.5, "Develop Outside of Habitat Areas"
- Policy BIO-1.8, "Owens River Restoration"
- Policy BIO-2.1, "Coordination on Management of Adjacent Lands"
- Policy BIO-2.2, "Appropriate Access for Recreation"

Cultural Resources (Section 8.7)

- Policy CUL-1.5, "Native American Consultation"

Recreation (Section 8.9)

- Policy REC-1.2, "Recreational Opportunities on Federal, State, and LADWP Lands"

Public Safety

Air Quality (Section 9.2)

- Policy AQ-1.1, "Regulations to Reduce PM10"
- Policy AQ-1.2, "Attainment Programs"

Wildfire Hazard (Section 9.5)

- Policy WF-1.1, "Fire Protection Agencies"

Noise (Section 9.7)

- Policy NOI-1.8, "Coordination with Agencies"