

# YERMO

## COMMUNITY ACTION GUIDE



**DRAFT**

This printed version of the Draft Community Action Guide is provided as a courtesy for simplifying community review. A draft version of the web-based Community Action Guide can be found at [www.countywideplan.com/cp](http://www.countywideplan.com/cp).



COUNTYWIDE PLAN  
Yermo Community Action Guide  
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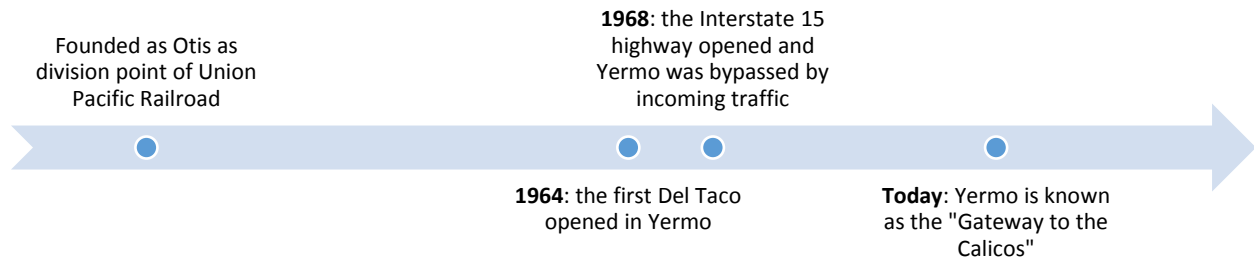
Yermo, San Bernardino County

# Community Profile

## Overview

The community profile is a summary of the social, cultural, economic, and historic dimensions of the community. It is a gathering of objective data collected through secondary sources meant to inform and help facilitate discussion during the community meetings. The profile, together with future studies and information gathered from residents during the community meetings, will highlight essential facets and “tell the story” of the Yermo Community.

## History



Yermo’s name derives from the Spanish word for “wilderness”, and had its beginnings as an early mining town. As travel between Southern California and Las Vegas increased with the rise of the automobile, Yermo served as a rest stop with plenty of gas stations. The first Del Taco opened in Yermo on September 16, 1964. The Del Taco has since closed, and the original building is now home to a local burger restaurant. When the Interstate 15 highway opened in 1968, Yermo was immediately bypassed by traffic and many local businesses in Yermo began to close. Today, Yermo is known as the “Gateway to the Calicos”, referring to the Calico Mountains and the historic Calico Ghost Town. Yermo serves as the gateway for tourists traveling on Calico Road onward to the ghost town.

Source(s): Wikipedia; San Bernardino County Regional Parks

## Location & Geography

Yermo is located in the central portion of San Bernardino County. The community is at the base of a small mountain and home to the USMC Logistics Base Yermo Annex. It is north of both Daggett and Newberry Springs, as well as east of Barstow.

Source(s): Google Maps, ESRI



Figure 1: Yermo Area Map

Source(s): ESRI, San Bernardino County LUS

## Key Census Data

Category	Yermo		San Bernardino County		California		United States	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
<b>Population</b>								
Total Population	1,599		2,078,586		38,066,920		314,107,084	
2020 Population Forecast	1,612 (+1.0%)		2,227,066 (+7.1%)		40,619,346 (+6.7%)		334,503,000 (+6.5%)	
Total Households	626		607,604		12,617,280		116,211,092	
Average Household Size	2.6		3.3		2.9		2.6	
Median Age	42.4		32.2		35.6		37.4	
<b>Education</b>								
High School Diploma	N/A	N/A	330,613	26.3%	5,153,257	20.7%	58,440,600	27.9%
Education Past High School	N/A	N/A	417,953	33.3%	7,400,714	29.8%	60,821,634	29.1%
Bachelor Degree or Higher	N/A	N/A	336,315	26.8%	7,708,909	31.0%	61,206,147	29.3%
<b>Housing</b>								
Total Dwelling Units	796	n/a	703,737	n/a	13,781,929	n/a	132,741,033	n/a
Homeowner Occupied Units	388	48.7%	370,032	52.6%	6,908,925	50.1%	74,787,460	56.3%
Renter Occupied Units	239	30.0%	237,572	33.8%	5,708,355	41.4%	41,423,632	32.2%
Vacancy*	170	21.4%	96,133	13.7%	1,164,649	8.5%	16,529,941	12.5%
Median Year Structure Built	N/A	n/a	1976	n/a	1974	n/a	1976	n/a
<b>Income</b>								
Median Household Income	\$41,766	n/a	\$54,100	n/a	\$61,489	n/a	\$53,482	n/a
Persons Below Poverty Level	N/A	N/A	199,451	12.7%	3,354,518	11.2%	26,235,361	10.6%
Employed	N/A	N/A	812,707	86.1%	16,890,442	89.0%	143,435,233	90.2%
Unemployed	N/A	N/A	131,293	13.9%	2,084,564	12.3%	14,504,781	9.2%
Note: N/A indicates that the data is not available; n/a indicates that the category is not applicable								
*This figure may include seasonal households								

