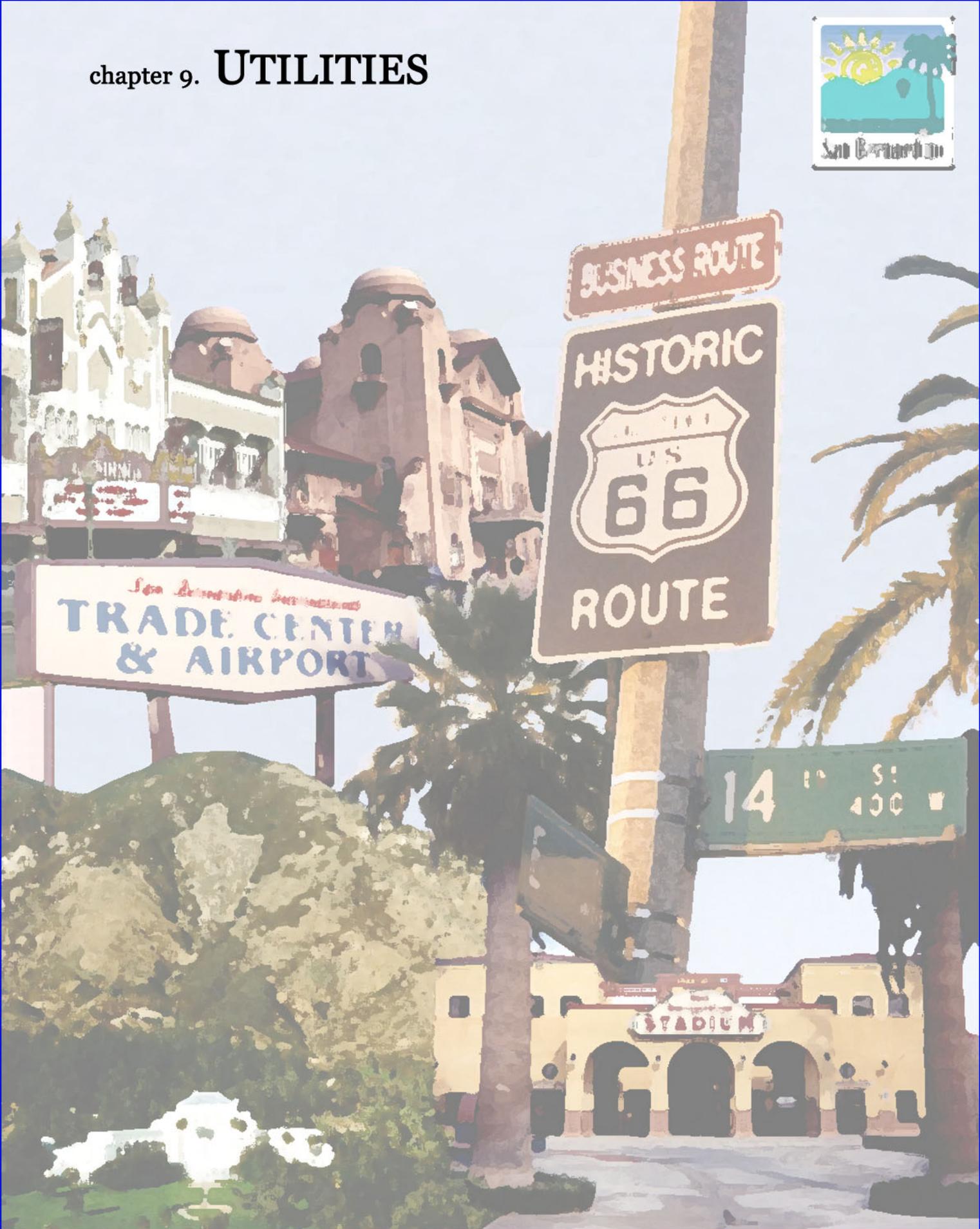


chapter 9. UTILITIES



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# Chapter 9. Utilities

## INTRODUCTION

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Utilities serve as a functional base and provide access to resources our community needs to thrive and remain a desirable place to live and conduct business. The efficiency with which these services operate and are provided ultimately can affect the quality of life for our residents or the ability of businesses to thrive in our City. These essential utilities also play a significant role in the protection and preservation of the safety and welfare of the City from hazards such as flooding and fires. As the City's population grows and urban activity increases, additional investments in capital improvements will be necessary to maintain a thriving community and attract new investments or development. The Utilities Element incorporates strategies to ensure the City maintains the ability to provide and expand these basic services to its existing and future residents and businesses.

### Purpose

The Goals and Policies in this element are intended to maintain and/or improve the level of utility services provided to existing and future residents. The goals and policies governing utilities in San Bernardino are also intended to ensure that utility services in the City keep pace with new development. This element addresses the following topics:

- ◆ Wastewater Collection and Treatment,
- ◆ Water Transmission, Distribution, Storage, and Treatment,
- ◆ Storm Drains and Flood Control,
- ◆ Solid Waste Collection and Disposal,
- ◆ Electricity,
- ◆ Natural Gas,



- ◆ Telecommunications, and
- ◆ Geothermal Resources.

