

Flower Field

*Envision*  
**PALMDALE 2045**  
a complete community



## Chapter 11

# Conservation

This Element of the Palmdale General Plan outlines the goals and policies related to conservation of natural and cultural resources in Palmdale. A discussion of open space in Palmdale is included in Chapter 10: Parks, Recreation, and Open Space.

# Statutory Requirements

The United States Federal Government and the State of California acknowledge the importance of preserving and enhancing existing natural and cultural resources within their jurisdictions. Per California Government Code 65302, a Conservation Element is required within a General Plan to describe the jurisdiction's natural resources: land, water, ecosystem services and living resources, and the benefits that these resources provide to the community. The following regulations exist to protect valued community resources from degradation and extinction.

## Federal Clean Water Act

The Federal Clean Water Act (FCWA) is the comprehensive federal law governing water quality and water pollution in the United States. The FCWA works to protect water resources by prohibiting unlawful discharge of any pollutant into local waterways and authorizing the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to develop national water quality criteria for pollutants in surface water.

## Tribal Consultation- Assembly Bill 52/Senate Bill 18

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 and Senate Bill (SB) 18 require tribal consultation to assure protection and preservation of natural resources and Native American historic, cultural, or sacred sites. Resources could potentially be lost or damaged if sites are not thoroughly investigated. Therefore, City consultation with local tribes will help ensure that cultural resources are preserved and mitigated through acceptable means.

## Federal Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides a program for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found. The lead federal agencies for implementing ESA are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service. The FWS maintains a worldwide list of endangered species. Species include birds, insects, fish, reptiles, mammals, crustaceans, flowers, grasses, and trees. The law requires federal agencies, in consultation with the FWS and/or the NOAA Fisheries Service, to ensure that actions they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of such species. The law also prohibits any action that causes a "taking" of any listed species of endangered fish or wildlife. Likewise, import, export, interstate, and foreign commerce of listed species are all generally prohibited.

## California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) is a state regulation focused on the conservation and protection of plants and animal species that are at risk of extinction. The CESA was enacted in 1970 and includes a formal designation system for threatened or endangered animals as well as limitations on development that may impact sensitive species. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is the regulatory body responsible for overseeing the mandates and controls outlined within the CESA. Through the CESA, the CDFW oversees permit (Incidental Take Permit) processing and review for projects that may have potentially significant impacts to listed species.

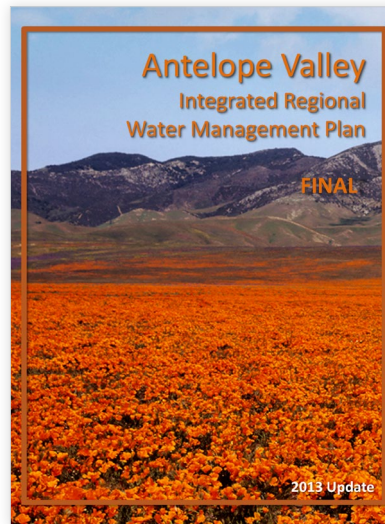


Lake Palmdale

# Relevant Plans and Requirements

## Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (2013)

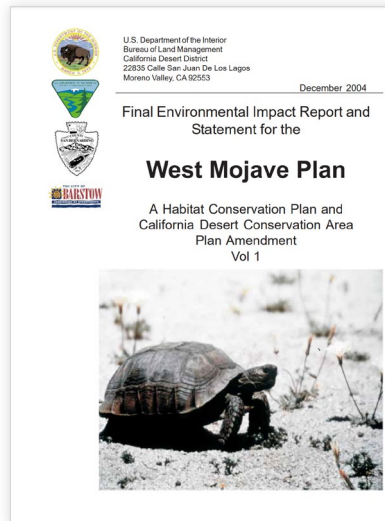
The Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) aims to coordinate and integrate existing water management planning efforts across the Antelope Valley into one comprehensive regional plan. The IRWMP is a collaborative document that serves to manage regional water resources and address competing water demands. The Plan outlines funding for existing agencies to support plans, programs, and projects that impact water management.



Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

## West Mojave Plan

The West Mojave Plan is a habitat conservation plan that acts as a comprehensive strategy to conserve the desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, and over 100 sensitive plants, animals, and natural communities. It encompasses a 9.4 million acre planning area and applies to public and private land. Palmdale lies almost entirely within the jurisdiction of the West Mojave Plan, which provides for a streamlined program for complying with the requirements of the California and federal Endangered Species Acts.



West Mojave Plan

## Native Desert Vegetation Ordinance

The City of Palmdale has a native desert vegetation ordinance (Chapter 14.04 of the Palmdale Municipal Code) designed to protect western Joshua trees and California Juniper in the city. Western Joshua trees and California Junipers both provide a unique natural desert aesthetic to the community, which the City aims to maintain. The Ordinance was originally adopted in 1992 and was amended by Emergency Ordinance No. 1556 in 2020 in response to the California Fish and Game Commission's vote to list the western Joshua tree as a candidate species under the CESA. Per the Ordinance, western Joshua trees and California Junipers trees shall not be removed from any parcel of land unless a permit has been obtained from the city. Furthermore, any development proposal on a parcel of land containing native desert vegetation requires a desert vegetation preservation plan prepared in compliance with the Palmdale Municipal Code. Listing of the western Joshua tree under the CESA gives that species additional legal protections, such that any take of the species (including removal of western Joshua tree or similar actions) requires a permit from CDFW.



Native Desert Vegetation Ordinance

# Context

## Natural Resources

Palmdale contains a diversity of natural communities and biotic habitats that differ greatly between the foothills in the western portion of the City and the flat desert in the east. There are a number of sensitive ecological habitats within the City that include: Big Rock Wash, Little Rock Wash, Ritter Ridge, Portal Ridge, and Alpine Butte. The City’s open space and natural areas supports a variety of plant and wildlife species, including species that are rare, threatened, or endangered. Protecting these species and their habitats remains a priority for the community and the City. In coordination with various resource agencies, the City will continue to manage the open spaces to protect sensitive ecological habitats and the species that occupy them.