Table 1: Key Census Data

Sources: 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates and ESRI

### Community Structure (Physical Characteristics)

The community of Yermo consists primarily of single family residential dwellings on plots of land with minimum lot sizes ranging from 10,000 square feet to 5 Acres. The major roads in the community are Interstate 15 (I-15), Ghost Town Road, and Yermo Road. I-15 is a wide 4-lane freeway with a large median. Ghost Town Road and Yermo Road are both paved two lane roads. Most of the local roads in the southern section of the community are paved, less are paved further north. A majority of the roads in Yermo are County Maintained. A few others are privately or otherwise maintained.

Source(s): Google Earth, County of San Bernardino Zoning Map, Fehr & Peers, San Bernardino Countywide Plan Transportation Existing Conditions Report, January 2016.

## Community Amenities

### Trails

- Daggett Wash Trail

### Schools

- Silver Valley High School
- Yermo Elementary School

### Fire Protection

- Yermo/Calico Fire Department
- Paid Call Firefighter (PCF): #56; #52  
Response Time: #56: 30 minutes if staffed;  
#52 14 minutes if staffed
- Sam Bernardino County Fire Station #4  
Response Time: 47 minutes

### Police

- Barstow Sheriff's Station  
*Source(s): Google Maps; San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; San Bernardino County Fire Department; totalescape.com*

## Quality of Life Concerns

Common issues noted within the community include:

- Junk/Trash/Hoarding
- Demo/Rehab
- Vacant Buildings
- Community Services District

*Source(s): San Bernardino County Code Enforcement*

## Retail Services

The community includes a variety of business types. The most common are retail trade and services.

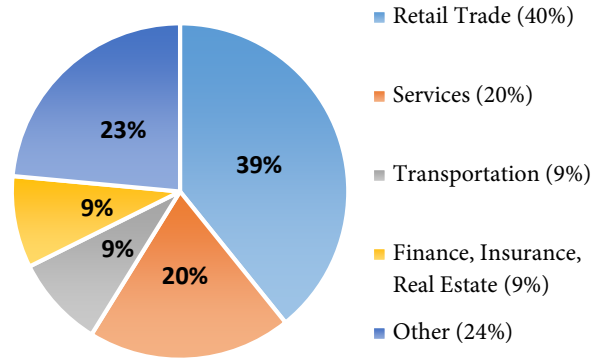


Figure 2: Business Types in Yermo  
Source: ESRI Community Analyst

## Community Development Organizations

- Yermo Bible Church
- Calvary Baptist Church of Yermo California
- Way Home Christian Fellowship
- Good Shepherd Society
- Discovery Trails Corporation

## Community Events

- **Calico Ghost Town Civil War Re-enactment.** 2/13 – 2/15 (Calico Ghost Town)
- **Bluegrass in the Spring.** 5/7 – 5/8 (Calico Ghost Town)
- **Calico Days.** 10/1 – 10/2 (Calico Ghost Town)
- **Ghost Haunt.** August, 2016 (Calico Ghost Town)
- **Holiday Fest.** 11/26 (Calico Ghost Town)

*Source(s): sbcounty.gov; barstowca.org; guidstar.org*

## Public Health

**Chronic Disease:** There is a lack of information regarding hospitalization and emergency rates for chronic diseases in Yermo. Yermo has a higher rate of hospitalization due to asthma than San Bernardino County.

*Source(s): Healthy San Bernardino*

**Air Quality:** Table 4 below shows the air quality near Yermo, measured at the Barstow monitoring site, in terms of the number of days that area exceeded the federal standards for pollutants (exceedance days). The table shows that the monitoring site near Yermo had fewer exceedance days for each pollutant than that of the overall Mojave Air Basin, in which Yermo is located.

Air pollution is one of the contributing factors linked to the development of chronic diseases such as stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and respiratory diseases. By reducing levels of ambient pollution (outdoor air pollution), communities can lessen the impact that it has on resident’s health.

	Barstow Monitoring Site			Mojave Air Basin		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Ozone Federal 8-hour standard	15	10	17	81	66	86
Course Particulate Matter (PM <sub>10</sub> ) Federal 24-hour standard	0	0	1	1	1	1
Fine Particulate Matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) Federal 24-hour standard	*	*	*	2	6	2

Table 2: Air Quality Exceedance Days

Source: California Air Resources Board

\* Indicates insufficient data

**Modified Food Index:** The Modified Food Index maps the availability of healthy food in a census tract. The lower the score, the less available healthy options are in the area.

