

WONDER VALLEY

COMMUNITY ACTION GUIDE



COUNTYWIDE PLAN

Wonder Valley Community Action Guide



Table of Contents

- Table of Contents2
- Introduction.....4
- Values Statement.....5
- Aspirations Statement5
- Plan Framework6
 - Community Focus Statement A: Improve the delivery of essential services to the community..... 7
 - Action Statement A.1: Advocate for periodic health care services through a mobile medical clinic and mental health services..... 7
 - Action Statement A.2: Advocate to County Fire to explore options to re-open the Wonder Valley Fire Station..... 7
 - Action Statement A.3: Advocate to the Twentynine Palms Water District to annex Wonder Valley and provide water connection to the community in order to provide a cleaner and more reliable source of water for residents. 7
 - Action Statement A.3: Advocate to the Morongo Basin Transit Authority to add transit service to Wonder Valley locations..... 7
 - Community Focus Statement B: Support opportunities for Wonder Valley to accommodate travelers and tourist of the Mojave Trails National Monument and Joshua Tree National Park. 7
 - Action Statement B.1: Identify local historic, artistic, or recreational areas that may interest travelers or tourists to stop and create brochures to leave in tourism locations throughout the Morongo Basin. 7
 - Action Statement B.2: Develop a visitor’s center with information about the history and natural environment of the area and market to tourists..... 7
 - Action Statement B.3: Advocate to the County Economic Development Agency to help attract local businesses to the area. 7
 - Community Focus Statement C: Create more local activities for Wonder Valley residents. 7
 - Action Statement C.1: Create an online and written survey for local residents to list the types of activities they would like to participate in..... 7
 - Action Statement C.2: Create a list of local residents who are willing to share their expertise with others. 7
 - Action Statement C.3: Compare the survey results and the local expertise to identify opportunities to create local groups (e.g., arts, walking, games, reading, etc.), educational opportunities (e.g., painting, stargazing, resume writing, or children’s..... 7
- Community Profile8
- Community Identified Issues..... 11
- SWOT Analysis 12
 - Strengths.....12



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Table of Contents

Weaknesses	13
Opportunities	15
Threats	16
APPENDIX A	19
How to Use this Guide	19
Where are the Goals, Policies, and Land Use Map for My Community?	20
Relationship of the Community Action Guide to the Countywide Plan	20
The Draft Community Action Guide for Public Review	20
How to Use This Community Action Guide	21
How to Implement the Community Action Guide	22
APPENDIX B	25
Action Plan Template	25

Introduction

Wonder Valley is a community within the Morongo Basin, east of Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms. After homesteaders acquired land following the 1938 Small Tracts Act, hundreds to thousands of homesteader cabins were built in the area. Since then many homesteads have been vacated and demolished. Today Wonder Valley has a sparse but diverse population of nature lovers, outdoor enthusiasts, , retirees and artists.

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.

Wonder Valley is a Fundamental community. An online survey was available for five months in early 2018. Approximately 80 surveys were completed by residents. The survey requested information about the community including Values, Aspirations, Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, local organizations and local history (see Appendix A). The survey information was reviewed to create this 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.

Strengths and Opportunities

As part of the survey, participants defined the strengths of and opportunities for their community. The word cloud below was created using the input provided during the Strengths, Opportunities, Values and Aspirations exercises. The word cloud quickly informs participants of key issues and focus areas that could be addressed in the plan. 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 community, 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, Wonder Valley values:

Rural Atmosphere. The large lots and space between properties give residents room to breathe. Wide open spaces allow residents to appreciate and maintain the solitary, laid-back lifestyle of this area.

Natural Desert Beauty. Residents value the beautiful sunrises and sunsets, the dark and starry night skies and the desert views and wildlife.

Community Spirit. Wonder Valley is a tight-knit community whose residents value self-reliance and neighborly support. The people have a respect for nature, freedom, privacy, and each other. Here, residents work together but also enjoy their independence and being left alone in solitude.

Aspirations Statement

The Aspirations Statement is a written narrative illustrating how the community desires to 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.

As a community, Wonder Valley aspires to:

Better Communication and Services.

The community offers family-oriented activities, community health services including mental health services, services for the disadvantaged, improved public transportation, a local fire station and locally based Sheriff's response.

Maintain the Rural Atmosphere.

Wonder Valley provides residents with a rural lifestyle on large lots with dark night skies.



Plan Framework

Community Focus Statement A: Improve the delivery of essential services to the community.

A

Action Statement A.1: Advocate for periodic health care services through a mobile medical clinic and mental health services.