### Natural Communities

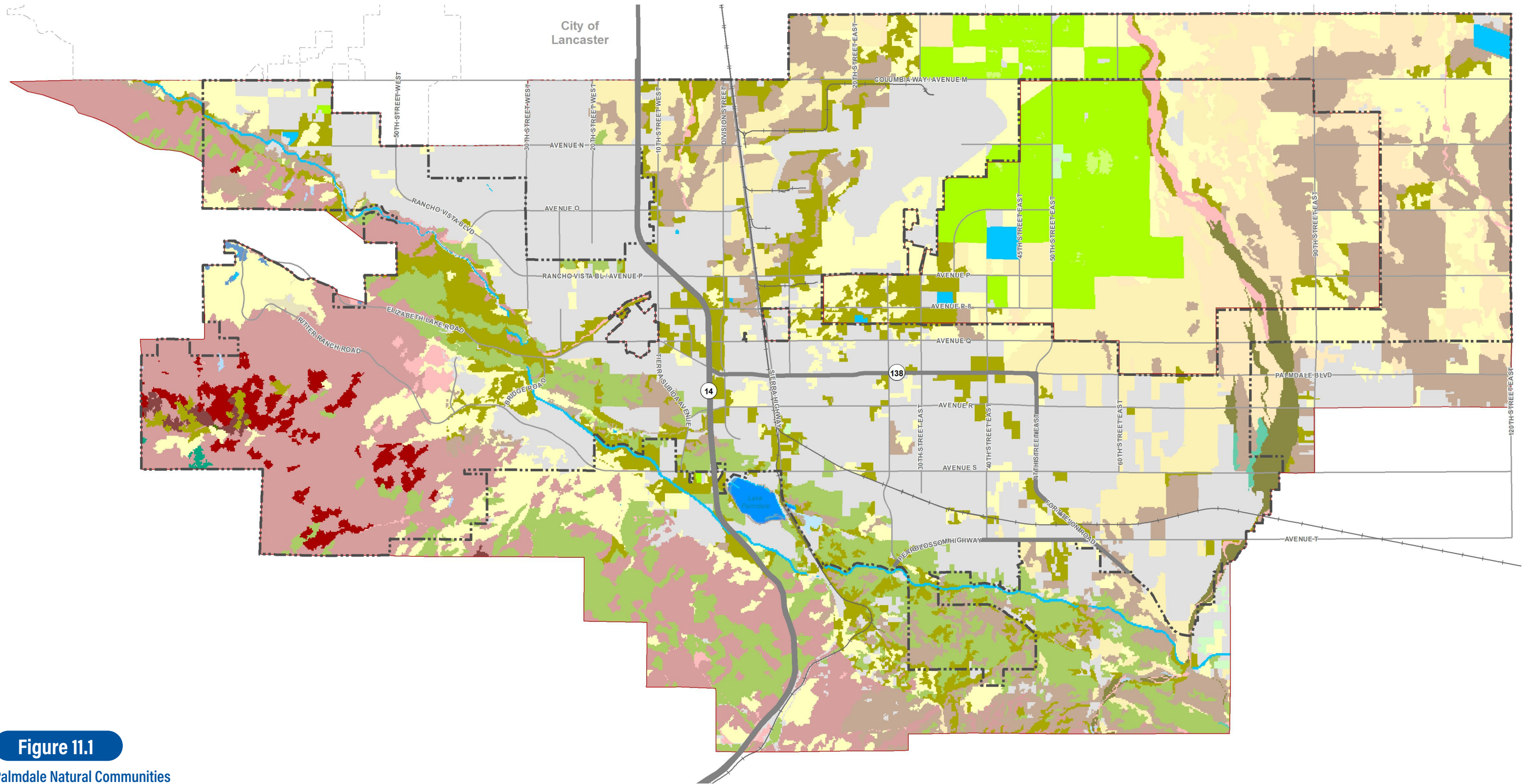
There are several different types of natural communities outside of the urbanized portions of Palmdale that can host a variety of protected plant and animal species. Many of the natural communities include varieties of shrub and scrub, chaparral, and grassland with some Juniper, western Joshua tree and riparian habitats. Table 11.1 lists the existing communities with their approximate acreage in Palmdale. Figure 11.1 shows where these various communities are located.

**Table 11.1**

**Palmdale Natural Communities**

Natural Community and Biotic Habitat	Total Acres	Percentages (%)
Annual Grassland	9,691	14.25
Mixed Chaparral	8,042	11.82
Desert Scrub	7,154	10.52
Sagebrush	5,891	8.66
Western Joshua Tree	4,351	6.40
Alkali Desert Scrub	3,369	4.95
Juniper	3,410	5.01
Montane Hardwood	1,062	1.56
Barren	536	0.79
Desert Wash	442	0.65
Lacustrine	323	0.48
Montane Chaparral	174	0.26
Desert Riparian	75	0.11
Bitterbrush	51	0.07
Chamise-Redshank Chaparral	45	0.07
Montane Riparian	44	0.06
Saline Emergent Wetland	40	0.06
Valley Foothill Riparian	29	0.04
Fresh Emergent Wetland	18	0.03
Coastal Scrub	4	0.01
Coastal Oak Woodland	3	<0.01
Agricultural	1,621	2.38
Urban	21,644	31.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,021</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Natural Diversity Database, 2021.



