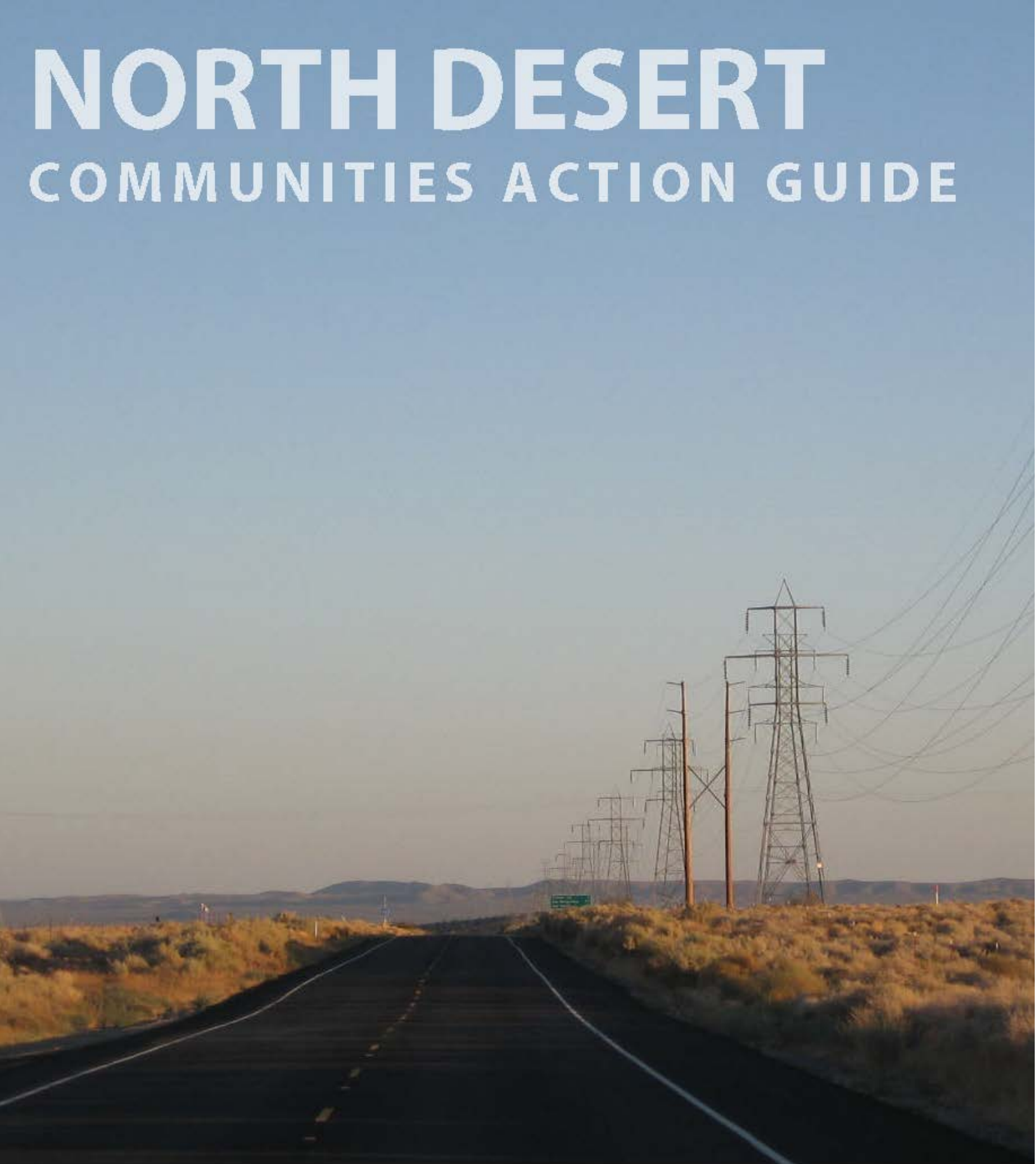


NORTH DESERT

COMMUNITIES ACTION GUIDE



COUNTYWIDE PLAN
North Desert Communities Action Guide



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Introduction

The North Desert Communities are located in the northwest section of the County. They include Red Mountain, Kramer Junction, Hinkley, Barstow Heights, Lenwood and Hodge. Many of the communities were populated due to local mines and the railroad.

