

### 3 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

This chapter addresses utilities and community services within Laguna Niguel. Utility services include the provision of water, wastewater (sewer), stormwater and drainage, solid waste disposal, electricity, and natural gas. Community services include fire protection, law enforcement, parks and recreation, schools, libraries, and other public facilities.

**This chapter includes the following sections:**

- 3.1 Water
- 3.2 Wastewater
- 3.3 Stormwater and Drainage
- 3.4 Solid Waste
- 3.5 Electricity and Natural Gas
- 3.6 Public Safety
- 3.7 Parks and Recreation
- 3.8 Schools, Libraries, and Other Public Facilities

### 3.1 WATER

This section describes the City's water demands, water supplies, water distribution system, and area plans. The existing Laguna Niguel General Plan addresses the topics of water resources within the Public Facilities Element. The information included here is summarized from an infrastructure report prepared by Fuscoe Engineering in April 2024, located in Appendix A: Infrastructure Analysis.

#### 3.2.1 Existing Water System

The Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) is the regional water purveyor for Laguna Niguel. MNWD's services include the provision of potable water, recycled water, and wastewater. Within MNWD's regional water infrastructure, the City accounts for approximately 1,529,222 ft (290 miles) of distribution and transmission pipelines ranging in diameter from 3" to 54" (Fuscoe, 2024). The City's Public Works Department coordinates with MNWD on water system upgrades and issues encroachment permits when improvements are needed. See Figure 3-1 for the existing water system facilities.

MNWD's infrastructure for potable water storage, transmission, and distribution were specifically designed to meet fire flow requirements across the City. This includes numerous pump stations, reservoirs, and interconnections between pressure zones to ensure a reliable water supply and system redundancy. Within Laguna Niguel, MNWD manages 8 potable pressure zones, 10 pump stations, and 12 storage reservoirs (Fuscoe, 2024). The MNWD service area



includes a total of 28 reservoirs serving customers both everyday water uses and firefighting needs.<sup>1</sup>

### 3.2.2 Existing Water Supply

MNWD's supply is primarily from imported potable water and locally sourced recycled water. For the past five years, approximately 79% of the total water supply has come from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD or Metropolitan) and the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), with the majority of it being treated at MWDs Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant (WTP) located north of Yorba Linda (Fusco, 2024). The remaining 21% of the water supply is recycled water, which is treated either at Diemer WTP or the Baker WTP, the backup facility, in Lake Forest. And if necessary, MNWD can also purchase recycled water from South Coast Water District (SCWD). See Table 3-1 for the list of existing water supply resources available to MNWD.

Table 3-1: Existing Water Supply Resources

Water Supply	Additional Details	Actual Volume (AF)
<b>Purchased or Imported Water</b>	Drinking water purchased from MWDOC	23,083
<b>Recycled Water</b>	Recycled water produced locally	5,013
<b>Total</b>		<b>28,096</b>

SOURCE: MNWD, 2021. 2020 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN, TABLE 4-1.

<sup>1</sup> Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD), 2023. *Popular Annual Financial Report*. <https://www.mnwd.com/wp-content/uploads/FYE23-PAFR-Final-Draft.pdf>, accessed September 20, 2024

## Imported Water

MNWD has entitlements and written contracts with the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) to receive imported potable water from MWD via the regional distribution system located in Orange County (Fusco, 2024). MNWD receives water entitlements and contracts to demonstrate water supply reliability and the stability of the physical water delivery system. Although pipeline capacity rights do not guarantee the availability of water, they do guarantee the ability to convey water when it is available. Some of the regional imported water lines that serve the MNWD service area include the following facilities:

- **Joint Transmission Main or Joint Local Agency Pipeline (JTM)** – The JTM is jointly owned by MNWD and five other water purveyors, including SCWD, which operates the JTM under contract. MNWD serves Laguna Niguel via the JTM.
- **Eastern Transmission Main (ETM)** – The ETM is jointly owned by MNWD and the Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD). MNWD is responsible for operations through an agreement with SMWD. MNWD serves Laguna Niguel via the ETM.
- **Allen McColloch Pipeline (AMP)** – The AMP terminates in the northeast section of Mission Viejo at the El Toro Water District R-6 Reservoir and conveys water primarily to Mission Viejo and Laguna Hills. MNWD does not serve the City through the AMP.
- **South County Pipeline (SCP)** – The SCP is jointly owned by several local water purveyors SMWD, MNWD, SCWD, and others. Water from the AMP is conveyed via the SCP, which MNWD uses to serve Laguna Niguel.

## Recycled Water

MNWD collaborates with other agencies in South Orange County to expand recycled water programs and reduce the dependence on imported water. Currently, 21% of MNWD's water demands are met by recycled water distributed through 142 miles of pipelines. MNWD also owns two Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) facilities, 13 pump stations for recycled water, 13 pressure reducing stations, and 5 storage reservoirs. MNWD aims to reduce reliance on imported water and maximize resource reuse. The projected annual demand for their recycled water system is 8,000 acre-feet. Within Laguna Niguel, MNWD operates and maintains approximately 349,221 ft (66 miles) of recycled water distribution and transmission lines ranging in size from 28" to 24". Most of the lines were constructed in the 1990s and 2000s and are made from pressure-rate polyvinyl chloride (PVC) (61%) (Fusco, 2024). See Figure 3-2 for the map of existing recycled water facilities within the City.

### 3.2.3 Water Capacity Assessment

The management of water systems within Laguna Niguel involves multiple entities including MNWD, SCWD, and the City's Public Works Department. The broader responsibility for the public water system, including capacity assessments and oversight of private water improvements affecting public systems, is MNWD's responsibility. Locally the City's Public Works Department plays a role in overseeing water improvement projects within the public right of way and oversees private properties through the encroachment permit process. This collaborative approach between MNWD and the City ensures that water capacity, maintenance, and development applications within the City are addressed comprehensively.

#### Urban Water Management Plans (UWMP)

Through the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) reporting, MNWD uses population growth, climate scenarios, water supplies, water conservation, large development projects, and approved specific plans to estimate future water demands and evaluate the ability to meet this demand through various water supply sources over a 20-year projection. The California Water Code requires this document, and it is updated every five years; the latest was prepared in 2020 (Fusco, 2024).

### 2020 MNWD Long Range Water Reliability Plan (LRWRP) Update

Long-range water supply planning is essential to ensure MNWD and its service areas have access to adequate water supplies. MNWD's 2020 LRWRP Update assesses future water supply scenarios and creates a long-term strategy for all of MNWD's customers. Given that the MNWD relies on imported water, the 2020 LRWRP Update addresses the potential risks from droughts and climate variability. The 2020 LRWRP Update identifies reliability risks, presents a framework for water resiliency, and identifies potential water supply projects. Some specific goals include the development of water supply during outages, expanding water storage for up to 10,000 AF through the Baker WTP and Upper Chiquita Reservoir. The 2020 LRWRP Update also discusses MNWD's plans to continually expand the recycled water system through the Recycled Water Optimization Study, feasibility studies, and joint local water supply reliability planning.<sup>2</sup>

### Backflow Prevention Program

The primary objective of the cross-connection control/backflow prevention program is to protect MNWD's public potable water system from possible contamination. Protection is accomplished by requiring the installation of an approved backflow prevention assembly for any private connections to the public water system (Fusco, 2024).

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<sup>2</sup> Moulton Niguel Water District, 2020 *Long-Range Water Reliability Plan Update*. Available at: [https://www.mnwd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Final\\_2020-LRWRP-Update\\_03082021.pdf](https://www.mnwd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Final_2020-LRWRP-Update_03082021.pdf)

### 3.2.4 Water Demands

Water demands throughout the City are incorporated into MNWD's regional 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). Within its service area, MNWD estimated that residential uses (single-family and multi-family) accounted for nearly 57% of all water use during Fiscal Year (FY) 2019–2020. The single-family land use is the largest sector, using approximately 13,964 acre-feet per year (AFY), which is approximately 50% of total water use, followed by recycled water for irrigation at 5,013 AFY (18%), potable irrigation uses at 2,645 AFY (9%), commercial use at 2,316 AFY (8%), and multi-family use at 1,914 AFY (7%). Water loss represented approximately 2,224 AFY (8%) and other potable hydrant uses represented less than 20 AFY (1%) of total water use. See Table 3-2, for a summary of existing water demands throughout MNWD's service area.

Table 3-2: Orange County Water Demands (2020)

Land Use Type <sup>1</sup>	Level of Treatment	Volume (AF)
Residential – Single Family	Drinking Water	13,964
Residential – Multi-Family	Drinking Water	1,914
Commercial and Institutional	Drinking Water	2,316
Landscape/ Irrigation	Drinking Water	2,645
Landscape/ Irrigation	Recycled Water	5,013
Losses		2,224
Potable Hydrant	Drinking Water	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>28,096</b>

SOURCE: MNWD, JUNE 2021. 2020 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN, TABLE 4-1

NOTE: 1) THE DISTRICT DOES NOT HAVE ANY INDUSTRIAL WATER USE WITHIN ITS SERVICE AREA.



## Water Capital Improvement Plans

Over the next 10 years, MNWD plans to invest over \$460.3 million in water and wastewater infrastructure through its capital improvement plans (CIP). The focus will be on improving reservoir rehabilitation, pump stations, transmission mains, valves, and future water reliability projects. Water supply and reliability investments are based on various water capacity assessments, including the MNWD's 2020 LRWRP Update and the new Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS). The CMMS is an asset management planning, tools, and data to inform the renewal and replacement of the MNWD's infrastructure. Some of these projects and their estimated completion schedules are described in Appendix A: Infrastructure Analysis.

### 3.2.5 References

Fuscoe Engineering, Inc. 2024. *City of Laguna Niguel General Plan Update, Existing Conditions Infrastructure Report for Water, Sewer, Storm Drainage, and Water Quality*. Appendix A: Infrastructure Analysis. Prepared April 1, 2024.

Moulton Niguel Water District, 2020. *Long-Range Water Reliability Plan Update*. Available at: [https://www.mnwd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Final\\_2020-LRWRP-Update\\_03082021.pdf](https://www.mnwd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Final_2020-LRWRP-Update_03082021.pdf)

Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD), 2023. *Popular Annual Financial Report*. <https://www.mnwd.com/wp-content/uploads/FYE23-PAFR-Final-Draft.pdf>, accessed September 20, 2024

Moulton Niguel Water District, June 2021. *2020 Urban Water Management Plan, Table 4-1*

Orange County Water District, 2015. *Groundwater Management Plan*. Available at: [https://www.ocwd.com/wp-content/uploads/groundwatermanagementplan2015update\\_20150624.pdf](https://www.ocwd.com/wp-content/uploads/groundwatermanagementplan2015update_20150624.pdf)

## 3.2 WASTEWATER

This section describes the City's wastewater infrastructure, wastewater flows, and previous infrastructure planning. The General Plan addresses the topic of wastewater services within the Public Facilities Element. The information included here is summarized from an infrastructure report prepared by Fuscoe Engineering in April 2024, located in Appendix A: Infrastructure Analysis.

