THE KERN RIVER PLAN ELEMENT

An Integral Part of the
CITY OF BAKERSFIELD GENERAL PLAN
and the
KERN COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

JULY 1985
THE
KERN RIVER PLAN
ELEMENT

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CITY OF BAKERSFIELD GENERAL PLAN
AND THE
KERN COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

JULY 1985
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APPENDICES

THE KERN RIVER PLAN
CHAPTER I. PLAN ADMINISTRATION

1.1 CERTIFICATES OF ADOPTION

By Resolution No. 112-85, the City Council for the City of Bakersfield, California adopted the hereincontained Element as an integral part of the City of Bakersfield General Plan after receiving written recommendations thereon by the combined City of Bakersfield Planning Commission and the Kern County Planning Advisory Committee, and conducting a public hearing, pursuant to all statutory requirements of the State of California and all ordinance requirements of the City of Bakersfield.

CERTIFIED this 19th day of August, 1985.

[Signature]
Mayor, City of Bakersfield

[Signature]
City Clerk

By Resolution No. 85-443, the Kern County Board of Supervisors adopted the hereincontained Element as an integral part of the Kern County General Plan after receiving written recommendations thereon by the combined City of Bakersfield Planning Commission and the Kern County Planning Advisory Committee, and conducting a public hearing, pursuant to all statutory requirements of the State of California and all ordinance requirements of the County of Kern.

CERTIFIED this 22 day of July, 1985.

[Signature]
Chairman, Kern County
Board of Supervisors

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board

THE KERN RIVER PLAN
CHAPTER I. PLAN ADMINISTRATION
1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the Kern County Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines, the Kern County department, identified below, has made an Initial Study of possible environmental impacts of the following-described project:

APPLICANT: Kern County Planning Department/City of Bakersfield

APPLICATION: Kern River Plan

COMMON NAME OR TITLE OF PROJECT (if any):

LOCATION: That portion of the Kern River from the mouth of the Kern Canyon at Section 31, T28S, R30E, M084W, through Bakersfield and terminating at the crossing of I-5 and the Kern River in Section 23, T30S, R25E; about 35 miles in length.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT: This is a proposed General Plan Element, proposed to be adopted under Section 65301, Government Code, for land subject to jurisdiction of the City of Bakersfield and to the jurisdiction of the County of Kern. The Plan includes the primary and secondary floodways of the Kern River; an outer boundary was established to show the relationship of the proposed uses within the primary and secondary floodways with those uses that already exist or are shown on the existing General Plans of the City and County. The total area of the Plan is 14,250 acres. The entirety of the proposed Plan and accompanying maps follow this Initial Study.

MITIGATION MEASURES Included in the Proposed Project to Avoid Potentially Significant Effects (if required):

This Negative Declaration is proposed for adoption of the Kern River Plan only. It is not intended for and will not be used as the environmental document for any project which may result due to adoption of this Plan. All future projects or programs occurring within the boundaries of this Plan area will be subject to separate environmental analysis.

AGENCY CONSULTATION REQUIRED: ___ X Yes ___ No

AGENCIES CONSULTED: See Transmittal

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if required): 8205/306

INITIAL STUDY PREPARED BY: Fred Simon/KERN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

KCPD FORM #13 (Revised April 1983)
FINDINGS: It has been found that this project, as described and proposed to be mitigated herein, will not have a significant effect on the environment, and that an environmental impact report (EIR) is, therefore, not required by the CEQA. A brief statement of reasons supporting such findings is as follows:

1. Proposed project does not appear to have a substantial demonstrable negative aesthetic effect.

2. There does not appear to be a substantial body of opinion that considers or will consider the various anticipated environmental effects resulting from the proposed action to be adverse.

3. Anticipated construction and operation of proposed project would not appear to cause a substantial increase in existing ambient noise levels for adjoining areas.

4. Project's future potential to create a public health hazard is not apparent. Existing proposal should not create any public health hazard.

Any person may object to dispensing with such EIR or respond to the findings herein. Information relating to the proposed project is on file in the offices of the department identified below, at the address shown below. Any person wishing to examine or obtain a copy of that information or this document, or seeking information as to the time and manner to so object or respond, may do so by inquiring at said offices during regular business hours.

A copy of the Initial Study is attached hereto.

Dated this 16th day of March, 1984.

1103 Golden State Avenue

Bakersfield, California 93301

KERN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

By: [signature]

(805) 861-2387

RANDALL L. ABBOTT, Planning Director

DATE POSTED:

DATE OF NOTICE TO PUBLIC:

Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.
Title 14, Division 6, California Administrative Code, as amended
Resolution No. 77-109, adopted March 1, 1977

Attachment

KCPD FORM #13 (Revised April 1983)
SECTION I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SETTING

PROPOSED PROJECT: Kern River Plan

LOCATION: That portion of the Kern River from the mouth of the Kern Canyon at Section 31, T28S, R30E, MDB&M, through Bakersfield and terminating at the crossing of I-5 and the Kern River in Section 23, T30S, R25E; about 35 miles in length.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This is a proposed General Plan Element, proposed to be adopted under Section 65301, Government Code, for land subject to jurisdiction of the City of Bakersfield and to the jurisdiction of the County of Kern. The Plan includes the primary and secondary floodways of the Kern River; an outer boundary was established to show the relationship of the proposed uses within the primary and secondary floodways with those uses that already exist or are shown on the existing General Plans of the City and County. The total area of the Plan is 14,250 acres. The entirety of the proposed Plan and accompanying maps follow this Initial Study.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: INTRODUCTION - Kern County, consisting of 8,172 square miles, is located in the south-central portion of California. The project is located in the San Joaquin Valley portion of the County. Bakersfield, with an incorporated population of about 122,000, is located somewhat central to the Valley locale of the project. The Kern River comes out of the Sierra Nevada, northeast of the City, and flows in a somewhat south-westerly direction toward its natural terminous at Buena Vista Lake.
KERN RIVER PLAN - ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

HYDROLOGY

Kern County is a semi-arid region that relies on its water supply for its farming activity from the groundwater basin, the Kern River, and two water importation projects. Severe problems of overdraft exist in both basins, which has resulted in increased pumping costs and a degradation of water quality. Surface hydrology is controlled, for the most part, by the Kern River and the Western Divide. Several minor streams flow to the Kern River, which exists as a contained basin except in years of high runoff, when the historical river flowed north into Tulare Lake. Many small canals distribute Kern River water. Kern River flows have been regulated since completion of Isabella Dam in 1953. The graphs following this section show flows at first point of measurement for years 1965 through 1980, and the average monthly flows regulated and unregulated.

GEOLOGY/SEISMICITY

The County contains portions of six of the twelve geomorphic provinces in this State (Coast Range, Great Valley, Transverse Ranges, Sierra Nevada, Mojave Desert, and Basin Ranges). The project is in the Great Valley province. The entirety of the project area is considered seismically active. Severe ground-shaking and possible surface readjustment in the event of maximum magnitude earthquakes along the San Andreas, Garlock, White Wolf, or Pond-Poso Faults is possible. Due to shallow water condition along the floodway, the potential for liquefaction is great.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources provide the major economic basis for the City and County. Petroleum production began commercially in 1898 near McKittrick and has resulted in establishment of 98 oil fields (70 still active) and production of 54 percent of the total crude for the State with about 60 percent of the State's reserves in this County; 42 percent of the gas reserves for the State are in Kern County. New production methods continue to keep old fields active.

Other mineral resources in the River area include sand and gravel. The soils of the County have made Kern the third most productive agricultural area in the nation. Soils along the River floodway, however, consist primarily of Riverwash-Carrizo Association with an agricultural capability of VIIIw4, with high erosion hazard and rapid permeability.

CLIMATE

The climate of the project area can be classified as desert or steppe. Rainfall figures range from about 8.5 inches annually at the mouth of the canyon to about five inches at Buena Vista Lake. The Valley area has a 265- to 300-day growing season; severe "tule" fogs occur in the winter.
AIR QUALITY

The project is within the San Joaquin Air Basin. Primary air quality problems are a result of stationary sources relating to the petroleum industry, causing a declaration of designation of the County as an "Air Quality Maintenance Area." An Air Quality Maintenance Plan has been developed and is operative in the Valley Basin.

VEGETATION

Vegetation along the River is variable; however, it is intensely riparian in nature. Streamside is characterized by stands of willow, cottonwood, sycamore, and associated shrubs and grasses. Remnants of Valley mesquite are found bordering the riparian growth along the southwesterly portion of the project and outside the highly saturated streamside.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife is similarly diverse. The River provides a necessary attraction for various creatures of the area. The Pacific Flyway traverses the County in a north/south direction; fresh water marsh, Valley mesquite, and riparian growth provide habitat for several rare or endangered species of animals.

NOISE

Major mobile noise sources along the River are limited to those portions crossed by highways, freeways, and railroads, and those areas crossed by aircraft approaching or leaving Meadows Field. Stationary sources consist of oil field activity, pumping oil wells, and nearby urban noises.

HUMAN INTEREST

The River has been described as the single most valuable visual resource in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The River provides visual relief to the relative flatness of the Valley. It provides prime habitat for countless forms of wildlife that make up part of the visual scene. Likewise, the River provides the needed moisture for riparian vegetation that breaks up the ochre-grey expanse of the surrounding grasslands. The vegetation also produces a horizontal relief to the flatness of the Valley. Similarly, the scouring ability of the River has resulted in vertical modification of the land.
PARKS AND RECREATION

The Plan area currently provides a variety of structured and nonstructured, organized and impromptu recreational facilities. The largest park is Kern River Park, which consists of Hart Park, a campground, picnic areas, Lake Ming, Kern River-Foss Golf Course, and CALM. Nonstructured uses occur along the length of the project and include rafting, hiking, riding, ORV uses, passive study, sightseeing, and bicycling.

HUMAN HABITATION

There is a wide range of land uses along the 14,000+-acre project area. Various zone classifications from residential to industrial exist in the City and County. The 1983 Department of Finance estimates place the population of Bakersfield at 122,000 with a metropolitan population of around 250,000.

TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION

The area's transportation/circulation systems are based primarily on the motor vehicle, although mass transit, rail service, air service, and nonmotorized transit also exist. The River is crossed by several major highways, freeways, and railroad lines.

ECONOMY

The City and County has primarily an agriculture/petroleum-based economy with the value of County agricultural production about $800 million annually and $1.75 billion for total mineral production (75 percent is petroleum production). Total assessed value of the County is $4.7 billion.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The social needs of the County's people are supported by several State, City, County, and private agencies and institutions. Law enforcement is provided by the City Police, County Sheriff, and State Highway Patrol, while fire protection comes from the City and County Fire Departments. There are seven elementary school districts, one high school district, and one community college district in the project area, which is also served by the California State College system in Bakersfield. Numerous hospitals and health care facilities exist in the City and around the County.

SERVICE SYSTEMS

Domestic and industrial service systems are provided by various water purveyors (public and private) and community sewage disposal systems. The latter is provided by the City, County service areas, and community services districts. Water is purveyed by the City, public utility companies, special districts, mutual water companies, and municipal water systems.
ENERGY

Energy is provided by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison, and Southern California Gas Company. Most of the energy consumed is imported, although PG&E has one and Southern California Edison has three hydroelectric plants on the Kern River, and PG&E has a fossil fuel plant west of Bakersfield.