## **Relationship to Other Elements**

The Utilities Element is not a state mandated element, but it is closely linked to several other elements including Land Use, Public Facilities and Services, Economic Development, Housing, and Safety. Any new land uses or developments will need to be served with adequate utilities, and the ability to provide utilities will allow businesses to thrive, which directly affects the economic vitality of the City. Geologic and seismic constraints identified within the City can also affect the way in which the City can provide services such as wastewater collection and treatment, water transmission, distribution and storage, and the construction and placement of storm drains and flood control facilities within the community.

## **ACHIEVING THE VISION**

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The Utilities Element helps to carry out the third component of the City's Vision "Creating Opportunities for the Future." As San Bernardino continues to develop, the City will need to enhance and expand utilities to meet the needs of residents and businesses. With strong infrastructure systems in place to support redevelopment and new development, San Bernardino can position itself to be a premiere place to live and work.

The Utilities Element is responsive to our vision because it represents our desire to:

- ◆ Meet the utility needs of our citizens and businesses;
- ◆ Identify and address service needs/gaps so we can proactively attract desirable development;
- ◆ Ensure the safety of our businesses and residents through the construction and maintenance of necessary infrastructure and facilities; and
- ◆ Ensure new development pays for their fair share of new utilities.

## GOALS AND POLICIES

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The following goals and policies address the provision of utilities in the City of San Bernardino planning area.

### Wastewater Collection and Treatment

The sewer system plays a crucial role in ensuring that the community remains clean, healthy, and enjoyable. Although most of the sewer system is adequate for existing and future development, a number of areas will require additional facilities to keep pace with future needs. The City's sewer system must be able to accommodate the quantity of wastes generated by residents and businesses if San Bernardino is to continue to grow and prosper.

Presently the City permits the limited use of septic tanks for developments within its boundaries; typically in older portions of the City or on large lot residential development such as:

- ◆ Northwest of Little League Drive;
- ◆ Portions of the Verdemon area with parcels larger than one (1) acre;
- ◆ Palm Avenue and Industrial Parkway Area;
- ◆ Cajon Boulevard and June Street Area; and
- ◆ Northwest of the Interstate 215/30 Interchange.

Any new septic systems must comply with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board's minimum lot size requirements (Currently one-half acre).

### Water Reclamation

The San Bernardino Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) has been operated by the City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department since 1973, and ensures that all water is properly treated prior to discharge into the Santa Ana River. In March 1996, the cities of San Bernardino and Colton wastewater treatment plants jointly opened the Rapid Infiltration and Extraction (RIX) facility, where secondary-treated water undergoes the final filtering and disinfecting process to produce wastewater that is superior or equivalent to that produced by conventional filtration systems.



The Water Department's Water Reclamation Plant and Rapid Infiltration and Extraction (RIX) Facilities reclaim millions of gallons of water a day so it is ideal for many commercial and agricultural uses. This water can be used for things like industrial cooling systems, watering crops, and large scale landscaping such as at golf courses. Like the Department's geothermal assets, reclaimed water is a valuable economic resource for the City. The reclaimed water is currently discharged into the Santa Ana River where it contributes to other existing water flows and adds to the habitat for several kinds of fish and birds. The Water Department sees this water as a commodity that can be used to the economic benefit of the Inland Empire and the City of San Bernardino in industry, agriculture, and landscaping.

The water reclamation plant is a 33 MGD Secondary Treatment facility that serves a population of over 185,000 people in a service area that includes the cities of San Bernardino, Loma Linda, East Valley, San Bernardino International Airport, Patton State Hospital, and parts of San Bernardino County.

The City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department owns and operates the San Bernardino Water Reclamation Plant (SBWRP). The SBWTP treats residential and industrial wastewater generated in:

- ◆ The City of San Bernardino;
- ◆ City of Loma Linda; and
- ◆ East Valley Water District.

Service area boundaries are depicted on Figure U-1.

## **Wastewater Collection Facilities**

The City Public Works Department is responsible for the design and construction of wastewater collection facilities in the City. Operation and maintenance of wastewater collection facilities is the responsibility of the Public Services Department.

Wastewater collection facilities within the planning area are owned and operated by four different entities:

- ◆ City of San Bernardino (Public Works and Public Services Departments);
- ◆ East Valley Water District (EVWD);

- ◆ San Bernardino International Airport and Trade Center; and
- ◆ The City of Loma Linda.