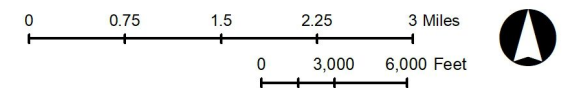
**Figure 11.1**

**Palmdale Natural Communities**

**Natural Community Name**

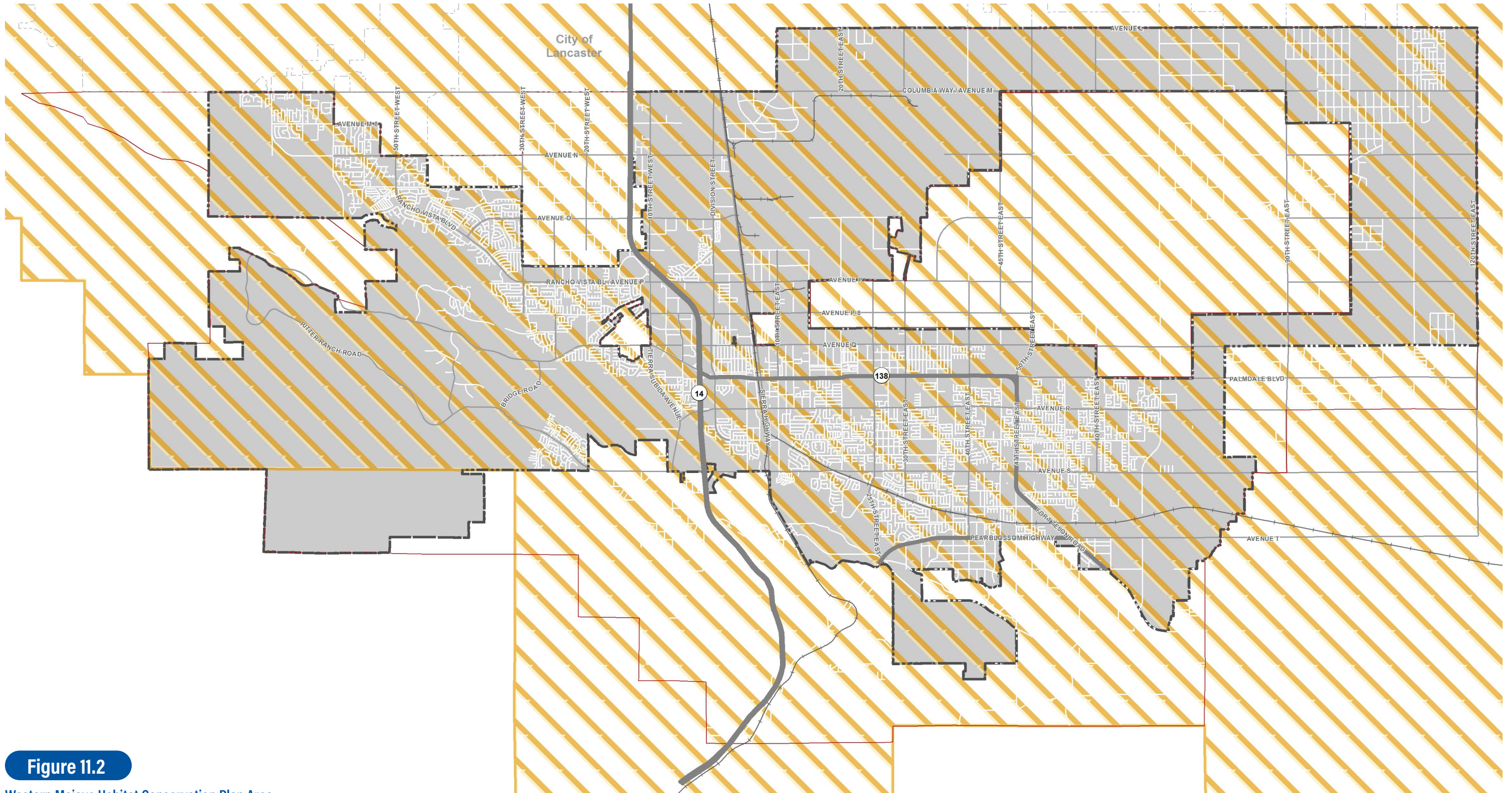
Alkali Desert Scrub (6,606.43 ac)	Deciduous Orchard (150.31 ac)	Irrigated Row and Field Crops (6,232.38 ac)	Montane Riparian (45.86 ac)
Annual Grassland (14,883.09 ac)	Desert Riparian (161.90 ac)	Western Joshua Tree (7,881.91 ac)	Pasture (77.01 ac)
Barren (1,027.03 ac)	Desert Scrub (12,680.99 ac)	Juniper (8,400.17 ac)	Sagebrush (8,602.64 ac)
Bitterbrush (97.14 ac)	Desert Wash (1,184.13 ac)	Lacustrine (1,034.13 ac)	Saline Emergent Wetland (40.03 ac)
Chamise-Redshank Chaparral (44.81 ac)	Dryland Grain Crops (4.00 ac)	Mixed Chaparral (13,156.03 ac)	Urban (28,510.64 ac)
Coastal Oak Woodland (2.67 ac)	Fresh Emergent Wetland (32.25 ac)	Montane Chaparral (185.63 ac)	Valley Foothill Riparian (48.84 ac)
Coastal Scrub (3.78 ac)	Irrigated Hayfield (120.54 ac)	Montane Hardwood (1,062.21 ac)	

- City Limits
- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Major Highway/Arterial
- Railroad
- Arterials
- Waterbody









Data Sources: City of Palmdale GIS data; CALFIRE, 2015.

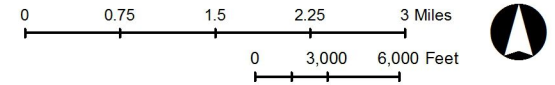
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**Figure 11.2**  
**Western Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan Area**

-  Western Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan
-  City of Palmdale Boundary
-  Sphere of Influence

-  Other City Boundary
-  Major Highway/Arterial
-  Railroad



Data Sources: City of Palmdale GIS data.; Los Angeles County, 2018.

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 June 2019

## Protected Wildlife Species

Palmdale lies primarily within the jurisdiction of the Western Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan. The Plan boundaries are shown in Figure 11.2. As mentioned above, the Western Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan

is focused on protecting sensitive species across the region. Wildlife plant and animal species that are native to California are also protected by the CDFW. Table 11.2 identifies protected wildlife species that are known to exist within Palmdale.

