



Introduction to Community Facilities

The City and various local utilities, agencies, and districts provide a range of community services and facilities that are integral to providing a high quality of life for Lawndale's residents. The future public facility and infrastructure needs of new projects must be carefully considered when evaluating new opportunities for growth to ensure that existing residents and businesses continue to receive adequate services and new developments have the necessary facilities and infrastructure to support long-term viability.

While not specifically required by State law for inclusion in the General Plan, this Community Services and Facilities Element is a critical component in meeting the infrastructure and public services needs of Lawndale. This Element works collaboratively with the topics addressed in all other General Plan Elements, specifically the City's Land Use, Resource Management, Public Safety, and Environmental Justice Elements.

Organization of Element

The Community Services and Facilities Element will address each of the topics below as they relate to Lawndale. The goals and policies of this element are organized around the following topics:

- Infrastructure and Public Services
- Water System
- Wastewater System
- Stormwater Management
- Telecommunications
- Health and Human Resources



GOAL CF-1 INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

A community with adequate, reliable public and quasi-public infrastructure and services to support existing and future development.

A number of public and private agencies provide essential public goods and services to Lawndale. Infrastructure provides the physical and organizational means of production and distribution for essential services required for community function. The City actively plans for the provision and financing of infrastructure and public services to maintain quality of life.

CF-1 Policies

- CF-1.1 **Capital Improvements.** Maintain and finance the capital improvement program to ensure the timely implementation of the General Plan and the adequate and efficient provision of public facility and municipal improvements.
- CF-1.2 **Fair Share.** Require that new development and major redevelopment provide for and fund its fair share of the costs for the expansion of public infrastructure and services, recreational amenities and facilities, and other public facilities.
- CF-1.3 **Public Facility Plans.** Maintain and implement public facility master plans, in collaboration with appropriate Regional, State, and Federal laws, to identify infrastructure needs, funding sources, and implement improvements for public facilities and services in Lawndale.
- CF-1.4 **Revenue Sources.** Identify and proactively pursue all available sources of revenue to meet public infrastructure and services, recreational amenities and facilities, and other public facilities needs.
- CF-1.5 **Infrastructure Rehabilitation.** Regularly maintain and rehabilitate public facilities and critical infrastructure to extend its useful life; prioritize infrastructure improvements in areas targeted for near-term redevelopment and in areas designated as lower-income and/or disadvantaged communities.
- CF-1.6 **Preventive Street Maintenance.** Maintain and improve streets, sidewalks, and other public rights-of-way to provide a reliable network for circulation through a proactive preventive maintenance program.
- CF-1.7 **Facility Sharing.** Promote the clustering of public and quasi-public facilities (e.g., schools, parks, activity centers, etc.), the joint use of facilities, and agreements for sharing costs and operational responsibilities among users.
- CF-1.8 **Regional Issues.** Continue to participate in the preparation of plans and programs addressing regional infrastructure and public services issues.
- CF-1.9 **Cost Sharing.** Explore equitable methods for sharing the costs of facilities or services that serve multiple jurisdictions in the South Bay Cities Council of Governments and/or Los Angeles County.
- CF-1.10 **Regional Services Providers.** Collaborate with the various regional facility and service providers to deliver high levels of service to Lawndale residents, and to plan for new development.
- CF-1.11 **Capital Improvement Planning.** Encourage agencies to carry out long-range capital improvement planning, which includes funding methods for the construction of projects that are compatible with regional land use planning goals and objectives.



- CF-1.12 **Undergrounding of Facilities.** Continue to require that all new utility lines are installed underground where feasible and promote the undergrounding of existing overhead facilities, including poles and lines.

CF-1 Actions

- CF-1a Regularly coordinate with outside service providers and other agencies regarding their public facility plans and provide local input on goals, objectives, and projects.
- CF-1b Maintain records regarding the quality and status of public facilities and critical infrastructure and use this information to inform the capital improvement planning process.
- CF-1c Study mechanisms for funding and phasing of new infrastructure.
- CF-1d Require any new development or major redevelopment that would put local and/or regional facilities at or near capacity to upgrade those facilities.
- CF-1e Participate in regional and sub-regional planning forums that may address matters affecting the quality of life in Lawndale and the region.
- CF-1f Require the undergrounding of utility lines in new development, and as areas are redeveloped, except where infeasible for operational reasons.



GOAL CF-2 WATER SYSTEM

A community with a safe and reliable water supply, storage, and distribution system to meet the needs of existing and future users.

The City is served by the Golden State Water Company (an investor-owned public utility company) Southwest System. The City is underlain by potable and non-potable water infrastructure owned and maintained by GSWC and West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD), respectively. Golden State Water Company's potable water supplies consist of groundwater pumped from the West Coast Basin and Central Basin groundwater systems and imported water purchased from Central Basin Municipal Water District and the West Basin Municipal Water District.