In 2016, the County embarked on a planning process to update the fourteen existing Community Plans and create over 30 new plans for approximately 80 unincorporated communities. The strategic system of community planning is called the Community Planning Continuum with a continuum of plan-types to provide planning tools and resources to match local conditions and needs. The plan-types are Detailed, Framework, Foundation and Fundamental.

The North Desert Communities are a Fundamental community. An online survey was available for five months in early 2018. The survey requested information about communities including Values, Aspirations, Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, local organizations and local history (see the Community Identified Issues section). 21 surveys were completed by residents of Hinkley, Barstow Heights, and Lenwood. The survey information was used to create the Community Action Plan. The Community Action Guides are a framework of actions identified by the community and supports implementation of the actions by the community. Online survey responses were received from. The information in this Community Action Guide is from general research and the responses

As part of the survey, participants defined the strengths of and opportunities for their community. The word cloud below was created using the input on the Strengths, Opportunities, Values and Aspirations questions. The word cloud quickly identifies key issues and focus areas for the communities. The more a word or phrase was articulated, the larger the word appears in the cloud.



Values Statement

The Values are those shared assets, principles, standards, mores, and in the judgement of the communities, what is important in the lives of its residents and businesses. A community's values are an important consideration in shaping its aspirations, focus and actions.

As a community we value:

Strong Community Ties. North Desert Communities value their small population and the comfort in knowing their neighbors, which leads to the feeling of a close knit community.

Deep historical roots. North Desert Communities value their history that has led them to the towns that they are today.

Quiet Rural Atmosphere. North Desert Communities value the quiet, open desert landscape and dark night skies.

Aspirations Statement

The Aspirations Statement is a written narrative illustrating how the community desired look and function once the Community Focus Statements and Action Statements are accomplished. This is a long term view of 10 to 20 years. The Aspirations Statement serves as a foundation for developing Community Focus Statements and Action Statements.

The North Desert Communities aspire to:

Improve Public Safety

As a community, North Desert Communities enjoy safe neighborhoods. A neighborhood watch program is successful in decreasing the vandalism and helps residents feel safe. Regular community clean-up events occur biannually to clean up litter from illegal dumping. Homes are occupied, sidewalks are available and roads are maintained.

Improve Quality of Life and Growth of the Community.

North Desert Communities residents have more job opportunities which allow for more residents to enter the work force. A community park offers more recreation opportunities for residents.

Community Focus Statement A: Improve the quality of life for residents.

A

Action Statement A.1: Advocate to the County to increase sheriff patrols in the area.

Action Statement A.2: Collaborate with County Code Enforcement to educate citizens about county codes.

Action Statement A.3: Organize community clean up days twice a year.

Action Statement A.4: Coordinate with County Public Works and Caltrans to maintain public roads.

Action Statement A.5: Increase community and county communication.

Action Statement A.6: Improve public transportation options for the area.

Action Statement A.7: Establish a Neighborhood Watch Program.



Community Profile

Purpose

The community profile is a summary of the social, cultural, economic, and historic dimensions of the North Desert Communities. It presents data collected through secondary sources to inform future actions. The profile, with information gathered from general sources, highlights essential facets and “tells the story” of the North Desert Communities of Red Mountain, Kramer Junction, Hinkley, Hodges, Lenwood and Barstow Heights.

History

Early 1900s: Railroad junction created in Kramer Junction to support the mines in the area

1960s-1980s: Contaminated water in Hinkley catches the attention of Erin Brockovich

1919: Osdick established as a mining town. This will later be renamed to Red Mountain.

