Natural Resources Element

PURPOSE

This Natural Resources Element of the General Plan guides the conservation, protection, development, and use of natural resources in Newport Beach, as well as the preservation of cultural and historic resources.

OVERVIEW

The Natural Resources Element addresses a wide range of topics, as follows: air quality, mineral and oil resources, energy transition. biological resources, rivers and waterbodies, sandy beaches, water conservation, visual resources, and archaeological and paleontological resources. The Natural Resources Element includes policies designed to help restore, improve, preserve, conserve, and manage natural resources, and to help improve **ecosystem services** and functions in the natural and built environment. This Natural Resources Element seeks to support the natural function of the systems and their continued provision of benefits to the Newport Beach community.

The Natural Resources Element is coordinated with the Recreation Element; Habor, Bay, and Beaches Element; Safety Element; and Land Use Element to support the conservation, protection, development, and use of natural resources, and the preservation of cultural and historic resources. Goals and policies are aided by the Arts and Culture Element and the Historical Resources Element.

GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

Air Quality

South Coast Air Basin

Newport Beach is within the South Coast Air Basin, named so because its geographical formation is that of a basin, with the surrounding mountains trapping the air and its pollutants in the valleys and low-lying areas below. The South Coast Air Basin includes all of Orange County and non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, in addition to the San Gorgonio Pass in Riverside County. The region's climate is generally mild and tempered by cool sea breezes, but is interrupted infrequently by periods of hot weather, winter storms, and Santa Ana winds (i.e., hot wind from the east). The extent and severity of the air pollutants in the South Coast Air Basin are functions of the region's natural weather and topography, as well as human influences such as land use patterns, density of development, and the location of major roadways. More specifically, mobile sources, such as emissions from motor vehicles, account for a significant portion of air pollutants in the South Coast Air Basin. Newport Beach is a relatively low-density community with fewer public transportation routes, which may result in more motor vehicle trips and associated air pollutants. Notably, two major highways run through Newport Beach: Highway 1 along the coast (i.e., Pacific Coast Highway) and Highway 73, south of John Wayne Airport and along the northeastern boundary of Newport Beach. Air pollution from motor vehicles along these major highways is most concentrated

within 1,000 feet of the source; therefore, neighborhoods adjacent to these routes may have higher exposure to air pollutants.

Ambient Air Quality

The Federal and State governments have established ambient air quality standards for outdoor concentrations of various pollutants to help protect public health. The South Coast Air Quality Management District is responsible for bringing air quality within the South Coast Air Basin into conformity with the Federal and State standards. To monitor the various concentrations of air pollutants throughout the South Coast Air Basin, the South Coast Air Quality Management District divided the region into 27 source receptor areas (SRAs). Newport Beach is within SRA 18, which encompasses the northern coastal Orange County area. The air pollutants most relevant to air quality planning and regulation in SRA 18 are ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. As of 2025, SRA 18 exceeds State and Federal standards for two pollutants: ozone and fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$). Due to its small size, $PM_{2.5}$ can be inhaled, and prolonged exposure to these particles can result in negative health effects. Ground-level ozone, often referred to as "smog," also affects lung and heart health. Together, these pollutants may lead to potential health concerns, such as breathing difficulties, inflamed and irritated airways, asthma attacks, and heart disease.

Aircraft Pollution

Aircraft operations at John Wayne Airport also contribute air pollutants that may affect residents and visitors of Newport Beach. Specifically, jet aircraft engines emit water vapor, carbon dioxide, small amounts of nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, carbon

monoxide, sulfur gases, soot, and metal particles formed by the high-temperature combustion of jet fuel during flight. Piston aircraft engines burning leaded gasoline can emit other pollutants, including lead. These emissions can cause pulmonary and respiratory health effects.

