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PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES

Introduction

The quality of life in Laguna Niguel is significantly influenced by its public facilities and services, such as education, recreational buildings, utilities, and waste management.

The City is directly responsible for some aspects, including community buildings, as well as City-owned parks, open space, trails, and sports fields (addressed in other Elements). However, the majority of these facilities and services are managed by external agencies, such as the Capistrano Unified School District and utility providers. Effective collaboration with these agencies is essential to ensure these resources evolve to meet the community's current and future needs.

While a "Public Facilities and Services Element" is not an element required by state law for inclusion in the General Plan, this Element for Laguna Niguel does address some topic areas required by state law (for example, water and wastewater management) and adds value by addressing the City's goals and policies for maintaining and expanding public facilities

and services over time. By working in tandem with other General Plan Elements, specifically Land Use, Mobility, Resource Management, and Public Safety, it strengthens the City's dedication to providing efficient, accessible, and community-focused resources.

Organization of Element

The Public Facilities and Services Element addresses each of the topics below as they relate to Laguna Niguel. The goals and policies of this Element are organized around the following topics:

- Educational Resources
- Community Activity Centers and Events
- Water and Wastewater Management
- Energy Management
- Solid Waste Management and Recycling

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Goal PF-1

High-quality educational facilities and lifelong learning opportunities that empower residents of all ages to gain the knowledge, skills, and resources needed for personal and professional successes.

Laguna Niguel recognizes the vital role education plays in shaping its success. Education helps to provide the knowledge, skills, and resources that build self-esteem, lead to meaningful employment opportunities, and contribute to a strong local economy. The City's educational system provides a strong foundation for lifelong learning within the community.

The Capistrano Unified School District provides K-12 education to residents in Laguna Niguel and much of south Orange County, including San Clemente, Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano, Aliso Viejo, portions of Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, and unincorporated areas. The District includes a mix of traditional elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools, as well as alternative schools/programs including adult education, home/virtual learning, and special education. Private and faith-based schools further diversify educational options within the City.

While there are no post-secondary education institutions within Laguna Niguel, residents are served by the South Orange County Community College District, which includes Saddleback College, Irvine Valley College, and Advanced Technology and Education Park (ATEP). Additionally, numerous other public and private higher learning institutions throughout the county provide access to a wide range of high-quality educational opportunities.

Library services are provided by Orange County Public Libraries, which includes over 32 public libraries countywide. The Laguna Niguel Library, located adjacent to City Hall, offers residents a variety of resources, including book lending, technology access, and community programs that support education and personal development.





PF-1 Policies

- PF-1.1 Lifelong Learning.** Promote lifelong learning opportunities for residents of all ages, including adult education programs, vocational training, community college courses, and library services that enhance personal and professional development.
- PF-1.2 Educational Providers.** Collaborate with Capistrano Unified School District, charter, private, and faith-based schools, and other educational organizations to ensure that school facilities are maintained and equipped to support high-quality learning environments.
- PF-1.3 Early Childhood Education.** Collaborate with local childcare providers, preschools, and other early education organizations to promote early childhood education programs.
- PF-1.4 Library Services.** Collaborate with Orange County Public Libraries to ensure the Laguna Niguel Library continues to offer technology access, diverse resources, and community programs that promote education and personal growth for residents of all ages.
- PF-1.5 Higher Education.** Collaborate with local colleges and universities, such as the South Orange County Community College District, to foster educational partnerships that support access to higher education pathways for personal and professional growth and a well-educated community.



COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTERS AND EVENTS

Goal PF-2

High-quality community activity centers and events that enhance Laguna Niguel's quality of life, promote a healthy and active lifestyle, and foster community engagement.

Laguna Niguel is committed to facilitating a thriving and healthy community for residents of all ages. The City operates three community centers, Crown Valley Community Center, Sea Country Senior and Community Center, and the Laguna Niguel Aquatics Center. These facilities provide a wide range of amenities and programs for fitness, personal development, and social interaction. Beyond day-to-day recreational opportunities, the City hosts numerous special events and programs year-round to encourage community participation and engagement. Laguna Niguel is also home to a comprehensive network of parks, trails, sports fields, sports courts, and a skatepark, detailed in the Resource Management Element and Mobility Element.