**Table 11.2**

## Protected Species within Palmdale

Species	Background
Bell's Sage Sparrow	Mixed chaparral habitat suitable for breeding and foraging exists in the City and it has been observed in this habitat just east of Ritter Canyon.
Burrowing Owl	Suitable sparse, dry habitat for breeding and foraging exists in the City and it has been observed in this habitat in various locations.
California Red-Legged Frog	A pond fed by artesian springs in the Ritter Ranch area provides suitable habitat for foraging and breeding adults have been observed.
Coast Horned Lizard	Suitable habitat for breeding and foraging exists and it has been observed in the scrub and grassland habitats of the western portion of the City.
Cooper's Hawk	Likely nesting habitat of riparian forest exists in Amargosa Creek in the western portion of the City.
Ferruginous Hawk	Suitable habitat for foraging of desert scrub and juniper habitats exists and it has been observed in this habitat at the northwest end of Anaverde Valley in the western portion of the City.
Le Conte's Thrasher	A desert resident which commonly nests in a dense spiny shrub or densely branched cactus in desert wash habitat. It has been observed in multiple locations throughout the City.
Least Bell's Vireo	An endangered species which has been observed on the eastern edge of Una Lake in a habitat consisting of willow and mulefat scrub.
Loggerhead Shrike	Palmdale includes suitable habitat for foraging and nesting, including western Joshua trees, desert scrubs and washes. It has been observed perched on western Joshua trees northwest of U.S. Air Force Plant 42 and on powerlines southeast of Anaverde Valley.
Mohave Ground Squirrel	Restricted to the Mojave Desert, the open desert scrub and western Joshua tree woodland in the city provides suitable habitat for foraging and nesting.
Mountain Plover	Multiple observations have been reported in mowed agricultural fields, north of the Palmdale Airport. The short vegetation provides suitable habitat for foraging and nesting.
Northern California Legless Lizard	A disjunct Mojave Desert population exists in the city where the sandy soils provide suitable habitat for breeding and foraging.
San Joaquin Pocket Mouse	The fine-textured, sandy soils of the arid scrubland that exists within the City provide suitable breeding and foraging habitat.
Southern California Rufous-Crowned Sparrow	A resident of Southern California sparse mixed chaparral, which frequents relatively steep and rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches. It has been observed just southwest of Anaverde Valley and just South of Leona Valley.
Tricolored Blackbird	A candidate endangered species, it breeds and nests in colonies near open water with availability of protected nesting. Colonies have been observed at Lake Palmdale and Leona Valley Pond, which provide suitable habitat for breeding and foraging.
Two-Striped Gartersnake	Suitable habitat for foraging and breeding of dense riparian with permanent fresh water exists within the city. It has been observed along Amargosa Creek in the western portion of the City.
Wester Pond Turtle	Riparian habitat and open water within the city provide suitable habitat for foraging and breeding. There have been multiple observations in and along Amargosa Creek in the western portion of the City.
Short-joint Beavertail	A perennial stem succulent which blooms, April through June, is characteristic of the Juniper woodland, western Joshua tree woodland and Mojavean Desert Scrub natural communities within the city.
Slender Mariposa-Lily	A perennial bulbiferous herb found in chaparral, valley, and foothill grasslands, often on shaded canyons or grassy slopes. It has been found at the southeast end of Portal Ridge, near Leona Valley.