HUMAN HEALTH/RISK OF UPSET

An endemic disease known as Valley Fever affects about 300 persons per year in Kern County seriously enough that special treatment is required. It is thought that 75 to 80 percent of persons living in Kern over 10 years have contracted Valley Fever. This effect on human health, along with other diseases, hazards, etc., can be found along the dryer areas adjacent the River as well as throughout the County.

ARCHAEOLOGY/HISTORY

The archaeology/history of the County is quite varied, ranging in resources from prehistoric fossilized remains at Sharks' Tooth Hill to the water rights "wars" of the late 1900's and early 1900's. In addition, countless numbers of cultural sites of physical and social value to Native Americans exist throughout the course of the Kern.

The following figures are provided to supplement the environmental setting:

FIGURE

1 Regional Map
2 Location Map
3 Kern River Hydrologic Basin
4 Regional Geology
5 Regional Soils
6 Natural Resources
THE COUNTIES OF CALIFORNIA
WATERSHED AND BASINS

1. Carrizo Plains
2. Westside Watersheds
3. Cuyama River
4. Bitter Creek
5. Santiago Creek
6. San Emigdio Creek
7. Pleito Creek
8. Salt Creek
9. Piru Creek
10. Castac Lake Basin
11. Southern San Joaquin Valley
12. Grapevine Creek
13. Pastoria Creek
14. El Paso Creek
15. Tejon Creek
16. Comanche Creek
17. Sycamore Creek
18. Tehachapi Creek
19. Cache Creek
20. Lone Tree Canyon
21. Rosamond - Rodgers Lake Basin
22. Koehn Lake Basin
23. Cuddeback Lake Basin
24. Cottonwood Creek
25. Caliente Creek
26. Walker Basin Creek
27. Cottonwood Creek
28. Lower Kern River
29. Roso Creek
30. Rag Gulch
31. White River
32. Bull Run Creek
33. Kern Valley South
34. Clear Creek
35. Bodfish Creek
36. Kern Valley West
37. Kern Valley
38. Fay Creek
39. Kelso Creek
40. Lower South Fork Kern River
41. South Fork Kern River
42. Canebrake Creek
43. China Lake Basin
44. Harper Lake Basin
GROUP 1 - AREAS DOMINATED BY NEARLY LEVEL, COARSE TO MODERATELY FINE TEXTURED ALLUVIAL SOILS
Ag-AMG Agropyrous-Andic association
Ag-AMG Agropyrous-Andic association
CA-TO Cape-Torreya association
Chp-AMG Grumus-Andic association, semi-arid
G-AMG Grumus-Andic association, semi-arid
M-AMG Grumus-Andic association, semi-arid
N-Pf-AMG Grumus-Andic association
P-AMG Humic-Andic association, semi-arid
P-AMG Humic-Andic association
T-CE Tamar-Celt association
T-CE Tamar-Celt association
T-CE Tamar-Celt association
T-CE Tamar-Celt association
T-CE Tamar-Celt association

GROUP 2 - AREAS DOMINATED BY GENTLY SLOPING TO MODERATELY STEEP, COARSE TO MODERATELY FINE TEXTURED ALLUVIAL SOILS
Ag-AMG Agropyrous-Andic association, 2 to 9 percent slopes
CA-TO Cape-Torreya association, 5 to 9 percent slopes, graded
G-AMG Grumus-Andic association, 6 to 9 percent slopes, graded
M-AMG Grumus-Andic association, 2 to 9 percent slopes
N-Pf-AMG Grumus-Andic association, 2 to 5 percent slopes
P-AMG Humic-Andic association, 2 to 5 percent slopes
P-AMG Humic-Andic association, 6 to 30 percent slopes, graded
T-CE Tamar-Celt association, 2 to 5 percent slopes
T-CE Tamar-Celt association

GROUP 3 - AREAS DOMINATED BY NEARLY LEVEL CLAYEY SOILS
La Lamani association, semi-arid
MA-CE Maricopa-Celt association, semi-arid
MA-AMG Maricopa-Andic association, semi-arid
Sa Sachem association

GROUP 4 - AREAS DOMINATED BY NEARLY LEVEL SOILS WITH DENSE, VERY SLOWLY TO MODERATELY SLOWLY PERMEABLE SUBSOILS OR HARDPANS
E-AMG Easter-Andic association
F-AMG French-Andic association
Ge Geum association
M-AMG Maricopa-Andic association, semi-arid

GROUP 5 - AREAS DOMINATED BY SLOPING SOILS WITH DENSE, SLOWLY TO MODERATELY SLOWLY PERMEABLE SUBSOILS
T-AMG Tamar-Celt association, 2 to 5 percent slopes
T-AMG Tamar-Celt association, 6 to 9 percent slopes, graded

GROUP 6 - AREAS DOMINATED BY COARSE TO MODERATELY FINE TEXTURED, GENTLY SLOPING TO VERY STEEP SLOPES, SOILS
Ag-AMG Agropyrous-Andic association, 2 to 15 percent slopes
Ag-AMG Agropyrous-Andic association, 5 to 15 percent slopes
T-AMG Tamar-Celt association, 15 to 30 percent slopes, graded
T-AMG Tamar-Celt association, 6 to 30 percent slopes
C-AMG Caloma-Andic association, 15 to 30 percent slopes, graded

GROUP 7 - AREAS DOMINATED BY CLAYEY SOILS ON GENTLY SLOPING TO VERY STEEP SLOPES
Ag-AMG Agropyrous-Andic association, 0 to 30 percent slopes, graded
Ag-AMG Agropyrous-Andic association, 30 to 60 percent slopes, graded
G-AMG Grumus-Andic association, 2 to 9 percent slopes
C-AMG Caloma-Andic association, 2 to 9 percent slopes
T-AMG Tamar-Celt association, 9 to 30 percent slopes, graded
C-AMG Caloma-Andic association, 9 to 30 percent slopes

GROUP 8 - AREAS DOMINATED BY VERY SMALL SOILS, ROCK OR VERY COARSE TEXTURED SAVANNA
C-AMG Caloma-Andic association, 30 to 75 percent slopes, graded
C-AMG Caloma-Andic association, 75 to 100 percent slopes, graded
P-AMG Rasp-Hump Granite end association
T-AMG Tamar-Celt association, 30 to 75 percent slopes, graded

Legend:
Slopes are based on best information currently available.
SECTION II. IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

PURPOSE: To conduct an Initial Study to determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environment. If any aspect of the project may cause a significant effect, whether the overall effect is adverse or beneficial, then an EIR must be prepared.

INSTRUCTIONS: In the space opposite the existing characteristics and conditions, check the possible degree of effect. (See * below for explanation of degree.) Provide a written explanation of any characteristic or condition marked "3," "4," or "U." Explanation for "1," "2," or "N/A" may be provided.

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*Explanation: Degree of Effect

(N/A) Not applicable
(1) No effect
(2) Slight effect
(3) Moderate effect; mitigation measure should be employed
(4) Significant effect; mitigation measure required (Section 15063)
(U) Unknown; additional information necessary to provide competent assessment
### REMARKS

- Design of structures shall include consideration of climatic conditions, utilization of breezes & appropriate landscaping to minimize site-specific impacts.

- Proposals of plan should minimize vegetation impacts from site-specific development.

- Proposals of plan should reduce impacts; however, development will create barriers to wildlife migration & may result in reduced visitation by migrating avian species.

- The ambient noise levels will increase as more development occurs & FP-S is occupied. Plan provides for mitigation.

- Aesthetic value of the river will be reduced as development occurs; plan provides for mitigation.

- This is a plan that will increase recreational opportunities necessary in a growing community.

- Restrictions on ORV's will result in additional impacts elsewhere until an ORV park is established.

### EXISTING CHARACTERISTICS & CONDITIONS

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- Some residential uses will be permitted.
- Some commercial uses will be permitted.
- Some industrial uses will be permitted.
- Some agricultural uses will be permitted.
- Some grazing uses will be permitted.
- Increased uses will reduce the open quality of the site.
- Plan should benefit population and work force.
- Plan provides for strict standards & future reviews.
- Implementation of the plan will result in demands on government spending. Resultant expenditures should be recovered by additional local spending.
- Local agency can manage increase demands; plan proposes portion of site as educational facility.
- Adequate supply - storage should be kept underground.
- Community systems should be employed.
- Maintenance should include removal of waste material used as rip-rap. Distribution of receptacles & collection of refuse must be assured.
- Maintenance of existing systems required.
- Plan makes for provisions.
- Flooding, Valley Fever, etc. - individual proposals must consider these consequences.
A project shall be found to have a significant effect on the environment if:

(a) The project has the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

(b) The project has the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.

(c) The project has possible environmental effects which are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of an individual project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

(d) The environmental effects of a project will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.
SECTION IV. COM Patibility WITH GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS AND ZONING

General Plan Designation: 
Land Use Element: Various
Other Element(s): 
Specific Plans: 
Zoning: Various

Compatible: Yes X No __ Explain if "No": However, this Plan modified General Plan.

SECTION V. EVALUATOR RECOMMENDATION

Negative Declaration
Mitigated Negative Declaration XX
Environmental Impact Report

If a mitigated negative declaration is recommended, the following measures are recommended:
See attached sheet.

Initial Study performed by: Fred Simon

Date completed: January 18, 1984

SECTION VI. DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial study:

☐ I find that the proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described will be made a part of the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

(The attached sheet, if necessary, provides additional explanation.)

Determination Made by: RL AFFOTT Date of Decision: 1-20-84

KCPD Form #122 (1/84)
1.3 AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

This General Plan Element is a joint product of the City and the County which is to be adopted as a single area General Plan pursuant to Government Code Section 65303 for land subject to City jurisdiction and land subject to County jurisdiction. Accordingly, it is important that the text address the issue of the manner in which this single plan prepared and administered by both agencies will be adopted and amended. This procedure will be as follows:

A. Plan Adoption

The County Board of Supervisors appointed a Planning Advisory Committee in accordance with existing procedures. The initial plan hearings were conducted as a joint meeting of the County Kern River Plan Planning Advisory Committee and the City of Bakersfield Planning Commission. The Joint Planning Advisory Committee and City Planning Commission made written recommendations to both the Kern County Board of Supervisors and to the Bakersfield City Council.

Final hearings were first held by the County Board of Supervisors. Upon conclusion of the Board hearings, the matter was referred to the Bakersfield City Council for public hearing. Upon conclusion of the City Council hearings, the matter was referred back to the Board of Supervisors with additional changes desired by the City Council to policies or implementation measures affecting both jurisdictions. Final plan approval has been by adoption of official resolutions by each jurisdiction.