PF-2 Policies



- PF-2.1 Community Facilities and Services.** Support the provision of high-quality community facilities and diverse services for residents of all ages and abilities. This includes supporting the growing senior population and ensuring they have access to programs and resources that promote healthy living and community involvement.
- PF-2.2 Capital Improvements.** Plan and fund the Capital Improvement Program to ensure the City's community centers continue to provide high-quality facilities and services to Laguna Niguel residents.
- PF-2.3 Recreation Promotion and Engagement.** Encourage public input and participation in City-hosted services and events. This includes actively engaging with residents through surveys, social media, and other platforms to gather input on the planning and programming of City-hosted services and events, ensuring they are engaging, family-friendly, and serve the broader Laguna Niguel community.
- PF-2.4 Embrace Innovation.** Encourage the use of innovative technology solutions to enhance public services, promote of public programs and community engagement, improve efficiency, and reduce costs.
- PF-2.5 Funding Opportunities for Recreation Facilities.** Monitor and seek alternative funding sources and grants to support community facilities and services.



WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Goal PF-3

A resilient, reliable, and sustainable water and wastewater system that meets the evolving needs of the community and supports its growth, well-being, and economic vitality.

The Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) is the regional water purveyor for Laguna Niguel. This includes the provision of potable water, recycled water, and wastewater services.

MNWD's water supply primarily originates from two distant sources: the Colorado River and the State Water Project, which draws from the San Francisco-San Joaquin Bay Delta. This water traverses across hundreds of miles through an intricate network of underground and aboveground infrastructure managed by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. MNWD's potable water infrastructure, featuring pump stations, reservoirs, and interconnected pressure zones, is designed to meet Laguna Niguel's fire flow requirements and provide reliable water supply and system redundancy. The City will continue to coordinate with MNWD on the planning and maintenance of Laguna Niguel's water and wastewater systems.



PF-3 Policies



- PF-3.1 Water Supply and Wastewater Collaboration.** Collaborate with Moulton Niguel Water District and other applicable agencies to support a sustainable and resilient water supply and wastewater future for Laguna Niguel by ensuring:
- A safe and reliable water supply for both fire protection and clean drinking water.
 - Upgrades and improvements to the water and wastewater infrastructure, as needed.
 - Sustainable water supplies and adequate system capacity.
 - Proactive planning and mitigation of vulnerabilities to natural disasters and climate change impacts.
 - Implementation of effective water conservation and recycling strategies.
 - Maintenance of sufficient water capacity and pressure for fire protection.
 - Adoption of innovative technologies to minimize costs, inefficiencies, and excessive water use.
 - Compliance with local, regional, and state regulations.
 - Pursuit of alternative funding sources for infrastructure improvements and renewable energy initiatives, including grants and public-private partnerships.
 - Wastewater systems designed to minimize inflow, infiltration, treatment volume, prevent contamination, maximize efficiency, and reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Public education initiatives promoting:
 - » Water conservation and drought tolerant landscaping.
 - » The use of reclaimed/recycled water, as available.
 - » Maintenance of a safe and clean wastewater system by limiting the amount of oils, pesticides, and toxic chemicals entering the sewer system.
 - Availability of cost-saving water conservation initiatives, such as replacing turf with drought tolerant landscaping, use of recycled water, water-efficient appliances, and weather-based irrigation controllers.



- PF-3.2 Development Review (Water and Wastewater).** Collaborate with Moulton Niguel Water District on future development projects to ensure sufficient capacity and provision of potable water, recycled water, and wastewater services. Additionally, ensure that these projects plan and implement necessary infrastructure improvements to support future water supply and wastewater demands.



- PF-3.3 Utility Coordination (Water and Wastewater).** Collaborate with applicable stakeholders in the placement and design of utility facilities for new developments to minimize their environmental, aesthetic, and safety impacts.



- PF-3.4 Compliance with State Legislation.** Ensure the City's water usage and wastewater treatment complies with regional and statewide regulations.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Goal PF-4

A resilient, reliable, and sustainable energy network that meets the evolving needs of the community and supports its growth, well-being, and economic vitality.

