

hazards.

\* The California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) contains information from surveys of archaeological and cultural resources as well as the built environments. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) coordinates a statewide network of Information Centers that manage and make available survey information for environmental review, planning, and research needs.

#### Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Cultural resources consist of places (historic and prehistoric archaeological sites), structures or objects that provide evidence of past human activity. They are important for scientific, historic, and/or religious reasons to cultures, communities, groups or individuals. The cultural history of Riverside County is divided chronologically into three periods: prehistory, ethnohistory and history. Native American cultures predominate in the prehistorical and ethnohistorical periods of County history. The Relative Archaeological Sensitivity of Diverse Landscapes in the County has been mapped and is shown in Figure OS-6. Three classifications have been used: high, undetermined, and low. Properties with high potential include those listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The historical period includes settlement from 1774, with the expedition of Juan Bautista de Anza into the region, to 45 years before the present as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). An inventory of Historical Resources in the County has been completed and mapped, as shown in Figure OS-7.

Riverside County has also been inventoried for geologic formations known to potentially contain paleontological resources. Paleontological resources are the fossilized biotic remains of ancient environments. They are valued for the information they yield about the history of the earth and its past ecological settings. Lands with low, undetermined or high potential for finding paleontological resources are mapped on Figure OS-8, the Paleontological Sensitivity Resources map. This map is used in the environmental assessment of development proposals and the determination of required impact mitigation. Riverside County





"A major thrust of the multipurpose open space system is the preservation of components of the ecosystem and landscape that embody the historic character and habitat of the County, even though some areas have been

has an extensive record of fossil life starting in Jurassic time, 150 million years ago.

impacted by man-made changes."

- RCIP Vision Statement



-  Archaeological Sensitivity
-  Major Roads & Highways
-  Area Plan Boundaries
-  Cities

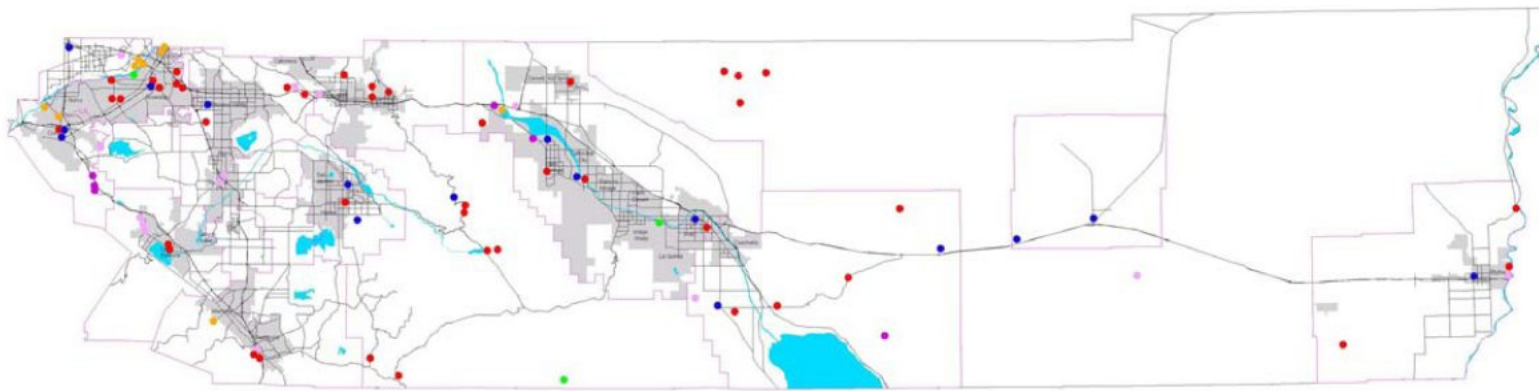


*Source Information: ESA Associates*  
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**RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY OF DIVERSE LANDSCAPES**

Figure OS-6





- Mission Period (1769 - 1833)
- Exploration (1772 - 1818)
- Mexican/Rancho (1833 - 1848)
- Early Californian (1848 - 1869)
- 1869 - 1919
- 1920 - 1945
- Major Roads & Highways
- Area Plan Boundaries
- Cities