B. Plan Amendments

If application is made for amendment of the plan within an area of County jurisdiction, the notice of the proposed amendment shall promptly first be given to the City Council who shall promptly conduct a public hearing and make a recommendation on the proposal to the Board of Supervisors. The City recommendation shall be considered by the Board of Supervisors when they conduct the hearing on the proposal.
A reversal of the above procedure will be utilized for an application for plan amendment when the area of amendment is located within the jurisdiction of the City. First, there will be prompt notice given to the Board of Supervisors who shall conduct a hearing and make recommendation to the City Planning Commission and City Council. The City shall consider the County recommendation when the City conducts its hearing on the proposal.

This General Plan Element will be subject to amendment in accordance with State law and the adopted guidelines of the respective jurisdictions.

The adoption of a set procedure for amendment of the Kern River Plan is as important as the plan itself. This procedure is approved and adopted as part of the plan and will serve to maintain the integrity of the plan as a single product of two jurisdictions, and minimize the possibility of its becoming two separate approaches to long-range planning of the Kern River Corridor.
1.4 AMENDMENT RECORD
CHAPTER II. INTRODUCTION

2.1 BACKGROUND

Concerns have been emphasized to the City and the County in various hearings, planning projects, and workshops. For example, during the recent General Plan revision program undertaken by Kern County, numerous comments were received which indicated concern for the Kern River. The need for a plan just for the River corridor was frequently mentioned. Further workshops and hearings for this General Plan Element were scheduled to collect more information prior to finalization of this document. This plan is focused on that part of the River from the mouth of the Kern River Canyon westward to Interstate 5.

2.2 KERN RIVER HISTORY

From an elevation of 775 feet above mean sea level at the mouth of the Kern River Canyon westward to an elevation of 325 feet at Interstate 5, the Kern River presents a unique water resource in the otherwise arid southern San Joaquin Valley. Many changes have been made in the River area, over the years, in the Bakersfield metropolitan area. Once the River's distributory channels surrounded the community. Man-made channelization, irrigation facilities, and other developments have formed the River system as it appears today.

The Kern River is a landmark resource and is one of the major rivers of California. From its start at Gregory's Monument in Tulare County, and for much of its length, the recreational and scenic values of the River are recognized and protected by National Forests and Parks. Each year, these qualities draw visitors by the thousands to its banks. The Kern River Basin comprises approximately 2,100 square miles of watershed area above Isabella Dam, about 300 square miles of foothill area below Isabella, and about 600 square miles of alluvial fan below the mouth of the Kern River Canyon.
As it enters the dry environment of the southern San Joaquin Valley, the Kern River has inestimable visual and psychological value to the inhabitants of the region. A variety of recreational uses, ranging from horseback riding to fishing to "tubing," are pursued from public and private lands along its course. It provides water for agriculture and groundwater recharge, and sand for construction uses. A riparian habitat is supported that provides living space for a variety of wildlife and plants. In sum, the Kern River is a unique multipurpose resource whose well-being is important to the quality of life in Kern County.

The River is also an important part of the history of Kern County. Originally used by Native American and Mexican settlers, it was explored by Lieutenant Edward Kern, of John C. Fremont's exploratory party, for whom the River was subsequently named. Settlement of the Bakersfield community was expedited after Colonel Thomas Baker undertook significant land reclamation work along the River, making Bakersfield a trade crossroads.

The Kern River has an annual average runoff of 700,000 acre-feet per year, much of which is diverted for agricultural use. During periods of intermediate regional flood flows, the River has a peak flow of 15,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Peak flows in the Kern River Channel near Bakersfield during the November 1950 flood were 36,000 cfs, a rate unequaled since the construction of the Isabella Reservoir in 1954.

Prior to the Isabella project, floods occurred from time to time, averaging 15,000 to 20,000 cfs during peak flows. It is reported that the 1966 flood, measured at 9,300 cfs peak flow, would have generated 89,000 cfs in the absence of the Isabella Reservoir.

2.3 HISTORY OF PLANNING IN THE KERN RIVER AREA

Since the earliest days of settlement, the Kern River has been a focal point for the Bakersfield area. As growth over the years transformed Bakersfield into a major metropolitan area, plans were prepared to provide guidance for this urban development. In each of these plans, the Kern River was noted as a major asset which was at risk of being lost.
In the 1961 Bakersfield Metropolitan Area General Plan, which was adopted by both the City of Bakersfield and the County of Kern, the unique qualities of the Kern River were noted:

"In the process of rapid urbanization, Metropolitan Bakersfield is losing much of its open space, such as orchards and rolling hill areas, which in the past has made the community attractive and given it an uncrowded quality. The Kern River floodplain is one of the last opportunities for the development of a major recreation area."

That plan cited recreational use as a key to meeting the demands of a growing urban area while, at the same time, providing for protection from flooding which could occur along the River. As envisioned in the plan, such use would prevent obstruction of the flood channel and, at the same time, preserve open space for the future recreational needs of Metropolitan Bakersfield.

"It is proposed in the General Plan that the Kern River Basin adjacent to Bakersfield be preserved as an open recreational and scenic area. The basic idea is to prohibit urban-type construction, not to close the area to agriculture or commercial recreation."

Recreation potentials of the River were again pointed out in the 1966 "Kern County Parks and Recreation Plan." That plan stated that, "The entire length of the River, be it dry or filled with water, delineates a natural area for recreation (i.e., horseback riding, hiking, etc.). It is suggested that the park be continued along the River bed to the Elk Hills . . . ."

More recently, the 1982 "Land Use, Open Space and Conservation Element" of the Kern County General Plan, speaking in a Countywide context, states that:

"Permanent development, or any other development that would increase flood depths or velocities, shall be prohibited in areas within established, designated floodways and/or floodplain primary zones."

As to uses that would be desirable for such areas, the plan later states that:

"Designated flood channels and water courses, such as creeks, gullies, and riverbeds, will be preserved as resource management or, in the case of urban areas, as linear parks."
Similarly, the "State College Area Community Plan" of the City of Bakersfield states that:

"The types of uses considered appropriate for this area include an extensive equestrian trail system linking specialized rest areas, equestrian sport centers, and similar uses. In addition, where the need exists, there should be the types of recreational uses that are essential to the urban and rural areas but which cannot be logically provided elsewhere. In addition, windbreaks and large groupings of trees should be provided, to define the River as a landscape feature."

During the past few years, an increased awareness of the potential for groundwater recharge in the River area has led to major programs to develop fully groundwater storage facilities. In 1976, the City of Bakersfield acquired lands and water rights for approximately 2,800 acres of land along the River, from Renfro Road to Interstate 5, for the purpose of creating an intensive groundwater recharge program. Thus, protection of the River area for groundwater management has joined flood protection, open space, and recreation as a major consideration in planning for the Kern River.

2.4 KERN RIVER PLAN PROGRAM

In early 1982, a study was begun for a River plan, with funding and participation by the City, the County, and the Kern Council of Governments. Consultants were retained, and work began on the Kern River Plan. In July 1982, a public meeting was held to acquaint the public with the basic concepts of the plan project and to gain input to identify issues that should be addressed in the plan. The final report by the consultants was submitted in May 1983. It discussed basic issues, alternative land uses and contained environmental information and user data. With that, City and County staffs began an intensive effort to formulate a draft General Plan Element.

The survey centerline of the River and the primary floodway—as shown on maps adopted by the State Reclamation Board—were drawn on large base maps. The primary floodway designates the minimum channel area required to contain a 100-year flood flow of 15,000 cfs. The secondary floodway was drawn to show where floods would occur if various flood control structures, such as dikes or
levees, were to fail. This secondary floodway was based on the City of Bakersfield's "Kern River Floodway" maps.

After the primary and secondary floodways were mapped, an outer boundary for the plan area was established by using reference to physical features, such as roads and canals. This provided sufficient area around the actual floodway area to show existing City and County General Plan designations and their relationship to the proposed land uses in the floodway area.

From the outset, the focus of the Kern River Plan was the preservation and maintenance of the floodway channel of the Kern River. Planning was also focused on the area contained within the secondary floodway. This is the area most likely to experience pressures for development which might conflict with other, nondevelopment-oriented River uses.

Similarly, the orientation of the plan from the start was that the primary floodway should be strictly reserved for that purpose. The Kern River Plan would allow development of urban uses—residences, businesses, industry—to occur only in areas designated for such uses outside the primary floodway.

For the most part, open space or resource management-type uses are designated within the secondary floodway. Where existing City or County plans show more intensive urban-type development of areas adjacent to the floodway, similar types of uses have been shown on the River Plan, as long as these uses allow for River access and do not infringe upon areas of sensitive riparian vegetation or wildlife habitat.

2.5 HOW TO USE THE PLAN

This General Plan Element consists of two basic components: a policy text and a plan map. In the policy text, specific statements are presented which express the intent of the City of Bakersfield and the County of Kern with regard to activities in the Kern River area. These policy statements have been developed in such a way as to provide definitive guidance, both in terms of general policy and in terms of policies governing specific land uses.
Planned land uses are shown as land use designations on the Kern River Plan Map. This map has been prepared in six segments to facilitate drafting and reproduction. Each land use designation portrayed on the plan map corresponds to the land use category definition and policies presented in the plan text. To understand the Kern River Plan, it is essential that both the plan map and the plan text be referred to.

In addition to the Kern River Plan, the General Plans of the City of Bakersfield and Kern County contain policies which could also have applicability to situations which could arise in the River area. There are also more precise plans for certain properties which have been adopted by the City and the County. Thus, while the Kern River Plan is the primary General Plan policy document for the River area, it is consistent with and supplements policies of the other adopted Elements contained within the City and County General Plans. It also respects prior agreements and regulations of agencies of the State of California.

Map interpretations, however, shall be based solely on the Kern River Plan Map. This shall be the official plan map for both the City of Bakersfield and the County of Kern, with regard to the Kern River area. Existing General Plan Elements of both the City of Bakersfield and the County of Kern shall be amended in such a fashion as to refer future readers to the Kern River Plan for areas within the jurisdiction of that plan.

2.6 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS AND PROVISIONS

All goals, policies, and programs of this plan shall be subject to the financial ability of public or private agencies, jurisdictions, or organizations to carry out such provisions.

In the event that any regulation, condition, program, or portion of this plan is held invalid or unconstitutional by a California or Federal Court of competent jurisdiction, such portions shall be deemed separate, distinct, and independent provisions, and the invalidity of such provisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions thereof.
Areas of flood hazard shown in this plan are based upon data supplied by the State Reclamation Board. Larger floods could occur on rare occasions or flood heights could be increased by man-made or natural causes, such as bridge openings restricted by debris. This plan does not imply that areas outside of floodways will be free from flooding or flood damage. This plan shall not create liability on the part of the City of Bakersfield or the County of Kern or any officer or employee thereof for any flood damage that may result from reliance on this plan or any administrative decision lawfully made thereunder.

The relationship between Kern River Plan land use designations and City of Bakersfield zone district designations to be used in implementing the Kern River Plan are approximations only. Kern River Plan designations are identical to County General Plan Land Use Element designations (except for 5.35 and 6.25) rather than City Land Use Element designations. Therefore, correlation between Kern River Plan land use designations and City zoning intensities and permitted uses are approximate and consistent with the General Plan.