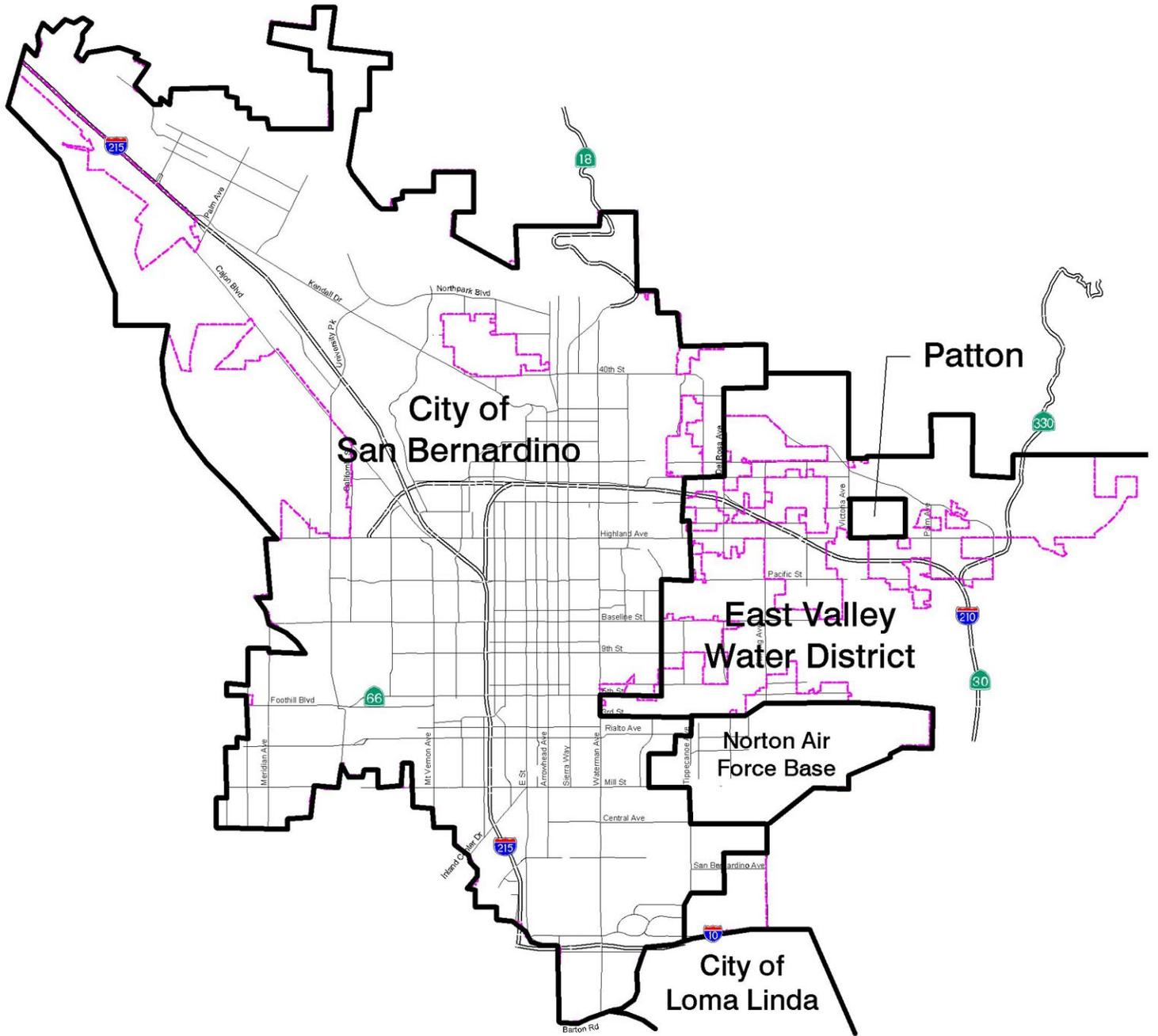
Wastewater collection is provided within the eastern portion of the planning area by the East Valley Water District (Figure U-2), which operates and maintains its own wastewater collection system. Wastewater collected by the East Valley Water District is transported to the City's collection facilities prior to treatment at the San Bernardino Water Reclamation Plant (SBWRP).

The City of Loma Linda operates and maintains a wastewater collection system within the southern portion of the planning area (Figure U-2). Wastewater collected within the service area of the City of Loma Linda is ultimately conveyed to the City of San Bernardino's wastewater collection system prior to treatment at the SBWRP.



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# Sewerage Service Area Boundaries



 City Boundary





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**Goal 9.1** Provide a system of wastewater collection and treatment facilities that will adequately convey and treat wastewater generated by existing and future development in the City's service area.

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**Policies:**

- 9.1.1 Provide for the construction of upgraded and expanded wastewater collection and treatment improvements to support existing and new development, and to meet usage requirements and maximize cost efficiency, especially in areas where existing systems are deficient.
- 9.1.2 Maintain and replace existing wastewater collection and treatment facilities as necessary.
- 9.1.3 Require new development to connect to a master planned sanitary sewer system in accordance with the Department of Public Works' "Sewer Policy and Procedures". Where construction of master planned facilities is not feasible, the Mayor and Common Council may permit the construction of interim facilities sufficient to serve the present and short-term future needs.
- 9.1.4 Evaluate the City's Sewer Collection System Master Plan and the Board of Water Commissioner's Master Plan for Wastewater Treatment Facilities as necessary to accurately determine which collection and treatment facilities will be needed to serve present and future growth in the City.
- 9.1.5 Review development proposals for projects within the City's Sphere of Influence and request the County to disapprove any project that cannot be served with adequate public wastewater collection and treatment facilities. (U-1)
- 9.1.6 Ensure that any proposed septic systems comply with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board's minimum lot size requirements, which are one-half acre as of 2005. (LU-1)



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**Goal 9.2**      **Ensure that all wastewater collection and treatment facilities are operated to maximize public safety.**

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***Policies:***

- 9.2.1            Provide for the monitoring of toxic or potentially toxic businesses to prevent contamination of water and wastewater.
- 9.2.2            Require, when necessary, pre-treatment of wastewater from industrial sources prior to treatment at the Water Reclamation Facility.