CF-2 Policies

- CF-2.1 **Water Supply Needs.** Coordinate with local water districts when considering land use changes in order to assist the districts in planning for adequate capacity to accommodate future growth.
- CF-2.2 **Use of Recycled Water.** Encourage the use of recycled water in development projects and landscaping; implement best practices (e.g., dual plumbing) to expand recycled water use when safe, financially feasible, and available.
- CF-2.3 **Climate Change Impacts.** Consider the impacts of climate change in projections used to establish which water supply, distribution facilities, and conservation efforts are necessary to sustain future water demands.
- CF-2.4 **Drought Planning.** Support the implementation of drought contingency plans to support the availability of adequate water during drought, including emergency water connections and related measures.

CF-2 Actions

- CF-2a Through the development review process, require that sufficient water supply and water infrastructure capacity is available to serve the development prior to approval of the project, pursuant to Water Code Section 10910 and Government Code Section 66473.7.
- CF-2b Work with water districts to expedite the improvement and expansion of water and reclaimed water facilities when necessary.
- CF-2c In cooperation with the State, Regional, and Local water agencies and suppliers, participate in programs that seek to expand the availability and use of recycled water for irrigation where feasible and legally permitted.



GOAL CF-3 WASTEWATER SYSTEM

A community with a well-maintained wastewater system that properly disposes of waste and safely transports it to regional facilities.

Wastewater management systems protect public health and the environment by collecting and treating municipal wastewater (sewage). Wastewater generated in Lawndale is conveyed via local and regional infrastructure to the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' treatment facilities. Sewer collection system infrastructure serving the City is owned and maintained by three separate entities: the City, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW), and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD).

CF-3 Policies

- CF-3.1 **Wastewater System.** Work with appropriate service providers to promote safe and reliable wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure to serve existing and future development.
- CF-3.2 **Adequate Infrastructure.** Coordinate with the County of Los Angeles Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District to encourage facilities to provide sufficient capacity for Lawndale, and that wastewater infrastructure within the City is adequately monitored and maintained.
- CF-3.3 **Integrated Systems Planning.** Develop a comprehensive approach to water infrastructure that integrates sewer system planning with potable and recycled water systems, stormwater systems, and increased conservation awareness.
- CF-3.4 **Statewide Requirements.** Comply with current Statewide General Waste Discharge requirements concerning the operation and maintenance of the City's wastewater collection system.

CF-3 Actions

- CF-3a Through the development review process, continue to cooperate with the County of Los Angeles Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District to ensure adequate wastewater facilities are provided and maintained in the community. Specifically, the City should:
- Require that sufficient wastewater infrastructure capacity is available to serve the development prior to approval of the project;
 - Ensure the project applicant has paid the required fees prior to occupancy of any new development; and
 - Periodically review the fee schedules for sewer connections and revise fees as necessary to cover the cost of related services and facilities.
- CF-3b Work with the County of Los Angeles Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District to expedite the improvement and expansion of sewer facilities when necessary.
- CF-3c Develop a Citywide Sewer Facilities Master Plan to identify existing and future wastewater treatment needs, implement needed improvements, and identify potential funding sources, as funding is available.



GOAL CF-4 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

A community with an efficient, well-maintained stormwater management system that protects from flooding and enhances water quality.

Storm drains convey excess water from rain and outdoor water uses away from urban areas. As urban areas have less vegetation and more impervious surfaces, less water is able to infiltrate into the ground, and more runoff is generated. Lawndale supports an integrated stormwater management approach that includes storm drains and Low Impact Development (LID) measures designed to mitigate the increase in runoff volumes and velocities to downstream areas to prevent flooding and protect downstream areas from water pollution. The City of Lawndale is responsible for managing the public storm drain system within Lawndale’s limits and ensuring that an adequate level of service is provided to protect the public from excessive surface flooding conditions. Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) infrastructure conveys stormwater out of City limits via its regional infrastructure systems.

CF-4 Policies

- CF-4.1 **Maintain Capacity.** Encourage the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) to maintain sufficient levels of storm drainage service, improve flood control facilities and channel segments, and implement other best practices in order to protect the community from flood hazards.
- CF-4.2 **Stormwater Runoff.** Encourage stormwater be directed towards permeable surfaces to allow for more percolation of stormwater into the ground.
- CF-4.3 **Stormwater Treatments.** Promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Low Impact Development measures (LID) to treat stormwater before discharge from the site.
- CF-4.4 **National Programs.** Cooperate in regional programs to implement the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program.



CF-4 Actions

- CF-4a Continue to implement the Watershed Control Measures identified in the Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) for the Dominguez Channel Watershed Management Area Group. Review and update as needed.
- CF-4b Work with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), and Dominguez Channel Watershed Management Area (DCWMA) Group to meet the requirements of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Order R4-2012-0175.
- CF-4c Encourage new developments and/or public roadway projects to incorporate recommendations from the Dominguez Watershed Management Master Plan, including:
- Use of pervious pavement during development and redevelopment;
 - Install and maintain catch basin inserts in high priority areas;
 - Reduce green waste to storm drains;
 - Create grassy swales and/or vegetated areas to treat urban runoff;
 - Perform roadway improvements using vegetated medians, buffers and/or parkways;
 - Use water-wise landscaping;
 - Use and expansion of the recycled water system; and
 - Installation of rainwater harvesting systems and cisterns.
- CF-4d Continue to review development projects to identify potential storm drain and drainage impacts and require developments to include measures to ensure that off-site runoff is not increased beyond pre-development levels during rain and flood events.
- CF-4e Project designs shall minimize drainage concentrations, minimize impervious coverage, utilize pervious paving materials, utilize low impact development (LID) strategies, and utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce stormwater runoff.