Action Statement A.2: Advocate to County Fire to explore options to re-open the Wonder Valley Fire Station.

Action Statement A.3: Advocate to the Twentynine Palms Water District to annex Wonder Valley and provide water connection to the community in order to provide a cleaner and more reliable source of water for residents.

Action Statement A.4: Advocate to the Morongo Basin Transit Authority to add transit service to Wonder Valley locations.

Community Focus Statement B: Support opportunities for Wonder Valley to accommodate travelers and tourists of the Mojave Trails National Monument and Joshua Tree National Park.

B

Action Statement B.1: Identify local historic, artistic, or recreational areas that may interest travelers or tourists to stop and create brochures to leave in tourism locations throughout the Morongo Basin.

Action Statement B.2: Develop a visitor's center with information about the history and natural environment of the area and market to tourists.

Action Statement B.3: Advocate to the County Economic Development Agency to help attract local businesses to the area.

Community Focus Statement C: Create more local activities for Wonder Valley residents.

C

Action Statement C.1: Create an online and written survey for local residents to list the types of activities they would like to participate in.

Action Statement C.2: Create a list of local residents who are willing to share their expertise with others.

Action Statement C.3: Compare the survey results and the local expertise to identify opportunities to create local groups (e.g., arts, walking, games, reading, etc.) and educational opportunities (e.g., painting, stargazing, resume writing, or children's programs).



Community Profile

Overview

The community profile is a summary of the social, cultural, economic and historic dimensions of the Wonder Valley community. It is a gathering of objective data collected through an online survey and secondary sources meant to inform and help facilitate creation of the Community Action Guide. The profile highlights essential facets and “tells the story” of the Wonder Valley community.

History

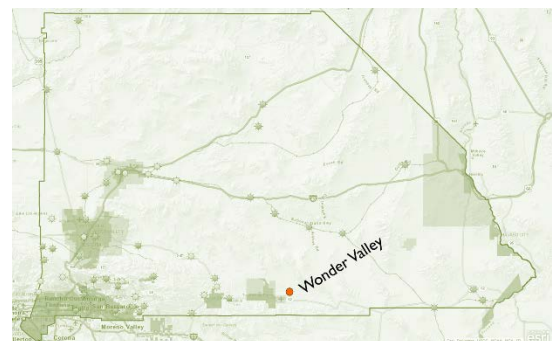


The community of Wonder Valley was developed in two phases, the first being after World War I in the early 1900’s and the second by homesteaders after the approval of the Small Tract Act in 1938. The Small Tract Act was passed and allowed federally owned land to be bought and developed. This resulted in hundreds to thousands of homesteaders’ cabins being built in the area. Since then many of these cabins have been demolished. Today, there are still homestead cabins scattered throughout the desert with many being updated. At one time there was a stagecoach stop at the Old Poste Homestead in Wonder Valley which was later used as a hog farm.

On August 14, 1972, the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors established County Service Area (CSA) 70 M to provide road maintenance for Wonder Valley, and later a community center. Today, Wonder Valley is home to retirees, academics, new artists and musicians, and people just looking to escape city life. Development in this area is still sparse due to the minimum lot size of 5 acres.

Location & Geography

Wonder Valley is located in the southern portion of San Bernardino County, east of Twentynine Palms, within the Morongo Basin. The community is approximately 10 miles from the east entrance of the Joshua Tree National Park and west of the Sheephole Valley Wilderness Area and south of the Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness Area.



Community Structure (Physical Characteristics)

Wonder Valley consists of single family residential dwellings, primarily single story, located on 5 acre parcels. Many of the old homestead cabins have been updated for use as first or second homes. The main thoroughfare in Wonder Valley is Highway 62 (Twentynine Palms Highway), a paved two lane highway with one lane of travel in each direction. Amboy road is located parallel to the north of Highway 62, and is another main road through the community. Local roads are mainly dirt. There are no pedestrian or bicycle facilities in the area. The closest commercial uses are located within the city limits of Twentynine Palms. The walk score for Wonder Valley indicates that all errands need to be completed by car.

Sources: Google Earth, County of San Bernardino, WalkScore.com

Community Amenities

Parks and Trails

- Wonder Valley Community Center
- Wonder Valley Community Park
- Nearby is Joshua Tree National Park, Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness Area and Sheephole Valley Wilderness Area

Schools

- Morongo Unified School District elementary, junior high and high schools in the City of Twentynine Palms

Hospitals/Medical Facilities

- Hi Desert Medical Center in Joshua Tree (25 miles west)
- Medical clinics in City of Twentynine Palms and Joshua Tree

Fire Protection

- San Bernardino County Fire Department Station #45 in Wonder Valley. Station #47 is closed.