The City of Newport Beach (City) does not have aircraft emissions standards. Rather, the Secretary of Transportation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set and enforce emissions standards, and the Federal Aviation Administration administers certification requirements. The EPA collaborates with the International Civil Aviation Organization to develop standards and recommended practices for aircraft emissions; thus, EPA standards are highly aligned with those of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Goal NR-1: Reduced transportation-related emissions to improve air quality

Policy NR-1.1: Promote walkable and bikeable neighborhoods by providing amenities such as wayfinding, maintained sidewalks, bike lanes, secure bike and stroller parking, well-designed intersections, and Americans with Disabilities Act–compliant infrastructure to support people of all abilities. (Mobility Infrastructure)

Policy NR-1.2: Encourage mixed-use development as a way to preserve natural resources. (Code Amendment)

Policy NR-1.3: Identify high-volume roadways near sensitive uses, such as residences and schools, and encourage trees and hedge

barriers to reduce air pollution, when not already present. (Mobility Infrastructure)

Policy NR-1.4: Employ incentives, regulations, and/or transportation demand management programs in cooperation with other jurisdictions in the South Coast Air Basin to reasonably reduce vehicle trips. (Mobility Infrastructure)

Policy NR-1.5: Continue to advocate for phase-out of sales of leaded aviation gasoline at John Wayne Airport. (Inter-Agency Coordination)

Goal NR-2: Electric vehicle charging or other clean technology infrastructure to serve the growing share of clean-energy vehicles

Policy NR-2.1: Create public and/or private partnerships to increase clean-vehicle charging and/or refueling stations at or near visitor lodging and popular tourist destinations, as deemed appropriate. (Mobility Infrastructure)

Policy NR-2.2: Identify, prioritize, and incentivize the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in residential areas that have limited charging options, such as apartments. (Mobility Infrastructure)

Policy NR-2.3: Encourage the provision of needed additional electric boat charging stations or other clean-energy technology. (Harbor Resources)

Goal NR 3: Reduced air pollution emissions from ground operations at John Wayne Airport

Policy NR-3.1: Collaborate with John Wayne Airport to help reduce air pollution generated by stationary and nonstationary sources. (Imp. 14.3)

Policy NR-3.2: Collaborate with John Wayne Airport to encourage reasonable development and cost-effective use of reduced-emissions ground service equipment and transit vehicles. (Imp. 14.3)

Mineral and Oil Resources

The City owns and operates 16 oil wells that were drilled between 1953 and 1958. Fourteen are in operations today, one is used for water injection to increase productivity from other wells, and one is completely out of service. There are also 33 abandoned wells, mainly along the northwest boundary of Newport Beach. The well heads are located on two sites in unincorporated County of Orange territory along West Coast Highway. The wells are slant-drilled under property in Newport Beach into an area under the ocean called the Newport Offshore Oil Field (oil wells are shown in Figure NR-1). Section 1401 of the City Charter bans oil and gas drilling inside the incorporated area, and any annexed area has 10 years to comply with the standards detailed in the City Charter.

Oil production in Newport Beach has declined from 60,000 barrels per year in the 1980s to 20,000 barrels per year in 2020. The City earns $1 million to $1.2 million annually from offshore oil and gas, which is deposited into the Tidelands Fund to support and

maintain tidelands.[1] California's climate goals include phasing out the extraction of oil and gas by 2045. The City will monitor and proactively address implementation of California laws to facilitate a sustainable transition and dependable revenue streams.

Goal NR-4: Preparation for the orderly transition of oil and gas resources, as deemed appropriate

Policy NR-4.1: If deemed appropriate, engage with community members and interest groups in the phaseout analysis process for oil and gas. (Community Involvement)

Policy NR-4.2: Pursue alternate funding sources to replace the potential loss of oil revenue funding for the Tidelands Fund. (Economic Development)

[1] City of Newport Beach. 2023. "Utilities: Oil and Gas." https://www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/utilities/oil-and-gas.

City of Newport Beach Boundary

Oil and Gas Well

- Active
- Canceled
- Idle
- Permitted
- Plugged

These sites were collected in 2024, for up-to-date data please visit the following:
Oil and Gas Wells
https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach 2023; CA Dept of Conservation 2024;

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NR-1

Natural Resources - Oil and Gas Wells

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

Energy Transition

Meeting California's greenhouse gas reduction goals may require converting some natural gas appliances and gas cars to electric or alternatives, while simultaneously increasing renewable energy in the grid. Senate Bill 100 (2018) mandates that 100% of the State's electricity retail sales come from renewable and zero-carbon sources by 2045, with interim targets of 90% by 2035 and 95% by 2040. Consequently, Southern California Edison and other utilities across the state will need to boost their renewable energy supply over the next two decades. The Advanced Clean Car rule establishes a year-by-year roadmap so that by 2035, 100% of new cars and light trucks sold in California will be zero-emission vehicles. As of 2024 there is no State legislation to reduce natural gas consumption; however, electrification of landscape equipment and heating and cooking systems may be a strategy to help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs.