GOAL CF-5 TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A community with an efficient and reliable telecommunications system that improves economic development and equitable access.

The telecommunications system involves technologies that allow for the exchange of information over long distances, such as telephone, television, and internet. Lawndale is proactive in its plans to ensure fast and reliable telecommunications services for all.

CF-5 Policies

- CF-5.1 **Cooperation with Utilities Providers.** Work cooperatively with utility providers to promote the provision of adequate telecommunications services and facilities to serve the needs of existing and future residents and businesses.
- CF-5.2 **Service.** Support telecommunications providers that provide efficient, reliable, affordable, and state-of-the-art service.
- CF-5.3 **Future Technologies.** Proactively explore the viability of new communication technologies for their relevancy and implementation in Lawndale.
- CF-5.4 **Access for All.** Encourage the installation of public use wireless broadband access points throughout Lawndale.
- CF-5.5 **Appropriate Siting and Design.** Coordinate with service providers in the siting and design of telecommunication facilities to minimize environmental, aesthetic, and safety impacts.
- CF-5.6 **Co-location of Facilities.** Encourage the co-location of telecommunications facilities between different services and providers, when feasible.
- CF-5.7 **Undergrounding of Facilities.** Continue to require that all new telecommunication lines are installed underground where feasible and promote the undergrounding of existing overhead facilities.

CF-5 Actions

- CF-5a Confer with telecommunications providers regarding major development plans and participate in the planning of the extension of utilities.
- CF-5b Require the undergrounding of telecommunication lines in new development, and as areas are redeveloped, except where infeasible for operational reasons.
- CF-5c Periodically review and revise existing City ordinances regulating the placement, maintenance, and operation of telecommunication facilities.



GOAL CF-6 HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

A community that enhances the quality of life for all its residents through the provision of health and educational resources including quality schools, libraries, medical, and other community services and facilities.

Education and medical services are important for every stage of life. Lawndale supports the provision of high-quality human services that enhance the health and well-being of all. Lawndale is a proud community with strong support for public schools. Primary education (grades kindergarten through 12) in the Planning Area is provided mainly by two school districts – Lawndale Elementary School District (LESD) and Centinela Valley Union High School District (CVUHSD). The City is also served by the Lawndale Library, which is part of the Los Angeles County Library system.

CF-6 Policies

- CF-6.1 **Education and Learning.** Continue to encourage the maintenance of high-quality schools and diverse educational opportunities in Lawndale.
- CF-6.2 **Lifelong Learning.** Proactively cooperate with the Lawndale Elementary School District and Centinela Valley Union High School District to encourage the provision of lifelong learning opportunities for persons living and working in Lawndale.
- CF-6.3 **School Facilities.** Work with developers and the school districts to ensure the payment of fees, construction, and expansion of school facilities to address expected increases in school-age population.
- CF-6.4 **Early Childhood Development.** Encourage community organizations and schools to provide expanded opportunities for early childhood care (0–5 years) and development.
- CF-6.5 **Occupational Training.** Partner with regional occupational boards and local educational institutions to implement career pathway and job training programs for youth and adults.
- CF-6.6 **Libraries.** Work closely with the Los Angeles County Library system to provide library facilities and services necessary to meet the needs of all segments of the community.
- CF-6.7 **Senior Services.** Provide facilities, programs, and services for seniors to participate in opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, and mental stimulation.
- CF-6.8 **Health Care Services.** Work with neighboring jurisdictions and service providers to provide high-quality health care services to Lawndale residents.



CF-6 Actions

- CF-6a Continue to work with the school districts to ensure adequate school facilities are provided and maintained in the community. Specifically, the City should:
- During the processing of residential and non-residential development proposals, ensure the school districts are consulted regarding the potential impact of the project on educational services and facilities. When proposed developments cannot be served by existing facilities and services, the City shall work with the developer and the school district in exploring options for service provision and facility funding.
 - Prior to approving a project that is likely to generate students, require the applicant to mitigate school impacts to the full extent permitted by State law through land dedications, payment of fees, participation in a special assessment district, or any combination of the above.
 - Cooperate with school districts to update population projections, student generation formulas, potential school sites, and facilities improvement plans.
- CF-6b Continue to work with the Los Angeles County Library system to ensure that library development keeps pace with overall City development and population growth.
- CF-6c Continue to support the provision of low- or no-cost community services to seniors and special-needs communities, including but not limited to, senior health and wellness programs, meal and emergency food assistance programs, and senior transit programs, as funding is available.
- CF-6d Explore feasibility of partnering with local schools, the Lawndale Chamber of Commerce, and local community colleges to coordinate educational support programs and services offered to Lawndale residents.
- CF-6e Explore opportunities to use the Lawndale Community Center to provide low- or no-cost health and educational resources accessible to every resident.
- CF-6f Partner with churches and other local organizations to provide additional youth and senior programs and services.