Police

- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department – Morongo Basin Patrol Station located in Joshua Tree

Source: County of San Bernardino Fire and Sheriff Departments, Wikipedia



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 community 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

- Everyone looks out for each other
- Relatively close knit group of neighbors (2)
- No encroachment of urban life
- Unique culture that embraces creativity, sustainability and a simple way of life without the burden of taxation and unnecessary services
- Affordability (3)
- Desert beauty/Natural beauty (12)
- Solitude (7)
- Creative community
- Living history
- Well maintained dirt roads (3)
- Old west feel (2)
- Artists (7)
- Musicians (5)
- Film makers
- Writers (5)
- Academics (3)
- Colorful history
- Good people (2)
- Limited number of homes
- Limited number of residents
- Airport
- Neighborhood watch
- Peace & quiet (7)
- Dark night skies (6)
- Star gazing
- Bird watching
- Rural nature of the community (2)
- Positive perception of Wonder Valley by locals, tourists artists and weekenders
- Newer residents
- Jobs
- People know each other
- Community center
- Fire department
- Remote and spacious (2)
- Artists and musicians that share their talents with the community
- Quietness (3)
- Beautiful skies
- Interesting art sprinkled throughout the community
- Peacefulness not found in Joshua Tree
- Neighbors helping neighbors (2)
- Rural living (3)
- Open spaces (3)
- Creative residents with a can-do attitude
- Volunteerism

- Resilience
- Alternate economic strategies
- Wilderness
- No light and sound pollution
- Diversity
- The Palms (2)
- Nature
- Neighborhood watch
- Spacious (3)
- Living with nature
- Limit to the development so people can preserve the solitude and beauty of the community
- Affordable for a wide range of people
- Best maintained dirt roads in the County
- Best people in the County
- Remote – 15 miles or so from services
- Seclusion (2)
- Limited regulations
- Proximity to National Park and Wilderness Areas (2)
- Reasonable home/land prices
- Community center
- Community park
- Volunteers
- Book program
- Two churches
- Monthly community meetings
- Special community meetings
- Potlucks
- NextDoor Wonder Valley
- Community clean-ups
- Local water delivery
- Rural grants available
- Inexpensive rentals

- Special training sessions
- Wonder Valley news column in newspaper
- Solar-use
- Community center coordinator
- Military families
- Love of the land
- Scenic vistas (2)
- Clean air
- Mild winters
- Cost of living
- Growing art community
- Burgeoning vacation rental industry
- Independent spirit
- Privacy
- Major shopping and dining not prohibitively far away
- Zoning mandates of 5 acre lot sizes
- Serenity
- Low government profile
- People respect each other's privacy and property

Weaknesses

- Lack of participation from more residents to have a better shared governance
- Unknown future of development
- Lack of development ideas to improve revenue while keeping the uniqueness of Wonder Valley
- Lack of services – fire, waste management, health, transportation, law enforcement
- Lack of fire services – cannot afford the increase in fire taxes
- Remoteness (3)
- Non-potable well water (3)

- Aging population inhibits some community activities
- Lack of employment opportunities (3)
- Poverty/hunger (5)
- Perceived lack of regular law enforcement
- Dumping of household and construction waste, tires, and trash (2)
- Noise pollution
- Fly-overs
- Lack of maintenance of Amboy Road (3)
- No 24-hour medical resources
- Same zip code as Twentynine Palms (3)
- No water service (5)
- Well water is not potable (2)
- Lack of fire service (6)
- Reputation for substance abuse (2)
- Isolation
- Squatters (3)
- Small population prevents political strength (2)
- Limited public transportation (3)
- Many houses lack addresses (3)
- Restrictive permitting rules (2)
- No speed limits
- General lack of services (5)
- Poorly maintained roads (2)
- Illegal shooting and hunting (7)
- Illegal off-roading (4)
- Lack of emergency services (5)
- Loss of local advisory council with input to county all filtered by Morongo Basin MAC
- Lack of proactive law enforcement
- Increased traffic
- County roadblocks to local control displayed by complex procedures for volunteers
- Negative attitudes by SB Fire to a volunteer/PCF fire operation
- Increasing “distance” between community and county personnel in regards to meeting with community on a face to face basis
- No bars
- Lack of manned fire station for fire services within reasonable distance for effective response
- Lack of paramedics
- Residents’ complaints are not taken seriously by sheriff’s department
- Higher concentration of fixed income
- Drugs – meth/ meth labs (6)
- Illegal pot farms
- Distance from Government Center
- Burglaries (2)
- Vandalism (3)
- Theft
- Mail theft
- Garbage
- Unregistered vehicles
- Remote location can bring crime (2)
- Community “weaknesses” are also part of what gives Wonder Valley its character: isolation, lack of stores, lack of community based emergency services, etc.
- Our population is largely older, disabled, and living below the poverty line
- Lack of fire services make it difficult for people to get insurance and mortgages
- Lack of a structure of cohesive vision for Wonder Valley
- Crime
- Legislation on water hauling