Many of the High Desert Communities have historical roots as Mining Towns. Red Mountain was established as Osdick in 1919 due to the silver deposits in the area. Kramer Junction, sprang up due to its unique location and acted as a transportation hub, and there was also gold deposits in the area. Hinkley is recognized for its historical environmental justice issues from the 1960s-80s which was depicted in the 2000 movie “Erin Brockovich”.

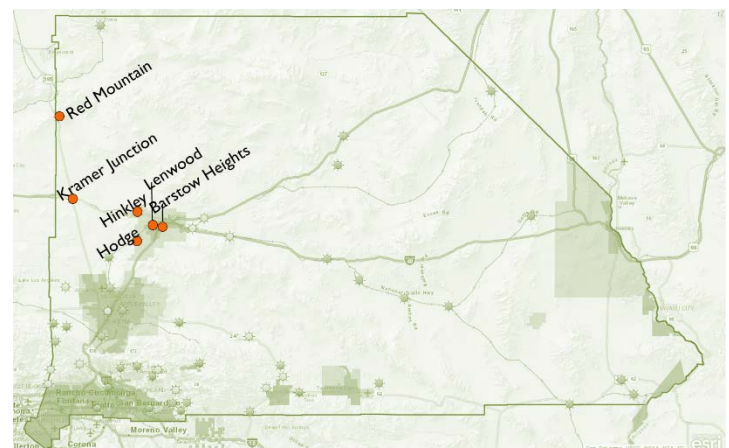
Location & Geography

The North Desert Communities are located within the northwest section of the County. Red Mountain is located on the border of Kern and San Bernardino County approximately 32 miles south/southwest of Trona. Kramer Junction is located around the intersection of Highway 395 and Route 58. Hinkley is located along Route 58 approximately 14 miles northwest of Barstow.

Source(s): Google Maps

Existing Land Use

The Land Use Zoning Designation in these areas is primarily Resource Conservation (RC) and Rural Living (RL), with some commercial designations located around the major transportation corridors in Kramer Junction, Hinkley and Red Mountain. Some of the area is federally owned land of which the County has no jurisdiction over.





Community Identified Issues

SWOT Analysis

A SWOT analysis stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and is used to help gain insight into the community through local knowledge. Survey 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, survey participants identified opportunities that the communities could look to take advantage of as a 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.

Strengths (Barstow Heights)

- Nice parks for children
- Close to desert for off road vehicles
- Don’t have people living close to you
- Small town, most people have known each other for years and have common interests
- The size and population
- The size and population 23,000 and isolated 30 miles from nearest city – Barstow has that small town feel but is big enough to matter, diverse mix of people and races, perfect for test marketing and surveys,
- the freeways
- Open areas

Strengths (Hinkley)

- Location. Hinkley is in a great area and contrary to what most believe there are great water resources and it’s a great place for rural living

Strengths (Lenwood)

- Small size of the community
- Families know each other
- Road work done on Lenwood Road
- Small businesses

- The proximity of the housing, there is enough space between homes for privacy
- Most families here are the original owners
- Smaller community area
- Streets are well maintained
- Not too much crime

Weaknesses (Barstow Heights)

- People not taking care of property
- County not enforcing violations
- Dilapidated structures not being torn down or removed
- No pride in ownership
- Public safety members not connected to the community
- Politicians do not live here n with the small amount of voters we have very little political clout
- The area payroll leaves town payday for the Victor Valley
- The local government does not have peoples best interest at heart
- Big corporations come here set up shop and they take but don’t give back killed the local business owners
- Property owners don’t keep up their properties

Weaknesses (Hinkley)

- The water stigma created by people seeking monetary gain and the lack of community solidarity

Weaknesses (Lenwood)

- Lack of play spaces and community spaces for families
- Not enough amenities like a better park and community gym
- More bigger stores
- Maintenance. There are several areas overrun with tumble weeds, dry grass, trash, etc.
- Speeding in residential areas, people often go over 50 mph in a 25 mph zone
- It's dirty and rundown
- Not enough police presence
- People illegally crossing the street
- Yards not upkept or filled with trash
- Nowhere to walk without being chased by stray dogs
- No nice parks (2)