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**Water Transmission, Distribution, Storage, and Treatment**

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The San Bernardino Municipal Water Department (SBMWD) provides domestic water for the City and unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County as well as back-up to the City of Loma Linda. Water service is provided for single-family, multiple-family, commercial, light industrial, governmental, and landscaping purposes. Other water agencies in the planning area include East Valley Water District on the east, Redlands Mutual, Loma Linda Municipal, Riverside, and Colton water providers to the south, and West San Bernardino and Rialto to the west. Figure U-2 shows the service boundaries of the water providers in the planning area. Since the City has no jurisdiction over water supply, transmission, distribution, and storage facilities administered by other entities, this discussion addresses facilities owned and maintained by the City.

Groundwater from the Bunker Hill Basin is the primary source of water supply for the SBMWD. It has the capacity to provide 70,000 acre-foot per year of water from groundwater and surface water sources. The basin, similar to a very large underground lake, is replenished naturally by local precipitation and by stream flow from rain and snowmelt from the San Bernardino Mountains.<sup>1</sup> While groundwater is the principal source of supply in the planning area, other sources of water supply include: the State Water Project (SWP), the Santa Ana River, Mill Creek, and Lytle Creek.

The SBMWD distributes more than 16.66 billion gallons of water to over 151,000 residents in the City. The Department produces over 497 gallons per capita per day with the average consumption use reaching 330 gallons

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<sup>1</sup> City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department, Urban Water Management Plan Update for the planning period 2000-2020, January 2002.

per capita per day. The distribution system includes approximately 551 miles of water mains, 41,317 active water meters and over 4,000 fire hydrants. SBMWD facilities also include 60 active wells, 4 treatment plants with capacity of 50 million gallons per day, 32 reservoirs with a total capacity of more than 100 MG of domestic storage water capacity, 27 chlorination facilities, and 66 booster pump stations.

An important aspect of our water program is conservation and recycling and it is discussed in two places within this Plan: recycled water is addressed above while water conservation is detailed in Chapter 13, Energy and Water Conservation.

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**Goal 9.3** Provide water supply, transmission, distribution, storage, and treatment facilities to meet present and future water demands in a timely and cost effective manner.

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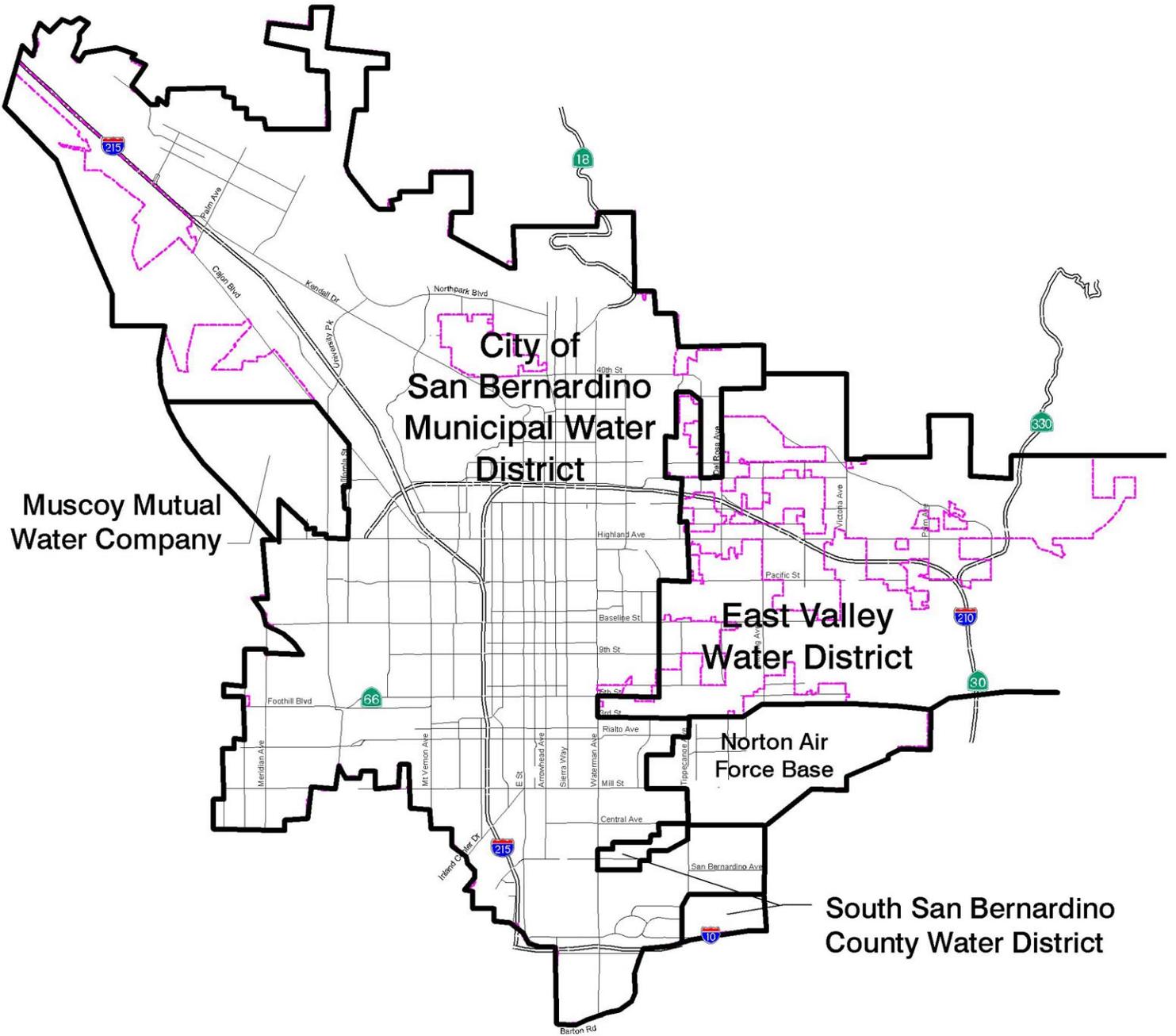
**Policies:**