### Existing Sewer System

MNWD and SCWD are responsible for the local wastewater facilities in Laguna Niguel. MNWD collects wastewater through a network of collectors, gravity lines, lift stations, and force mains, with a primary focus on residential areas (Fuscoe, 2024). See Figure 3-3 for the existing sewer system facilities in the City.

### Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD)

Within Laguna Niguel, the MNWD maintains approximately 1,166,372 ft (221 miles) of sewers lines and service laterals range in size from 4" to 48". The majority of the sewer lines throughout the City were constructed in the 1980s (54%) and are constructed from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) (54%) and vitrified clay pipe (VCP) (43%). The entire gravity sewer system includes manholes that facilitate cleaning and maintenance of the local sewer infrastructure.

MNWD has decreased wastewater flows over the years through active and passive conservation measures. MNWD operates and maintains Plant 3A and the AWT facilities at the RTP and prioritizes the protection of public health, the environment, and compliance with regulatory and public health agencies by performing regular sampling, monitoring, and testing of wastewater treatment (Fusco, 2024).

Regionally, MNWD is a member of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA), MNWD actively contributes flow to three regional treatment plants and two ocean outfalls. Other facilities that MNWD owns and operates are described below:

- **Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWT)** – MNWD owns and operates the AWT facilities located at the Regional Treatment Plant (RTP). The AWT treats water to Title 22 standards for recycled water and supplies up to 20% of the District's total water demands and has a recycled water capacity of 9.4 MGD.
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant 3A** – Located in the City of Mission Viejo, Plant 3A has a maximum capacity of 6 MGD and treats water from MNWD and SMWD. On average Plant 3A treats approximately 1.8 MGD. MNWD owns 72% of the treatment capacity and actively collaborates with Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD). Effluent undergoes secondary or tertiary treatment depending on the disposal method, ocean outfall or recycled water.

### South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA)

SOCWA, was established in the 1970s, and consists of ten governmental agencies, including the City of Laguna Niguel, Laguna Beach, San Clemente, and others (Fusco, 2024). The management of treatment and disposal of wastewater involves proportionate cost-sharing among member agencies based on deliveries and ownership of the plants. Some of SOCWAs regional facilities include the following:

- **Coastal Treatment Plant (CTP)** – Located in the City of Laguna Niguel and constructed in 1983, the CTP has a capacity of 6.7 million gallons per day (MGD). Currently the CTP has an average daily use of 2.9 MGD, with a production of 1.5 MGD of recycled water. The treatment processes at the plant include screening, grit removal, primary clarification, secondary treatment, secondary clarification, anaerobic digestion, and thickening. The District does not currently use capacity at the CTP but owns 29% of the treatment capacity. MNWDs participation and funding obligations for the CTP will end in 2030.
- **JB Latham Treatment Plant (JBLTP)** – Located in the City of Dana Point and constructed in 1964, the JBLTP operates as a conventional activated sludge treatment facility with a total capacity of 13 MGD and currently utilizing 6 MGD. The treatment processes at the facility includes screening, grit removal, primary clarification, secondary treatment, secondary clarification, anaerobic digestion, and solids dewatering. MNWD owns 23% of the liquid treatment capacity and 22% of the solid's treatment capacity.
- **Regional Treatment Plant (RTP)** – Located in the City of Laguna Niguel and constructed in 1982, the RTP is a key facility with a total liquid waste capacity of 12 MGD and 20 MGD in solid waste. Currently the RTP is operating at an average of 7.3 MGD and generates up to 7.3 MGD of recycled water. The treatment processes at the facility includes screening, grit removal, primary clarification, secondary treatment, secondary clarification, anaerobic digestion, and solids dewatering. MNWD owns 100% of the liquid treatment capacity, 100% of the recycled water treatment facilities, and nearly 60% of solids treatment capacity.

- **Aliso Creek Ocean Outfall** – The Aliso Creek Ocean Outfall was constructed in 1979 and extends 1.5 miles off of Aliso Creek Beach. The outfall discharges highly treated wastewater into the Pacific Ocean and handles a capacity of 9.3 MGD. Water quality testing is conducted monthly at 21 ocean and 12 beach monitoring sites.
- **San Juan Creek Ocean Outfall** – The San Juan Creek Ocean Outfall was constructed in 1978 and extends 2.2 miles off of the Doheny State Beach. The outfall discharges highly treated wastewater into the Pacific Ocean and handles a capacity of 10.5 MGD. Water Quality testing is conducted monthly at 21 ocean and 9 beach monitoring sites.

### South Coast Water District (SCWD)

SCWD's involvement in the City's sewer distribution primarily revolves around wastewater conveyance. SCWD has several connections with MNWD to support wastewater conveyance from the City. Due to local topography, SCWD extends its sewer service beyond its boundaries to certain customers, thus avoiding the need for constructing and operating sewer lift stations in neighboring districts, such as MNWD.

One area with approximately 650 customers is within MNWD's service area boundary, but sewer by gravity drains to SCWD's wastewater system. The District also has a contractual obligation to provide up to 1.44 MGD to MNWD at the Joint Reservoir. However, MNWD only accepts flow from the District during emergencies or routine maintenance periods. Historically, MNWD's intake from the Joint Reservoir during the summer months has not exceeded approximately 1.0 MGD (Fusco, 2024).

Orange County Sanitation District

Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) is a regional agency with trunklines throughout Orange County. OCSD shares overlapping operational authority throughout the cities and sewer agency districts within the county, including the City of Laguna Niguel. In general, OCSD owns and maintains the larger trunklines while the cities and agencies that form OCSD own and maintain the smaller laterals. OCSD relies on the cooperation and resources of the 27 satellite cities and agencies to maintain the smaller laterals and to implement FOG control programs for the FSEs that discharge directly to the local collection systems.<sup>3</sup>

3.2.6 Existing Sewer Flows

Sewer flows throughout Laguna Niguel are a part of MNWDs 2020 UWMP. Within its service area the District estimated that 11,590 AF of wastewater was treated. 6,101 AF was discharged, and 5,489 AF was recycled within the Districts service area. Flows were discharged into Aliso Creek Channel and San Juan Ocean Outfalls. See Table 3-3 for a summary of existing sewer flows throughout MNWDs service area.

Table 3-3: Existing Sewer Flows-Regional

MNWD Wastewater Collection	Treatment Plant	Treated Wastewater (AF)	Treated Discharge (AF)	Recycled Wastewater (AF)
Metered - Wastewater received by SOCWA	Regional Treatment Plant	8,680	3,995	4,685
Metered - Wastewater received by MNWD	3A Treatment Plant	1,761	957	804
Estimated - Wastewater received by SOCWA	JB Latham Treatment Plant	1,149	1,149	0
Total		11,590	6,101	5,489

SOURCE: MNWD, JUNE 2021. 2020 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN, TABLE 6-3.

<sup>3</sup> Orange County Sanitation District, 2024. Sewer System Management Plan. <https://www.ocsan.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/29880/638622493219500000>, accessed September 19, 2024.

### 3.2.7 Existing Sewer Capacity Assessment

The sewer system management responsibilities within the City are shared between MNWD, SCWD, and the City's Public Works Department (Fusco, 2024). Larger sewer facilities are regionally overseen by MNWD in collaboration with SCWD. Locally, the City's Public Works Department issues encroachment permits to MNWD or SCWD for sewer improvement projects including inspection of backfill above the pipe and surface restoration. For private properties, the City's Building Department is in charge of permitting and inspecting private sewer improvements. This collaborative approach between regional and local agencies ensures comprehensive management, covering both public and private aspects of sewer and wastewater infrastructure within the City.

### 3.2.8 References

Fusco Engineering, Inc. 2024. *City of Laguna Niguel General Plan Update, Existing Conditions Infrastructure Report for Water, Sewer, Storm Drainage, and Water Quality*. Appendix A: Infrastructure Analysis. Prepared April 1, 2024.

Moulton Niguel Water District, June 2021. *2020 Urban Water Management Plan, Table 6-3*.

### 3.3 STORMWATER AND DRAINAGE

Provided below is a discussion of the stormwater drainage and flood control systems that serve the City. The existing Laguna Niguel General Plan addresses the topics of stormwater and drainage services within the Public Facilities Element. The information included here is summarized from an infrastructure report prepared by Fuscoe Engineering in April 2024, located in Appendix A: Infrastructure Analysis.

#### 3.3.1 Existing Drainage Facilities

The City has a storm drain system composed of catch basins and storm drains, which conveys stormwater runoff through roadways and underground infrastructure. Storm drain pipelines, channels, and facilities within the City range from 192" to 18" in diameter with a total length of approximately 389,498 ft (74 miles). The majority of the pipelines are owned by the City and are made from reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) (Fuscoe, 2024). The City's Public Works Department and Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) work together to monitor and maintain their respective storm drainage infrastructure to ensure the system functions effectively. Most storm flows will be conveyed in the City's roadways, to City-owned catch basins and storm drain systems. From there, the flows are discharged into OCFCD channels and are ultimately discharged into the Pacific Ocean.



### 3.3.2 Stormwater and Flood Control

The National Flood Insurance Act (1968) established the National Flood Insurance Program, which is based on the minimal requirements for flood plain management and is designed to minimize flood damage within Special Flood Hazard Areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the agency that administers the National Flood Insurance Program. Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) are defined as areas that have a 1% chance of flooding within a given year, also referred to as the 100-year flood. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) were developed to identify areas of flood hazards within a community.

According to the Flood Zone Determination<sup>4</sup>, the majority of the City is designated as unshaded Zone X, with varying flood zones surrounding the waterbodies and wetland areas (Fuscoe, 2024). Unshaded Zone X is defined as the area determined to be outside the 100 and 500-year flood and mandatory flood insurance is not required. This and other flood zones and floodways throughout the City are described in Table 3-4 and shown in Figure 3-4. Although the majority of the City is not subject to flooding hazards as defined by FEMA, localized flooding and/or ponding can still occur during large rain events due to the inadequacy of existing drainage facilities including drainage inlets, culverts, catch basins, storm drain pipes, curbs, and gutters (Fuscoe, 2024).

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<sup>4</sup> Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Flood Maps*. Available at: <https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps>

Table 3-4 FEMA Flood Zone Designations

Zone Designation	Zone	Zone Description
<b>Special Flood Hazard Area – With or Without Base Flood Elevation or Depth</b>	Zone A	Areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding and –a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Because detailed analyses are not performed for such areas, no depths or base flood elevations are available within these zones.
	Zone AE	The base floodplain where base flood elevations are provided.
	Zone AH	Areas with a 1% annual chance of shallow flooding, usually in the form of a pond, with an average depth ranging from 1 to 3 feet. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Base flood elevations derived from detailed analyses are available at selected intervals within these zones.
<b>Other Areas of Flood Hazard</b>	Zone X	<u>Shaded</u> : Area of 500-year flood; area subject to the 100-year flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with contributing drainage area less than one square mile; and areas protected by levees from the base flood.

SOURCE: FEMA, GLOSSARY. AVAILABLE AT: [HTTPS://WWW.FEMA.GOV/ABOUT/GLOSSARY](https://www.fema.gov/about/glossary).