Source: California Natural Diversity Database, 2019

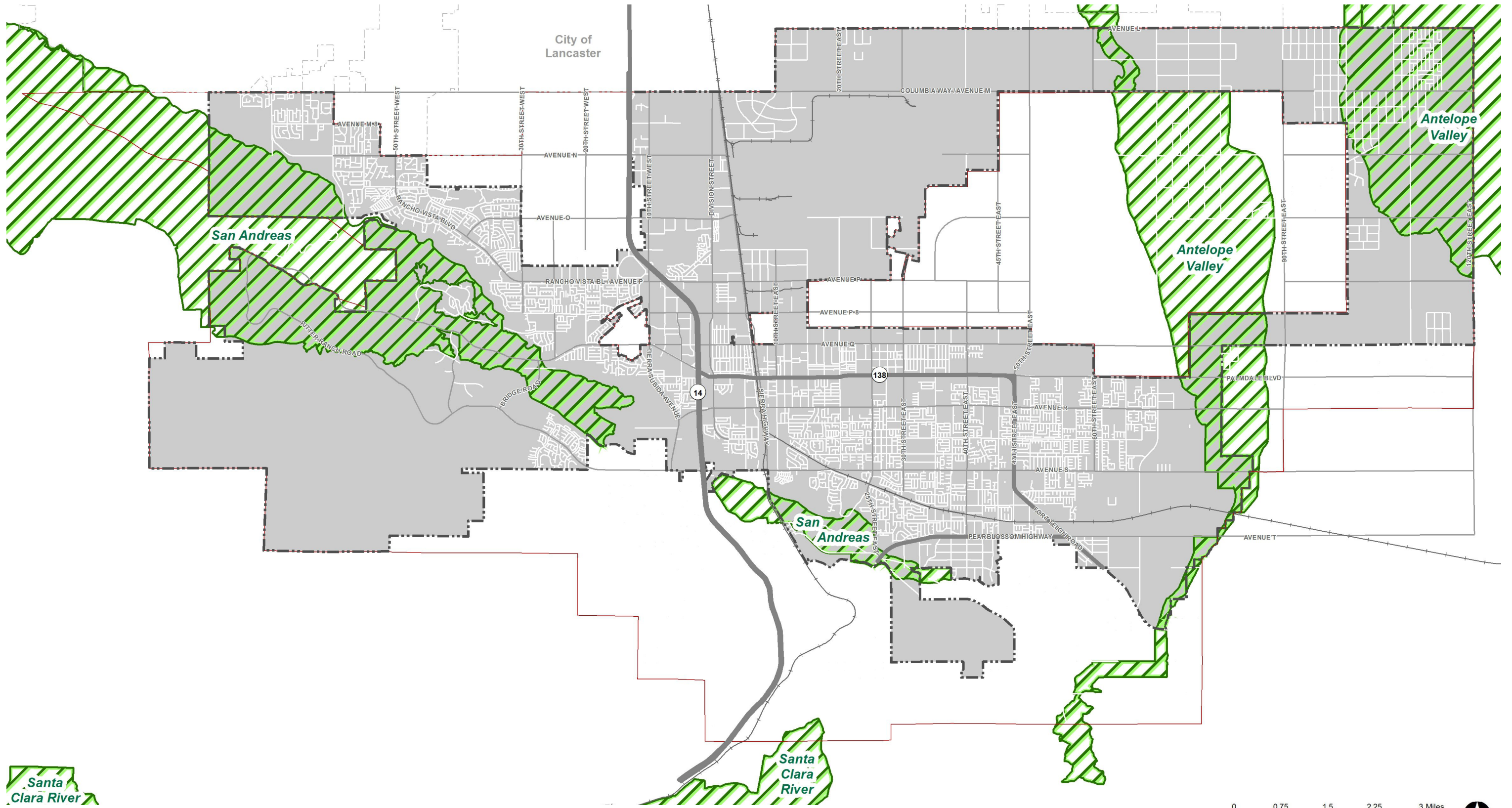


### Significant Ecological Areas




The County of Los Angeles designates areas in which irreplaceable biological resources exist as Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs). There are a number of SEAs within the City of Palmdale. These areas contain some of the County’s most important biological resources for




sustaining key species populations. Figure 11.3 depicts the SEAs within Palmdale and the surrounding area. These designated areas include Big Rock Wash, Little Rock Wash, Ritter Ridge, Portal Ridge, and Alpine Butte. Development in these areas must take steps to identify and protect significant species.

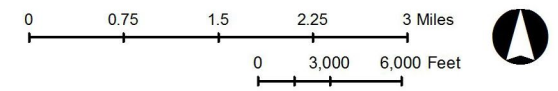




**Figure 11.3**  
Significant Ecological Area

-  Significant Ecological Areas
-  City of Palmdale Boundary
-  Sphere of Influence

-  Other City Boundary
-  Major Highway/Arterial
-  Railroad



Data Sources: City of Palmdale GIS data.; Los Angeles County, 2018.

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# Land Resources

## Agriculture Lands

Agricultural lands are a rapidly disappearing natural resource. The state and federal government have made the preservation of agricultural resources a community priority. Within the Palmdale Planning Area, there are no significant agricultural lands. Surrounding Palmdale, agricultural lands exist to the east of the Plant 42, on lands which are almost entirely under Los Angeles County jurisdiction. Crops produced on this land are primarily non-food crops such as alfalfa, but also consist of pistachio, sod, onion, carrots, and tomatoes. This area is not classified by the California Department of Conservation as prime agricultural land and is not considered regionally significant.

## Mineral Resources

Palmdale lies within the Palmdale Production Consumption region, which is a California Department of Conservation designated Mineral Resource Zone encompassing 1,103 square miles, including Palmdale and Lancaster. The mineral deposits within Palmdale are the Little Rock Fan and the Big Rock Creek Fan alluvial deposits. The Little Rock Fan is a 12 square mile area extending from the north flank of the San Gabriel Mountains for about 8 miles, which includes the Little Rock Wash floodplain and the fan area to the west. The Big Rock Creek Fan encompasses a 26 square mile area extending northward from the San Gabriel Mountains for 8 miles. Both mineral deposits are composed of about 60% fine to coarse sand and silt, overlain by about 40% pebbly gravel.

Sand and Gravel Mining widely occurs throughout Little Rock Wash (floodplain within the Little Rock Fan).

### Active quarries exist in the following locations:

- Along 75th Street East, between East Avenue S and Palmdale Boulevard
- The area bordered by East Avenue T to the south, East Avenue S to the north, 70th Street East to the west, and 87th Street East to the east
- The region North of State Route -138, bordered by Little Rock Wash to the east, 62nd Street East to the west, and East Avenue T to the north

## Soil and Erosion

Most of Palmdale's soils consist of unconsolidated sedimentary deposits, sourced from granitic rocks in the San Gabriel Mountains. The floor of the Antelope Valley was at one point occupied by a large intermittent lake, which was the site for accumulation of fine-grained materials. During this time, precipitation events would result in the erosion of materials from the San Gabriel and Tehachapi Mountains, which formed the clay beds that currently underlie the Antelope Valley. The current upper soil levels of Palmdale are derived from the downslope erosion of soil and rock caused by wind and rain. These soils can be characterized as alkali with a low water holding capacity.



View of San Gabriel Mountains



LITTLE ROCK DAM SHORTLY AFTER COMPLETION- PHOTO TAKEN IN 1925 FROM BILL WITTER COLLECTION.

Historical Photo of Little Dam

Little Rock Dam. Photo taken shortly after its completion in 1925.

## Cultural Resources

Historically, humans have inhabited the Western Mojave region for an estimated 5,000 years. Cultural groups known to have occupied the Antelope Valley before European contact include the Kitanemuk, Kawaiisu, Tatavium, and Serrano/Vanyume. As urbanization in Palmdale has increased, more cultural resources have been identified as site surveys have been conducted. Existing state laws ensure that cultural resources are preserved and mitigated through acceptable means.

Palmdale’s modern history is recognized through several historical buildings and sites. There were two early settlements that existed within the geographic area, known as Harold and Palmenthal. These settlements were established in 1886 and existed at the crossing of the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and Fort Tejon Road. The origins of these settlements can be traced to the families of German and Swiss descendants that moved westward, from the Midwest, towards California. Palmdale’s earliest modern residents settled in its current location in 1899.

Palmdale has engaged in promoting awareness of existing cultural and historical resources, increasing awareness of Antelope Valley’s history, and creating community identity. The City’s history is recognized through several historic buildings and sites. Some of these buildings and sites include Moore’s Hall, the Bank of Italy, Old Leona School house, and Old Palmdale Cemetery.