Goal NR-5: Increased electrification or use of renewable energy at public facilities to reduce gasoline and natural gas usage and emissions

Policy NR-5.1: To the extent reasonable and appropriate, adopt a schedule for replacing the City vehicle fleet and consider clean-energy vehicles for any new acquisitions or City programs. (Community Facilities)

Policy NR-5.2: If feasible, consider installation of solar panels or other alternative energy technologies on public facilities such as parking lot shade structures, rooftops, and other appropriate

surfaces, especially where electric vehicle charging can be facilitated. (Community Facilities)

Goal NR-6: Electrification or renewable energy incentives for existing buildings to reduce natural gas emissions

Policy NR-6.1: To the extent reasonable and appropriate, perform outreach to raise awareness of electrification and alternative energy incentive programs. (Community Involvement)

Policy NR-6.2: Consider expansion of ordinances requiring electric or clean-energy landscaping equipment. (Code updates)

Biological Resources

Newport Beach is made up of a diverse range of elevations, biogeographic features, and ecosystems. Within Newport Beach, there are 6 plant and 23 animal species classified as endangered, threatened, or both by Federal and/or State agencies (see Background Report). Many of these species live in **environmental study areas,** as shown in Figure NR-2, and **environmentally sensitive habitat areas**. Both environmental study areas and environmentally sensitive habitat areas are subject to stricter regulations, implemented through the Local Coastal Program.

Consistent with Assembly Bill 1889 (2024), wildlife corridors should be developed to connect environmentally sensitive habitat areas with other core habitat areas. This may be accomplished by protecting existing open spaces between habitats, planting native plants that provide food and/or shelter on developed sites, and reducing the introduction of invasive species.

Ecosystems provide important services, such as filtering and storing water, storing carbon in vegetation and soil, purifying the air, providing habitat for wildlife, and creating visually appealing and enjoyable places for people. Well-functioning ecosystems include diverse **native** and **naturalized non-invasive species,** and they support complex food webs, a mix of habitats, and nutrient cycling. Promoting native and environmentally adapted species across public and private land will enhance and expand an integrated network of resilient ecosystems.

Ecosystem restoration and conservation can reverse the effects of invasive species and support the development of large contiguous or interconnected ecosystems. These ecosystem reserves can serve as nurseries and connected networks for local plant and animal communities to access food, water, shelter, and breeding areas.

Goal NR-7: Native and naturalized non-invasive species habitats in parks and public open spaces

Policy NR-7.1: Review existing policies, procedures, and guidelines regarding plant, shrub, and tree palettes, and consider revisions to ensure they feature native and naturalized non-invasive species. (New Code)

Policy NR-7.2: Adopt standards for new public parks to include vegetation for the revised plant, shrub, and tree palette. (Parks and Recreation)

Policy NR-7.3: Perform regular removal of invasive species on public lands to protect native habitats. (Parks and Recreation)

Policy NR-7.4: Create and distribute educational resources and incentives to increase awareness and use of native and resilient species in landscaping on private properties. (Community Involvement)

Policy NR-7.5: Work with local nurseries to highlight native and naturalized non-invasive species and discourage the sale of invasive species. (Community Involvement)

Policy NR-7.6: Create or promote a yard habitat certification program encouraging landscaping practices that support native ecosystems. (Community Involvement)

Policy NR-7.7: Monitor and assess the health and air quality benefits of the urban forest canopy through regular tree surveys and air quality measurements. (Parks and Recreation)

Policy NR-7.8: Consider drafting an Urban Forest Management Plan that prioritizes native and naturalized non-invasive tree species known for to improve air filtration and species habitat. (Parks and Recreation)

Goal NR-8: Cooperation with State and Federal resource protection agencies and private organizations to protect terrestrial and marine resources

Policy NR-8.1: Comply with the policies contained in the Orange County Natural Communities Conservation Plan. (Imp. 2.1)

Policy NR-8.2: Make reasonable efforts to coordinate with the California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other relevant State agencies. (Imp. 14.7, 14.15)

Policy NR-8.3: Support reforestation programs for giant kelp. (Imp. 14.3, 14.11, 14.12)

Goal NR-9: Community-driven initiatives for ecosystem conservation

Policy NR-9.1: Continue to partner with local non-profits that host beach cleanups and community data-collection initiatives. (Community Involvement)

