

9.0 Air Quality Element

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The San Joaquin Valley Air Basin has been designated as non-attainment for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}). To alleviate these air quality impacts and attain state and federal air quality standards the Assembly of the State of California passed Assembly Bill (AB) 170 which required cities and counties located in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin to amend appropriate elements of general plans to include data, analysis, comprehensive goals, policies and feasible implementation strategies to improve air quality.

The role of local governments in achieving the required attainment goals for air quality as set by Federal and State law is critical because, through their General Plans, local agencies have the authority to set policies as it relates to development. Therefore, it is critical that local governments amend their general plans to include policies to improve air quality.

To assist local governments in developing appropriate general plan policies for compliance with AB 170, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District developed an *Air Quality Guidelines for General Plans* document, which includes approximately 75 recommended policies and measures to implement each of the recommended policies. The policies and implementation measures contained in the Guide were developed after analysis and comments from cities and counties and are aimed at meeting the following objectives:

- Determine and mitigate project level and cumulative air quality impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- Integrate land use plans, transportation plans and air quality plans.
- Plan land uses in ways that support a multimodal transportation system.
- Take local action to support programs that reduce congestion and vehicle trips.
- Plan land uses to minimize public exposure to toxic air pollutant emissions from industrial and other sources.
- Reduce particulate emissions from sources under local jurisdiction.
- Support for District and public utility programs to reduce emissions from emergency consumption and area sources (water heaters, barbecues, etc).

Many of the policies included in the Guide are well accepted planning principles, such as incorporating a comprehensive transportation system into the design of the community that supports walking, bicycling and transit in addition to the automobile, which have secondary air quality benefits. Studies show that communities that comprehensively plan an area so that land uses are supportive of walking, bicycling and transit can achieve long range trip reductions of 8% to 10% on a regional level and more than 20% on a project basis. This is compared to standard suburban development patterns and assumes that new development will be served by an efficient transit system.

The City of Wasco has prepared this Air Quality Element to provide a comprehensive set of goals, objectives, policies and action items to satisfy the requirements of AB 170. The policies and action items contained in this Element were adapted for the City of Wasco from the recommended policies from the *Air Quality Guidelines for General Plans* document. In addition to general plans including a comprehensive set of goals, policies and implementation strategies to improve air quality, AB 170 also requires that general plans include the following information:

- A report describing local air quality conditions including air quality monitoring data, emission inventories, lists of significant source categories, attainment status and designations, and applicable state and federal air quality plans and transportation plans.
- A summary of local, district, state, and federal policies, programs, and regulations that may improve air quality in the city.

This additional information as required by AB 170 is included in **Appendix A**.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND ACTION ITEMS

9.1 COMMUNICATION, COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

Goal 1

Effective communication, cooperation, and coordination in developing and operating community and regional air quality programs.

Objectives

- A. To accurately determine and fairly mitigate the local and regional air quality impacts of projects proposed in the City of Wasco.
- B. To coordinate local air quality programs with regional programs and those of neighboring jurisdictions.
- C. To integrate land use planning, transportation planning and air quality planning to make the most efficient use of public resources and to create a healthier and more livable community.
- D. To educate the public on the impact of individual transportation, lifestyle and land use decisions on air quality.
- E. For public facilities and operations to provide a model for the private sector in implementing air quality programs.

Policies, Standards

1. The City of Wasco shall determine a project's immediate and cumulative air quality impacts using analysis methods and significance thresholds recommended by the District.

Action 1a Ensure that development projects are submitted to the District’s CEQA division for CEQA comments and review of air quality analysis, as applicable, including all relevant information to facilitate review by the District.

Action 1b Train staff planners preparing CEQA documents on how to use the Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts.

2. The City of Wasco shall ensure that air quality impacts identified during CEQA review are consistently and fairly mitigated.

Action 2a Consult with the District regarding proposed mitigation measures.

Action 2b Coordinate with the District and the project applicants to encourage innovative mitigation measures to reduce air quality impacts.

3. The City of Wasco shall ensure all air quality mitigation measures are feasible and implementable.
4. The City of Wasco shall support cost-effective multi-use modeling and geographic information technology.
5. The City of Wasco shall consider air quality when planning the land uses and transportation systems to accommodate the expected growth in the community.

Action 5a Develop coordinated land use and transportation plans to meet federal, state and local air quality requirements.

Action 5b Ensure that land uses proposed in general plan updates and general plan amendments are supported by a multi-modal transportation system and that the land uses themselves support the development of the transportation system.

6. All City submittals of transportation improvement projects to be included in the regional transportation plans shall be consistent with the air quality goals and policies of the General Plan.

Action 6a Analyze projects for consistency. Examples of inconsistent projects are a road widening project that does not consider transit, bicycling and pedestrian needs along the route or an intersection signalization project that does not involve the installation of signal actuators that can be activated by bicyclists or pedestrians.

7. The City of Wasco shall work with transit providers and developers to encourage the construction of low income housing developments that use transit-oriented and pedestrian-oriented design principles.
8. The City of Wasco shall work with Caltrans to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle connections between neighborhoods and shopping areas.
9. The City of Wasco shall work to improve the public’s understanding of the land use, transportation and air quality link.