- 9.3.1 Provide for the construction of upgraded and expanded water supply, transmission, distribution, storage, and treatment facilities to support existing and new development. (LU-1 and U-4)
- 9.3.2 Maintain and replace existing water supply, transmission, distribution, storage systems, and treatment facilities as necessary. (U-4)
- 9.3.3 Require adequate water supply, transmission, distribution, storage, and treatment facilities to be operational prior to the issuance of certificates of occupancy. (LU-1)
- 9.3.4 Monitor the demands on the water system and, as necessary, manage development to mitigate impacts and/or facilitate improvements.
- 9.3.5 Impose limits on new water hook-ups, if necessary, to comply with available domestic water supply.
- 9.3.6 Request the Board of Water Commissioners to evaluate the Water System Master Plan, as necessary, to accurately determine which water facilities will be needed to serve present and future growth in the City.



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# Water Service Area Boundries



 City Boundary





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## Storm Drains and Flood Control Facilities

San Bernardino’s planning area encompasses 70 square miles, much of which is paved and impervious to stormwater. When it rains, thousands of gallons of water, as well as trash, oil, and other pollutants travel through the storm drain system. It is our responsibility to minimize the effects of storm water and urban runoff pollution. Diligence is necessary because, unlike sewage, which goes to treatment plants, urban runoff flows untreated through the storm drain system. Anything thrown, swept, or poured into the street, gutter, or a catch basin (the curbside openings that lead into the storm drain system) flows directly into channels, rivers, and eventually the ocean.

Water pollution is of national importance and the federal Clean Water Act established the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program to address the problem. The Clean Water Act requires that cities “effectively prohibit non-stormwater discharges into the storm sewers” and “require controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable.” Cities are now required to obtain NPDES permits to discharge their storm water into the storm drains and implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on new construction in order to prevent illegal discharges to storm drains and runoff from construction sites, restaurants, outdoor storage sites, and industrial areas. Also see additional related discussion and policies in Chapter 10, Safety.

Flooding is also a very real issue in San Bernardino. We need to be aware of the potential for floods from our mountain canyons and streams and from urban runoff. To prevent flooding of the City, the capacity of the storm drain system must consistently be evaluated and improved as needed. Storm drains and flood control facilities within the City include: channels, storm drains, street waterways, natural drainage courses, dams, basins, and levees. Storm drain and flood control facilities in the planning area are administered by four different entities:

- ◆ City of San Bernardino (Public Works and Public Services Departments);
- ◆ San Bernardino County Flood Control District;
- ◆ Army Corps of Engineers; and
- ◆ San Bernardino International Airport and Trade Center.

### Water Quality Permits

All development and construction activities in the City are subject to the following permits related to water quality and stormwater runoff:

- General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (Construction General Permit 99-08-DWQ)
- NPDES permit No. CAG998001 and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Order No. R8-2003-0061 for discharges into storm sewers.
- Clean Water Act Section 401 for any project that causes material to be dredged from or filled into waters of the United States. If those waters fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, then a Section 404 permit is required.



Systems administered by each of these agencies incorporate both natural and man-made elements.

Design and construction of storm drain and flood control facilities are the responsibility of the City Public Works Department. The Public Services Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of storm drain and flood control facilities.