Policy NR-9.2: Provide informational signage that educates residents and visitors about local ecosystems, stewardship, and opportunities for citizen science. (Community Involvement)

Goal NR-10: Land use and development standards to conserve important ecosystem services and habitats

Policy NR-10.1: Create and regularly update mapping of habitat corridor areas and evaluate appropriate additional landscaping or study requirements for developments in these areas. (Codes and Ordinances)

Policy NR-10.2: As appropriate, require a site-specific survey and analysis prepared by a qualified biologist as a filing requirement for any development permit applications where development would occur within or contiguous to areas identified as environmental study areas. (Imp. 2.1, 6.1)

Policy NR-10.3: Require that the siting and design of new development, including landscaping and public access, reasonably protect sensitive and rare resources against any significant disruption of habitat values. (Imp. 2.1)

Policy NR-10.4: Subject to Federal, State, and other legal requirements, limit uses within areas containing any significant or rare biological resources to only those uses that are dependent on such resources, except where application of such a limitation would result in a taking of private property. If application of this policy would likely constitute a taking of private property, then a non-resource-dependent use shall be allowed on the property, provided development is limited to the reasonable amount necessary to avoid a taking, and the development is consistent with and subject to other applicable resource protection policies. Public access improvements and educational, interpretative, and research facilities are considered resource-dependent uses. (Imp. 2.1)

Policy NR-10.5: Maintain a buffer of sufficient size around significant and rare biological resources to ensure the protection of these resources. Require the use of native vegetation and prohibit invasive plant species within these buffer areas. (Imp. 2.1)

- City of Newport Beach Boundary
- Environmental Study Area
- 1 - Seminuik Slough
- 2 - Northstar Beach
- 3 - West Bay
- 4 - De Anza Bayside Marsh Peninsula
- 5 - San Diego Creek
- 6 - Eastbluff Remnant
- 7 - Big Canyon
- 8 - Newporter North
- 9 - Buck Gully
- 10 - Morning Canyon
- 11 - Banning Ranch
- 12 - Castaways
- 13 - Giant Kelp Bed
- 14 - Irvine Coast MLR/Crystal Cove State Underwater Park
- 15 - Los Trancos
- 16 - MacArthur and Bison
- 17 - MacArthur/San Joaquin
- 18 - MacArthur/San Miguel
- 19 - Newport Coast
- 20 - Pelican Hill
- 21 - Reef
- 22 - Ridge Park
- 23 - Rocky Intertidal Area
- 24 - San Joaquin Reservoir
- 25 - Sandy Beach
- 26 - Spyglass Hill
- 27 - Upper Newport Bay State Marine Park
- 28 - Arroyo Park
- 29 - Newport Beach MLR/ASBS
- 30 - Bonita Canyon Creek Watershed
- 31 - Coyote Canyon

SOURCE: California Geological Survey 2024; City of Newport Beach; SCAG 2024;

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NR-2

Environmental Study Areas

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

Rivers and Waterbodies

The rivers and waterbodies of Newport Beach significantly contribute to the area's ecological diversity and enhance the experiences of residents and visitors. As illustrated in Figure NR-3, Newport Beach features freshwater, saltwater, estuarine, riverine, and lake ecosystems. Of particular importance are Upper Newport Bay and the Santa Ana River. Upper Newport Bay, designated as an ecological reserve, is one of the largest remaining natural estuarine ecosystems in Southern California. The west end of Newport Beach lies within the Santa Ana River watershed, with the river itself forming Newport Beach's westernmost boundary.

Upper Newport Bay

Upper Newport Bay, nestled in the heart of Newport Beach, is one of the largest remaining wetlands in the region, spanning approximately 700 acres.[2] This area provides sanctuary to a diverse array of fish, birds, reptiles, plants, and other species. Also known locally as the Back Bay, this estuarine ecosystem is a popular destination for migratory birds, offering numerous birdwatching opportunities. The Upper Bay State Marine Conservation Area, covering just over 1 square mile, includes lagoons, tidal flats, and coastal marsh habitats. It protects a variety of small mammals, fish, birds, crustaceans, and other creatures, including some endangered species, and provides residents and visitors opportunities for recreation.

[2] Newport Bay Conservancy. 2024. "Bay Management." https://newportbay.org/the-bay/bay-management/.