The City of Bakersfield does not contemplate the preparation and adoption of new zoning designations for application to the Kern River Plan. All Kern River Plan land use designations shall be implemented in the City with existing zone districts.

Certain plan policies and provisions are not enforceable by adoption of this plan by resolution and, therefore, will require the future adoption of implementation ordinances.
CHAPTER III. ISSUES, GOALS, AND BASIC PLAN POLICIES

Major issues in the Kern River area serve as the focus of the Kern River Plan. These issues are stated in generalized terms, and serve as summary categorical statements of the more detailed issues identified during the planning process. Each issue statement is based upon analysis of consultant reports, correspondence received from the public during the planning project, and various other sources of information, such as newspaper articles, reports, and letters from many special interest groups.

For each category of issues, major goal statements are provided which indicate the desired course of action which should be taken by the City and the County. These goal statements provide an overall sense of direction for the plan in defining what ought to be done in the River area over the long term. In addition, the goals reflect similar goal statements which are contained in other existing City and County General Plan documents. In this way, the Kern River Plan supports and augments the adopted General Plans of the City of Bakersfield and the County of Kern.

Major issues and goals related to those issues form the foundation for the basic policies of the Kern River Plan. These policies define the specific means by which the City and the County will seek to attain the overall goals established by this plan.

3.1 ACCESS

3.1.1 Issues

Questions of access to portions of the River have been raised to the point of litigation in the last few years. Litigation is ongoing at present in one area of the River, and it is apparent that the courts will determine appropriate access for at least one case in question. While the Kern River Plan may not, of itself, be the means of providing River access, it should,
nonetheless, identify the objectives of River access and provide direction for such access. This is central to the question of conditions that should be required of development along the River.

3.1.2 Goals

To provide present and future generations of residents in the Bakersfield metropolitan area and surrounding regions means of access to the Kern River for public use and enjoyment and provide for preservation of native plants, wildlife, and cultural resources of the River area while, at the same time, providing for protection of private property rights.

3.1.3 Policies

1. Public parks, beaches, foot access, riding and hiking trails, and bicycle paths are intended to be developed and maintained in areas as shown on the Kern River Plan Map subject to the provisions of this plan. Public access easements for planned trails, paths, and open space may be dedicated to the applicable jurisdiction as a condition of development of private property in the affected area.

2. Parking should be provided in the general location of areas indicated on the Kern River Plan Map. It is intended that major access points for River users would have improved parking areas.

3. Foot access, riding and hiking trails, and bicycle paths may be developed on features such as canal banks, levees, and public easement corridors. Design of such trails and paths shall take into consideration public safety and security of adjacent land uses.

4. Beach areas for public use are intended to be provided by the appropriate jurisdiction at various locations along the course of the River.
5. Off-road vehicle recreation areas shall not be allowed within the primary or secondary floodway of the River. Existing areas of off-road vehicle recreational use shall be phased out and terminated within two years of the adoption date of this General Plan Element.

6. Improvements for access shall be developed in such a manner as to minimize adverse effects on riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat to the greatest extent possible.

7. It is not the intent of this plan to circumvent existing regulations, ordinances, or laws pertaining, but not limited to, trespass, no shooting codes, legal personal use of private property, or legal access to public property. Future access easements within new development should be provided in such a manner which protects the privacy of private uses of private property.

3.2 OPEN SPACE VERSUS DEVELOPMENT

3.2.1 Issues

The degree of development and conservation along the River is a central issue of the Kern River Plan and one of the primary reasons why this plan was initiated. The key question is whether or not development of lands along the River for residences, industries, and commercial centers will be limited to that which has already occurred, or to which a commitment has been made by the County or City, or if additional lands will be converted to such uses.

3.2.2 Goals

To ensure that the open spaces of the Kern River are maintained and enhanced as a unique and valuable resource for the Bakersfield metropolitan area. Guide and assist existing and proposed development in such a way as to
protect open space and enhance environmental quality of those developed lands adjacent to the River area.

3.2.3 Policies

1. All aspects of any proposed development within the Kern River Plan area shall be consistent with the intent, goals, and all requirements of the respective City of Bakersfield and Kern County General Plans and implementing ordinances.

2. Siting of buildings and structures shall be designed to create an attractive and harmonious relationship with surrounding developments and the natural environment, and shall be supported by a lot-use feasibility study approved by the Planning Director of the respective jurisdiction.

3. Buildings, structures, and vegetation shall be constructed, installed, or planted in a manner to minimize to the greatest extent possible, the obstruction of scenic views of the Kern River from highways, streets, trails, parks, or beach areas.

4. Land developments which would detract from the scenic quality of the Kern River shall be screened by vegetation, fencing, or landscaped berms, or be located in a reasonably inconspicuous manner.

5. Natural topography, vegetation, and scenic features shall be retained to the greatest feasible extent in future development along the River.

6. Grading or earthmoving for projects within the secondary floodway shall blend with existing topography, and vegetation shall subsequently be harmoniously reestablished where it does not conflict with channel maintenance and recharge facilities.
7. Agricultural land preparation, vegetative plantings, and minor structural improvements or appurtenances shall blend with and enhance the open space qualities of the River corridor to the greatest extent possible.

8. Building heights and setbacks shall not significantly obstruct River views, and they shall be regulated in accordance with potential to obstruct River views from the existing or planned roads or trails. Structural improvements shall be set back as far as possible from the primary floodway line, and building height shall be regulated in accordance with potential to obstruct River views (see Chapter V, Implementation Policies, 5.3.B.4).

9. Signs shall be limited to those necessary for directions and premises identification. Sign size, design, color, texture, materials, and location shall, to the greatest extent possible, be compatible with the open space character of the area.

10. Advertising signs and billboards shall not be allowed within the primary or secondary floodways of the Kern River.

11. New or relocated utility lines shall be placed underground, except in areas subject to intensive agricultural uses, areas designated as 8.4 (Mineral and Petroleum) and electrical power lines to oil wells, water wells, and water control devices in areas designated as 8.5 (Resource Management) unless otherwise required by law, and at River crossings, or where it can be shown that the specific nature of the facility is such that it is entirely infeasible to do so.

12. Historical structures and points of interest within the plan area shall be protected, to the greatest extent feasible.

13. Active recreation uses, such as archery and shooting ranges, shall be allowed in areas appropriate for such use.
3.3 RIPARIAN VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

3.3.1 Issues

Because of the arid nature of the Bakersfield area, lush streamside--or riparian--vegetation is a rarity. It is also highly visible, and its presence or absence is a natural focus for public controversy. Wildlife habitat in areas of riparian vegetation is an integral part of any issue related to removal of vegetation.

3.3.2 Goals

To protect and enhance not only such rare and endangered plant or animal species and their habitat as may occur in the River area, but also the variety of nonendangered indigenous wildlife and wildlife habitat of the River. Avoid destruction of habitats and improve wildlife habitat. Provide opportunities for studies, research, and observation of wildlife in the River area.

3.3.3 Policies

1. Areas which are officially designated by a governmental agency, now or in the future, as having well-defined unique scenic, vegetative, or wildlife habitat value should be the subject of a future amendment to this plan if not acquired by a public entity and, following such amendment, shall be implemented by zoning, easements, or covenants for long-range preservation and enhancement.

2. All development proposals shall be evaluated by a competent biologist to identify any significant biological areas necessary for protection. Costs incurred under this procedure shall be borne by the applicant.
3. Native vegetation shall be protected by minimizing the introduction of
dominant nonnative plant species. All development proposals, except
intensive agriculture, shall include a landscape plan to identify vege-
tation to be used on the site and the method of long-term maintenance
of landscaped areas. The submitted landscape plan shall be used to
verify acceptability of vegetation for use along the River. Those
plants found not acceptable shall not be used.

4. Existing significant plant specimens and stands of riparian vegetation
shall be protected to the greatest extent feasible where channel
maintenance is not affected.

5. Riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat shall be protected within the
area of the primary floodway to the degree that the floodway will not
be obstructed or propagate debris.

6. The placement of structures and other related accessory uses shall
respect wildlife corridors and shall not obstruct nor hinder the
movement or migration of wildlife.

7. The plan area shall be considered to be entirely within a controlled
leash law area.

8. The County of Kern, the City of Bakersfield, the Kern County Water
Agency, and appropriate water districts shall consult with each other,
and the City Department of Water Resources shall report to the City
Council and Board of Supervisors on the potential for establishing and
maintaining a minimum annual flow of water within the Kern River
between Manor Street and the Stockdale Highway crossing.

9. The California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service shall be requested to survey the Kern River for
identification of areas containing special and unique biological
resources. A plan for maintenance and enhancement of such areas shall
be considered and adopted as a general plan amendment by both the City and the County.

10. Projects proposed in the vicinity of the primary floodway shall be referred to the California Department of Fish and Game as required by State Law.

3.4 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

3.4.1 Issues

From a safety and resource management standpoint, floodplain management is a major priority issue. Activities related to groundwater recharge, channel maintenance, levee maintenance and construction, and diversion structures have a direct relationship to public safety and environmental quality.

3.4.2 Goals

To maintain the integrity of the River channel so as to facilitate a floodway for Kern River waters for the health and safety of the community.

To maximize and fully utilize the groundwater recharge potential of the Kern River, its floodplains, and other potential recharge aquifers. Enhance riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat as a component of groundwater recharge programs. Design recharge facilities in such a way as to facilitate public use for riding and hiking trails, nature study, or other non-intensive forms of recreation. Encourage protection of land within the plan area which preserves and propagates examples of endemic and endangered plant species.
3.4.3 Policies

1. Designation and mapping of the primary floodway of the Kern River in the plan area shall be the same as that adopted by the Reclamation Board of the State of California so as to establish the 15,000-cubic-foot-per-second (cfs) primary floodway.

2. The primary floodway shall be primarily devoted to the safe and controlled passage and percolation of water and shall be maintained in a manner to adequately achieve this purpose. This shall be carried out through proper and necessary maintenance of the River channel through appropriate deepening of the channel, when necessary, and maintenance of levees and dikes.

3. No new land uses shall be allowed to occur within the primary and secondary floodway which would conflict with the goals and objectives of this plan.

4. The secondary floodway adopted by this plan has been in accordance with the criteria used by the Kern County Water Agency, the City of Bakersfield Water Resources Department, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

5. Sand and gravel removal by temporary portable equipment is allowed in the primary and secondary floodways. Permanent new structures and accessory processing facilities shall be located outside of the primary and secondary floodway area.

6. Unless otherwise indicated by this plan, the secondary floodway shall be allowed to remain in a natural state with a minimum of physical disturbance incurred in the development of permitted facilities.
7. Recreational activities, both active and passive, shall be allowed in the area of the secondary floodway. Improvements for access, such as trails and parking areas, and for facilities such as parks and picnic areas, shall be allowed as long as adverse effects on riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat are minimized.

8. Recreational uses which require minimum physical development shall be encouraged as long as public health and safety are not put at risk. Such uses would include riding and hiking trails, fishing access, view areas, and beaches.