- Poor police response
- No store or gas station (3)
- Difficult to patrol
- Desolate
- Off-road noises
- Military base bombing/noise (3)
- Inadequate law enforcement (2)
- Selective use of code enforcement
- Inadequate response to shooters violating the county shooting ordinance
- Lack of businesses
- No one gets involved in the community
- Lack of internet (2)
- Lack of respect for the scenic quality of the desert
- Too many Los Angeles and San Francisco progressives are ruining the community
- We are far from services of any kind
- Weekenders coming up and playing on loud SUVs, ORVs, mini-bikes, anything that sounds like a chainsaw

Opportunities

- Improvements of Amboy Road (2)
- Reducing crime
- Thoughtful business development to increase revenue
- Revitalization of the community center to bring people together and provide food and health services
- Vacation rentals for jobs and income (2)
- Community becoming a gateway to Mojave Trails National Monument (4)
- Community center could have additional food programs and services (2)

- Community non-profit could support the community center and the community
- Route to Mojave National Preserve and Las Vegas – steady stream of tourists (2)
- Artists working in the community in the natural environment
- Outdoor sports and activities such as bike lanes and hiking trails (2)
- Rooftop solar
- Increasing services and communication
- Peace and quiet
- Nice weather
- Plenty of room for growth
- Grocery store
- Museum and learning center
- The opportunity to create our own community tailored to the needs and interests of the people who live there
- Getting to know the neighbors
- Community center needs to be used more
- More art events
- Increasing the voice of residents in civil affairs
- Vacation rentals and tourism
- Removing well requirements for new construction to be less cost prohibitive
- Allowing the use of water tanks
- Housing shortage in the state
- Dare to be different
- Any aspiring café would do well
- Build more community programs though the community center, developed and directed by the people of Wonder Valley, including a tourist center. The Wonder Valley Community Center could be the ‘welcome center’ of the community where tourists and community members could come together and connect with local

resources (tour guides, bicycling, hiking guides,, etc.) as well as connect with local businesses (airbnb listings, services to watch people's cabins,

- Handyman services, housecleaning, personal assistants, etc.)
- Artists could involve the community in their projects
- Wonder Valley has a small enough population and number of households to be able to direct itself
- Wonder Valley could become a desirable, yet affordable, enclave for independently spirited people
- Artistic endeavors
- Quality neighbors
- Influx of money by "outsiders"
- Air B&B opportunities
- Legal
- Marijuana farms
- Community watch
- Small grocery store
- Restaurant
- Community garden
- Small businesses (e.g. small convenience store, gas station, etc.) (3)
- Re-establishing a local fire fighter presence
- Protecting and enhancing ordinances that protect the peace to encourage conservation tourism
- Civic participation
- Public access well
- Better fire, police and EMT coverage
- None (2)
- Ability to get away from it all

Threats

- Increased taxes

- Being saddled to pay into services that are primarily used by surrounding towns and supporting larger county agencies that are underutilized by WV residents
- Vacation rentals reduces residential rentals/ housing stock (3)
- Annexation to Twentynine Palms (3)
- Unethical appropriation of Wonder Valley's image and brand
- Holiday visitors not respecting desert residents and property
- Industrial solar farms (2)
- Off Road Vehicles (4)
- Staging
- Shooting of high powered rifles
- Fireworks
- Pot farms that use our resources and contribute nothing to the wellbeing of the community
- Increased light pollution
- Water exportation
- Loss of emergency services and fire services
- Trespassing
- Theft
- Squatting/Squatters (2)
- Illegal shooting and hunting (4)
- Illegal activities made possible by lack of law enforcement
- The danger of increased traffic on Amboy Road
- Dishonest county officials
- Drugs/meth (4)
- Alcohol
- Lack of concern from county officials
- Industrial or touristic exploitation