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**Goal 9.4 Provide appropriate storm drain and flood control facilities where necessary.**

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**Policies:**

- 9.4.1 Ensure that adequate storm drain and flood control facilities are provided in a timely manner to protect life and property from flood hazards.
- 9.4.2 Upgrade and expand storm drain and flood control facilities to eliminate deficiencies and protect existing and new development.
- 9.4.3 Maintain existing storm drain and flood control facilities.
- 9.4.4 Require that adequate storm drain and flood control facilities be in place prior to the issuance of certificates of occupancy. Where construction of master planned facilities is not feasible, the Mayor and Common Council may permit the construction of interim facilities sufficient to protect present and short-term future needs. (LU-1)
- 9.4.5 Implement flood control improvements that maintain the integrity of significant riparian and other environmental habitats.
- 9.4.6 Minimize the disturbance of natural water bodies and natural drainage systems. (LU-1)
- 9.4.7 Develop San Bernardino's flood control system for multi-purpose uses, whenever practical and financially feasible.
- 9.4.8 Minimize the amount of impervious surfaces in conjunction with new development. (LU-1)
- 9.4.9 Develop and implement policies for adopting Sustainable Stormwater Management approaches that rely on

infiltration of stormwater into soils over detention basins or channels. Sustainable Stormwater Management techniques include use of pervious pavements, garden roofs, and bioswales to treat stormwater, and reusing stormwater for non-potable water uses such as landscape irrigation and toilet/urinal flushing. (LU-1)

9.4.10 Ensure compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act requirements for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, including requiring the development of Water Quality Management Plans, Erosion and Sediment Control Plans, and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans for all qualifying public and private development and significant redevelopment in the City. (LU-1)

9.4.11 Implement an urban runoff reduction program consistent with regional and federal requirements, which includes requiring and encouraging the following examples of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in all developments:

- Increase permeable areas, utilize pervious materials, install filtration controls (including grass lined swales and gravel beds), and divert flow to these permeable areas to allow more percolation of runoff into the ground;
- Replanting and hydroseeding of native vegetation to reduce slope erosion, filter runoff, and provide habitat;
- Use of porous pavement systems with an underlying stone reservoir in parking areas;
- Use natural drainage, detention ponds, or infiltration pits to collect and filter runoff;
- Prevent rainfall from entering material and waste storage areas and pollution-laden surfaces; and
- Require new development and significant redevelopment to utilize site preparation, grading, and other BMPs that provide erosion and sediment control to prevent construction-related contaminants from leaving the site and polluting waterways. (LU-1)



## Solid Waste

Solid waste collection within much of the City and a portion of the unincorporated planning area is provided by the City's Department of Public Services. Solid waste collection in the remainder of the planning area is provided by private haulers through franchise agreements with the County. Solid waste collected in the planning area is disposed of at landfills in Colton and Fontana owned and operated by the County of San Bernardino.

When the Colton and Mid Valley Landfill eventually close, solid waste generated in the City will be transported to the San Timoteo Landfill also owned and operated by the County of San Bernardino. The Mid-Valley Landfill is projected to have approximately 40 years of capacity left. Regional planning for solid waste issues is conducted by the San Bernardino County Solid Waste Advisory Committee governed by the County Solid Waste Management Plan. The City has a representative serving on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Any future solid waste facilities, such as transfer stations and/or landfills, must be incorporated in the County Solid Waste Management Plan.

## California State Mandated Solid Waste Diversion

As landfills reach their capacities and new landfill sites become increasingly difficult to establish, the need to reduce solid waste generation is critical. State law currently requires that local jurisdictions divert at least 50% of their solid waste from landfills through conservation, recycling, and composting. Like all California communities, the City of San Bernardino is required to comply with State regulations.

The challenge for San Bernardino, as well as communities throughout the state, is to continue to find diversion, recycling, and reuse strategies instead of relying on sanitary landfills as the primary method of managing solid waste. As the region grows, it becomes more difficult to site or expand landfills due to the unpopularity of these types of facilities.

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**Goal 9.5** Provide an adequate and orderly system for the collection and disposal of solid waste to meet the demands of new and existing developments in the City.

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**Policies:**

- 9.5.1 Install and maintain public trash receptacles along incorporated City streets in commercial areas and along major arterials.
- 9.5.2 Provide regular street sweeping.
- 9.5.3 Continue to reduce the amount of solid waste that must be disposed of in area landfills, to conserve energy resources, and be consistent with the County Solid Waste Management Plan and State law.
- 9.5.4 Continue to support implementation of regional recycling programs through participation in the County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the County Solid Waste Management Plan, and appropriate State programs.
- 9.5.5 Develop and participate in local recycling programs.
- 9.5.6 Develop and implement a program of public education regarding the benefits of recycling.

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## **Electricity**

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Electrical service in the planning area is provided by the Southern California Edison Company (SCE). SCE owns, operates, and maintains both above ground and underground facilities in the planning area. Most of SCE's facilities are located in the street right-of-way. SCE will extend electrical service into unserved areas pursuant to SCE's current Rules and Rates. The efficient use of energy and the building design/construction of buildings with energy efficiency in mind are vital to our future. Please see Chapter 13, Energy and Water Conservation, for relative discussion and policies.