Although flooding is a risk present throughout the City, the City's Public Works Department has implemented a regular annual maintenance program to minimize the reoccurrence of flooding in specific locations. The Public Works Department has identified that there are catch basins at Adelanto Drive and Crown Valley Parkway that may lead to flooding without regular maintenance. Additional ongoing maintenance is crucial for the City's 13 wetland areas present throughout the City, as these areas convey runoff from regional tributaries and could be prone to flooding without routine maintenance.

### 3.3.3 Existing Flood Plain Mapping

The National Flood Insurance Act (1968) established the National Flood Insurance Program, which is based on the minimal requirements for flood plain management and is designed to minimize flood damage within Special Flood Hazard Areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the agency that administers the National Flood Insurance Program. Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) are defined as areas that have a 1% chance of flooding within a given year, also referred to as the 100-year flood. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) were developed to identify areas of flood hazards within a community.

#### Master Plan of Drainage

The last update to the City's Master Plan of Drainage was published in 1971 and prepared for the County of Orange. As a resource the document provides a basis for historic drainage deficiencies, requirements, planning objectives, and capital improvement programs. OC Public Records provided the original document for this master plan alongside other subsequential drainage documents that will be discussed in more detail in the following sections, as they outline a more up-to-date look at the City and its drainage facilities. An updated Storm Drain Master Plan has been added to the City's CIP and is planned to start phasing in Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

### 3.3.4 Storm Drainage Capacity Assessment

In managing the storm drainage infrastructure and systems within the City, responsibilities are shared between OCFCD and the City's Public Works Department. Additional regional resources for watershed protection and flood conveyance include the following:

### **South Orange County Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (SOCIRWMP)**

The SOCIRWMP is a regional watershed-based plan that prioritizes, identifies, and promotes multi-beneficial storm drainage improvements. It is a partnership between 21 cities and water/wastewater agencies in South Orange County. As a member, the City benefits from collaborative resource projects focused on improving storm drain capacity, water quality, water supply reliability, and flood management.

### **Watershed Infiltration and Hydromodification Management Plan (WIHMP)**

The WIHMP is an GIS initial screening tool for determining the suitability of infiltration BMPs at a watershed and sub-watershed level. Suitability is based on lands uses, soils, slope, ownership, channel morphology, and local drainage systems. These projects aim to meet the regional management goals and are essential in the timing, funding, design, and permitting of storm drainage improvements throughout the region.

### **Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) Infrastructure Maintenance**

The OCFCD performs regular operations and maintenance for the County of Orange flood control facilities. OCFCD ensures that regional flood control facilities are able to handle flows from storm drains and other runoff that is channeled into the bay or ocean. Services that they provide include the following: on-site investigations, technical assistance with evaluating river and stream bank erosion, emergency flood response, maintenance and inspection of flood levees and flood control facilities owned by the County of Orange, channel and creek restoration and improvement projects, and illegal dumping mitigation. OCFCD has conducted routine spring and fall 2023 inspections for a majority of the storm drain channels and water bodies within the City.

**Laguna Niguel Wetlands Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan**

The O&M Plan describes routine maintenance and habitat management activities for the City's 13 wetland sites and aims to ensure long-term sustainability and public safety. Goals include implementing flood and vector control, maintaining restored ecosystems, and managing sites for the stability of the Aliso Creek Watershed. The plan follows federal and State laws and is prepared to secure permits for necessary and routine maintenance. The plan allows for additional restoration sites and maintenance facilities as needed, with updates generally occurring every 5 years during permit renewals.

### 3.3.5 References

California Department of Water Resources. 2019. *Final California 2019 Integrated Report (CWA Section 303(d) List / 305(b) Report)*. Available at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated\\_2014\\_2016.shtml](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated_2014_2016.shtml).

Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Glossary*. Available at: <https://www.fema.gov/about/glossary>.

Fuscoe Engineering, Inc. 2024. *City of Laguna Niguel General Plan Update, Existing Conditions Infrastructure Report for Water, Sewer, Storm Drainage, and Water Quality*. Appendix A: Infrastructure Analysis. Prepared April 1, 2024.

Orange County Sanitation District, 2024. *Sewer System Management Plan*. <https://www.ocsan.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/29880/638622493219500000>, accessed September 19, 2024.

### 3.4 SOLID WASTE

The following section describes solid waste disposal contracting and facilities serving the City. The existing Laguna Niguel General Plan addresses the topics of solid waste management within the Public Facilities Element. In addition, the Community Service Standards Element identifies the level of service standards related to the management of solid waste reduction and recycling within the City.

#### 3.4.1 Waste Collection Services

CR&R Environmental Services, Inc. is a private franchise hauler that provides solid waste disposal and recycling services within the City.<sup>5</sup> According to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), there are seven landfills where the City disposed waste in 2019.<sup>6</sup> Approximately 85% of the waste generated in the City was disposed at the Prima Deshecha Landfill / Orange County Waste & Recycling at 32250 Avenida La Pata in San Juan Capistrano, California.

#### 3.4.2 Hazardous Waste Disposal

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any hazardous waste generated incidental to owning or maintaining a residence, including paints, solvents, varnishes, acids, flammables, acrylics, and resins. E-waste such as televisions, tablets, cell phones and computers can also be taken to a HHW Collection Center. Orange County operates several HHW Collection Centers to ensure HHW is properly disposed of. Orange County residents, including residents of Laguna Niguel, can dispose of their HHW items for free at any of

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<sup>5</sup> City of Laguna Niguel. *Trash Collection and Recycling Services*. Available at:

<https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/1169/Trash-Collection-and-Recycling-Services>, accessed August 17, 2023

<sup>6</sup> CalRecycle, *Jurisdiction Disposal and Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Tons by Facility*, Available at: <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/DisposalReporting/Destination/DisposalByFacility>, accessed September 6, 2023.

the County's four HHW Collection Centers, with the closest location to the City is available at the Prima Deshecha Landfill in San Juan Capistrano.<sup>7</sup>

### 3.4.3 Solid Waste Generation Rates and Volumes

CalRecycle tracks and monitors solid waste generation rates on a per capita basis. The total annual solid waste disposal amount for the City of Laguna Niguel for the year 2022 (most current available data) was 45,149 tons.<sup>8</sup> The per capita solid waste generation rate was 3.8 pounds/person/day.<sup>9</sup> The per capita solid waste generation rate for 2022 had decreased from the 2021 rate of 4.0 pounds/person/day.

The City has complied with State requirements to reduce the volume of solid waste through recycling and reuse of solid waste. The City's per capita disposal target rate in 2022 was 6.6 pounds/person/day.<sup>10</sup> The City's per capita disposal rate in 2022 was 3.8 pounds/person/day, which successfully satisfies the target reduced disposal rate.

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<sup>7</sup> County of Orange Waste & Recycling, *Household Hazardous Waste*, Available at: <https://oclandfills.com/hazardous-waste>, accessed September 6, 2023.

<sup>8</sup> CalRecycle, *Jurisdiction Disposal Tonnage Trend*, Available at: <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/AnnualReporting/ReviewReports>, accessed July 1, 2024.

<sup>9</sup> CalRecycle, *Jurisdiction Per Capita Disposal Trend*, Available at: <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/AnnualReporting/ReviewReports>, accessed July 1, 2024.

<sup>10</sup> CalRecycle, *Jurisdiction Per Capita Disposal Rate Trends (Post 2006)*, <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/AnnualReporting/ReviewReports>, accessed September 6, 2023.



### 3.4.4 References

CalRecycle, *Jurisdiction Disposal and Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Tons by Facility*, Available at: <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/DisposalReporting/Destination/DisposalByFacility>, accessed September 6, 2023.

CalRecycle, *Jurisdiction Disposal Tonnage Trend*, Available at: <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/DisposalReporting/Destination/DisposalByFacility>, accessed July 1, 2024.

CalRecycle, *Jurisdiction Per Capita Disposal Trend*, Available at: <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/AnnualReporting/ReviewReports>, accessed July 1, 2024.

CalRecycle, *Jurisdiction Per Capita Disposal Rate Trends (Post 2006)*, Available at: <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/AnnualReporting/ReviewReports>, accessed July 1, 2024.

City of Laguna Niguel. *Trash Collection and Recycling Services*. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/1169/Trash-Collection-and-Recycling-Services>, accessed August 17, 2023

County of Orange Waste & Recycling, *Household Hazardous Waste*, Available at: <https://oclandfills.com/hazardous-waste>, accessed September 6, 2023.

### 3.5 ELECTRICITY AND NATURAL GAS

This section describes the City's electricity and natural gas infrastructure and the utility companies providing these services. The existing Laguna Niguel General Plan addresses the topics of electricity and natural gas within the Public Facilities Element.

#### 3.5.1 Existing Setting

Electricity service in the City is provided by two utility companies: Southern California Edison (SCE) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E).<sup>11</sup> SCE provides electricity service to the western portion of the City. SCE is a regulated public utility that provides energy service to 15 million people across a 50,000 square mile service area covering portions of Orange and Los Angeles counties. SCE obtains electricity from a variety of sources, including SCE-owned facilities and other private and publicly owned facilities that provide electricity through contracts and agreements. Electricity is generated from a variety of energy sources, including coal, natural gas, hydroelectric, and a mix of other renewable resources.

SDG&E provides electricity service to the eastern portion of the City. SDG&E is one of the primary providers of electricity and natural gas to the region of Southern California. SDG&E supplies power to a population of 1.4 million business and residential accounts in a 4,100 square-mile service area spanning two counties and 25 communities. There are electric transmission lines smaller than 110 kV located in the northern portion of City near Alicia Parkway.<sup>12</sup>

The Southern California Gas company (SoCalGas) is the primary natural gas provider in the City.<sup>13</sup> SoCalGas is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, they deliver increasingly clean, safe, and reliable energy to 21.1 million consumers through 5.9 million meters in more than 500 communities. Their service territory encompasses approximately 24,000 square miles in diverse

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<sup>11</sup> City of Laguna Niguel, 1992. *General Plan Environmental Impact Report*

<sup>12</sup> California Energy Commission. 2023. *California Electric Infrastructure App*. <https://cecgis-caenergy.opendata.arcgis.com/app/ad8323410d9b47c1b1a9f751d62fe495>, accessed August 16, 2023.

<sup>13</sup> City of Laguna Niguel, 1992. *General Plan Environmental Impact Report*

terrain throughout Central and Southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border.<sup>14</sup> There are no gas transmission pipelines, or high-pressure distribution lines located within the City.<sup>15</sup>

### 3.5.2 References

California Energy Commission. 2023. *California Electric Infrastructure App*. Available at:

<https://cecgis-caenergy.opendata.arcgis.com/app/ad8323410d9b47c1b1a9f751d62fe495>, accessed August 16, 2023.

City of Laguna Niguel, 1992. *General Plan Environmental Impact Report*

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Southern California Edison. *Our Service Territory*. Available at: <https://www.sce.com/about-us/who-we-are/leadership/our-service-territory>, accessed September 11, 2023

Southern California Edison. 2023. Available at: <https://www.sce.com/>

Southern California Gas Company. *Company Profile*, <https://www.socalgas.com/about-us/company-profile>, accessed June 27, 2024.

Southern California Gas Company. *Gas Transmission Pipeline Interactive Map*, <https://socalgas.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=53da2bbb31574e0ab0f14f9bc2618d89>, accessed June 27, 2024.