Laguna Niguel receives electricity services from two utility companies: Southern California Edison (SCE) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). SCE supplies power to the western part of the City, while SDG&E serves the eastern portion. Both utilities generate electricity from a variety of energy sources, including coal, natural gas, hydroelectric power, and an increasing emphasis on renewable resources.

The Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) is the natural gas provider for Laguna Niguel. SoCalGas is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, serving more than 21 million customers across 20,000 square miles of Central and Southern California. SoCalGas obtains natural gas from various sources, primarily outside of California, such as other southwest states, Canada, and offshore fields. Once the gas enters Southern California, it moves into SoCalGas' vast network of transmission and distribution pipelines and interconnected storage fields, ultimately being delivered to homes and businesses.

To ensure reliable and sustainable energy services for the community, the City will continue to collaborate with SCE, SDG&E, and SoCalGas on the planning, maintenance, and improvement of energy infrastructure within Laguna Niguel.



PF-4 Policies



PF-4.1 Utility Service Collaboration. Collaborate with Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas and Electric, Southern California Gas Company, and other applicable agencies to support a renewable, resilient, and cost-efficient energy future for Laguna Niguel by ensuring:

- A safe and reliable supply of electricity and natural gas.
- Upgrades and improvements to the utility infrastructure, as needed.
- Sustainable electricity and natural gas supplies and adequate system capacity.
- Proactive planning and mitigation of vulnerabilities to natural disasters and climate change impacts.
- Compliance with local, regional, and state regulations.
- Pursuit of alternative funding sources for water supply and wastewater infrastructure improvements, including grants and public-private partnerships.
- Implementation of innovative technologies and solutions to improve energy efficiency, conservation, grid reliability, and reduce energy costs.
- Public education initiatives promoting:
 - » Energy conservation and renewable energy options.
 - » Availability of cost-saving initiatives such as appliance and equipment rebates and incentives.



PF-4.2 Development Review (Energy Utilities). Collaborate with energy utility providers to ensure sufficient capacity and service availability for new developments. Additionally, ensure that these projects plan and implement necessary infrastructure improvements to support their future energy demands.



PF-4.3 Utility Coordination (Energy Utilities). Collaborate with applicable stakeholders in the placement and design of utility facilities for new developments to minimize their environmental, aesthetic, and safety impacts.



PF-4.4 Energy Compliance with State Legislation. Ensure City infrastructure, facilities, and equipment energy usage complies with regional and statewide regulations.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING



Goal PF-5

A comprehensive waste management program prioritizing waste prevention, recycling, composting, and proper disposal in support of the environment and long-term sustainability.

Laguna Niguel recognizes the importance of proactive waste management practices to protect the environment and supports an integrated waste management approach that includes waste prevention (or “source reduction”), recycling and composting, and proper disposal of waste. In alignment with the state’s environmental regulations, the City is required to implement solid waste diversion and recycling programs to meet gradually increasing performance standards.



PF-5 Policies



PF-5.1 Waste Management and Recycling Compliance. Ensure compliance with local, regional, and state regulations on waste diversion, source reduction, recycling, and composting through regular monitoring and updates to City practices.



PF-5.2 Trash Collection and Recycling Services. Collaborate with service provider(s) to ensure the timely and efficient collection of garbage, organic waste, and recycling.



PF-5.3 Encourage Recycling. Encourage the use of reusable and recyclable materials through educational displays and initiatives and sustainable purchasing policies and practices.



PF-5.4 Organic Waste. Collaborate with service provider(s) to collect and compost green waste, including landscaping debris and other sources of organic waste, to distribute for use in parks, medians, and other municipal areas.

PF-5.5 Fees and Funding. Collaborate with service provider(s) to periodically evaluate collection, recycling, and disposal fees to ensure compliance with state and federal requirements, align with community expectations, and reflect cost efficiencies or increases for services.



PF-5.6 Recycling Education Programs. Promote citywide educational programs to inform residents and businesses about proper recycling requirements, the environmental benefits of recycling, and available recycling options and locations.



PF-5.7 Community Clean-up Events. Organize and support regular community cleanup events, such as park cleanups and neighborhood sweeps.

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