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**Goal 9.6**      Ensure an adequate, safe, and orderly supply of electrical energy is available to support existing and future land uses within the City on a project level.

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**Policies:**

- 9.6.1      Require that approval of new development be contingent upon the ability to be served with adequate electrical facilities. (LU-1)
- 9.6.2      Underground utilities, including on-site electrical utilities and connections to distribution facilities, unless such undergrounding is proven infeasible. (U-2)
- 9.6.3      Provide adequate illumination of all streets, alleys (under special conditions), and public areas; upgrading areas that are deficient and maintaining lighting fixtures in good working order.
- 9.6.4      Require improvements to the existing street light system and/or new street light systems necessitated by a new development proposal be funded by that development.
- 9.6.5      Encourage and promote the use of energy-efficient (U.S. Department of Energy “Energy Star” or equivalent) lighting fixtures, light bulbs, and compact fluorescent bulbs in residences, commercial, and public buildings, as well as in traffic signals and signs where feasible. (LU-1)

## Natural Gas

Natural gas service is provided by the Southern California Gas Company. The gas company owns, operates, and maintains underground gas lines in most of the public streets. Extension of service is based on the initiation of a service contract whose policies and extension rules are on file with the California Public Utilities Commission.

**Goal 9.7**      **Ensure an adequate supply of natural gas is available to support existing and future land uses within the City at a project level.**

### **Policies:**

- 9.7.1            Work with the Southern California Gas Company to ensure that adequate natural gas facilities are available to meet the demands of existing and new developments.
- 9.7.2            Require that all new development served by natural gas install on-site pipeline connections to distribution facilities underground, unless such undergrounding is infeasible due to significant environmental or other constraints. (U-2)

## Telecommunications

### **Telephone and Cable Television Service**

Telecommunications is defined as communicating audio, video, and data from one point to another. Since telecommunications includes voice, data, and image transmission, this section includes policies relating to telephones (voice transmission), fiber optics (data), and cable television (data and image). Telephone service in San Bernardino is provided by Verizon and SBC.

Verizon and SBC are regulated by Title 14 of the City's Municipal Code, which address the granting of franchises.

Cable Television is not legally classified as a "utility" and is not regulated by the California PUC. Consequently, regulation of cable television is the responsibility of local jurisdictions. The City's Telecommunications Division is responsible for franchise supervision and negotiation, in addition to subscriber complaint resolution. Each of the cable providers has been interlinked with the Telecommunications Division equipment for emergency broadcasts. Adelphia Cable, Mountain Shadows Cable, and



Charter Communications Cable channels service the City of San Bernardino and surrounding communities.

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**Goal 9.8**      **Ensure the operation and maintenance of telecommunications systems to support existing and future land uses within the City.**

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**Policies:**

- 9.8.1            Provide for the continued development and expansion of telecommunications systems including cable and, as feasible, fiber optics, for entertainment, education, culture, information access, two-way communication between government and residents and businesses, and other similar purposes.
  
- 9.8.2            Require that all new developments underground telecommunication facilities, unless such undergrounding is infeasible due to significant environmental or other constraints. (U-2)
  
- 9.8.3            Cooperate with, and encourage public utilities to provide a fiber optics network in the City that is linked to regional systems.

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## **Geothermal Resources**

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Use of geothermal resources results in substantial energy savings and generates revenue for the City. Approximately 90 to 100 geothermal wells and springs have been identified in the San Bernardino area. The geothermal wells and springs are concentrated in the Commerce Center, Central City, and the Tri-City areas (Figure U-3).

The San Bernardino Municipal Water Department (SBMWD) is operating two (2) geothermal production wells which can pump 4,300,000 gallons of hot water per day. The usable supply of geothermal water, however, is much greater than what is currently used.

The SBMWD uses geothermal resources to provide heat to a number of City, County, and State agencies, as well as private businesses. Use of geothermal heat is resulting in a substantial savings on winter heating bills.

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**Goal 9.9 Use the City's available geothermal resources as an alternative to natural gas and electricity.**