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<sup>14</sup> Southern California Gas Company. *Company Profile*, <https://www.socalgas.com/about-us/company-profile>, accessed June 27, 2024.

<sup>15</sup> Southern California Gas Company. *Gas Transmission Pipeline Interactive Map*, <https://socalgas.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=53da2bbb31574e0ab0f14f9bc2618d89>, accessed June 27, 2024.

## 3.6 PUBLIC SAFETY

This section addresses the provision of public safety services in Laguna Niguel, including fire protection, law enforcement, and other local safety provisions. See Figure 3-5 for the public services within the City.

### 3.6.1 Fire Protection

Historically, Laguna Niguel has contracted essential services through established county agencies, including the Orange County Fire Department (OFCA), which provides full-service fire protection services to the City.

The existing Laguna Niguel General Plan addresses the topic of fire protection services within the Seismic and Public Safety Element. In addition, the Community Service Standards Element identifies the level of service standards related to the fire protection response time within the City.



### Fire Protection Services

The OCFA is a regional fire service agency that provides fire protection and emergency services to 23 cities in Orange County and all unincorporated areas. There are 77 fire stations located throughout Orange County that help protect over two million residents.<sup>16</sup> The OFCA is dedicated to ensuring the City and the rest of Orange County region a safer place to live, work, and play.



The OCFA provides fire and emergency medical services to the City. There are three fire stations located in the City: Station No. 5 is located at 23600 Pacific Island Drive; Station No. 39 is located at 24241 Avila Road; and Station No. 49 is located at 31461 Golden Lantern Street.<sup>17</sup> The City of Laguna Niguel is located in OCFA Operations Division 5, which includes a total of nine fire stations and serves the cities of Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, and Lake Forest.

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<sup>16</sup> Orange County Fire Authority. *Customer Service Motto*. Available at: <https://ocfa.org/AboutUs/AboutOCFA.aspx#ourvision>, accessed August 25, 2023.

<sup>17</sup> City of Laguna Niguel. *Fire and Emergency Medical Services*. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/286/Fire-Services>, accessed August 25, 2023

## OCFA Wildland Fire Protection

The County has a long history of significant wildland fires. The “chaparral” land cover type located in close proximity to development increases the risk of wildland fire. When a fire occurs, the weather, topography, type/nature of vegetation, access and water supply have a significant impact on severity and outcome. Large catastrophic wildland fires in Southern California are usually driven by Santa Ana winds. These winds can blow at 60 to 100 mph and last for days. Houses that interface with the wildland areas are at risk from burning vegetation. The Laguna Beach Fire (1993), San Clemente – Trafalgar Canyon Fire (2001), and Laguna Niguel/Laguna Beach Coastal Fire (2022) underscore the inherent risks in these interface areas.

OCFA currently uses regionally accepted wildland response levels: Low watershed, Medium watershed, High watershed, and Red Flag. Risk assessments are based on proximity to wildland areas and the extent of available defensible space. The nature of the interface changes over time, influenced by rainfall and vegetation maintenance, or the lack thereof. The State has identified areas of high risk and designated them as Very High Fire Severity Zones. OCFA will maintain the capability of responding a High watershed dispatch to these areas.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Orange County Fire Authority, 2014. *Standards of Cover*. Available at: [https://ocfa.org/Uploads/Orange%20County%20Fire%20Authority%20SOC\\_FINAL.pdf](https://ocfa.org/Uploads/Orange%20County%20Fire%20Authority%20SOC_FINAL.pdf), accessed October 8, 2024.

### Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) reviews the fire protection resources within communities and provides a Community Fire Protection Rating system from which insurance rates are often based. ISO rating class 1 represents the best public protection, and Class 10 indicates no recognized protection. OCFA is divided into six ISO regions and rating areas (OC Central, East, North, South, West, and Santa Ana). Most of the populated areas of OCFA have a Class 3 ISO rating.<sup>19</sup> The City has a Class 2 ISO rating.<sup>20</sup>

### OCFA Fire Master Plan for Commercial and Residential Development

The OCFA Fire Master Plan, most recently updated in 2023, is a general guideline pertaining to the creation and maintenance of fire department access roadways, access walkways to and around buildings, and hydrant quantity and placement as required by the California Fire and Building Codes (CFC and CBC) and as amended by local ordinance. These guidelines apply to new, remodeled, reconstructed, or relocated residential or commercial structures and developments to which emergency response may be necessary. This document details plan check submittal requirements for fire safety review, identification of fire lanes and premises, hydrant availability, access requirements, and etc.

### Fire Department Programs

The OCFA provides more than traditional fire services and emergency medical services; the OCFA also currently participates and manages a range of additional programs related to community health and safety, which are subject to change over time.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Orange County Fire Authority, 2014. *Standards of Coverage and Deployment Plan*.

<sup>20</sup> Orange County Fire Authority. *ISO Rating Web App*. Available at: <https://www.ocfa.org/Residents/ISORatingMap.aspx>

<sup>21</sup> Orange County Fire Authority. *Safety Programs*. Available at: <https://ocfa.org/SafetyPrograms>, accessed August 25, 2023.

### *Education & Outreach*

The OCFA offers a variety of educational programs and community outreach events. These programs include safety presentations, fire station tours, school programs, and community events.

### *Safety Flyers*

The OCFA provides pre-designed safety flyers to cover topics such as disaster preparedness, fire safety, drowning prevention, wildfire, and holiday safety. These informative flyers aim to raise awareness and promote safety within the City.

### *Kids Corner*

The OCFA provides fun and educational resources to help children understand emergency preparedness. These resources help further strengthen the connection between OCFA and the community by educating children about the importance of fire safety and other forms of emergencies. These educational resources include video tutorials, coloring books, and collection of short stories.

### *Disaster Preparedness*

The OCFA provides instructional materials for disaster preparedness on their website to help better prepare communities within their region from disaster related events.

### *Drowning Prevention*

The educational information for drowning prevention and water safety is made available on the OCFA website. These resources include videotaped training from professionals, helpful tips, and tools for educating children on drowning prevention.

### *Fire Safety*

The home fire safety educational material is made available for everyone who visits the OCFA website. The fire safety training provides helpful information and tips from handling cooking fires to the proper procedure in using a fire extinguisher.



### *Smoke Alarms & Home Escape Plan*

The OCFA provides helpful information for installing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your household, and the importance of creating a home escape plan.

### *Ready, Set, Go!*

The *Ready, Set, Go!* Program provides educational information to homeowners regarding the potential impact of wildfires on their homes.

## 3.6.2 Law Enforcement

The City contracts with the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) for law enforcement services. The OCSD captain assigned to the Laguna Niguel Police Services serves as the City's chief of police and is responsible for deploying law enforcement resources based on the City's contract. OCSD deputies are responsible for general patrol, traffic enforcement, criminal investigations, and other law enforcement related duties within the City.

The current General Plan addresses the topic of law enforcement and police protection services within the Seismic and Public Safety Element and the Public Facilities Element. In addition, the General Plan Community Service Standards Chapter identifies the level of service standards related to the police protection response time within the City.

### Police Protection Services

The City is served by the Laguna Niguel Police Services, through OCSD, located at City Hall.<sup>22</sup> This includes general law enforcement services including patrol, traffic enforcement, accident analysis and investigation, parking enforcement, and general and special investigations.



The City collaborates closely with OCSD to assess and meet community needs for adequate personnel and equipment to effectively combat crime and meet existing and projected service demands. OCSD provides 24-hour per day coverage.

The Laguna Niguel Police Services currently provides programs and services to the City related to public safety, which are subject to change over time:

#### *Neighborhood Watch*

Neighborhood watch is a crime prevention program that enlists the active participation of citizens in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime in their communities.

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<sup>22</sup> City of Laguna Niguel. Police Services. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/14/Police-Services>, accessed August 25, 2023

*Business Watch*

This program enlists the active participation of business owners and managers in cooperation with law enforcement to prevent crime in their community.

*Home Security Checks*

With this service, a Crime Prevention Specialist will visit a home to inspect the security of the home and offer suggestions where needed, at no cost.

*Policy Auxiliary Citizen's Team*

The Police Auxiliary Citizen's Team (PACT) is a group of senior volunteers who assist with various duties within police services.

*Ready Laguna Niguel*

Ready Laguna Niguel is a trio of integrated programs intended to focus on the challenges from and responses to emergencies and disasters. Educational presentations, community outreach, and volunteer opportunities comprise this effort to prepare citizens for emergencies.

*Vacation Home Checks*

This service involves a physical check of your home to ensure it remains secure while a resident is away on vacation, free of charge.

*You Are Not Alone*

The You Are Not Alone (YANA) program is designed for Laguna Niguel residents. YANA provides a measure of security and well-being for those who primarily live alone. The program includes a welfare check for those who have requested it.

*Proof of Corrections*

For individuals who receive a citation for a violation that requires evidence of correction, the Police Services Department is available during business hours to provide a "Proof of Correction" citation sign-off.

*Child Car Seat Inspections*

A Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician is available by appointment to inspect a child's car seat or booster seat installation.

### *School Safety and Officer Friendly*

The Community Support Officer is available by appointment to give various presentations to students. Such presentations include internet safety and drug education.



### 3.6.3 Emergency Preparedness and Services

The existing Laguna Niguel General Plan addresses the topic of emergency preparedness and services within the Seismic and Public Safety Element.

The City developed a program focused on promoting resident safety and public awareness called Simplified Action for Emergencies (S.A.F.E.).<sup>23</sup> City Police Services personnel are available to make presentations to businesses, commercial and residential property management, including homeowners' associations. The S.A.F.E. program is a ten-step guide to individual emergency preparedness, designed to be simple and accessible. There is no cost to participate in S.A.F.E., other than the basic required survival supplies. All emergency preparedness literature is provided to the residents free of charge by Laguna Niguel Police Services.

The City prepared an all-hazards Emergency Plan in 2015 that is designed to provide the framework for responding to major emergency disasters. The main goals for this plan are to (1) prepare for, (2) respond to, and (3) recover from an emergency or disaster that affects the City.

The City is a member of the Orange County Operational Area and the Orange County Emergency Management Organization. Both of these entities provide "mutual aid" to communities via the OCSD, the OCFA, and the California Office of Emergency Services.

In addition, Laguna Niguel's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) addresses several natural disasters that may affect the City: earthquake (geologic), severe weather, drought, and extreme heat. The LHMP serves to organize resources, assess potential risks, describe hazards, identify at-risk populations and assets, and set goals, objectives, and tools to reduce the effects of these hazards, minimize property and infrastructure damage, strengthen resources from local and regional public safety facilities, and increase education and awareness of hazard mitigation planning and

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<sup>23</sup> City of Laguna Niguel. *Emergency Preparedness*. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/35/Emergency-Preparedness>

emergency preparedness. The Laguna Niguel LHMP was adopted by the City Council on January 16, 2024.<sup>24</sup>

### Emergency Medical Services

The City partners with the OFCA to provide emergency medical services within Laguna Niguel. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Section of OFCA, manages the delivery of medical services by OCFA emergency medical technicians and paramedics.<sup>25</sup> The EMS Section serves as a liaison to County and State regulatory agencies, hospitals, ambulance providers and other EMS groups. The EMS Section is responsible for meeting paramedic staffing needs through recruitment, selection, support and evaluation, and accreditation of prospective paramedics. The EMS Section participates in the review of local, State, and national legislation, regulations, and policies that affect EMS. Members of the EMS Section participate in EMS workgroups, committees, and advisory boards at the county, State, and federal levels. The EMS Section is also responsible for the immunization and communicable disease prevention and surveillance program.