The City will continue to identify and protect cultural resources through application of federal, state, and local requirements. Coordination with local Native American tribes as required by recent changes in state law will be a critical component of the review of new development with the potential to affect Native American resources. The continued effort to preserve historic resources in the City and cultivate Palmdale’s unique culture will help preserve culturally and historically significant areas.

*Historical Photo of Train  
Passing Through Palmdale*



# Water Resources

## Streams

Palmdale has three seasonal streams, Anaverde Creek, Amargosa Creek, and Little Rock Wash, and many smaller streams, as shown in Figure 11.4. Although Palmdale is considered dry, desert land; these streams will flow during rain and snow melt events in the surrounding mountains, and during the occasional local rainstorm. Amargosa Creek flows eastward, from the San Gabriel Mountains, through Leona Valley, then turning northward near the center of Palmdale terminating at Piute Pond and Rosamond Dry Lake to the north of Lancaster. Anaverde Creek flows from the San Gabriel Mountains, through the Anaverde Community, connecting with the Amargosa Creek near the center of Palmdale. Little Rock Wash begins at Little Rock Reservoir to the south of Palmdale and flows northward through Palmdale and Lancaster, terminating at the dry bed of Rosamond Lake (USGS 1984). The Amargosa and Anaverde Creeks provide riparian habitats for migrating birds and raptors.

## Water Quality

The Palmdale Water District's surface water is stored at Little Rock Creek Dam Reservoir and Lake Palmdale. Little Rock Dam Reservoir has a capacity of approximately 3,000-acre feet and is filled by natural runoff from the local San Gabriel Mountains. Water from Little Rock Reservoir is transferred to Palmdale Lake through an open channel connecting the two reservoirs. This local surface water supply has historically been of very high quality. The Palmdale Water District does not currently experience or foresee future issues with local surface water.



# Desired Outcomes, Indicators, and Targets

The following desired outcomes and metrics were identified to help the City of Palmdale track progress toward conserving natural and cultural resources. This process follows the City of Palmdale’s General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles document which was informed by the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC), the Planning Commission and City Council.

## Top Key Outcomes

**OUTCOME:** Preservation of scenic and natural features

**KPI:**

- Preservation of scenic and natural features

**TARGET:**

- **Acquisition of lands for open space preservation**

**OUTCOME:** Minimize changes to surface runoff patterns and maintain water quality

**KPI:**

- Preservation of water runoff patterns and water quality

**TARGET:**

- **New and existing development meet applicable NPDES standards**

**OUTCOME:** Identify and protect historically significant resources

**KPI:**

- Maintain an up-to-date cultural sensitivity map

**TARGET:**

- **Update the cultural sensitivity map as necessary to track cultural assets in Palmdale**

**KPI:**

- Protection of sensitive ecological areas

**TARGET:**

- **Buffers between new development and sensitive ecological areas**

**OUTCOME:** Awareness and preservation of historical, cultural, and paleontological resources

**KPI:**

- Protection for historical, cultural, paleontological, and archaeological resources

**TARGET:**

- **Develop and adopt a cultural and/or historical resources protection ordinance**

**OUTCOME:** Cultural programs that embrace cultural identities in the City

**KPI:**

- Promotion of cultural resources to the public

**TARGET:**

- **Landmark designation plaques, directional signage, self-guided tours, school curriculum, programs, and events**