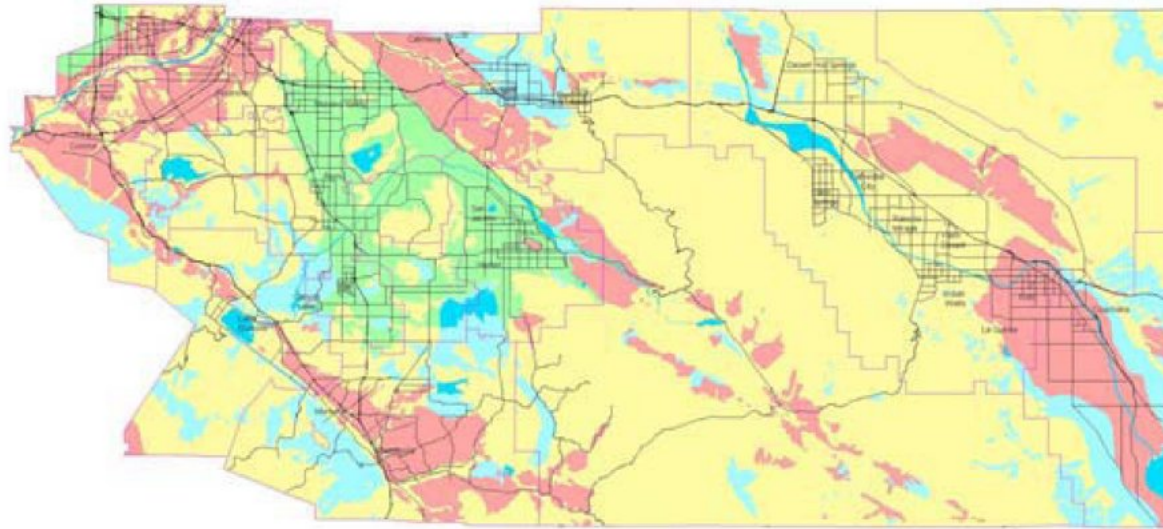


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Figure OS-7



HISTORICAL RESOURCES



Policies follow that are intended to ensure the preservation of cultural, historical, archaeological, paleontological, geological, and educational resources in the County.

**Policies:**

OS 19.1 Make available programs that educate students about the rich natural and manmade environment of the County, and offer them to local schools. (AI 3, 75, 76)

*The following policies address cultural resources:*

OS 19.2 Review all proposed development for the possibility of archaeological sensitivity.

OS 19.3 Employ procedures to protect the confidentiality and prevent inappropriate public exposure of sensitive archaeological resources when soliciting the assistance of public and volunteer organizations.

OS 19.4 Require a Native American Statement as part of the environmental review process on development projects with identified cultural resources.

*The following policies pertain to historical resources:*

OS 19.5 Transmit significant development proposals to the History Division of the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District for evaluation in relation to the destruction/preservation of potential historical sites. Prior to approval of any development proposal, feasible mitigation shall be incorporated into the design of the project and its conditions of approval.

OS 19.6 Enforce the Historic Building Code so that historical buildings can be preserved and used without posing a hazard to public safety.

OS 19.7 When possible, allocate resources and/or tax credits to prioritize retrofit of County historic structures, which are irreplaceable.

\* Three million years ago, the white sand beach at the edge of the Pacific Ocean was located near the present Interstate 15/State Route 91 interchange. The Ice Ages left fossils of giant sloths, elephants, camels, and bison that were preyed upon by giant bear, American lion and sabercats. Their remains lie waiting a few feet below the surface to be

*The following policies provide direction for paleontological resources:*

OS 19.8 Whenever existing information indicates that a site proposed for development may contain biological, paleontological, or other scientific resources, a report shall be filed stating the extent and potential significance of the resources that may exist within the proposed development and appropriate measures through which the impacts of development may be mitigated.

OS 19.9 This policy requires that when existing information indicates that a site proposed for development may contain paleontological resources, a paleontologist shall monitor site grading activities, with the authority to halt grading to collect uncovered paleontological resources, curate any resources collected with an appropriate repository, and file a report with the Planning Department documenting any paleontological resources that are found during the course of site grading.

OS 19.10 Transmit significant development applications subject to CEQA to the San Bernardino County Museum for review, comment, and/or preparation of recommended conditions of approval with regard to paleontological resources.

Open Space, Parks and Recreation

unearthed  
by  
construction  
excavation.

"We value  
the  
unusually  
rich and  
diverse  
natural  
environment  
with which  
we are  
blessed and  
are  
committed  
to  
maintaining  
sufficient  
areas of  
natural  
open space  
to afford  
the human  
experience  
of natural  
environments  
as well as  
sustaining  
the  
permanent  
viability of  
the unique  
landforms  
and  
ecosystems  
that define  
this  
environment."