Santa Ana River

The Santa Ana River spans nearly 100 miles across San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange Counties. Its rich biodiversity supports various ecosystems and provides habitats for numerous species of birds, reptiles, fish, and mammals. The river forms a small boundary with Newport Beach at Newport Beach's westernmost edge, where the river flows into the Pacific Ocean. To protect the river and its biological resources, the City has implemented regulations, including a maximum speed limit of 5 miles per hour for aquatic vessels transiting the river, encroachment limits for residential homes near the riverfront and other property development standards, and discouragement of off-leash dogs near the river mouth.

Water Quality

Both **Lower and Upper Newport Bay** have concentrations of pollutants that exceed EPA standards for marine habitat and for fish and shellfish consumption. Unlike Upper Newport Bay, however, Lower Newport Bay is safe for swimming and boating. Coastal waters of the Pacific Ocean are generally safe for swimming and boating. See Table NR-1 for the water quality condition of each waterbody in Newport Beach.

Clean water is necessary for human health and recreation, and for aquatic habitat and organisms. Improving water quality in Newport Bay and in coastal waters can ensure safe enjoyment of these irreplaceable natural resources for residents and visitors while continuing to support the businesses that rely on proximity to the coast. Reducing stormwater runoff, restoring floodplains, and

preventing waste from entering waterbodies can improve water quality and help to realize the benefits of clean water.

Table NR-1. Water Body Uses and Conditions

Waterbody	Identified Pollutants	Waterbody Uses	Conditions
Newport Beach	PCBs, pesticides	Fish and shellfish consumption	Impaired
Newport Beach	None	Swimming and boating	Good
Big Canyon Creek	None	Aquatic life, fishing, and boating	Unknown
Costa Mesa Channel	None	Aquatic life	Unknown
Lower Newport Bay[1]	Bacteria and other microbes, metals, nitrogen and/or phosphorus, PCBs, pesticides, total toxic chemicals	Fish and shellfish consumption; marine habitat	Impaired
Lower Newport Bay[1]	None	Swimming and boating	Good
Upper Newport Bay (Ecological Reserve)	Bacteria and other microbes, nitrogen and/or phosphorus, PCBs, pesticides, sediment, total toxic chemicals	Aquatic life; fish and shellfish consumption; swimming and boating; marine habitat	Impaired

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2024. "How's My Waterway?" https://mywaterway.epa.gov/.
Note:
[1] Includes entire Lower Bay, including Rhine Channel, Turning Basin, and South Lido Channel to east end of H-J Moorings.

SOURCE: California Geological Survey 2024; City of Newport Beach; SCAG 2024;

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NR-3

Rivers and Waterbodies in Newport Beach

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

Goal NR-11: Coordination with relevant agencies to reduce pollutants of concern in Newport Bay

Policy NR-11.1: Continue coordination through the Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee. (Interagency Coordination or Community Involvement)

Policy NR-11.2: Coordinate with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and neighboring cities to implement measures to reduce stormwater runoff. (Interagency Coordination)

Goal *NR-12: Enhanced green infrastructure to help prevent runoff into Newport Bay*

Policy NR-12.1: Preserve, where possible, natural watercourses or provide naturalized drainage channels within Newport Beach. Where feasible, implement restoration and rehabilitation opportunities. (Water)

Policy NR-12.2: Continue to coordinate the needs of stormwater pollution management with the overlapping (and sometimes competing) needs for habitat management, flood management, capital improvement projects, development, aesthetics, and open space needs. (Water)

Policy NR-12.3: Promote the use of natural wetlands through preservation or restoration to improve water quality. (Imp. 6.1, 19.1) (Policy HB 8.13)

Policy NR-12.4: Represent the City of Newport Beach by participating in watershed-based runoff reduction, water quality control, and other planning efforts with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, the County of Orange, and upstream

cities. Use reasonable efforts to promote regulation of upstream dischargers (cities, Orange County, residential and commercial uses) in the San Diego Creek and Santa Ana-Delhi Channel watersheds. (Imp. 14.3, 14.16) (Policy HB 8.6)

Goal NR-13: Standards and programs to limit runoff of pollution to preserve water quality of groundwater sources

Policy NR-13.1: Support regulations limiting or banning the use of insecticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals shown to be detrimental to water quality. (Imp. 6.1, 17.1) (Policy HB 8.1)

Policy NR-13.2: Promote pollution prevention and elimination methods that minimize the introduction of pollutants into natural waterbodies. (Imp. 6.1, 8.1, 17.1, 18.1, 19.1) (Policy HB 8.2)