The entire community area of Yermo ranks within the two lowest categories for food access, meaning that there is access to less than 15 healthy food outlets within that area. Lower scores indicate that these areas contain many convenience stores and fast food restaurants compared to the number of healthy food markets.

**Community Gardens:** There are no community gardens within 25 miles of Yermo.

Source(s): US Census 2010, C A Department of Health; California Air Resources Board, 2016; American Community Garden Association, 2016

## Community Engagement Summary

As a part of the Community Plans Continuum process, community members from Yermo were invited to participate in two community workshops. The first workshop, titled “What We Value”, took place on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:30pm at the Yermo Community Services District. This workshop was attended by 13 community members. Workshop participants performed a SWOT analysis to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats within the community. Following that exercise, participants used that information to share what they valued about the community (Values) and what they want to see the community become in the future (Aspirations). Lastly, workshop participants worked on forming the draft focus and action statements that form the backbone of the community plan.

The second workshop, titled “Our Roadmap to Making it Happen”, took place on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 6:00 – 8:30pm at the Yermo Community Services District. This workshop was attended by 11 community members. The purpose of this workshop was to continue to develop the draft focus and action statements created in workshop #1. The project team provided word for word summaries of the SWOT and Values and Aspirations exercises to use during the goal setting process. The workshop was primarily used to help prioritize the focus statements developed in the previous workshop while also identifying possible champions for each effort.

Information was also made available on project websites made specifically for each community. This information included:

- Background materials on the project
- Materials developed for each workshop
- Summaries of the information collected from past workshops
- Surveys developed to follow the process of each meeting and allow for further input

## Community Identified Issues

### SWOT Analysis

This section contains the results of the SWOT analysis conducted during the first workshop. A SWOT exercise stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and is used to help gain insight into the community through local knowledge. In the first part, participants identify their communities' biggest strengths, such as community assets like a library or community center, along with their biggest weaknesses, which could be a lack of open space or high rates of internal crime. Next, workshop participants looked at opportunities that the community could take advantage of as part of the community plans process. This builds off of what was identified in the strengths and weaknesses portion. Lastly, participants identify external threats to the community. These are generally concerns that are outside of the control of community members, such as natural disasters or changes in economic conditions. This information was then compiled and used throughout the rest of the community plans process to inform the values and aspirations exercises conducted at workshop #1, as well as the focus and actions statements.

#### Strengths

- Calico County Park – part of Yermo? Yes
- Access to desert outdoor activities (OHV, off road, trails)
- History – Marine Base, Rainbow Basin Historic Area
- Land Values – Affordable
- Weather goes around (fishbowl), protects Yermo
- Deep family connections, community = family
- New CSD Board bringing community together
- Strong school system
- Firm foundation for development
- No streetlights – clear skies
- Quiet, peaceful, calm
- Long-term residents/old timers
- Potential
- Good food (burger den, every rest.)
- Location
- Accessible
- Central location
- Access to outdoor desert activities
- Rural
- Highway access

- Land value
- Old timers

#### Weaknesses

- Remoteness to other communities, unable to access Barstow
- Lack of transportation, buses come (2x/day), unreliable
- Staffing for emergency services
- Unreliability of internet/telephone services due to high winds (makes it worse)
- Dilapidated buildings/abandoned buildings
- Homeless
- Low-income
- Lack of available County services
- Spread out community
- Awareness of local government
- Lack of activities for kids, youth, teenagers, outdoor/recreation
- Community garden
- Loss of Girl Scouts, baseball team
- Too much reliance on traveling to Barstow
- Loss of leadership
- Lack of active Sheriff presence & patrolling
- Blight



*Opportunities*

- More streetlights
- Good, buildable land
- Local museum, community center, travel
- To have a gym
- Tourism travelers
- Rebuilding future community
- Community family fun center (workshops, community garden available spaces for services, etc.)
- Blight abatement team, quarterly clean-up with donated hauling equipment, volunteers
- Work with County on selected processes (help w/abandoned properties)
- Snowflake & Taylor Arizona/quaint areas
- Repurpose gas stations & structures
- Volunteer citizens on patrol
- Visibility of safety, security, neighborhood watch
- Rodeo

- Carnival, parades, community events
- Organizations (American Legion) to re-engage image churches

*Threats*

- Drugs
- Vandalism
- Visitors, passersby, transient population
- Arson
- Known as dumping ground (animals, trash)
- Closure of dump, need to drive Barstow
- Reliance on services at Barstow
- Lack of emergency management plan
- Antiquated equipment
- Fire staff coverage
- Proximity from highway
- Proximity to Marine Base
- Transportation of hazardous material from rail & highway
- Safety with the use of skate park