Opportunities (Barstow Heights)

- Possibility for upscale housing
- Being annexed into the City of Barstow
- Better roads and sidewalks in the future
- Numerous job opportunities
- 6 OUT OF 10 RESIDENTS OF BARSTOW ARE COUNTY ASSISTANCE THEIR NOT MAKING IT IN LIFE + BARSTOW IS THE POOREST CITY IN THE POOREST COUNTY IN ONE OF THE QUICKLY BECOMING POOREST STATES IN THE UNION, 6 OUT OF 10 HOLD OUT YOUR HANDS AND DO IT WITH YOUR FINGERS 6-10 10-6 6-10 10-6, I LOOKED AND COULD A CITY IN ALL OF CALIFORNIA WITH A POPULATION OF 20.000 OR MORE THAT

HAS 60% OF ITS RESIDENTS ON WELFARE, EVERY TIME I DO THE FINGERS 6-10 10-6 ITS LIKE A PUNCH IN THE GUT *HELP* PLEASE WE NEED HELP TODAY TOMORROW WILL BE TO LATE.

Opportunities (Hinkley)

- With the new freeway in place it's an opportunity for small business. It's also a great place for ranching.

Opportunities (Lenwood)

- Potential growth – jobs
- New industrial buildings in the industrial park and hopefully the Indian casino they want to build
- More businesses opening near the 58/15 freeway
- Community cleanups, maybe pay the homes to clean it up
- The shopping area of Lenwood is the best opportunity for Lenwood and the surrounding communities they should keep expanding

Threats (Barstow Heights)

- Increases in crime
- Mail theft
- Suspects observed looking over people's fences and knocking on doors to see if anyone is home
- County of San Bernardino using Barstow as a dumping ground for section 8
- Low income equals gangs n crime
- NOBODY CARES AND DOES NOT WANT TO KNOW ABOUT A CITY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT WHERE 60% OF ITS PEOPLE CAN'T MAKE IT IN LIFE, THE FEDS CASTE THE

POPULATION AND HERE IS WHERE THEIR
SENDING THEIR UNWANTED *HELP*

- Transients

Threats (Hinkley)

- Nursery Products waste facility 8 miles to the West. Contrary to the claims of NP we still are able to smell the sickening stench from the "composting" facility. I feel the possible expansion of this facility and the threat of others like it will be able to make this area uninhabitable.
- Also the lack of County road maintenance in the Hinkley area. Mountain View has the County owned Community Center and the Post Office on it yet the County refuses maintenance of this road yet at the same time they spend money grading roads that are no longer used.
- Inadequate or absence of law enforcement and fire protection.

Threats (Barstow Heights)

- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Lack of play areas for young children
- Crime – we need patrol especially at night and we need help keeping our homes safe

and nice looking be nice to have a home rehabilitation program like other cities

- We often hear about breakins in the community into homes or houses that are up on the market
- Transients, we often see people asking or coming up and hassling us for money, and become very violent when they are rejected
- People leaving for a more beautiful environment
- Homeless people and crime. Growing up in Lenwood was very nice, very low crime and homeless people in the area but the last couple of years people have been tagging the street signs, leaving their trash and old furniture out in the streets and more criminals have slowly come into the community. If the city of Barstow doesn't invest more money into this community it is going to have negative affects and people are going to move to another town.
- The shopping area in Lenwood provides lots of revenue from the tourist that stop and shop and it is ridiculous if some of that money isn't invested back in to the community that it benefits from.



APPENDIX A

How to Use this Guide

Where are the Goals, Policies, and Land Use Map for My Community?

Goals, Policies and Land Use Map will be adopted as part of the County Policy Plan. The content of the Community Action Guide focuses on those actions identified by the community that the community is willing to take to make desired changes to their community. The County Policy Plan and the Community Action Guide will be web-based, with adoption of the Countywide Plan in 2019.