Policy NR-13.3: Suspend activities and implement appropriate health and safety procedures in the event that previously unknown groundwater contamination is encountered during construction. Where site contamination is identified, implement an appropriate remediation strategy that is approved by the City and the State or Federal agency with appropriate jurisdiction. (Imp. 6.1) (Policy HB 8.3)

Policy NR-13.4: Require all development to comply with the regulations under the City's municipal separate storm drain system permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. (Imp. 8.1, 19.1) (Policy HB 8.4)

Policy NR-13.5: Develop and maintain a water quality checklist to be used in the permit review process to assess potential water quality impacts. (Imp. 17.1) (Policy HB 8.8)

Policy NR-13.6: Continue to require new development applications to include a Water Quality Management Plan to minimize runoff from rainfall events during and after construction. (Imp. 7.1) (Policy HB 8.9)

Policy NR-13.7: Implement and improve upon best management practices for residences, businesses, development projects, and City operations. (Imp. 8.1, 17.1, 18.1, 19.1) (Policy HB 8.10)

Policy NR-13.8: Include site design and source-control best management practices (BMPs) in all developments. When the combination of site design and source-control BMPs are not sufficient to protect water quality as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, structural treatment BMPs will be implemented, along with site design and source-control measures. (Imp. 7.1) (Policy HB 8.11)

Policy NR-13.9: Include equivalent best management practices that do not require infiltration where infiltration of runoff would exacerbate geologic hazards. (Imp. 6.1, 19.1) (Policy HB 8.12)

Policy NR-13.10: Require all street drainage systems and other facilities created by the City or developers of new subdivisions to be designed, constructed, and maintained to minimize or reduce adverse impacts on water quality. Investigate the possibility of treating or diverting street drainage to minimize or reduce impacts to waterbodies. (Imp. 7.1) (Policy HB 8.15)

Policy NR-13.11: Require new development and public facilities to minimize the creation of and increases in impervious surfaces, especially those directly adjacent to existing impervious areas, to the maximum extent possible. Require redevelopment to increase

the area of pervious surfaces, where feasible. (Imp. 6.1, 7.1) (Policy HB 8.20)

Policy NR-13.12: Conduct periodic analysis of the overall effectiveness of the pollution prevention programs in Newport Beach. (Water)

Policy NR-13.13: Require grading/erosion control plans that provide for structural best management practices that prevent, minimize, or reduce possible erosion during and after construction for development on steep slopes and on graded or disturbed areas. (Imp. 6.1)

Goal NR-14: Minimized adverse effects to water quality from sanitary sewer outflows

Policy NR-14.1: Implement the Sewer System Management Plan and the Sewer Master Plan. (Imp. 18.1)

Policy NR-14.2: Require waste discharge permits for all applicable food preparation facilities that produce grease. (Imp. 18.1)

Policy NR-14.3: Renovate all older sewer pump stations and install new plumbing according to the most recent standards. (Imp. 18.1)

Policy NR-14.4: Comply with the California State Water Resources Control Board's Waste Discharge Requirements associated with operation and maintenance of the City's sewage collection system. (Imp. 18.1)

Sandy Beaches

Sandy beaches are at risk as a result of sea-level rise and from coastal development interrupting natural beach nourishment and replenishment. Sand nourishment and replenishment projects have been conducted locally since the 1960s, first by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, then by local governments in the 2000s.[3] Sand naturally migrates, and effective nourishment requires regional efforts. Comprehensive sand nourishment, retention, and replenishment recognizes the role of natural processes, built facilities, and human solutions, where appropriate.

Goal NR-15: Beach nourishment, sand retention, and sediment restoration projects

Policy NR-15.1: Work with regional governments to create partnerships and cross-boundary projects that benefit the region. (Interagency Coordination)

Policy NR-15.2: Identify appropriate sites for beach nourishment, living shoreline restoration, and built structures as part of a comprehensive sea-level-rise adaptation plan. (Local Coastal Program)

Policy NR-15.3: Monitor progress of sand nourishment and retention projects. (Database Management and Development Tracking and Monitoring)

[3] Brey, Jared. 2024. "California Neighbors and Cities Fight over Sand as Beaches Shrink." *Governing*. Accessed November 25, 2024. https://www.governing.com/resilience/california-neighbors-and-cities-fight-over-sand-as-beaches-shrink.
Connelly, Laylan. 2023. "Dates Set for Sand Replenishment Project for Orange County Beaches." *Los Angeles Times*, November 22, 2023. https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/story/2023-11-22/dates-set-for-sand-replenishment-project-for-orange-county-beaches.