### 3.6.4 References

American Community Survey, 2012–2022. *5-Year Estimates Subject Table S0101*.

City of Laguna Niguel. *Emergency Preparedness*. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/35/Emergency-Preparedness>

City of Laguna Niguel. 2002. *City of Laguna Niguel Emergency Plan*.

City of Laguna Niguel. Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/286/Fire-Services>, accessed August 25, 2023

City of Laguna Niguel. *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/1485/Local-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan>

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<sup>24</sup> City of Laguna Niguel. *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/1485/Local-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan>

<sup>25</sup> Orange County Fire Authority. *Emergency Medical Services*. Available at: <https://ocfa.org/AboutUs/Departments/OperationsDirectory/EmergencyMedicalServices.aspx>



City of Laguna Niguel. Police Services. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/14/Police-Services>, accessed August 25, 2023

Federal Bureau of Investigation. *Crime Data Explorer*. Years 2012-2022. Available at: <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>

Orange County Fire Authority. *Customer Service Motto*. Available at: <https://ocfa.org/AboutUs/AboutOCFA.aspx#ourvision>, accessed August 25, 2023.

Orange County Fire Authority. Emergency Medical Services. Available at: <https://ocfa.org/AboutUs/Departments/OperationsDirectory/EmergencyMedicalServices.aspx>

Orange County Fire Authority. *ISO Rating Web App*. Available at: <https://www.ocfa.org/Residents/ISORatingMap.aspx>

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Orange County Fire Authority. *Safety Programs*. Available at: <https://ocfa.org/SafetyPrograms>, accessed August 25, 2023.

Orange County Fire Authority, 2014. *Standards of Cover*. Available at: [https://ocfa.org/Uploads/Orange%20County%20Fire%20Authority%20SOC\\_FINAL.pdf](https://ocfa.org/Uploads/Orange%20County%20Fire%20Authority%20SOC_FINAL.pdf), accessed October 8, 2024.

### 3.7 PARKS AND RECREATION

There are a wide variety of parks located within the City, including City-owned parks, County-owned parks, and private homeowners' association (HOA) parks. The current General Plan addresses the topic of parks and recreation facilities in the Open Space/Parks/Conservation Element. See Figure 3-6 for the parks and recreation facilities within the City.

#### 3.7.1 Types of Parks

The General Plan Open Space/Parks/Conservation Element has provided the following parks and facilities classifications within the City:

**County and Regional Parks:** Operated by OC Parks, regional parks serve the varied recreation needs of County residents. Regional parks provide significant open space, and opportunities for picnicking and organized sports activities.

**Community Parks:** A community park typically ranges from 20 to 50 acres and is designed to meet the active recreational needs of several neighborhoods. These parks are intended to serve a drive-to clientele within a radius of up to three miles. They contain facilities which require more space than neighborhood parks, and which may include playfields, basketball courts, tennis courts, swimming pools, community centers, and off-street parking.



**Neighborhood Parks:** A neighborhood park is any general use local park developed to serve the needs of a particular neighborhood within a community. The size of the park depends on the population within its service area and the extent of desired amenities, but usually ranges from 2 to 20 acres. Typical neighborhood parks may be within walking or bicycling distance of park users with a service radius of approximately 1/2 mile. These parks may feature such amenities as children's play areas, ball fields, and open turf areas.



**Mini Parks:** A mini park is a small park site generally ranging from 2,500 square feet to 1 acre in size. These parks may serve any age group, depending on the characteristics of the neighborhood. They usually feature play apparatus, a paved area, benches, and landscape treatment. They may also feature a children's play area, quiet game areas and some sports activities if space allows. Some mini-parks are natural areas with minimal improvements, which help safeguard identified natural resources or serve as viewpoints.

**Private Park or Recreation Facilities:** These facilities are operated by HOAs or other private entities for the exclusive use of their members. They may feature a range of recreational amenities, such as recreational clubs with gymnasiums, indoor and outdoor sports courts, ballfields, swimming pools and spas, and trail systems. These facilities generally vary in size from less than 1 acre to 10 acres. Notable private facilities include Laguna Niguel Racquet Club and El Niguel Country Club.

**School Recreation Facilities:** School recreation facilities are operated by the Capistrano Unified School District. School recreation facilities are for the use of students during school hours and are available to the public at other times.

### 3.7.2 Parks within Laguna Niguel

A summary of existing City parks and recreational facilities with notable amenities and locations is provided in Table 3-5.



Table 3-5: Existing Park Facilities

Park	Address	Facilities	Acreage
<b>Beacon Hill Park</b>	24472 Beacon Hill Way	One grass soccer area, two picnic tables with shade structure, one playground with rubber surface, and two swings (including one handicap accessible).	4.0
<b>Bear Brand Park</b>	32385 Bear Brand Park Road	Two lighted (turf) baseball fields, one lighted (turf) soccer field, five barbecues, seven picnic tables, one playground (wood chips), and restrooms.	6.1
<b>Blu Community Park</b>	27766 Forbes Road	Picnic tables with shade structure, fitness equipment, and dog run.	1.2
<b>Chapparosa Park</b>	25191 Chapparosa Park Road	Salt Creek paved trail begins at end of park, one large playground (with wood chips), one tot-lot (with wood chips), four restrooms, one payphone, drinking fountains, one artificial turf soccer field with lights, two grass pony/adult softball fields with lights, two grass baseball fields with lights, three full basketball courts, two sand volleyball courts, six picnic tables, six barbecues, and 227 parking spaces (five handicap spaces).	18.2
<b>Clipper Cove Park</b>	29325 Clipper Way	One large shelter, three picnic tables, one large playground (with rubber surface), four swings (including two baby swings and two regular swings), and four park benches.	2.4
<b>Crown Royale Park</b>	24697 Crown Royale	--	0.5
<b>Crown Valley Park</b>	29751 Crown Valley Parkway	One pool with diving boards (one fit pool), 30 picnic tables, one playground, seven barbecues, one baseball field, two soccer fields, two restrooms, two playgrounds (with rubber surface), one outdoor amphitheater, 280 parking spaces (including 9 handicap spaces), the Niguel Botanical Preserve (18 acres), and 11 community rental rooms.	38.4
<b>Hidden Hills Park</b>	27802 Springwood	Three picnic tables, two play structures (with rubber surface), four swings (including two baby and two regular), six park benches, half basketball court, one bike rack, one drinking fountain and large grass area, Doggie waste station.	2.4

Park	Address	Facilities	Acreage
<b>Juaneno Park</b>	25078 Hidden Hills Road	One grass soccer field, three baseball backstops (no brick dust), one restroom, two bleachers, and large grass area.	2.9
<b>La Hermosa Park</b>	24462 La Hermosa Ave.	One play structure (with rubber surface), two picnic tables, and two swings.	0.2
<b>La Paz Sports Park</b>	28051 La Paz Road	One artificial turf soccer field (with lights), two artificial turf baseball fields (with lights), one restroom, drinking fountain, bleachers, and 120 parking spaces (including 5 handicap).	4.3
<b>La Plata Park</b>	25006 La Plata Drive	Two play structures (with wood chips), two regular swings, three picnic tables, three park benches, one barbecue, one drinking fountain, large grass area, and Doggie waste stations.	1.3
<b>Laguna Niguel Skate and Soccer Park</b>	27745 Alicia Parkway,	20,000 square foot concrete skateboard park, one lighted soccer field, one full basketball court, and two half basketball courts.	4.7
<b>Lilly Shapell Park</b>	28737 Drakes Bay	One picnic bench and shade structure	0.9
<b>Long View Park</b>	Old Ranch Road	1.35-mile trail for equestrian uses, hiking and bicycle.	0.2
<b>Marina Hills Park</b>	24802 Marina Hills Drive	Two grass soccer fields, one grass baseball field, two basketball courts (including one full court and one-half court), three bocce ball courts, one restroom, four picnic tables, one play structure (with wood chips), one sand pit, two regular swings, and 24 parking spaces (including one handicap).	15
<b>Niguel Heights Park</b>	27804 Niguel Heights Blvd.	Three picnic tables, eight park benches, two playgrounds (with rubber surface), four swings (including two baby swings and two regular swings), one paved trail, large grass area, and one (1) drinking fountain.	2.7
<b>Niguel Road Park</b>	30983 Killini	Bike trail access with open grass area.	1.0
<b>Niguel Woods Park</b>	29883 White Otter Lane	One play structure (with rubber surface), four swings (two regular, two baby swings), and grass area with soccer backstop.	1.4
<b>Ocean Breeze Park</b>	32311 Charles Road	One shelter, four picnic tables, two playgrounds (including one small play structure with wood chips and one larger play structure with rubber	1.7

Park	Address	Facilities	Acreage
		surface), four swings (including one regular, one handicap accessible, and two baby swings), five benches, one full size basketball court, one drinking fountain, one grass volleyball court, large grass area, and fenced-in park.	
<b>Parc Vista Overlook Park</b>	30618 Parc Vista Road	--	0.4
<b>Parc Vista Park</b>	30618 Parc Vista Road	One large play structure (with rubber surface), three swings (including one baby swing and two regular), one trail through the park, large grass area, one picnic table, and four benches.	2.5
<b>Parc Vista View Park</b>	31114 Parc Vista Road	--	1.1
<b>Pooch Park</b>	31575 Golden Lantern Street	Fully fenced off-leash dog park, 25 parking spaces (including two handicap spaces), two shelters, four picnic tables, one water faucet with hose, one fire hydrant (non-functional), one (1) restroom (portable), wood chips for ground cover, and Doggie waste stations.	1.0
<b>Rancho Niguel Park</b>	28333 Crown Valley Parkway	One small play structure (with rubber surface), one grass soccer field, one grass softball field, one grass baseball field, one play structure, five barbecues, five picnic tables, one restroom, one drinking fountain, 65 parking spaces (Two handicap spaces available at Marian Bergeson Elementary School).	3.8
<b>Redondo View Node</b>	25575 Redondo	Three picnic tables, one shelter, one barbecue, large grass area, and a paved path around the park.	1.2
<b>Reef View Node</b>	25326 Reef	One large play structure (with rubber surface), two regular swings, four benches, and paved path around park.	3.4
<b>Ridge View Park</b>	29061 Ridgeview	Three benches and a large sandy area.	1.0
<b>Seminole Park</b>	30802 Seminole Place	Two play structures (including one small play structure, one large play structure, and both with rubber surfaces), four swings (including two regular and two baby swings), two picnic tables, three benches, large grass area, and Doggie waste stations.	2.3
<b>Vista Plaza Park</b>	29541 Vista Plaza	--	0.4

Park	Address	Facilities	Acreage
<b>Yosemite Park</b>	24481 Yosemite Road	One large play structure (with rubber surface), four swings (including two regular and two baby swings), one volleyball net (on grass), paved trail around park, and large grass area.	5.4
<b>Park Acreage Totals</b>			<b>172.8</b>

SOURCE: CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL, 2022, AND CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL PARK NEEDS ASSESSMENT, 2022.