Relationship of the Community Action Guide to the Countywide Plan

In 2010, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors set out to establish a vision for the future of the county as a whole, and subsequently adopted a Countywide Vision in 2011 after two years of input from the community and the county's 24 cities and towns. Following the adoption of the Countywide Vision, which calls for the creation of a "complete county", the Board adopted the County paradigm and job statements in 2012.

In 2015, the County of San Bernardino launched an effort to go further than any county or city has ever gone with a general plan by creating a web-based comprehensive "complete county" plan. General plans are almost always strictly rule books for guiding development and growth. The County's General Plan update, last updated in 2007, goes well beyond a traditional general plan to become a comprehensive Countywide Plan that complements and informs the Countywide Vision by taking into account all services—not just land-use planning—provided by County Government, and the unique values and priorities of each unincorporated community.

The Countywide Plan serves as a guide for County decision-making, financial planning, and communications. Its web-based format provides a wealth of easily accessible data on how the County operates, and allow independent research using County data and information.

The Countywide Plan includes:

- A County Policy Plan, which serves in part as the County's General Plan for the unincorporated areas and also provides guidance for regional county services. The Policy Plan establishes goals and policies for the entire county as well as specific sub regions and communities.
- A County Business Plan, which contains governance policies and operational metrics that outline the County's approach to providing municipal and regional services.
- A Regional Issues Forum, which is an online resource for sharing information and resources related to issues confronting the entire county.
- A Community Plans Continuum of 35 Community Action Guides, which articulates what is important to each Community; sets out an Action Plan based on community input, and for the most part, would be implemented by the community; and provides a Community Profile. Links will also be provided for maps, goals, and policies in the Countywide Plan.

The Draft Community Action Guide for Public Review

The final format of the Community Action Guide will be web-based and provided online. This printed version of the Draft Community Action Guide is provided as a courtesy for simplifying community review, but may not be

available once the online version of the guide is finalized. A draft version of the web-based Community Action Guide can be found at www.countywideplan.com/cp. This printed version includes the information provided on the website under each tab except for the information included under the “Maps and Links” tab. A separate Community Profile can be printed from the website.

This Draft Community Action Guide was created by the community members who responded to the online survey in 2018. If no survey was submitted for a community, County staff researched the community to complete the guide. It is written in the words of those participating in the public engagement process. Therefore, the Community Action Guide retains the voice and future image of the community presented by the community members participating in the public engagement process. However, the implementation of each Action Statement is an opportunity for additional discussion by community members and modification of the statement and action steps may be made by the community and Action Teams.

How to Use This Community Action Guide

Overall, the Community Action Guides are a framework for communities to create the future character and independent identity, as identified in the online survey as community values and aspirations through completion of community actions. These Community Action Guides are focused on community self-reliance, grass-roots action, and local implementation. Goals, policies, land use, and infrastructure decisions are addressed in the Policy Plan of the Countywide Plan. The County Development Code will still regulate zoning and land development.

The Community Action Guide includes the community’s Values, Aspirations, and Plan Framework, if provided by community members in the online survey. An appendix has a Community Profile with a summary of the social, cultural, economic and historic dimensions of the community as well as the communities online survey responses on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Values – Those shared assets, principles, and in the judgment of the community, what is important to the lives of its residents and businesses.

Aspirations – A written narrative illustrating the community’s desired look and function once the Community Action Guide is fully implemented. This is a long-term view of 10 to 20 years. They are written as if the community’s desired changes have already occurred.

Plan Framework – Outlines clear Focus Statements and Action Statements identified by the community.

- The Focus Statement provides general direction toward realizing the community’s aspirations and helps organize the plan.
- The Action Statement is a measurable statement providing critical information on the program, initiative, or project to complete.

Through the identification of Focus Statements and Action Statements, the community can work toward creating Action Plans and eventually implementing the Community Action Guide.