9. Oil and mineral exploration and production shall be allowed within the secondary floodway, provided that adverse effects on riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat are minimized. Appurtenant facilities, such as tank farms and steam generators, shall be located outside any floodway; except that they may be allowed within the 8.4/2.5 (Mineral and Petroleum/Secondary Floodway) upon showing by the operator that no other location is reasonably available for them, the proposed location and extent of construction is necessary for the operation of wells in the immediate vicinity, and the intent of this plan for the secondary floodway is followed.

10. Resource extraction activities, such as sand and gravel removal, shall comply with the "California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975."

11. Nonemergency levee construction, river channel maintenance, grading, or construction which would change the Designated Floodway Maps of the primary floodway shall require an amendment to the Kern River Plan.

12. Groundwater recharge shall be considered a principal allowable use of both primary and secondary floodways. The continued groundwater recharge program involving properties owned by the City are of paramount importance. This Element was prepared using the City's approved conceptual plan for the 2,800-acre Groundwater Recharge Facility. The
design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility are not intended to be altered or restricted by any policy or implementation measure of this Element. Future projects outside the 2,800-acre recharge facility shall be evaluated for any significant biological importance.

13. Design riding and hiking trails, nature study areas, and other non-intensive forms of recreation to be compatible with water recharge facilities, structures, and uses.

14. The practice of filling and grading land within the primary floodway for the purpose of raising any site above the flood encroachment limit to allow future construction (not including oil, steam, and water wells) shall be prohibited, excepting levees and water control facilities approved by the Reclamation Board of the State of California.

15. A channel maintenance program shall be developed by the City Water Resources Department and Kern County for their respective jurisdictions. The plans shall be considered for inclusion by General Plan Amendment as appendices to this Element upon their approval by the Reclamation Board of the State of California.

3.5 PRIVATE PROPERTY AND PUBLIC USE

3.5.1 Issues

At issue is the fundamental question of the development and land use rights of private property owners along the River versus the maintenance of the River as a public way and resource. A related question, however, concerns the extent to which public use areas could be acquired by the City or County and thus resolve some of the controversy. This also raises the question of how costs would be met for acquisition and maintenance of such areas.
3.5.2 Goals

To provide an equitable means by which public use and enjoyment of the Kern River can take place while, at the same time, protecting the rights of private properties in the River area. Seek means by which both private and public interests can be served for mutual benefit.

3.5.3 Policies

1. Lands intended for use as public access, parking areas, or recreational facilities should be acquired by the appropriate public entity as a means of securing rights for such use.

2. Open space qualities of the Kern River primary and secondary floodway shall be protected consistent with policies of this plan, regardless of whether the land is in public or private ownership.

3. Land divisions and development plans of private land within the secondary floodway shall be reviewed for adequacy of public areas. Where legally authorized, necessary access shall be required either through the property to the primary floodway, through the project adjacent to the primary floodway, or a combination of both.

4. Park dedication requirements, including fees in lieu of dedication, shall be established as a means of mitigating the effects of converting privately owned undeveloped open space to development in areas of the secondary floodway which may be designated for urban development. Any such fees collected shall be applied toward off-site purchase of other Kern River corridor lands which have significant recreational or biological values.

5. Management plans prepared by the State or other agencies having jurisdiction in the River area shall be considered for incorporation into this plan by General Plan Amendment and implementation ordinances.
6. Federal, State, and private funding sources shall be sought for the acquisition of natural areas, open space, and potential parklands.

7. Public and private organizations and individuals shall be encouraged to seek suitable means of protecting and enhancing areas of riparian habitat, resolving environmental conflicts in the River area, and developing a cooperative system of riding, hiking, bicycle, and foot access trails in the River corridor.

3.6 MINERAL AND PETROLEUM

3.6.1 Issues

Oil extraction and sand and gravel removal have taken place in the River area for many years. This is economically beneficial and contributes to channel maintenance and improves capacity. Because of the limited location of natural resources, it is anticipated the desire for production will continue. However, this activity without regard for other uses of the River or without sensitivity to the environment could degrade the River.

3.6.2 Goals

To provide for the continued production of petroleum resources and to ensure that future exploration activities can take place, while ensuring that other open space values in the River area are reasonably protected. Utilize sand and gravel resources of the River in such a way as to ensure that floodway, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitat values are protected.

3.6.3 Policies

1. Sand and gravel removal shall be done in such a manner as not to degrade, or otherwise adversely affect, the natural and scenic qualities of the Kern River, riparian vegetation, or wildlife habitat except as
is necessary or appropriate to maintain the required channel capacity for flood control in the primary floodway.

2. Petroleum or sand and gravel activities proposed within the primary floodway shall conform to the specific requirements of the State Reclamation Board and other State and local regulatory agencies.

3. Petroleum extraction zone overlays and drilling island delineation shall be established in areas designated for resource uses for the purpose of protecting natural vegetation and wildlife. Brush clearing, moving of vegetation, and similar activities shall be permitted only to the extent required for those activities and a reclamation plan prepared.

4. Noise abatement measures shall be required of all resource management activities which would adversely affect adjacent land uses or wildlife habitat.

5. Mineral and petroleum exploration and extraction activities are permitted in the primary and secondary floodways, subject to regulations, to be adopted within a two-year period by the County and City to accomplish the goals and policies of this Element and to mitigate adverse impacts which may otherwise result from construction of facilities and access thereto. Such regulations shall include, but need not be limited to, requirements limiting the impact of access and facilities construction upon adjacent areas, prohibiting activities creating obstructions to floodflow, establishing minimum standards for floodproofing all wells, pumps and associated equipment, specifying spill prevention and counter-measure plans and emergency procedures, and specifying site and access restoration.
CHAPTER IV. MAP PROVISIONS AND POLICIES

Type, intensity, and distribution of land uses in the Kern River Plan area are portrayed on the Kern River Plan Map. This map is presented in six segments plus an index. Both primary land uses and any applicable physical constraints are designated. The latter physical constraint designations are used in an overlay fashion and are shown in conjunction with a primary land use designation, i.e., 8.5/2.5 (Resource Management/Flood Hazard).

In the case of the Kern River, the flood hazard designation (2.5) is used both as a primary designation and as an overlay. For the Kern River Primary Floodway, the primary designation 2.5 is used, and no further hazard overlay is shown. This reflects the intent of this plan that the Primary Floodway be an exclusive land use designation. Areas within the area of the Secondary Floodway reflect the flood hazard by use of the overlay designation of 2.5 FLOOD HAZARD showing that other uses appropriately developed may be permitted as compatible land uses.

The intent of this plan with regard to the Primary and Secondary Floodways of the Kern River is that:

- No development or physical improvements for uses in the Primary Floodway which would restrict flows, interfere with groundwater recharge or increase the rise in water surface during high flows of the Kern River, or displace the primary floodway will be permitted.

- Limited development, with an emphasis on preserving open space within the area of the Secondary Floodway, with recognition of the potential flood hazard that exists therein, may be permitted.

Plan designations used on the Kern River Plan are depicted on the plan maps as shown in Figure IV-1, page 3. These designations are based upon the designations of the Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element of the Kern County General
A correlation table is provided in Figure IV-2, page 4, to show the relationship of the map code designations used in the Kern River Plan and City and County General Plan designations.

4.1 LAND USE POLICIES

The Kern River Plan Map indicates the type, intensity, and distribution of land use within the Kern River Plan area. This is accomplished through the use of seven main categories of land use designation and one category designating physical hazards and constraints. This latter category is used in overlay fashion in conjunction with one of the seven major land use designations, except for the Kern River itself, which is given a 2.5 FLOOD HAZARD primary designation.

4.2 NONJURISDICTIONAL LANDS

Nonjurisdictional lands are those not under the planning jurisdiction of the City of Bakersfield or the County of Kern in the Kern River Planning area. In this area, such lands are primarily lands under State or federal ownerships.

1. State and Federal Land (Map Code 1.1). Applied to all property under the ownership and control of the various State and federal agencies. Undeveloped land under State or federal ownership will be considered as land designated for Resource Management (Map Code 8.5 provisions) on the Kern River Plan Map.
NONJURISDICTIONAL LAND
1.1 STATE AND FEDERAL LAND

PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS OVERLAY
2.1 SEISMIC HAZARD
2.5 FLOOD HAZARD

PUBLIC FACILITIES
3.1 PUBLIC OR PRIVATE RECREATION AREAS
3.3 OTHER FACILITIES

SPECIAL TREATMENT AREAS
4.3 SPECIFIC PLAN REQUIRED

RESIDENTIAL
5.2 MAXIMUM 16 UNITS/NET ACRE (2,722 SQ.FT. SITE AREA/UNIT)
5.3 MAXIMUM 10 UNITS/NET ACRE (4,356 SQ.FT. SITE AREA/UNIT)
5.35 MAXIMUM 7.25 UNITS/NET ACRE (6,000 SQ.FT. SITE AREA/UNIT) (CITY ONLY)
5.4 MAXIMUM 4 UNITS/NET ACRE (10,890 SQ.FT. SITE AREA/UNIT)
5.5 MAXIMUM 1 UNIT/NET ACRE (43,560 SQ.FT. SITE AREA/UNIT)
5.6 MINIMUM 2.5 GROSS ACRES/UNIT
5.7 MINIMUM 5 GROSS ACRES/UNIT
5.8 MINIMUM 20 GROSS ACRES/UNIT

COMMERCIAL
6.1 MAJOR COMMERCIAL
6.2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL
6.25 OFFICE COMMERCIAL (CITY ONLY)
6.3 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL

INDUSTRIAL
7.1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
7.2 SERVICE INDUSTRIAL
7.3 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL

RESOURCE
8.1 INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE (MINIMUM 20-ACRE PARCEL SIZE)
8.2 RESOURCE RESERVE (MINIMUM 20-ACRE PARCEL SIZE)
8.4 MINERAL AND PETROLEUM (MINIMUM 5-ACRE PARCEL SIZE)
8.5 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (MINIMUM 20-ACRE PARCEL SIZE)

Figure 1. KERN RIVER PLAN LAND USE LEGEND
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Designations</th>
<th>County Designations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Density</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>= 3.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fault</td>
<td>= /2.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In certain areas, County Map Codes 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, and 5.8--for rural residential uses--may also correspond to the City's "Open Space" designation. Office Commercial, as used by the City, does not have a corresponding County designation; for the Kern River Plan, such areas are shown as 6.25.

Figure 2
CITY OF BAKERSFIELD/COUNTY GENERAL PLAN
MAP DESIGNATION CORRELATION
4.3 PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS

The presence of negative environmental or physical attributes can place constraints on development. Examples of these hazards include earthquake fault zones, unstable slopes, shallow groundwater, steep slopes, and flood hazard areas. If development is permitted to occur in natural hazard areas, it can incur both social costs (e.g., loss of life and/or property) and public costs (e.g., emergency flood relief). When multiple constraints occur, only the first numerical overlay designation is shown on the plan map.

1. Seismic Hazard (Map Code 2.1). Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone and other recently active fault zones or inferred faults not dated or studied with respect to development constraint potential. Development in areas identified as being subject to seismic hazard should be discouraged. No residential, commercial, intensive recreational, or industrial development shall be allowed without a geologic report prepared by a geologist registered with the State of California. All State, County, and City seismic safety criteria and standards shall be complied with.