Water Conservation

As of 2025, the City's water supply comes from a combination of imported water (18.5%), which includes water from the Colorado River and the State Water Project; recycled water (1.5%); and groundwater from the Orange County Basin (80%). As outlined in the City's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan,[4] the City intends to reduce reliance on imported water by improving water-use efficiency and through increased reliance on groundwater.

To plan for the event of water shortage due to drought, a catastrophic event (e.g., earthquake), or other circumstances, the City has created a Water Shortage Contingency Plan, most recently updated in 2020, to help maintain adequate, reliable supplies and reduce impacts of supply interruptions. The Water Shortage Contingency Plan provides real-time water supply availability assessments and strategic steps to respond to actual conditions.[5]

Clean water is a precious resource in Southern California. Reduced indoor and outdoor water use can play an important role in conserving water. By implementing best practices for landscaping and irrigation on public property, and by offering incentives to residents and businesses to conserve potable water on their property, the City may be able to reduce reliance on imported fresh water.

[4] City of Newport Beach. 2021. *Newport Beach 2020 Urban Water Management Plan*. June 2021. https://www.newportbeachca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/75001/638579289862370000.

[5] City of Newport Beach. 2021. *2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan*. June 2021. https://www.newportbeachca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/75003/638579298931530000.

Goal NR-16: Reduced potable water use for landscaping on public lands

Policy NR-16.1: Create demonstration water-saving gardens with educational signage on public property. (Community Involvement)

Policy NR-16.2: Evaluate the feasibility of graywater systems for irrigation of landscaped public property. (Public Service Facility Plans)

Policy NR-16.3: Unless no longer required by State law, work to implement the Assembly Bill 1572 (2023) non-functional turf ban for properties owned by the City by 2027.

Goal NR-17: Water-efficient landscaping incentives for private property

Policy NR-17.1: Adopt incentives for property owners to install graywater systems, rain gardens, and rain barrels; plant drought-tolerant vegetation; and implement other practices to increase water-efficient landscaping.

Policy NR-17.2: Conduct education and outreach to raise awareness of water-efficient landscaping practices and offered incentives.

Policy NR-17.3: Enforce water conservation measures that limit water usage, prohibit activities that waste water or cause runoff, and require the use of water-efficient landscaping and irrigation in conjunction with new construction projects. (Imp. 2.1, 7.1, 17.1)

Policy NR-17.4: Continue to actively promote the use of water-conserving devices and practices in both new construction and

major alterations and additions to existing buildings. This can include the use of rainwater capture and storage, and water reuse facilities. (Imp. 6.1, 7.1, 17.1)

Policy NR-17.5: Implement the Assembly Bill 1572 (2023) non-functional turf ban for private properties in accordance with the timeline outlined in legislation.

Visual Resources

Visual resources contribute to a community's quality of life and may help build a connection to an area. Public access to visual resources is not only important for connecting individuals to these resources, but may be a key component to ensuring that the preservation of such resources remains a priority for the community. To protect visual resources, the City has identified and designated public viewpoints and corridors to ensure that public access to visual resources is preserved to the extent possible.

Viewpoints and view corridors are often situated near dynamic and inspiring natural environments, including the Pacific Ocean, Crystal Cove State Park, the San Joaquin Hills, and the wetlands and bluffs of Newport Bay. Due to its coastal nature, much of Newport Beach's development, as well as its streets and highways, has been designed to capture and preserve picturesque views of the coastline, harbor, and bay. Additionally, the approximately 560 acres of parkland and open space and approximately 47.7 miles of coastline in Newport Beach are considered visual resources.

Sweeping views of the beaches, harbor, and coast distinguish Newport Beach as a city with unparalleled natural beauty. Viewsheds often hold historic or scenic value and should

be protected to the maximum extent possible for current and future generations. Preserving viewpoints and corridors allows the public to appreciate Newport Beach's beauty, character, and history. Figure NR-4 shows public viewpoints, coastal view roads, and existing and proposed beaches and parks.