How to Implement the Community Action Guide

Community's Next Steps

Appendix B contains the Action Plan template that can be used to create the Action Plan. You may request a Word version of the document from CommunityPlans@lus.sbcounty.gov. The Community Action Guide identifies the Focus Statements and Action Statements. The Community may want to meet to identify the top three priority Action Statements to work on first. Some of these may be those actions that the community believes could be completed quickly and easily. Completion of one Action Statement will provide the community and local groups with the motivation to move forward with another Action Statement.

Once an Action Statement is selected for implementation, the community identifies a Champion for that Action Statement to initiate activities, identify those responsible for carrying out action steps, identify and secure resources that will be required, and develop a timeline. The champion is not responsible for completing the action, but serves to facilitate and guide the Action Team.

To initiate Action Statements in the community, the Champion should gather community volunteers, groups and organizations to develop Action Plans and identify the specific steps required to accomplish the Action Statement. Volunteers (e.g., individuals, businesses, property owners, etc.), community groups (e.g., chamber of commerce, non-profits, etc.) and organizations (e.g., scouts, community service districts, churches, schools, etc.) can change for each Action Plan or some groups could work on more than one related Action Plans.

Creating an Action Plan helps better prepare the community by identifying the steps to be accomplished, the resources needed, and who will be responsible for each action step. Some action steps may require guidance by a County department, but the community must take the lead in moving the action forward, scheduling meetings, or requesting information from specific County departments.

The Action Plans should be used to guide community actions and should not be “set in stone”. Each Action Plan is a general set of tasks that can be modified if necessary. If needed, the community can find alternatives and make changes as they progress.

How to Create an Action Plan

The community should first identify a champion for the Action Statement. The action champion can be an individual or organization that will help oversee the execution of the Action Plan and ensure steps are completed. It is important to note that the champion is not responsible for carrying out each action step, but is responsible for coordinating communications and ensuring the steps are completed.

After the champion is identified, the community or group can develop action steps. The focus should be on what action steps will occur, who will carry out each action step, when it will take place, and an approximate duration. Again, these are guidelines, and may change, but this planning helps identify resources needed, people or

organizations that must be engaged or will lead each action step, and manage expectations on how long it will take to implement each Action Statement.

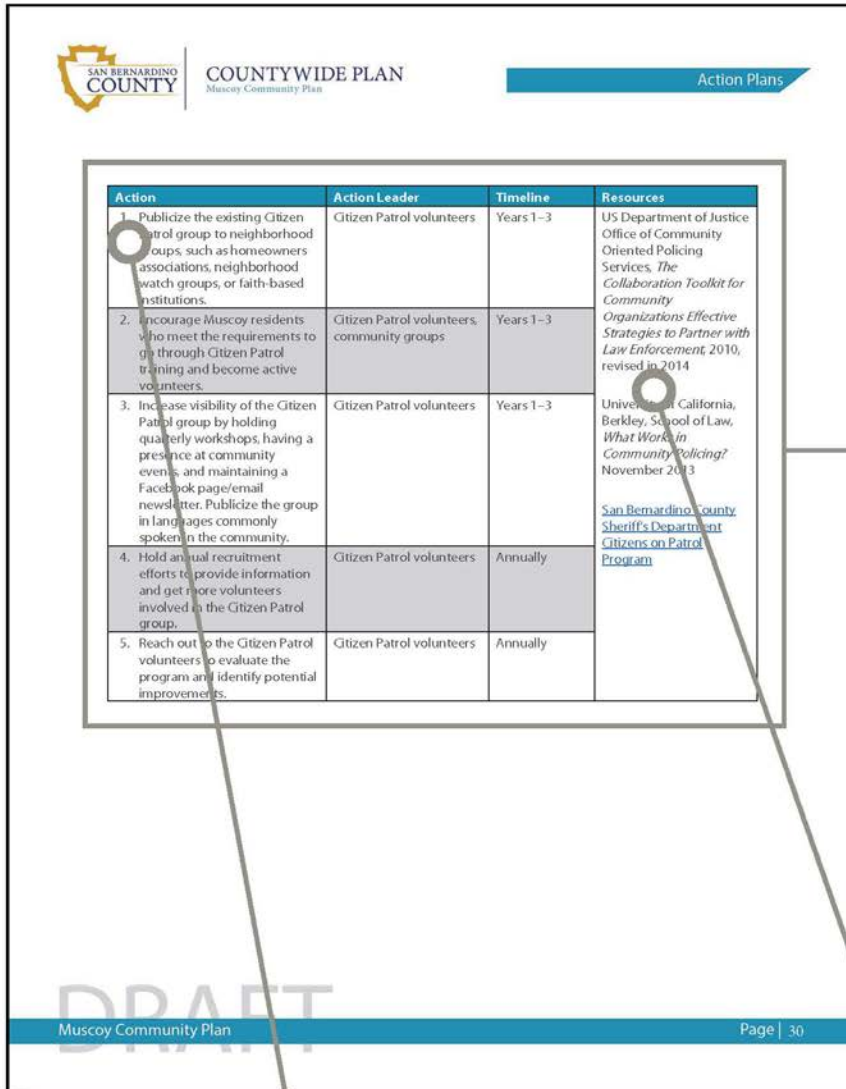
After completing the action steps, resources should be identified. Resources may include governmental agencies needed to help carry out the action, community and external funding sources, and potential assistance from other communities who implemented similar programs.