2. Landslide (Map Code 2.2). No areas identified in Kern River Plan area.

3. Shallow Groundwater (Map Code 2.3). Not used in Kern River Plan area due to continuously changing characteristics of the River's groundwater mound.

4. Steep Slope (Map Code 2.4). No areas identified in Kern River Plan area.

5. Flood Hazard (Map Code 2.5). Primary and secondary floodway areas are based upon State Reclamation Board data and supplemental data provided by the Kern County Water Agency and the City of Bakersfield Water Resources Department. Areas designated as primary or secondary floodway on the Kern River Plan will be modified by plan amendment when new maps are prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and adopted by the State Reclamation Board. No permanent development, or any activity that would increase flood depths or velocities, shall be allowed in the designated floodway (primary...
floodway) of the Kern River. Oil wells shall not be considered permanent development. Development within designated areas of the secondary floodway may occur only if mitigation measures are incorporated to ensure that the proposed development will not be hazardous, increase flood depths or velocities downstream, significantly degrade key wildlife or other biological habitat, or cause water quality to deteriorate. Any proposed development shall comply with all applicable requirements of City, County, State, or federal agencies.

4.4 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Public facilities are the basic physical structures and infrastructure which are provided for public service and support. Included are parks and recreation facilities, roads, water distribution and storage systems, sewage collection and treatment facilities, and flood control and storm drainage systems.

1. Parks and Recreation Areas (Map Code 3.1). This designation delineates public and private recreation facilities and campground or park areas. The purpose of this designation is to provide a wide variety of facilities to serve the many recreational interests of residents.

2. Educational Facilities (Map Code 3.2). Not used in the Kern River Plan.

3. Other Facilities (Map Code 3.3). This designation delineates facilities used for public or semipublic services.


4.5 SPECIAL TREATMENT AREAS

These are areas within or adjacent to the Kern River Plan area which are considered to have a potential level of complexity beyond that appropriate for a general plan and for which the specific plan appears to be a more appropriate tool.
1. Map Codes 4.1 and 4.2, as shown on the Kern County General Plan, are not used in the Kern River Plan area.

2. Specific Plan Required (Map Code 4.3). A designation used to identify areas in which large-scale projects are pending which will require site-specific planning. These areas will be subject to special review requirements which may include such criteria as performance standards which would supplement zoning. In situations where growth pressures, mixed land uses, and multiple ownerships exist, the designation will require that the County or the City prepare and adopt a specific plan in accordance with policies, standards, and criteria of the respective jurisdiction. The Kern County General Plan Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element, Chapter 4 and Appendix D, contain policies, implementation measures, and guidelines for the preparation and adoption of specific plans in the County area of jurisdiction.

4.6 RESIDENTIAL

New residential development shall be free of significant physical hazards, and shall not intrude on important natural resources. All development shall be required to provide public services infrastructure improvements. No new residential development shall be permitted in the primary floodway. Development in the secondary floodway shall be limited to areas designated for such use and shall occur only in strict compliance with the provisions of this plan.

1. 29 DU's/Net Acre Maximum (Map Code 5.1). Not used in the Kern River Plan.

2. 16 DU's/Net Acre Maximum (Map Code 5.2). Primarily intended for small multiple-family structures, such as duplexes, triplexes, and mobilehome parks which require a full array of urban services, with a minimum of 2,722 square feet of site area per unit, and yielding a maximum of 16 units per net acre in conformance with PUD ordinance standards.
3. 10 DU's/Net Acre Maximum (Map Code 5.3). This category is designed to accommodate urban single-family development on lots with a minimum average size of 4,356 square feet (one-tenth of an acre), yielding a maximum of 10 units per net acre in conformance with PUD ordinance standards.

4. 4 DU's/Net Acre Maximum (Map Code 5.4). This category is designed to accommodate urban single-family development on lots with a minimum average size of one-quarter net acre (10,890 square feet).

5. 1 DU/Net Acre Maximum/Dwelling Unit (Map Code 5.5). This constitutes a single-family designation with rural service needs.

6. 2.5 Gross Acres/DU Maximum (Map Code 5.6). A rural designation which is a common parcel size throughout the rural areas around Bakersfield.

7. 5.0 Gross Acres/DU Maximum (Map Code 5.7). Designated in some rural areas surrounding urban and community centers, characterized by widely separated housing units lacking connections to public water and sewer infrastructure.

8. 20+ Gross Acres/DU Maximum (Map Code 5.8). Designated in the outlying, less densely settled areas, characterized primarily by part-time agricultural pursuits.

9. Provide for appropriate zoning and covenants to protect the land from conflicting and blighting land uses.

10. Cluster development will be encouraged to maximize efficient urban use of the land and minimize disruption to the natural environment.

11. Medium and high density residential uses shall be in areas where higher density use will provide for more efficient utilization of land and permit retention of open space areas and/or areas exhibiting physical constraints.
12. Multi-use open space linkages shall be encouraged as part of planned developments to enhance internal mobility, to provide recreation opportunities, and to serve as buffers.

13. The subdivision of property shall occur only in an orderly manner in accordance with this plan. Those parcels of land which tend to fill in partially developed areas shall be encouraged for development rather than those that will create the scattering of urbanization in the midst of rural uses.

4.7 COMMERCIAL

Commercial services shall be located so as to best serve the needs of new residential development as well as existing populations. New commercial areas should not create imbalances with commercial centers, existing cities, or unincorporated areas, or conflict with valuable natural resources.

New commercial proposals shall demonstrate a need for services within the Kern River Plan Area and shall demonstrate how these services will benefit existing populations and future populations in the area. Precedent-setting proposals which introduce incompatible activities into the Kern River Plan Area will not be permitted.

1. Major Commercial (Map Code 6.1). Concentrated large-scale retail operations providing a broad range of goods and services. Establishments in this category have a regional market area and receive a large number of customers. Normally, development aggregating over 100,000 square feet of effective floor space.

2. General Commercial (Map Code 6.2). Retail and service facilities of less intensity than regional centers providing a broad range of goods and services which serve the day-to-day needs of nearby residents.

3. Office Commercial (Map Code 6.25 - City only). Office and related commercial services in areas of City jurisdiction.
4. **Highway Commercial (Map Code 6.3).** Services, amenities, and accommodations along major roadways.

5. New commercial development which occurs in close proximity to existing or planned residential areas shall be separated therefrom by a physical buffer constructed as a screening wall, or specimen size species of mixed vegetative landscape material, or a combination of both. Such buffer may not be required if acceptable open space or park linkages are provided between commercial and residential developments.

6. Commercial areas should be compact, rather than stretched along major arterials or the River.

7. A commercial development shall be related in size, location, and character to the area and population it is intended to serve. A definite need shall be demonstrated for all proposed shopping facilities.

8. All commercial development shall be subject to a site plan review and approval process of the responsible jurisdiction.

### 4.8 **INDUSTRIAL**

Industrial development should take place in areas that do not create conflicts with resource values in the Kern River area or cause incompatibility with adjacent uses.

1. **Light Industrial (Map Code 7.1).** Unobtrusive industrial activities that can locate in close proximity to residential and commercial uses with a minimum of environmental conflicts. These industries are characterized as labor-intensive and nonpolluting, and do not produce fumes, odors, noise, or vibrations detrimental to nearby properties.
2. Service Industrial (Map Code 7.2). Commercial or industrial activities which involve outdoor storage or use of heavy equipment. Such uses produce significant air or noise pollution and are visually obtrusive.

3. Heavy Industrial (Map Code 7.3). Large-scale industrial activity which is incompatible with other land uses because of potential severe environmental impacts and/or high-employee densities.

4. Activities involving the processing of mineral or petroleum resources will be designated as industrial on the Kern River Plan.

5. Industrial areas should be separate from residential areas to protect both homes and factories.

6. Industrial areas adjacent to the Kern River primary or secondary floodway should be buffered by landscaping or vegetation to provide the least possible conflict with open space values of the River.

4.9 RESOURCE

The Kern River itself constitutes a unique resource in the Bakersfield metropolitan area. A variety of resource values are present which shall be managed for the benefit of present and future generations.

1. Intensive Agriculture (Map Code 8.1). Areas devoted to the production of irrigated crops or having a potential for such use. Other agricultural uses, while not directly dependent on irrigation for production, may also be consistent with the intensive agriculture designation. Minimum parcel size is 20 acres gross.

2. Resource Reserve (Map Code 8.2). Areas of mixed natural resource characteristics, such as rangeland, woodland, and wildlife habitat, which occur within an established domestic water district, minimum parcel size is 20 acres gross.
3. Extensive Agriculture (Map Code 8.3). Not used on the Kern River Plan.

4. Mineral and Petroleum (Map Code 8.4). Areas which contain producing, or potentially productive, petroleum fields and mineral deposits. Uses are limited to activities directly associated with the resource extraction. Minimum parcel size is five acres gross.

5. Resource Management (Map Code 8.5). Primarily open space lands containing important resource values, such as wildlife habitat, scenic values, or watershed recharge areas. These areas may be characterized by physical constraints, or may constitute an important watershed recharge area or wildlife habitat, or may have value as a buffer between resource areas and urban areas. Undeveloped areas where population projections and development activity do not warrant development within the foreseeable future. Minimum parcel size is 20 acres gross.

6. Encourage effective management of the groundwater resource for the long-term economic benefit by any or all of the following: (a) artificial groundwater replenishment, (b) conjunctive use of surface water supplies and the groundwater supplies, (c) development of alternative local and imported surface water supplies, and (d) requiring permits for well construction, modification, or abandonment.

4.10 Floodway

The focus of the Kern River Plan is on the primary and secondary floodway of the Kern River in the Bakersfield metropolitan area.

1. The primary floodway of the Kern River, designated as 2.5 on the Kern River Plan Map, is defined as the Kern River Designated Floodway adopted by the State Reclamation Board.
2. The primary floodway shall remain free from development which would alter its designated flow capacity, water velocity, or any other factor deemed critical by the State Reclamation Board or local jurisdictional agencies.

3. Recreation developments, such as lawns, picnic areas, and trails, which do not require structures or topographic alteration, are considered to be compatible uses in the primary floodway so long as the function of the floodway is not impaired or such uses do not pose a threat to public safety or degrade sensitive and scenic values.

4. Agricultural uses, such as grazing or pastures, which do not require structures or other physical development may be allowed in the primary floodway so long as the function of the floodway is not impaired.

5. No fences shall be placed within the primary floodway except as allowed by the State Reclamation Board.

6. The secondary floodway of the Kern River, designated by the hazard overlay 2.5 on the Kern River Plan, is defined by the secondary floodway line of the City of Bakersfield's Kern River Floodway Map.

7. Resource management and open space shall be emphasized as the major desirable uses within the secondary floodway.

8. Urban development within the secondary floodway shall be limited to those areas designated for such use and shall conform to all policies and regulations applicable to the Kern River.