10. City fleet vehicle operators shall replace or convert conventional fuel vehicles with clean fuel vehicles as rapidly as feasible.

- Action 10a Budget for clean fuel vehicles in the long range capital expenditure plans.
- Action 10b Participate in the San Joaquin Valley Clean Cities Coalition to identify fleet vehicle purchase opportunities and shared infrastructure investment opportunities.
- Action 10c Incorporate infrastructure to facilitate the conversion to and use of clean fuel vehicles. For example, locate L/CNG refueling stations for clean fuel vehicles in convenient and multiple locations to enable convenient and easy refuel of vehicles.

9.2 CONGESTION MANAGEMENT/TRANSPORTATION CONTROL MEASURES

Goal 1:

Reduce traffic congestion and vehicle trips.

Objectives

- A. To ensure that new development provides the facilities and programs that improve the effectiveness of transportation control measures and congestion management programs.

Policies, Standards

1. The City of Wasco shall consider measures to increase the capacity of the existing road network prior to constructing more capacity (additional lanes, new freeways etc.).

- Action 1a Measures that will be considered in local transportation plans and capital improvement plans that may increase the capacity and reduce congestion on existing roads include the following:
 - Modify intersections using turn restriction, channelization, etc. where necessary and feasible.
 - Construct bus turnouts to remove buses from traveled lanes during passenger loading and unloading.

- 2, The City of Wasco shall encourage the development of state of the art communication infrastructure linked to the rest of the world.

9.3 FUGITIVE DUST/PM 10

Goal 1

Reduce particulate emissions from sources under the jurisdiction of the City.

Objectives

- A. To reduce emissions of PM10 and other particulates with local control potential.

Policies, Standards

1. The City of Wasco shall work with the District to reduce particulate emissions from construction, grading, excavation and demolition to the maximum extent feasible.

Action 1a The City of Wasco shall include as conditions of approval, compliance with Regulation VIII, Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions and the City of Wasco’s Best Available Control Measures.

2. The City of Wasco shall require access roads, driveways and parking areas serving new commercial and industrial development to be constructed with materials that minimize particulate emissions and are appropriate to the scale and intensity of use.
3. The City of Wasco shall reduce PM10 emissions from City maintained roads to the maximum extent feasible.

Action 2a The City of Wasco shall include as conditions of approval, compliance with Regulation VIII, Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions and the City of Wasco’s Best Available Control Measures.

9.4 ENERGY

Goal 1

Reduce emissions related to energy consumption and area sources.

Objectives

- A. To encourage the use of energy conservation features and low-emission equipment for all new residential and commercial construction.

Policies, Standards

1. The City of Wasco shall cooperate with the local building industry, utilities and the District to promote enhanced energy conservation standards for new construction.
2. The City of Wasco shall encourage new residential, commercial and industrial development to reduce air quality impacts from area sources and from energy consumption.

9.5 LAND USE, TRANSPORTATION, AND AIR QUALITY

Goal 1

Reduce motor vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled and increase average vehicle ridership.

Objectives

- A. To create a land use pattern that will encourage people to walk, bicycle or use public transit for a significant number of their daily trips.
- B. To create a land use pattern that will minimize public exposure to hazardous air pollutants from new development.
- C. To plan development in a way that makes the most efficient use of land and thereby causes the least possible impacts to the environment.
- D. To promote site designs that encourage walking, cycling and transit use.
- E. To develop innovative transportation systems that incorporate alternative transportation modes into the system designs.

Policies, Standards

- 1. The City of Wasco shall consider air quality and mobility when reviewing any proposed change to the land use pattern of the community.
- 2. The City of Wasco shall require a health risk assessment be performed to assess potential risks to sensitive receptors, as applicable.
- 3. The City of Wasco shall encourage projects proposing pedestrian or transit-oriented designs (TOD) at suitable locations.

Action 2a Develop Transit/Pedestrian-Oriented Design Guidelines.

Action 2b Identify and designate appropriate sites for this development pattern during general plan updates and when developers propose general plan amendments.

- 4. The City of Wasco shall work to preserve and enhance existing neighborhoods and commercial districts having transit and pedestrian-oriented designs.

Action 3a Pursue redevelopment projects to improve the image of pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods and shopping districts (pedestrian amenities, street trees, transit facilities, etc.)

- 5. The City of Wasco shall encourage higher housing densities in areas served by the full range of urban services.
- 6. The City of Wasco shall plan for a multi-modal transportation system that meets the mobility needs of the community and improves air quality.

Action 5a Ensure that updates to the Circulation Element and submittals of regional transportation improvement projects to the Regional Transportation Planning Agency reflect designs and facilities that support a multi-modal system.

Action 5b Coordinate with transportation providers and other applicable agencies.

7. The City of Wasco shall ensure to the extent feasible that pedestrian, bicycle and automobile connections are maintained in existing neighborhoods affected by transportation and other development projects.

Action 6a Include maintenance or improvement requirements for pedestrian, bicycle and automobile connections as part of the development standards of the Subdivision Ordinance.

8. The City of Wasco shall ensure that upgrades to existing roads (widening, curb and gutter etc.) include bicycle and pedestrian improvements in their plans and implementation where appropriate and to the maximum extent feasible.

Action 7a Update Public Works improvement standards to incorporate bikeways as feasible.