**OUTCOME:** Phased transition of mining operations

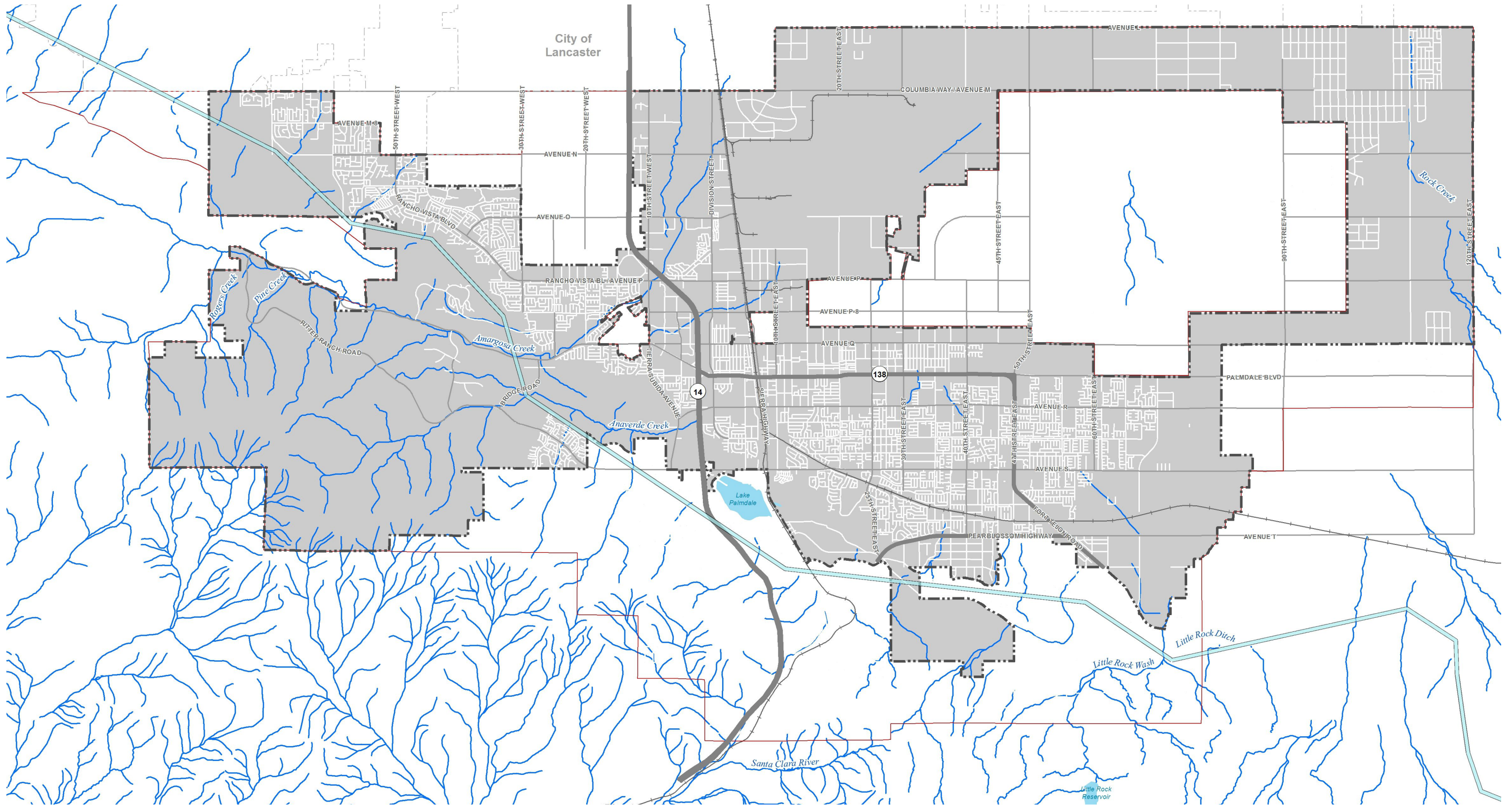
**KPI:**

- Reclamation funding for mining operations

**TARGET:**

- **Development of a reclamation fund for mining operators to contribute to annually to be used after operations cease**

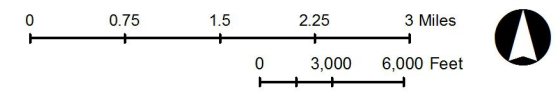
KPI = Key Performance Indicator



**Figure 11.4**

Palmdale Streams and Water Bodies

- Water Body
- California Aqueduct
- Stream
- City of Palmdale Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Other City Boundary
- Major Highway/Arterial
- Railroad



Data Sources: City of Palmdale GIS data.; USGS, 2018.

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# Goals and Policies

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The following section includes goals and policies for the Conservation Element. Goals and policies are followed by implementation actions. Some related policies are woven throughout the General Plan, including in the Land Use and Community Design, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, and Sustainability, Climate Action, and Resilience Elements.

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## SENSITIVE HABITAT AND RESOURCES

### Goal CON-1

Protect Significant Ecological Areas in and around the City, including, but not limited to, sensitive flora and fauna habitat areas.

**CON-1.1 Endangered species protection.** Ensure local compliance with the California Endangered Species Act and the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

**CON-1.2 Joshua and Juniper trees.** Continue enforcing the City's Native Vegetation Ordinance to protect western Joshua trees and Juniper trees.

**CON-1.3 West Mojave Plan.** Comply with the required implementation of the West Mojave Plan for protection of desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel.

**CON-1.4 Significant ecological areas.** Identify and preserve to the greatest extent feasible significant ecological areas (SEA's) as shown in Figure 11.3. Areas to consider for open space preservation include, but are not limited to, Tejon Park, Barrel Springs Southern Trailhead, and the Una Lake area.

**CON-1.5 Preserve ecological resource areas.** Preserve natural drainage courses and riparian areas where ecological resources exist in significant concentrations.

**CON-1.6 Increase conservation areas.** Coordinate with state agencies to help achieve the goals of 30x30: to protect 30 percent of California's land by 2030 by identifying optimal sites for land conservation.

**CON-1.7 Wetland and floodplain areas.** Solicit and utilize all available sources of local, regional, state, and federal funds to acquire significant wetland areas and floodplains to minimize disturbance and prevent damage from erosion, turbidity, siltation, loss of wildlife and vegetation, or the destruction of the natural habitat.

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### Goal CON-2

Preserve designated natural hillsides and ridgelines in the Planning Area, to maintain the aesthetic character of the Antelope Valley.

**CON-2.1 Hillside land management.** Establish a systematic approach to the management of land uses and development in hillside areas.

**CON-2.2 Natural ridgelines.** Retain the integrity of the natural ridgelines of Ritter Ridge, Portal Ridge, Verde Ridge, the Ana Verde Hills, the Sierra Pelona Mountains, and the lower foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.

**CON-2.3 Density transfers.** Encourage density transfers where appropriate so that the density of development respects and is reflective of the natural terrain.

**CON-2.4 Development in suitable locations.** Facilitate development in more suitable locations while retaining significant natural slopes and areas of environmental sensitivity as natural open space.

## MINERAL RESOURCES

### Goal CON-3

Plan for safe operations of mineral resource extraction areas and reduce unreasonable impacts.

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### Goal CON-4

Plan for mineral resource extraction site remediation and end users.

## WATER RESOURCES

### Goal CON-5

Protect the quality and quantity of local water resources.

**CON-3.1 Reduce mineral resource extraction impacts.** Reduce impacts to human and environmental health caused by mineral resource extraction including:

- Ground water contamination
- Removal or demise of sensitive Ecological Areas of flora and fauna
- Excessive noise or dust

**CON-3.2 Land use buffers.** Maintain buffers between mineral resource extraction areas and other sensitive land uses (i.e., residential, public, institutional, open space and parks, among others) to reduce unnecessary impacts while in operation.

**CON-4.1 Mining reclamation plan.** Require mining operators to establish a reclamation plan that indicates end users when mining operations cease and how the transition to new uses shall be implemented.

**CON-4.3 Plan remediation and restoration of sites.** Plan for remediation and restoration of extraction sites after operations cease, including adequate areas for groundwater recharge.

**CON-4.2 Reclamation fund.** Establish a use-based mechanism for mining operators to begin contributing to a reclamation fund annually to be used after operations cease.

**CON-5.1 Ground water recharge.** Ensure that ground water supplies are recharged and protect natural recharge areas such as the Little Rock and Big Rock Washes, and Amargosa and Anaverde Creeks from pollutants or other materials, which might degrade groundwater supplies.

**CON-5.3 Regional monitoring cooperation.** Cooperate with Los Angeles County Health Department and the Regional Water Quality Control Board in monitoring industrial and commercial uses utilizing hazardous or potentially polluting materials and fluids, to prevent their discharge into the groundwater aquifer.