9. Upon adoption of any revisions to the Designated Floodway Maps by the State Reclamation Board, the Kern River Plan Map shall be similarly amended to reflect any changes in the primary or secondary floodway and appurtenant map codes and plan policies.
4.11 RECREATION

A number of recreation uses are proposed within the Kern River Plan area. These would seek to maximize realization of the potential offered by the Kern River for active and passive recreation, while maintaining the open space experience and protecting the inherent natural qualities and resources of the Kern River.

1. Construction of a bikeway, currently planned along the River, shall take place as planned and as public or private funding is available.

2. To the extent permitted by law, foot access along the River shall be allowed for uses such as fishing, nature study, and photography. Developed trails would not be required in these areas in order to minimize any disturbance to naturally occurring conditions, except as may be in violation of any existing laws or ordinances.

3. Riding and hiking trails shall be located in the general areas indicated on the plan map. Actual development of the trails may vary and shall take into consideration physical features, topography, wildlife habitats, public and private ownerships, land uses, easements, and the like.

4. Hiking trails and equestrian trails shall be separated if it is demonstrated that joint use of trails would present a threat to public health and safety.

5. Parking should be provided in the general location of areas indicated on the Kern River Plan Map. It is intended that major access points for River users would have improved parking areas.

6. Other public uses, such as recreation areas and picnic grounds, should be encouraged to develop in areas generally located on the Kern River Plan Map.

7. Privately developed public recreation areas shall be encouraged in the plan area as consistent with all other goals and policies of this plan.
CHAPTER V. IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES

Implementation of the Kern River Plan will be a complex and interrelated long-term process. Whether the plan is or can be effectively implemented will be dependent upon a number of factors: political and governmental, fiscal, public commitment-related, and administrative.

This Chapter will discuss the existing and alternative governmental structures and procedures for implementation of various plan elements; the foreseeable methods of public lands acquisition, costs of proposed facilities construction, and facilities operation and maintenance; and timing and progress of plan implementation. Specific implementation policies provide definitive guidance for future activities in the River area.

5.1 SHORT-TERM IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES

The City and the County, in the short term, have a number of implementation options which may be considered and utilized when appropriate. These are:

1. Utilize land trades to acquire open space property in the River corridor. City or County excess lands that become available in other areas can be traded for River floodway lands identified in this plan as desirable for public open space usage.

2. Consider adoption and utilization of a "transfer of development rights" ordinance to acquire land within River floodways. With this type of ordinance, it would be possible to "trade" increased use densities, or more intense uses than those permitted under existing zoning designations, on properties in other areas (such as in urban redevelopment areas) for the development rights on River floodway properties desired for public open space usage.
3. Acquire open space easements and/or fee title as an integral part of private project design approval processes involving River floodway lands. The Kern River Plan denotes, for example, equestrian trails and "beaching areas" for River users. It is likely that most, if not all, of these types of recreational facility right-of-way can be secured without cost to the City or County as private development adjacent to and within the River corridor occurs.

4. Develop a cooperative effort with programs at educational institutions, such as California State College, Bakersfield.

5. Off-road vehicle users should seek State funding for alternative off-road vehicle recreational use sites to replace current River use areas.

6. Support open space land or facilities acquisition, construction, or operation in the plan area by responsible private groups interested in the preservation of the River corridor as a public open space use area.

7. Continue use of existing land development design review procedures and regulations to assure the maintenance of River corridor open space and the scenic vistas thereof from floodway-adjacent public thoroughfares and properties.

8. Continue allocation, within budgetary constraints, of sufficient funding by the City and the County to maintain existing public open space park and recreational facilities in the River floodway area.

9. Evaluate all public and private projects within or directly impacting River floodways to assure that multiple-purpose open space usage of the River for floodwater carriage, groundwater recharge, resource extraction, natural vegetation preservation, and public recreation is fully considered in project planning and approval processes.
10. Accept any gifts or bequests of River floodway land deemed essential to be in public ownership to accomplish plan goals and objectives. The formation of a nonprofit foundation to accept such bequests and purchase properties shall be encouraged.

5.2 LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

As options and alternatives for longer term consideration in the implementation of the Kern River Plan, the following are among those which shall be considered:

1. Apply for and use State and federal funding for open space preservation and recreational facilities purposes to acquire any land deemed essential in plan implementation and to construct essential public recreation facilities in the River area.

2. Increase application for and usage of Quimby Act funds for the same purpose as in Policy 1.

3. Consider formation of a new special purpose district, or the expansion of an existing district, for the maintenance and operation of public recreational facilities in the Kern River Plan area.

One possible long-range solution to the governmental responsibility problem for desirable River recreation/park facilities should be either the formation of a new special-purpose district for that purpose or the expansion of an existing district, funding constraints permitting. Innovative means of financing, within the parameters of court decisions interpreting initiative restrictions on local government financing; would be required. Such innovative financing might involve user fees, property transfer fees, State/federal grants, or special assessment districts. The boundaries of any new or expanded existing special-purpose district for this purpose should appropriately include all the metropolitan Bakersfield area.

THE KERN RIVER PLAN
CHAPTER V. IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES
4. Use a special assessment district, if sufficient public support is evidenced, for the acquisition of land for and construction of facilities for public recreation in the River area.

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION STANDARDS AND SPECIFIC POLICIES

All new development within the Kern River Plan shall conform to following standards and specific policies as may be applicable:

A. Access

1. The bicycle paths, pedestrian ways, equestrian trails, and public parking shown on the plan map shall be further defined by a "Specific Trails Plan." That plan will contain the exact alignment of trails, support facilities, the standards to which they will be developed, and a funding program for acquisition, development, and maintenance. It will take care to safeguard existing development. In conjunction with policies of this plan, the public access provisions of Sections 66478.1 through 66478.8 of the Subdivision Map Act shall be used in the drafting of the "Specific Trails Plan." That plan may be adopted in parts to take into consideration differing geography and land use characteristics of the River. The plan, or parts thereof, shall be adopted only after due notice and public hearings by the City or County having jurisdiction.

2. Upon adoption of the "Specific Trails Plan," easements or land designated for beach areas, foot access, riding and hiking trails, and bicycle paths and public parking areas shall be acquired, developed, and maintained by the City, County, or other public agency.

3. Until the adoption of a "Specific Trails Plan," provision shall be made for dedication and irrevocable offers to dedicate foot access to and along the River, pursuant to State law, as deemed appropriate to serve the purpose of the Kern River Plan prior to approval of any tentative
subdivision or parcel map for land adjoining the Kern River. Until the adoption of a "Specific Trails Plan," bicycle paths, hiking trails, and equestrian trails shall not be required as conditions of land division or development. However, they may be acquired by purchase. If they are to be included in the design of a development, then the location of bicycle paths and equestrian trails shall take care to safeguard private property against the likelihood of trespass and shall employ reasonable means to avoid such trespass.

The irrevocable offer to dedicate shall terminate if not accepted by the County or City, whichever is appropriate, within 21 years. Prior to acceptance, the City or County, as the case may be, shall prepare and hold public hearings on a plan for the construction and for the management, maintenance, and policing of the offered trail or trails.

This plan for the offered trail or trails shall show how the trail or trails connect at both ends with similar existing or planned trails or with other public property or easement areas, and shall contain a proposed budget for the management, maintenance, and policing of said trail or trails, specifying the revenue sources for the items or expenditure. The "California Environmental Quality Act" of 1970 shall be complied with in regard to review of this plan. Upon approval of the plan, one or more of the offers to dedicate bicycle paths, pedestrian ways, or equestrian trails may be accepted by the County or City.

Funding plans should have a wide base and shall not fall disproportionately on owners of property adjacent to the river.

4. Public parking areas shall be paved and access drives shall be tied to existing pavement in accordance with City and County requirements.

5. The City and County shall investigate alternative methods for funding the necessary acquisitions, improvement, and maintenance associated with the required access. These may include, but are not limited to,
the formation of a special district for the plan area, creation of a parkway trust fund, State and federal sources, and the collection of park funds during the subdivision map process, as allowed by Section 66477 of the Subdivision Map Act.

B. Open Space and Development

1. The rezoning of the area within the plan boundaries shall incorporate either existing or new architectural design and review zone overlays. In the case of County jurisdiction, the P-D (Precise Development) zone will be applied to all commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential development within the secondary floodway areas. The D (Architectural Design) zone will be applied to all other non-open space development inside and outside the floodways. The use of the P-D (Precise Development) and D (Architectural Design) zone overlays will be used as an interim measure until a new zoning ordinance district can be developed and adopted which is more suited to the Kern River Plan policies.

2. Any new non-open space development, including projects by public agencies, shall not occur without prior City or County approval of a "Development Plan." The "Development Plan" shall be reviewed for completeness and consistency with the following guidelines:

a. Elevation drawings of all proposed structures and signs.

b. Landscaping plan which provides for screening of obnoxious uses and respects existing views of the Kern River channel.

c. Grading and revegetation plan.

d. Plot plan or recent aerial photograph depicting existing uses and natural vegetation cover.
e. A biota survey and analysis of effects which development would impose on any significant identified biota.

f. A certified delineation of the primary and secondary floodways, if applicable to the site, depicting both predevelopment conditions and future development conditions.

g. Other standard zoning and subdivision ordinance requirements in force at the time of application.

3. The City and County shall initiate rezonings, as necessary, to achieve consistency with the Kern River Plan Element. For example, the County shall initiate OS (Open Space) zoning in areas that are not planned for future development, transportation, parking, and other intensive uses.

4. All new development and accessory uses, excepting wells, shall maintain a minimum setback of 90 feet from the primary floodway line. If not feasible to do so because of lot size or configuration, new development, including accessory uses, shall maintain a setback from the primary floodway line of 60 percent or greater of the distance between the primary floodway line and the point of the lot farthest from the primary floodway.

5. In order to preserve views of the River, reasonable height limits will be imposed through the "Development Plan" review process on any new non-open space development within any floodway. Criteria for height limits shall be based on existing site factors, such as surrounding land use, vegetation, and distance to the Kern River course.

6. Grading and filling for any new non-open space development shall not commence until approval under a "Development Plan."
7. New or relocated utility lines shall be placed underground, except in areas subject to intensive agricultural uses, 8.4 areas (Mineral and Petroleum), and at River crossings, or where it can be shown that the specific nature of the facility is such that it is entirely infeasible to do so.

8. The City and County shall enact ordinances, in accordance with Sections 66479 through 66482 of the Subdivision Map Act, requiring that areas of real property within a subdivision be reserved for open space and/or recreational facilities. Pursuant to the Map Act, this reservation would not obstruct development of the remainder of the land, would have to be consistent with the Kern River Plan, and would be subject to a binding agreement for purchase by the City or County within two years of approval of the subdivision. If the jurisdiction does not enter into an agreement or does not purchase the land within the allotted time, the reservation would automatically terminate.

C. Riparian Vegetation

1. The City and County shall develop a master list of plant species for criteria to approve "Development Plans." This list shall be considered for incorporation into this plan by General Plan Amendment. Revegetation or landscaping with native or compatible shrubs and trees shall be required as part of all public and private projects. Areas of unique habitat value, such as the Mesquite-Saltbush Association in the vicinity of Enos Lane, shall be preserved in accordance with the City's approved plan for use of the 2,800-acre recharge area and River channel maintenance.