There are currently 30 City-owned and operated parks which encompass approximately 172.8 acres of developed parkland within the City. This includes Chapparosa Park, located within a

portion of the larger Salt Creek Corridor Regional Park. There are also four Orange County-owned and operated regional parks within the City, including portions of Aliso & Woods Canyon Wilderness Park, Badlands Park, Laguna Niguel Regional Park, and Seaview Park. In addition to these public parks, there are also number of privately-owned park facilities throughout the City, most of which are part of various HOAs.

The current General Plan establishes a required parkland dedication of 3.0 acres per 1,000 persons for the City. According to the 2022 Citywide Park Needs Assessment, for every 1,000 persons within the City there are 1.94 acres of developed parks, 1.06 acres of neighborhood parks, and 0.81 acres of community parks, for a total of 3.81 acres per 1,000 persons in the City. Therefore, the City exceeds the required parkland dedication of 3.0 acres per 1,000 persons.

The 1998 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was created to guide the orderly development and management of parks, recreation, and trail facilities in the City. In 2022, the City updated this plan and adopted the Citywide Park Needs Assessment. This needs assessment is the guiding document for recreation programming, trails, parks, and recreation facilities in the City. Additionally, the Orange County regional parks provide an additional 180 acres of parkland, open space, and trails within the City.



### Regional and Other Park and Recreation Facilities

The following information is from the 2022 Citywide Park Needs Assessment:

A small portion of the **Aliso and Woods Canyons Wilderness Park** is located within the City. Within the park there are mature oaks, sycamores, and elderberry trees, streams, and an extensive network of trails. Many rare and endangered plants and animals can be found in this park.

**Badlands Park** is a five-acre site located in the southwestern area of the City. The park site is primarily passive in character, providing expansive views of the coastline and ocean.

**Salt Creek Corridor Regional Park** begins in the central portion of the City and flows west and south through a narrow canyon referred to as the Salt Creek Corridor, which is mostly inside a long and narrow regional park that includes hiking trails and natural landscapes.

**Seaview Park** is approximately seven-acres in size with one acre of useable area and is located on Talavera Drive near Pacific Island Drive. The park is primarily passive in character providing views of expansive views of the coastline and ocean.

**The El Niguel Country Club and Golf Course** is a top-tier, 18-hole private golf course located in the City, less than one mile from the beach.

### Trail Connectivity

According to the 2022 Citywide Park Needs Assessment, Laguna Niguel is home to approximately 80 miles of scenic trails. Developed multi-use trails include the Aliso Summit Trail, Colinas Bluff Trail, Laguna Ridge Trail, Long View Park Trail, Niguel Trail, and Salt Creek Trail.



### 3.7.3 References

City of Laguna Niguel. 1992. *City of Laguna Niguel General Plan Open Space/Parks/Conservation Element*.

City of Laguna Niguel. 2020. *City of Laguna Niguel Community Services*. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/Facilities>, accessed August 25, 2023.

City of Laguna Niguel. 2022. *City of Laguna Niguel Citywide Park Needs Assessment*.

City of Laguna Niguel. 1998. *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.



### 3.8 SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES

Laguna Niguel residents receive public educational services from the Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD) and two charter schools. The City is further supported by the Laguna Niguel Library, part of the Orange County Public Library System, which provides essential resources and services to the community.

The existing Laguna Niguel General Plan addresses the topic of schools, libraries, and other public facilities needs in the Public Facilities Element. In addition, the Community Service Standards Element identifies the level of service standards related to the quality of public education within the City.

#### 3.8.1 Public Schools

Primary education (grades kindergarten through 8) in the City is provided by the CUSD. As shown in Table 3-8, CUSD includes six elementary and one middle school within the City. High school education (grades 9 through 12) is provided by schools outside the City. The three nearest high schools are Aliso Niguel High School (28000 Wolverine Way in Aliso Viejo), Capistrano Valley High School (26301 Via Escolar in Mission Viejo), and Dana Hills High School (33333 Golden Lantern Street) in Dana Point.<sup>26</sup> Additionally, there are two charter schools located in the City: Community Roots Academy, which is part of CUSD and Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts, which is not part of CUSD, but within the Orange County Board of Education District.

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<sup>26</sup> City of Laguna Niguel. *Schools*. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/292/Schools>, accessed September 6, 2023.

Table 3-6: Schools Serving the City

School	Grade	Address	Total Enrollment (2022-2023 School Year)
<b>Capistrano Unified School District</b>			
George White Elementary	K-5	25422 Chapparosa Park Road	396
Moulton Elementary	K-5	29851 Highlands Avenue	552
Marian Bergeson Elementary	K-5	25302 Rancho Niguel Road	502
John Malcom Elementary	K-5	32261 Charles Road	548
Laguna Niguel Elementary	K-5	27922 Niguel Heights Boulevard	401
Hidden Hills Elementary	K-5	25142 Hidden Hills Road	327
Niguel Hills Middle School	6-8	29070 Shark Bay	720
Aliso Niguel High School	9-12	28000 Wolverine Way	2,772
Capistrano Valley High School	9-12	26301 Via Escolar	2,010
Dana Hills High School	9-12	33333 Golden Lantern Street	1,940
<b>Charter School</b>			
Community Roots Academy	K to 8	29292 Crown Valley Parkway	783
Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts Elementary	TK-5	29296 Crown Valley Parkway	249

SOURCE: NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, 2022-2023 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT CHARACTERISTICS.  
 CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, PREDICTIVE ENROLLMENT ANALYTICS, 2022-2023 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

### 3.8.2 Public Libraries

The Orange County Public Libraries (OCPL) is a network of 32 community libraries located in Orange County. Library branches are located in the unincorporated County area and within the jurisdiction of the 33 Orange County cities. Residents are provided the opportunity to check out materials at any of the OCPL branches. Public access to internet terminals is available if the users have a valid OCPL library card. The vision of OCPL is have an open-door policy where community members have free access to any of the OCPL branches.<sup>27</sup>

The nearest Orange County Public Library branch is the Laguna Niguel Library, which opened in 1987.<sup>28</sup> The Laguna Niguel Library is located within the City at 30341 Crown Valley Parkway. The Laguna Niguel Library has a variety of services and activities for residents, this includes book clubs, public computer stations, free Wi-Fi, wireless printing, and a collection of foreign and art house movies on DVD. There are two other OCPL branches that are not located within the City but within the vicinity; the Dana Point Library is located at 33841 Niguel Road in Dana Point and the Aliso Viejo Library is located at 1 Journey in Aliso Viejo.



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<sup>27</sup> Orange County Public Libraries. *About OCPL*. Available at: <https://www.ocpl.org/services/about-ocpl>, accessed September 6, 2023.

<sup>28</sup> Orange County Public Libraries. *OCPL Timeline*. Available at: <https://www.ocpl.org/ocpltimeline>, accessed August 28, 2023

### 3.8.3 Other Public Facilities

Notable public facilities in Laguna Niguel include the Crown Valley Community Center and the Sea Country Senior and Community Center, both offering multi-use spaces for a variety of events and activities.

**Crown Valley Community Center:** Located at 29751 Crown Valley Parkway, this approximately 48,000 square foot facility features aquatic facilities, a dedicated art room, fitness and dance room, collaborative tech room, multi-purpose room with a 217-person dining capacity, a catering kitchen, and several multi-purpose classrooms.<sup>29</sup> This community center is suitable for events such as wedding receptions, anniversary celebrations, graduation galas, corporate meetings, trainings, and community events for a fee determined by the City Council.



**Sea Country Senior and Community Center:** Located at 24602 Aliso Creek Road, this approximately 25,000 square foot facility features two ballrooms, two kitchens, two meeting rooms, and a courtyard. The facility is suitable for large events, wedding receptions, corporate meetings, training, and community events for a fee determined by the City Council.<sup>30</sup>



<sup>29</sup> City of Laguna Niguel. Crown Valley Community Center. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/1379/Crown-Valley-Community-Center>, accessed September 11, 2023.

<sup>30</sup> City of Laguna Niguel. Sea Country Senior & Community Center. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/1380/Sea-Country-Senior-Community-Center>, accessed September 11, 2023.

### 3.8.4 References

Capistrano Unified School District, 2024. *Predictive Enrollment Analytics*.

City of Laguna Niguel. Crown Valley Community Center. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/1379/Crown-Valley-Community-Center>, accessed September 11, 2023.

City of Laguna Niguel. Sea Country Senior & Community Center. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/1380/Sea-Country-Senior-Community-Center>, accessed September 11, 2023.

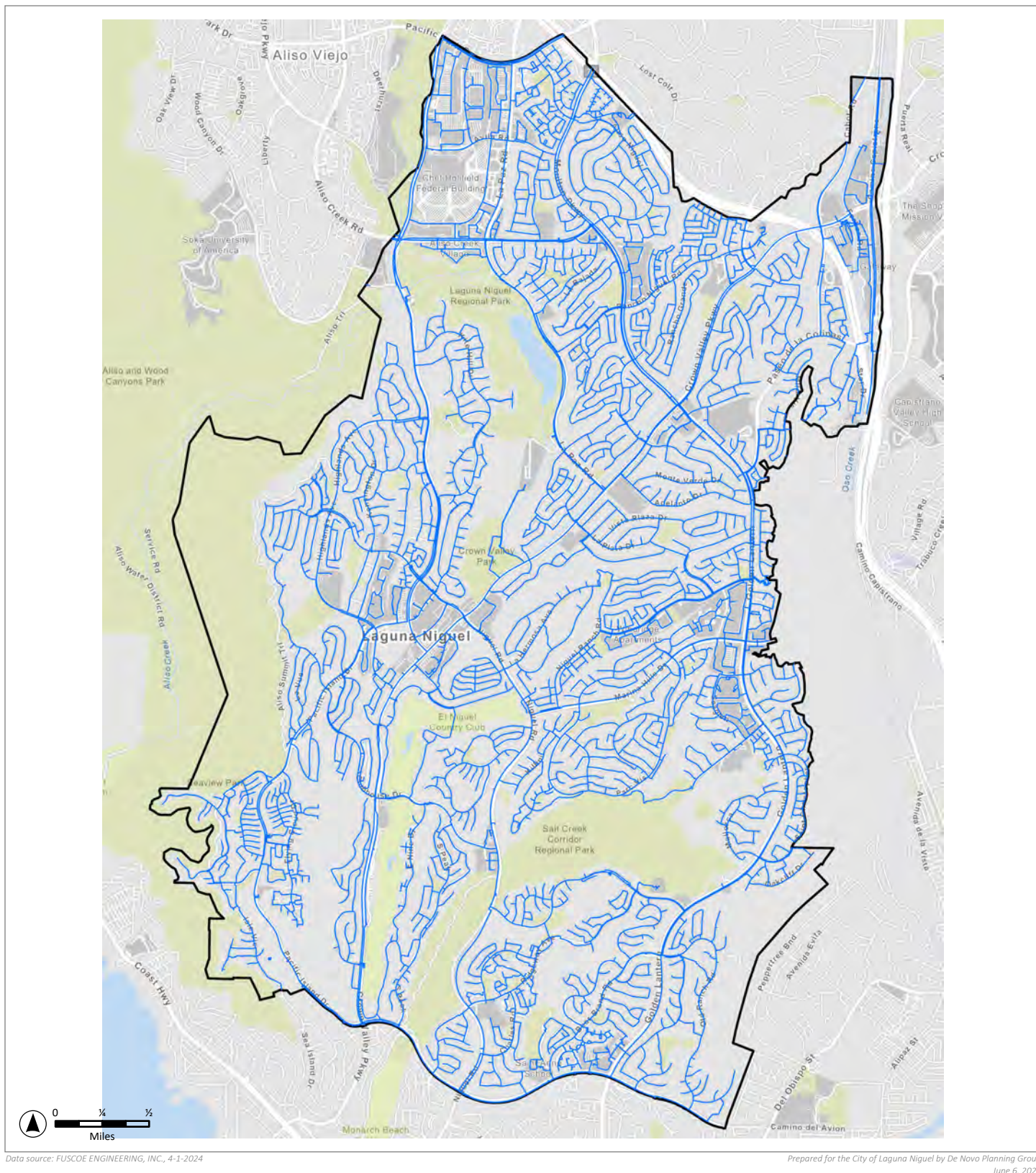
City of Laguna Niguel. Schools. Available at: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/292/Schools>, accessed September 6, 2023.