- RCIP  
Vision  
Statement

Riverside County incorporates a wide range of open space, parks and recreational areas, including Joshua Tree National Park, and major state parks such as Anza-Borrego, the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, and Chino Hills State Park. A variety of County parks also serve residents and visitors in the western portion of the County, as well as in the desert, mountain and Colorado River regions. Riverside County maintains 35 Regional Parks, encompassing roughly 23,317 acres. Other local parks fall under the jurisdiction of County Recreation and Park Districts and serve the following areas: the Beaumont-Cherry Valley area; the Coachella Valley; the Jurupa area; the Valleywide area incorporating the San Jacinto Valley, the Winchester area, the Menifee Valley, and the Anza Valley. Parks and Recreation Areas in Riverside County have been mapped earlier in this element on Figure OS-3.

Open space and recreation areas offer residents and visitors myriad recreational opportunities while providing a valuable buffer between urbanized areas. The protection and preservation of open space areas from urbanization is an increasingly important issue for the County.

The following policies relate to the preservation, use and development of a comprehensive open space system consisting of passive open space areas, and parks and recreation areas that have recreational, ecological and scenic value.

**Policies:**

*The following  
policies pertain  
to open space:*

OS 20.1 Preserve and maintain open space that protects County environmental resources and maximizes public health and safety in areas where significant environmental hazards and resources exist.

OS 20.2 Prevent unnecessary extension of public facilities, services, and utilities, for urban uses, into Open Space-Conservation designated areas. (AI 74)

*The following  
policies pertain  
to parks and recreation:*

OS 20.3 Discourage the absorption of dedicated park lands by non-recreational uses, public or private. Where absorption is unavoidable, replace park lands that are absorbed

by other uses with similar or improved facilities and programs. (AI 74)

OS 20.4 Provide for the needs of all people in the system of County recreation sites and facilities, regardless of their socioeconomic status, ethnicity, physical capabilities or age.

OS 20.5 Require that development of recreation facilities occurs concurrent with other development in an area. (AI 3)

OS 20.6 Require new development to provide implementation strategies for the funding of both active and passive parks and recreational sites. (AI 3)

Scenic Resources

Scenic resources are an important quality of life component for residents of the County. In general, scenic resources include areas that are visible to the general public and considered visually attractive. In addition to scenic corridors, described below, scenic resources include natural landmarks and prominent or unusual features of the landscape. For example, the Santa Rosa National Monument includes mountains or other natural features with high scenic value. Scenic backdrops include hillsides and ridges that rise above urban or rural areas or highways. Scenic vistas are points, accessible to the general public, that provide a view of the countryside. Following are policies to protect these resources and ensure that future development

enhances them.

**Policies:**

OS 21.1 Identify and conserve the skylines, view corridors, and outstanding scenic vistas within Riverside County. (AI 79)

Scenic Corridors

Many roadway corridors in Riverside County traverse its scenic resources. Enhancing aesthetic experiences for residents and visitors to the County promotes tourism, which is important to the County's overall economic future. Enhancement and preservation of the County's scenic resources will require careful application of scenic highway standards along Official Scenic Routes.

Policies that seek to protect and maintain resources in corridors along scenic highways are incorporated into this section. State and county eligible and designated scenic highways are included and mapped in the Circulation Element of the General Plan, as well as in the Circulation section of those area plans where scenic corridors are located.

*Also refer to the Scenic Corridor Sections of the Circulation and Land Use Elements.*

**Policies:**

OS 22.1 Design developments within designated scenic highway corridors to balance the objectives of maintaining scenic resources with accommodating compatible land uses. (AI 3)

OS 22.2 Study potential scenic highway corridors for possible inclusion in the Caltrans Scenic Highways Plan.

OS 22.3 Encourage joint efforts among federal, state, and County agencies, and citizen groups to ensure compatible development within scenic corridors.

OS 22.4 Impose conditions on development within scenic highway corridors requiring dedication of scenic easements consistent with the Scenic Highways Plan, when it is necessary to preserve unique or special visual features. (AI 3)

OS 22.5 Utilize contour grading and slope rounding to gradually transition graded road slopes into a natural configuration consistent with the topography of the areas within scenic highway corridors. (AI 3)