2. Prior to any development within the Kern River Plan boundaries, including residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, water recharge, channel improvement, and resource recovery projects, a landscaping plan shall be submitted to the respective City or County Planning Department for review and approval.
3. For all new development in residentially, commercially, and industrially zoned properties within the plan boundaries, the River setback area shall be either landscaped or revegetated. Except as might be required by the City or County Fire Department, no clearing of shrubs or tree cutting will be allowed unless otherwise provided for by this plan.

4. The City and County shall adopt and enforce leash law ordinances for the area within the Kern River Plan.

D. Floodplain Management Implementation

1. The City and County may adopt resolutions to facilitate groundwater recharge, conservation, and flood control projects within the floodplain and provide for recreational use where practical. Recreational uses may be excluded only when the City Council or Board of Supervisors find that such recreational uses would be inconsistent with the Kern River Plan or will somehow endanger the public health and safety.

2. The City and County shall initiate rezoning of the primary and secondary floodplains to FP-P (Floodplain-Primary) and FP-S (Floodplain-Secondary), respectfully, either as a primary zone or as an overlay zone.

E. Private and Public Property Use

1. Provisions shall be made for the dedication of access, reservation of open space or recreational areas, and collection of recreational fees in accordance with the Subdivision Map Act. Land division requiring a parcel map shall also be subject to these requirements. New ordinances shall be adopted as necessary.
2. Parcels that are owned by the City or County shall be made available for public use, such as River access, picnicking, nature study, trails, fishing, and designated vehicle parking areas. Uses may be limited, depending upon the characteristics of the site, if necessary to protect and mitigate problems of public health and safety.

3. The development standards for both public and private lands shall be the same. This includes provisions for facilities and trails, as conceptually shown on the plan map, access requirements, "development plans," and improvements.

4. Active recreation uses, such as shooting and archery ranges, may be allowed in areas deemed to be appropriate for such uses consistent with all other provisions of this plan.

F. Mineral and Petroleum Extraction

1. The City and County shall revise, within two years from adoption of this plan, mineral and petroleum extraction regulations and provisions of their respective floodplain zoning ordinances consistent with all plan policies and incorporate the following features:

   a. Strict limits on residential development.


   c. Noise limits when adjacent to highly sensitive and sensitive land uses.

   d. Requirements for aesthetic treatment (painting, landscaping, screening) of production facilities (i.e., oil pump units, tanks, gravel crushers, etc.) located within the plan boundaries.

   e. Allowance for sand and gravel operations necessary to the Kern River floodway or floodplain.
f. Allowances for petroleum extraction to occur with and without public hearing requirements and subject to a set of standard requirements, as in "a" through "d" above.

2. Mineral and petroleum extraction shall be encouraged on those lands designated "Mineral and Petroleum" on the Kern River Plan Map. Such use may also occur in other areas designated for recreation, resource, or industrial uses as long as the primary designated use is not significantly impaired and as long as such use is consistent with other provisions of this plan and in compliance with existing local, State, and federal regulations.

3. Residential development shall not be allowed within areas designated "Mineral and Petroleum" on the Kern River Plan Map.

4. The City and County shall initiate rezoning for all lands within the "Mineral and Petroleum" designation in order to apply consistent extraction overlay zones.

5.4 FUNDING OF FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

It should be emphasized that recent State legislation restricting local government's ability to fund both capital projects and the operation and maintenance of park and recreation facilities makes it difficult for the City of Bakersfield or Kern County to initiate new projects and programs. It will be essential that this constraint be recognized by all those interested in River preservation and development as the City and County review the feasibility of implementation of the recommendations of this Kern River Plan.

Funding of facilities development may be undertaken, as additional public lands are acquired over a period of years and development is desired, through a number of avenues:
5.4.1 Federal and State Grants

Although currently limited, the availability of State and federal grants may vary significantly as the plan is implemented. Preliminary planning for projects—the availability of "on-the-shelf" plans—may be vital when stimulation of the economy through public works financing at the federal level, for example, is undertaken.

5.4.2 Assessment District Financing (1911 Act, 1913 Act)

This is a capital projects funding tool being increasingly considered for capital facilities with demonstrable Countywide benefit since the passage of State initiatives restricting other methods of funding for such facilities. It should be noted that absent significant communitywide initiated and demonstrated support, it is not feasible for local legislative bodies to undertake such assessment district financing.

5.4.3 Private Property Owner Funding/Incentive Zoning

It may be to the advantage of major landowners adjacent the River to participate in the capital funding of facilities adjacent to their properties. Such advantages could be formalized and encouraged by the development of an incentive zoning for River-adjacent properties, allowing appropriate increased densities or land use intensity increases for donations for public facility development.

5.4.4 Quimby Act

The Quimby Act is a State law that allows local governments to require residential developers to provide land for parks or pay a fee which can be used only for park acquisition, development, and maintenance. However, the Quimby Act is not a legislative mandate. Growth-oriented municipalities have sometimes overlooked the Quimby Act or required only minimal fees.
The use of such fees for Kern River corridor developments is one possible source of revenues. Currently, the City and County do not charge Quimby Act fees, although the County has an ordinance permitting such charges by local agencies providing park and recreation services. The North Bakersfield Recreation and Park District charges Quimby Act fees.

5.4.5 Foundations

The Nature Conservancy, through the American Land Trust, is one example of the type of foundation which may act as an agent to buy or receive gifts of land with the possibility of gifting such land to local governmental agencies. Formation of a similar foundation for the Kern River area would provide a means for encouraging private sector participation in protecting the River area.

5.4.6 Operation and Maintenance Cost Funding

Operation and maintenance cost funding is perhaps a more significant problem than the funding of development. Some of the possible alternatives for such funding have been briefly noted in the Governmental Structure section of this Chapter.

The possibility of private investment in the overall development of River-related public facilities should not be overlooked. Possible revenue-producing activities might include restaurants adjacent to or overlooking natural scenic areas; private club activities, such as archery and shooting ranges and organized camp activities; or swimming (if beaches were maintained and lifeguards provided).

Assessment district procedures can be utilized, in conjunction with assessment district-financed development or acquisition, to fund maintenance and operation costs of such facilities. Funding plans should have a wide base and shall not fall disproportionately on owners of property adjacent to the River.
15075. NOTICE OF DETERMINATION. (a) After deciding to carry out or approve a project for which a negative declaration has been approved, the lead agency shall file a notice of determination.

(b) The notice of determination shall include:

(1) An identification of the project, including its common name where possible, and its location.

(2) A brief description of the project.

(3) The date on which the agency approved the project.

(4) The determination of the agency that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

(5) A statement that a negative declaration has been prepared pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

(6) The address where a copy of the negative declaration may be examined.

(c) If the lead agency is a State agency, the notice of determination shall be filed with the Secretary for Resources.

(d) If the lead agency is a local agency, the notice of determination shall be filed with the County Clerk of the County or counties in which the project will be located. If the project requires a discretionary approval from any state agency, the notice of determination also shall be filed with the Secretary for Resources.

(e) The filing of the notice of determination and the posting on a list of such notices starts a 30-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval under CEQA.
APPENDICES
KERN RIVER PLAN APPENDIX

For the express purpose of clarification and exclusive use of terminology with the Kern River Plan Element, the following definition of "Development" is provided. Several plan policies and implementation measures use this term to indicate action to do something new, such as a project, whereas actions to improve or construct accessory uses to existing legal land use are not intended to be construed as "new," and, therefore, are not classified as "Development."

"Development" means any action taken requiring a permit or application to seek amendment or authorization under provisions of any grading, zoning, parcel map, or final map subdivision ordinance. "Development" means actions, such as grading permit approval, zoning change, conditional use permit, modification, variance, tentative parcel map approval, and tentative subdivision map approval. "Development" means converting an existing legal land use entitlement to another specific purpose by altering the intended density, intensity, or use of an existing authorized entitlement.
Note:

The above relationship between Kern River Plan land use designations and City of Bakersfield zoning are approximations only. The Kern River Plan designations are identical to County General Plan Land Use Element designations except for 25 rather than City Land Use Element designations. Therefore, direct consistency between plan designations and City Zoning intensities and permitted uses are only approximate. The City of Bakersfield does not intend to adopt new zone designations which would be unique to the Kern River Plan. All land use designations used in the plan can be adequately implemented through existing zoning ordinances.
KERN RIVER PLAN ELEMENT

LAND USE LEGEND

NON-JURISDICTIONAL LAND
1.1 STATE AND FEDERAL LAND

PHYSICAL CONSTRAINT OVERLAYS
2.1 SEISMIC HAZARD
2.5 FLOOD HAZARD

PUBLIC FACILITIES
3.1 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATION AREAS
3.3 OTHER FACILITIES

SPECIAL TREATMENT AREAS
4.3 SPECIFIC PLAN REQUIRED

RESIDENTIAL
5.2 MAXIMUM 16 UNITS PER NET ACRE
5.3 MAXIMUM 10 UNITS PER NET ACRE
5.35 MAXIMUM 7.25 UNITS PER NET ACRE
5.4 MAXIMUM 4 UNITS PER NET ACRE
5.5 MAXIMUM 1 UNIT PER NET ACRE
5.6 MINIMUM 2.5 GROSS ACRES PER UNIT
5.7 MINIMUM 5.0 GROSS ACRES PER UNIT
5.8 MINIMUM 20 GROSS ACRES PER UNIT

COMMERCIAL
6.1 MAJOR COMMERCIAL
6.2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL - 6.25 OFFICE COMMERCIAL (CITY ONLY)
6.3 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL

INDUSTRIAL
7.1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
7.2 SERVICE INDUSTRIAL
7.3 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL

RESOURCE
8.1 INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE
8.2 RESOURCE RESERVE
8.4 MINERAL AND PETROLEUM
8.5 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

MAP DETAIL

KERN RIVER
2.5 KERN RIVER PRIMARY FLOODWAY (15,000 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND)

SECONDARY FLOODWAY
SURVEY CENTERLINE OF RIVER

RIVER RECREATION
ADOPTED BIKEWAY
RIDING AND HIKING TRAIL
PARKING AREA
OTHER PUBLIC USE

CIRCULATION
FREEWAY
MAJOR ARTERIAL AND/OR STATE HIGHWAY
SECONDARY COLLECTOR
SCENIC HIGHWAY

PHYSICAL FEATURES
TOPOGRAPHICAL CONTOUR
RAILROAD TRACK
ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE
CANAL
COUNTY OF KERN

BY RESOLUTION NO. 3, the Kern County Board of Supervisors adopted this map of the Kern River Plan Element as a part of the Kern County General Plan in accordance with all state and county requirements.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS MAP WAS ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION NO. 3 OF THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD ON AUGUST 22, 1989, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE KERN COUNTY GENERAL PLAN AND ALL STATE AND COUNTY REQUIREMENTS.

[Signatures]

COUNTY OF KERN

[Map legend and scale]

[Scale bar]

KERN RIVER PLAN
CITY OF BAKERSFIELD AND THE COUNTY OF KERN

INDEX MAP

SHEET 1