National Center for Education Statistics. 2023. *School Search*. Available at: <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/>, accessed July 1, 2024.

Orange County Public Libraries. *About OCPL*. Available at: <https://www.ocpl.org/services/about-ocpl>, accessed September 6, 2023.

Orange County Public Libraries. *OCPL Timeline*. Available at: <https://www.ocpl.org/ocpltimeline>, accessed August 28, 2023.



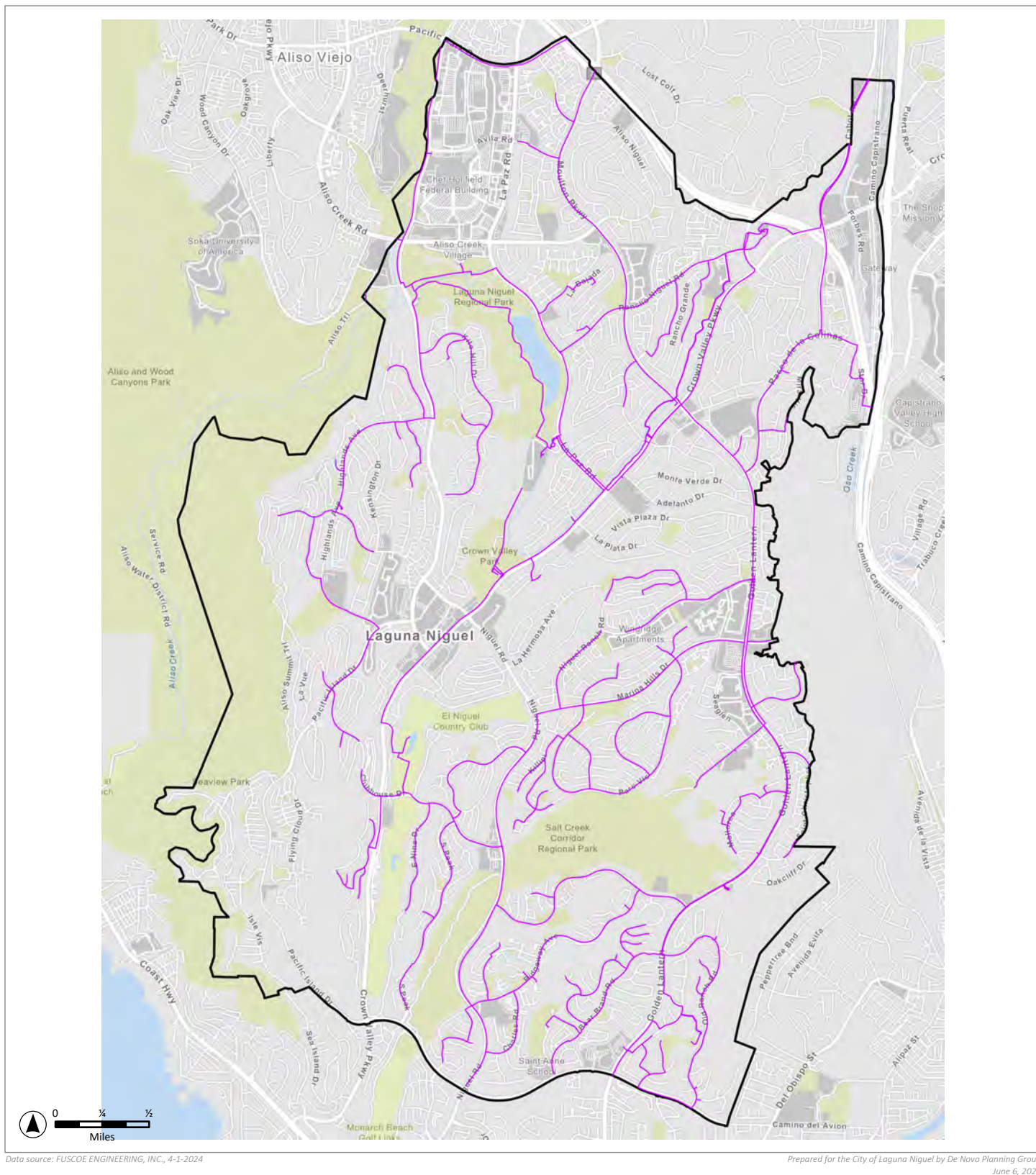


#### LEGEND

- Laguna Niguel City Boundary
- MNWD Potable Water Mainlines

Figure 3-1.  
Existing Water System Facilities



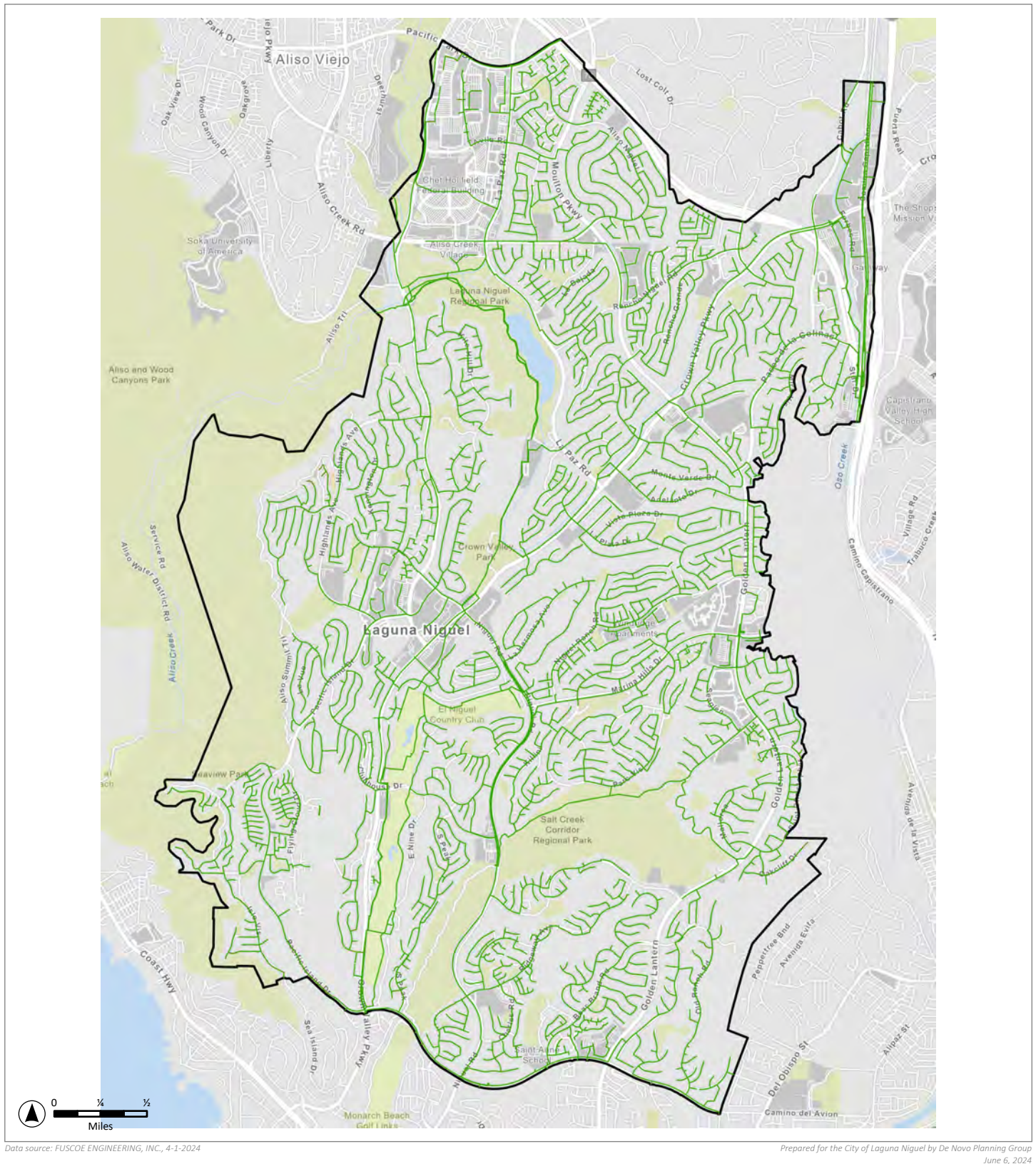


#### LEGEND

- Laguna Niguel City Boundary
- MNWD Recycled Mainlines

Figure 3–2.  
Existing Recycled Water Facilities





**LEGEND**

Laguna Niguel City Boundary

MNWD Wastewater Mainlines

