

# My Neighborhood...



**Conservation and Environmental  
Planning Element**

# OUR RESOURCES

## Conservation and Environmental Element

### Introduction

This element contains goals, objectives and policies to address the impacts of this plan on air and water quality.

### Current Situation

Maricopa County is classified as a Serious Area for all carbon monoxide, ozone and particulate matter, as defined by EPA standards. It is a Non-Attainment Area for ozone. By City Resolution #2672, Chandler has agreed to meet its commitments to implement measures contained in the Revised Maricopa Association of Governments 1999 Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10<sup>4</sup> for the Maricopa County Non-Attainment Area and the 1999 Serious Area Carbon Monoxide Plan for the Maricopa County Non-Attainment Area. These plans will be updated as required by federal law.

Maricopa County complies with the one hour standard for ozone and the City is working with the Maricopa Association of Governments to promote the Ozone Compliance Program. This program includes elements such as ride sharing, ozone alert notifications, and refueling practices. Chandler is also implementing the PM-10 compliant street sweepers. All new developments are required to install curb, gutter, landscaping and paved roads to reduce PM-10. The City also owns and operates alternative fuel vehicles.

The City continues to ensure that surface water which may recharge into groundwater is in compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act for potable water systems. It does not discharge wastewater to surface waters. The City is currently working to acquire a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, and a stormwater management plan, to address the discharge of stormwater to surface waters. The majority of the City's stormwater is contained within the on-site retention structures and does not discharge into surface waters. A portion of the stormwater from the downtown area will be discharging to surface waters after treatment in settling basins. Many steps have been taken to manage stormwater runoff including emergency response to spills in streets, and retention of water in retention basins. Most waters are returned to the groundwater through dry wells.

Chandler operates a household recycling and household hazardous waste program. These programs have been instrumental in reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfills. The hazardous waste program currently offers two events per year to enable Chandler residents to dispose of their hazardous waste.

The City is working with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County to address issues associated with the 24-hour, 100-year storm.

The City of Chandler Fire Department has a hazardous materials management plan for commercial operations. This plan enables a safe and quick response to emergency situations dealing with hazardous materials.

Because all water is maintained on site, and there are no major drainage ways within the City, all 100-year, 2-hour storms are required to be maintained on site, with the exception of the downtown area.

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<sup>4</sup> PM-10 is particulate matter greater than or equal to 10 microns in size.

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### Future Trends

The practices that have been established so far should improve the air and water quality for the City. As the region and the City continue to increase in population, efforts to maintain and enhance these programs should continue.

### Planning Issues

- As the City continues to develop, efforts must continue to ensure that the 100-year, 2-hour storm event is fully contained within new developments.
- As new areas are annexed, existing County and private roads will need to comply with PM-10 commitments.

### Goals, Objectives and Policies

**GOAL: CONTINUE TO MEET FEDERAL AND STATE AIR AND WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.**

**OBJECTIVE: Participate in Maricopa Association of Governments and Maricopa County efforts to meet federal and state air and water quality standards.**

**Policy:** Continue to participate in the AzTech Model Deployment Initiative.

**OBJECTIVE: Reduce PM-10 and Carbon Monoxide.**

**Policy:** Continue to encourage ridesharing through maintenance of the employee rideshare database and providing preferential parking for carpools.

**Policy:** Strive to reduce traffic idle time by coordinating traffic signal timing within the City and with adjoining municipalities.

**Policy:** Strive to reduce traffic congestion at major intersections by constructing additional through lanes, turn lanes, controlling median breaks and driveway excavations.

**Policy:** Continue to stripe arterial streets to provide connectivity with other regional bicycle routes.

**Policy:** Purchase, lease or contract to procure PM-10 efficient street sweepers to replace older equipment, as they are retired (if practical and feasible).

**Policy:** Stabilize unpaved roads and alleyways.

**Policy:** Continue to require all newly developed or redeveloped parking areas and driveways to have a paved surface.

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**GOAL:** PROTECT RESIDENTS OF CHANDLER FROM EXCESSIVE NOISE IMPACTS.

**OBJECTIVE:** Discourage rezoning requests for residential development in high noise areas.

**Policy:** Require mitigation measures on new residential development areas to achieve compliance with local, state and federal noise standards.

**Policy:** Provide buffers between high noise areas and other development.