Goal NR-18: Viewsheds and corridors that are preserved

Policy NR-18.1: Protect and, where feasible, enhance significant scenic and visual resources that include views of open space, mountains, canyons, ridges, the ocean, and the harbor from public vantage points, as shown in Figure NR-4. (Imp. 2.1)

Policy NR-18.2: Require new development to restore and enhance the visual quality of **visually degraded areas**, where feasible, and encourage view easements or corridors designed to protect public views or to restore public views in developed areas, where appropriate. (Imp. 20.3)

Policy NR-18.3: Protect and enhance public view corridors from roadway segments (shown in Figure NR-4) and other locations that may be identified in the future.

SOURCE: California Geological Survey 2024; City of Newport Beach; SCAG 2024;

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NR-4

Viewpoints and Corridors

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

Goal NR-19: Minimized visual impacts of signs and utilities

Policy NR-19.1: Design and site signs, utilities, and antennas to minimize visual impacts. (Imp. 2.1)

Policy NR-19.2: Implement programs to remove illegal signs. For temporary signage on public or private property, ensure all signs are removed promptly. (Imp. 2.1, 26.1)

Policy NR-19.3: Continue to support programs to remove and underground overhead utilities in new development and existing neighborhoods. (Imp. 2.1, 14.13)

Archaeological and Paleontological Resources

Archaeological and paleontological resources are invaluable and irreplaceable. Fossils in the central Santa Ana Mountains represent the oldest formations in Orange County, at 145 to 175 million years old. Changes in geological land formations over time, brought upon by tectonic activity, have resulted in a mix of aquatic and terrestrial fossils underlying Newport Beach. The Miocene-age rock units (26 to 7 million years ago), particularly in the Newport Coast area, are considered to be of high paleontological significance (6 to 9 on a scale of 1 to 10).

Other fossil deposits found in the Newport Beach area include a variety of marine mammals, sea birds, mollusks, and a number of vertebrate animals typically associated with the Ice Age (2.5 million years ago to 15,000 years ago). Local paleontological sites, particularly near the Castaways area along Dover Drive, have yielded fossils of Ice Age horses, elephants, bison, antelopes, and dire wolves. Also, a number of localities in the portions of the Vaqueros formation that underlie the Newport Coast area have

yielded a variety of invertebrate and vertebrate fossils that are considered to be of high paleontological significance. Other areas with significant fossils and known paleontological deposits include the Randall Preserve area, which contains at least 14 documented sites of high significance, and Fossil Canyon in the North Bluffs area, which is considered a unique paleontological locality.

Newport Beach also contains many significant archaeological sites. The Upper Newport Bay area has yielded some evidence for the earliest human occupation of Orange County, dated to approximately 9,500 years before present. More than 50 sites, including human burials, have been documented in the Newport Beach area, including the Newport Coast area and Randall Preserve, with many yielding substantial information regarding the prehistory of Newport Beach and Orange County. At least two and possibly three distinct cultural groups once inhabited the area, including the Tongva and Acjachemen tribes, although the boundaries of their tribal territories are unclear.

Protecting archaeological and paleontological resources in Newport Beach is important for preserving the area's rich cultural and natural history. These resources offer invaluable insights into the lives of Indigenous peoples, the evolution of ecosystems, and the region's geological past. Safeguarding these remnants ensures that future generations can study and learn from them, fostering a deeper understanding of human history and the natural world. Additionally, these resources hold significant cultural importance for local communities, particularly for Indigenous groups whose heritage is tied to these lands.

Goal NR-20: Protection of archaeological and paleontological resources

Policy NR-20.1: Require new development to protect and preserve paleontological and archaeological resources from destruction, and to avoid and minimize impacts to such resources in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Through planning policies and permit conditions, ensure the preservation of significant archaeological and paleontological resources and require that the impact caused by any development be mitigated in accordance with CEQA. (Imp. 7.1)

Policy NR-20.2: As deemed appropriate and necessary, prepare and maintain sources of information regarding paleontological and archaeological sites, and the names and addresses of responsible organizations and qualified individuals who can analyze, classify, record, and preserve paleontological and archaeological findings. (Imp. 10.1)

Policy NR-20.3: Notify cultural organizations, including Native American organizations, of proposed developments that have the potential to adversely impact cultural resources. Allow qualified representatives of such groups to monitor grading and/or excavation of development sites. (Imp. 14.16)

Policy NR-20.4: Require new development, where on-site preservation and avoidance are not feasible, to donate scientifically valuable paleontological and archaeological materials to a responsible public or private institution with a suitable repository in Newport Beach or Orange County, whenever possible. (Imp. 11.1)