Figure 3-3.  
Existing Sewer System Facilities



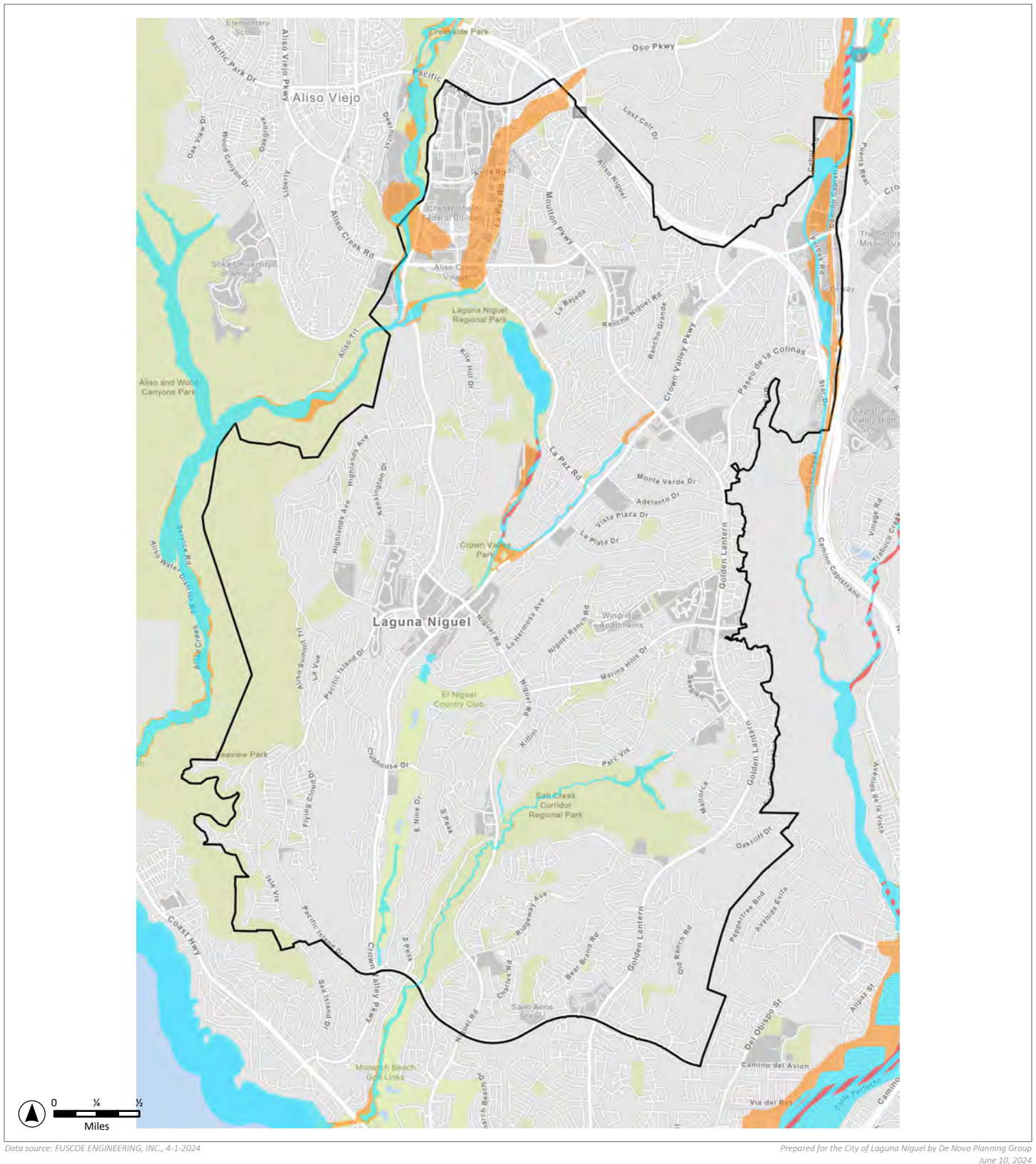
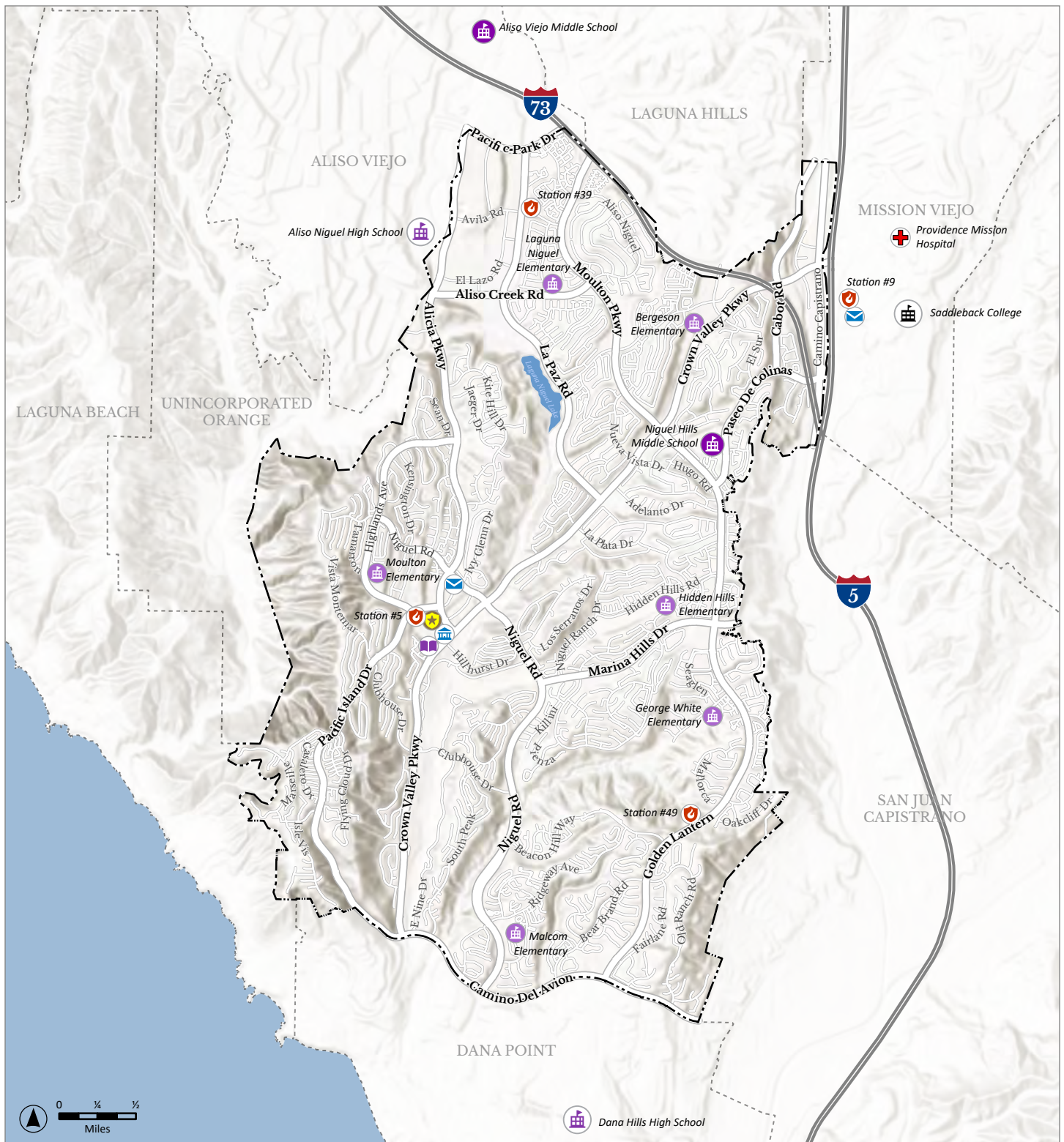


Figure 3-4  
Flood Zones



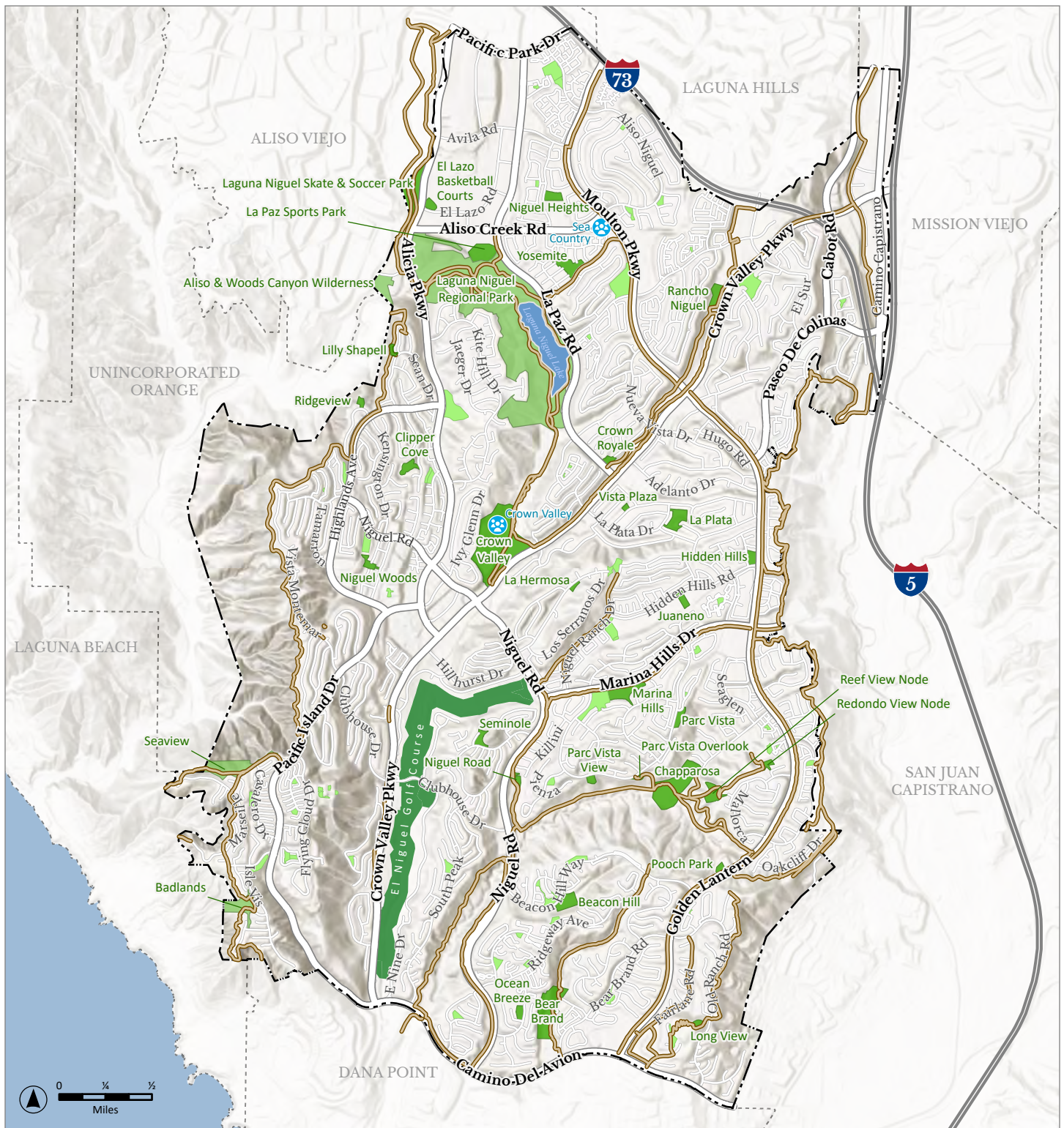


Data sources: City of Laguna Niguel; Orange County GIS; Google Maps.

Prepared for the City of Laguna Niguel by De Novo Planning Group  
June 10, 2024.

Figure 3-5.  
Public Services





Data sources: City of Laguna Niguel; Orange County GIS.

Prepared for the City of Laguna Niguel by De Novo Planning Group  
June 7, 2024.

#### LEGEND

- Laguna Niguel City Boundary
- Other Jurisdictions
- Community/Senior Center
- Trail
- City Park
- County Park
- Private Community Park
- El Niguel Country Club Golf Course

Figure 3-6.  
Parks and Recreation Facilities

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