- Meth and opioid addiction/dealing
- Cheap land means people buying up properties and affecting the ability for the old timers to find affordable housing
- Marine Corps bombing
- The overall feeling of dismissal that we often experience when we bring concerns or needs to the local councils or County
- Illegal dumping
- Increasing in population but not increased amount of services
- More people having injuries, dying and fired due to close of the fire department
- People from LA who buy up properties and drive up prices/gentrification
- Trying to force the community to develop according to urban standards without the resources
- Unethical use of our name and identity diverts attention from our community needs
- Publicity is often poorly researched, misleading, and drives people to our community
- Seasonal and holiday hi-jinx include illegal ORV miss-use, illegal staging, illegal shooting of high-powered rifles and fireworks
- Illegal pot farms use our resources but contribute nothing to the well being of our community (2)
- Outside speculators raise land prices which make it difficult for people to find affordable housing.
- Forest fires
- Crime (2)
- Planning and Building permits being too difficult and costly to obtain, which curbs improvements (2)
- Transient population
- Legislation
- Our fire department (when closed)
- Inability to fully fund fire department
- Lack of sufficient law enforcement
- Deterioration of Amboy Road
- Speeding on Amboy road
- Flash flooding
- Power outages
- Ugly and dangerous shacks in disrepair
- Bad reputation and image (2)
- No medical services
- No regular public transportation
- New water tanks and new water hauling being prohibited
- High cost of drilling a well
- Community center doors need replacing
- Rapid growth
- Military expansion
- Loud music
- Unregulated short term rentals
- Obvious drug trade without consequences
- The old fashioned, closeminded opinions and acts of the city
- Over regulation from the County that does not respect our unique desert dwellings
- Criminals/ crime (3)
- People who have recently moved here and decide they don't like something that has been here for a significant amount of time such as the airport or the Combat Center



- A group of residents in north Wonder Valley have banded together to get relief from illegal shooters. Although this is fine on it's face, this group is treated like a sub committee of the regular community meetings, as if they are doing the will of the community.
- The unoccupied homes and recreational cabins left unmaintained are an unattractive nuisance; attract squatters and dumping
- Progressives and liberals
- Selling our water from underground



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.

Each Action Statement Champion and Action Team should review and refine the Action Statement and Action Steps before moving forward.



Community Focus Statement C: Improve public and equestrian safety within Muscoy.

Action Statement C.2: Coordinate with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department to establish a Citizen Patrol.

Benchmark: Partner with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department to grow and develop a Citizen Patrol in Muscoy. Recruit qualified volunteers who meet regularly and provide at least eight volunteer hours per month.

Champion: Citizens Patrol volunteers

Estimated Cost: none

Members of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Citizens on Patrol program. Photo Source: San Bernardino County

A Citizen Patrol is an approach that involves building closer ties between the County Sheriff's Department and residents and businesses in Muscoy, and seeks to be proactive about preventing crime. Volunteers give law enforcement the opportunity to reduce crime and increase law enforcement services. Citizen Patrol volunteers can identify conditions that contribute to crime and other issues specific to Muscoy. They could also serve as a liaison between the community and the County Sheriff's Department, keeping open lines of communication between law enforcement and Muscoy community members.

Citizen Volunteer Units are utilized to assist the Sheriff's Department in meeting law enforcement objectives during the normal course of operation, as well as in times of disasters and emergencies. Citizen Patrol volunteers must meet requirements set by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, attend the Citizen Volunteer Academy training course, maintain first aid and CPR certification, attend monthly business and training meetings, and donate a minimum of eight hours of time per month. Citizen Patrol members do not take law enforcement action, carry weapons, or make arrests, but instead they report suspicious activity to the local police station.

Residents of Muscoy should be encouraged to join the existing program, so there is a larger Citizen Patrol presence. Existing members of the Citizen Patrol should be visible in the community and make people aware that such a group exists to help keep Muscoy safe. The program can also be advertised to existing community organizations or neighborhood groups to encourage new participants who meet the qualifications to go through training. The Citizen Patrol could partner with neighborhood watch groups (Action Statement C.1) and other safety workshops hosted in the community (Action Statement C.3). As the Citizen Patrol group grows, there will be an opportunity to create more specialized volunteer units to cater to a specific need in the community.

[Case Study: City of Rancho Cucamonga Citizen Patrol Unit](#)

Muscoy Community Plan Page | 29

The Action Statement is a measurable component used to accomplish the overall focus statement.*

Provides background information on the action that is to be achieved.

The benchmark is a way to measure the success of the Action Statement.* The estimated cost is an approximate cost to implement the action, if applicable.

*These should be reviewed with the Champion and Action Team and modified based on current community needs.



APPENDIX B

Action Plan Template

Community Focus Statement:

Action Statement:

Champion:

Estimated Cost:

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