Reviewing a Detailed or Framework Plan can assist in providing examples of Action Plans and may have similar actions that can be used or modified to meet identified Foundation Plan actions. In addition, the San Bernardino County Land Use Services Planning Division is preparing a Community Development Toolkit with tools on several topics to help local groups make positive changes in their community. When complete, the Community Development Toolkit will be available at www.countywideplan.com. Other resources and contacts will be provided on the same website.

Placing your Action Plan in the Community Action Guide

Any modifications of the Community Action Guide or Action Plans can be sent to San Bernardino County Land Use Services Planning Division for future updates to your Community Action Guide. The County will provide information on specific contacts for Community Planning assistance. It will be the responsibility of the community to provide requested updates and modifications to the County.

The following page is an example of an Action Plan from the Helendale Community Action Guide.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Publicize the existing Citizen Patrol group to neighborhood groups, such as homeowners associations, neighborhood watch groups, or faith-based institutions.	Citizen Patrol volunteers	Years 1-3	US Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. <i>The Collaboration Toolkit for Community Organizations: Effective Strategies to Partner with Law Enforcement</i> , 2010, revised in 2014 University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, <i>What Works in Community Policing?</i> November 2013 San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Citizens on Patrol Program
2. Encourage Muscoy residents who meet the requirements to go through Citizen Patrol training and become active volunteers.	Citizen Patrol volunteers, community groups	Years 1-3	
3. Increase visibility of the Citizen Patrol group by holding quarterly workshops, having a presence at community events, and maintaining a Facebook page/email newsletter. Publicize the group in languages commonly spoken in the community.	Citizen Patrol volunteers	Years 1-3	
4. Hold annual recruitment efforts to provide information and get more volunteers involved in the Citizen Patrol group.	Citizen Patrol volunteers	Annually	
5. Reach out to the Citizen Patrol volunteers to evaluate the program and identify potential improvements.	Citizen Patrol volunteers	Annually	

Muscoy Community Plan Page | 30

The action plan should be reviewed and modified by the Action Team and/or the community prior to implementation, including the addition of people and organizations involved. The Action Team can search the Internet to look for similar actions by other communities or groups.

Suggested steps to implement the Action Statement, along with potential leaders for each step and a timeline of when it should occur in the process. This can be modified to meet the current needs of the community.

Resources including stakeholders, human resources, and capital that may be required or provide assistance to implement the Action Statement. Action Team can also search the Internet to see if there are other resources available at the time of action implementation.



APPENDIX B

Action Plan Template

Community Focus Statement:

Action Statement:

Champion:

Estimated Cost:

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			