**CON-5.2 Groundwater protection.** Ensure that no mineral resource recovery activities extend below the groundwater table.

**CON-5.4 Flood control measures.** Maximize groundwater recharge capabilities with flood control measures.

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## Goal CON-6

Minimize the impacts of urban development on groundwater supplies.

**CON-6.1 Encourage natural recharge.** Restrict building coverage and total impervious area in the vicinity of natural recharge areas.

**CON-6.2 Reduce landscaping irrigation needs.** Require the use of water conserving native or drought resistant plants and drip irrigation systems where feasible.

**CON-6.3 Reduce street runoff.** Design streets to incorporate vegetation, soil, and engineered systems to slow, filter, and cleanse stormwater runoff.

**CON-6.4 New construction water conservation.** Require water conserving appliances and plumbing fixtures in all new construction.

**CON-6.5 Monitoring and coordination.** Coordinate with local water agencies to monitor ground water levels, State water allocations and development approvals, to assure that development does not outpace long-term water availability.

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## Goal CON-7

Maintain and further the City's commitment to long-term water management within the Antelope Valley by planning for the conservation and managed use of water resources, including groundwater, imported water, and reclaimed water.

**CON-7.1 Reclaimed water irrigation.** Assess and implement, when and where feasible, reclaimed water for landscape irrigation.

**CON-7.2 Water run-off capture.** Work with local water purveyors to assess the potential for capturing local run-off and utilization of imported water (water banking) for groundwater recharge within the Planning Area.

**CON-7.3 Retain recharge areas.** Through the land use planning process, ensure that important recharge areas are retained.

**CON-7.4 Water management.** Continue to seek out long-range water management techniques as new technology is developed.

**CON-7.5 Implementation.** Promote implementation of water reduction and recycling systems that are feasible and appropriate to the Planning Area.

**CON-7.6 Water recycling.** Encourage residents and businesses to recycle water where feasible, and where water recycling does not result in health and safety concerns.

**CON-7.7 Water sources.** Participate in regional efforts to retain imported water allocations and seek out other sources as they become available.

## HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Goal CON-8

Protect historical and culturally significant resources, which contribute to the community's sense of history.

**CON-8.1 Historic landmark identification.** Identify and recognize historic landmarks from Palmdale's past.

**CON-8.2 Cultural and historic buildings.** Identify and preserve unique cultural and historic buildings and features in order to enhance community character.

**CON-8.3 Identified landmarks.** Maintain, rehabilitate, and appropriately reuse identified landmarks where feasible.

**CON-8.4 Preservation in new development.** Require that new development preserve significant historic, paleontological, or archaeological resources.

**CON-8.5 Tribal consultation.** Conduct Native American consultation consistent with the applicable regulations when new development is proposed in potentially culturally sensitive areas.

**CON-8.6 Discovery coordination with Tribal groups.** When human remains suspected to be of Native American origin are discovered, coordinate with the Native American Heritage Commission and any local Native American groups to determine the most appropriate course of action.

**CON-8.7 Cooperation with preservation entities.** Cooperate with private and public entities whose goals are to protect and preserve historic landmarks and important cultural resources.

**CON-8.8 Recognition of local historic resources.** Promote respect and recognition of unique historical resources within the community by identifying significant cultural resources with landmark designation plaques, directional signage, self-guided tours, school curriculum, programs, and events.

**CON-8.9 Maintain cultural assets.** Discourage historic landmark properties from being altered in such a manner as to significantly reduce their cultural value to the community.

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### Goal CON-9

Promote community design that reflects Palmdale's history and preserves Palmdale's cultural resources.

**CON-9.1 Design elements.** Promote use of design elements, which reflect the various periods of history and settlement in Palmdale.

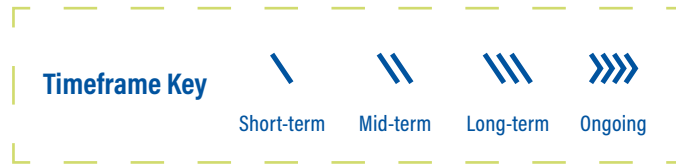
**CON-9.2 Locally relevant community design.** Community design should reflect the community's roots, rather than simulating historic periods or events, which did not occur in the Antelope Valley.

**CON-9.3 Locally appropriate landscape design.** Preserve the natural heritage of the region through landscape design by ensuring the local stock of native trees and vegetation is replenished and protected.

# Implementation Actions

The table below identifies programs, planning efforts, coordination efforts, and other actions that will help implement the General Plan’s Conservation Element goals and policies. Programs are consistent with this chapter’s goals and policies.

The table provides a description of each Implementation Action and lists the correlating policies. Each action also identifies a timeframe for implementation with Short-term representing a 1–3-year timeframe, Medium-term is 4-7 years, Long-term is 8+ years and Ongoing represents an action that the City should continue. Additionally, the table includes the City department that should function as the lead for implementing the actions.



Correlating Goal	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Department
CON-7	<b>Recycled Water.</b> Investigate the potential for recycled water use and, as appropriate, develop and implement a water recycling plan.	Mid-term	Public Works
CON-8	<b>Historic Preservation Ordinance.</b> Develop an Historic Preservation Ordinance to protect local historic resources from the impacts of development.	Mid-term	Economic and Community Development
CON-8	<b>Municipal Code Review.</b> Review the existing survey protocol and report/ mapping requirements for the protection of paleontological and archeological resources within the Municipal Code to ensure that the most recent legislation and best practices are utilized.	Short-term	Economic and Community Development
CON-8	<b>Historic Resource Assessment.</b> Perform an updated assessment of historic resources of local importance and publish a list of these resources on the City webpage.	Short-term	Economic and Community Development
CON-8	<b>Cultural Sensitivity Map.</b> Develop and maintain a cultural sensitivity map. Require special studies/surveys to be prepared for any development proposals in areas reasonably suspected of containing cultural resources, or as indicated on the sensitivity map.	Mid-term	Economic and Community Development