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**Policies:**

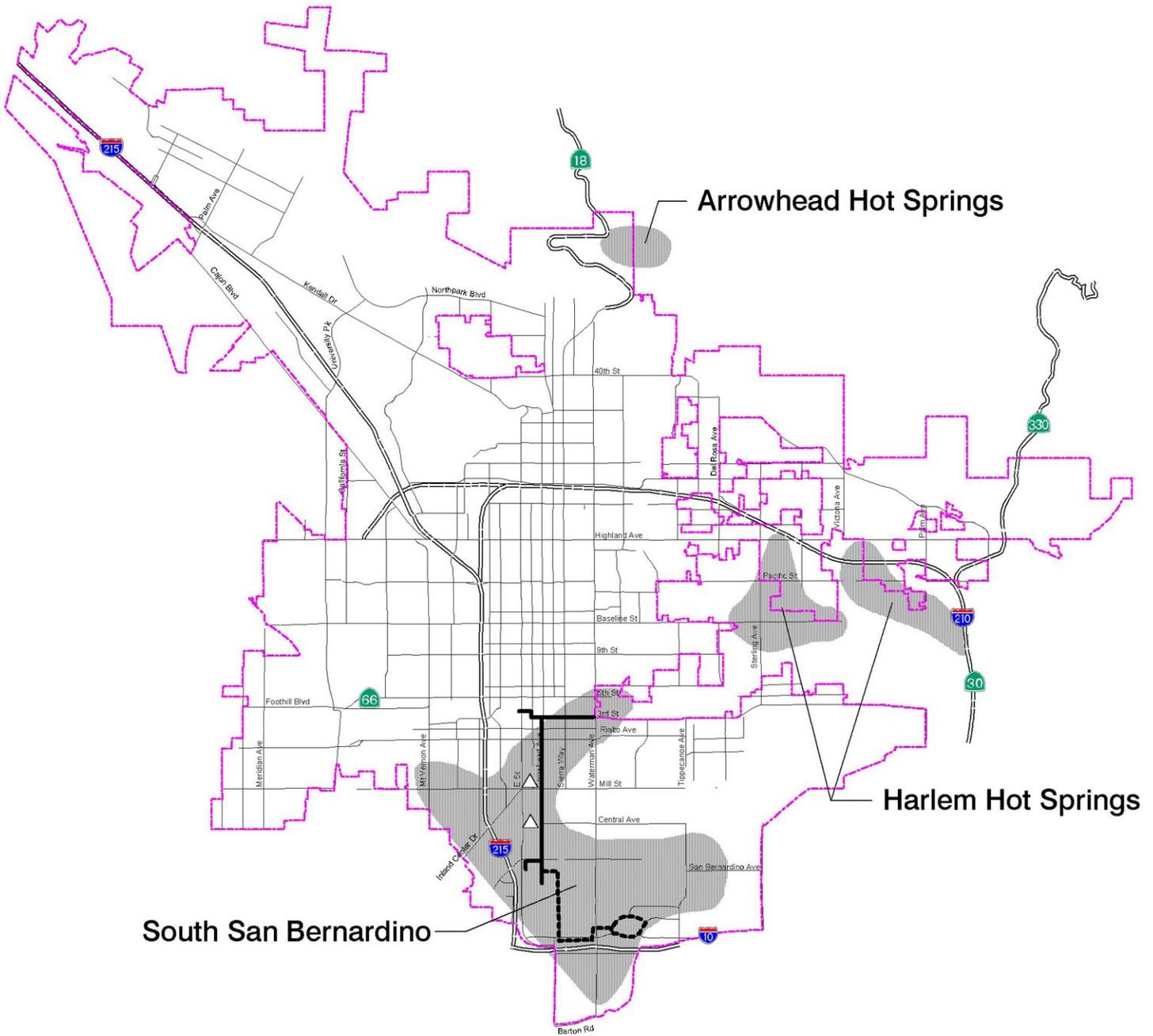
- 9.9.1 Provide for the continued development and expansion of geothermal energy distribution lines. (U-3)  
  
Provide public funding to expand the existing geothermal production and distribution system. (U-3)
- 9.9.2 Promote the use of geothermal resources particularly in the South San Bernardino Area.



*An example of a geothermal well in San Bernardino. Source: City of San Bernardino Website.*



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 Geothermal Resource Area  
 Source: "Resource Investigation of Low and Moderate Temperature Geothermal Areas in San Bernardino, California," August 1981, California Division of Mines and Geology Open File Report 82-11 SAC.

 City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department Geothermal Well

 Distribution Line

 Proposed Distribution Line

 City Boundary





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## Utilities Infrastructure Financing

The City's responsibilities not only pertain to its ability to provide services at appropriate levels, they also necessitate the exploration of ways to fund existing and future facilities to keep pace with the City's growth.

Ensuring that appropriate financing mechanisms are in place is one way we can plan for the infrastructure needs of the future.

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**Goal 9.10**    **Ensure that the costs of infrastructure improvements are borne by those who benefit.**

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### **Policies:**

- 9.10.1        Require that new development proposals bear the cost to improve wastewater collection and treatment facilities, water supply transmission, distribution, storage, and treatment facilities, and storm drain and flood control facilities as necessitated by the proposed project. This shall be accomplished either through the payment of fees, or by the actual construction of the improvements. (LU-1)
- 9.10.2        Collect adequate amounts of fees and charges to fund the operation/maintenance of existing facilities and to construct new facilities.
- 9.10.3        Review utility, capacity, and infrastructure fees, as well as development, acquisition of service, and monthly service charges on an annual basis to ensure that adequate amounts of fees and charges are collected to fund the operation/maintenance of existing facilities and to construct new facilities.
- 9.10.4        Provide public funding support for expansion and upgrading of public utilities and infrastructure when improvements will provide substantial public benefit to the City.
- 9.10.5        Allow the formation of benefit assessment districts and community facilities districts, where appropriate, in which those who benefit from specific improvements pay a pro rata share of the costs.



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