

IV. MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES



COMMUNITY ISSUES

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A. CIRCULATION AND TRANSPORTATION

Roadway System

Regional and Subregional Roadways. The following roadways, in both the City and the study area, are regional or subregional in nature and are under the jurisdiction of agencies other than the City of Calabasas: Ventura Freeway (Highway 101), Topanga Canyon Boulevard (SR-27), and Las Virgenes Road (County Highway N1).

City Roadways. The following are arterial streets within the City of Calabasas: Lost Hills Road, Agoura Road, Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Mureau Road, Calabasas Road, Parkway Calabasas, Park Granada Boulevard, Old Topanga Canyon Road, and Mulholland Highway.

Existing Traffic Conditions.

Daily Traffic Volumes. To determine how well a roadway is functioning, daily traffic volumes are compared to roadway "capacity criteria". A street's roadway capacity criteria is determined based on type of roadway and number of travel lanes. It represents the amount of traffic a street can carry. When the daily traffic volumes exceed the roadway capacity, a more thorough analysis is prepared to determine, what improvements, if any, are needed. The following roadway sections have been identified as having traffic volumes in excess of their capacity: Las Virgenes Road between Ventura Freeway and Agoura Road, Las Virgenes Road south of Meadow Creek Lane, and between Meadow Creek and Agoura Road, and along Calabasas Road east of Park Granada Boulevard.

In addition to roadways operating in excess of capacity, a great deal of traffic originating in Ventura County travelling to Pacific Coast Highway travel through the City and study area along mulholland Highway and Malibu Canyon. Calabasas residents refer to this as "Z" traffic.

Peak Hour Intersection Levels of Service. Peak hour intersection operations are assessed relative to overall intersection capacity. The intersection level of service is determined based on the portion of the intersection's capacity used by peak hour traffic. The following intersections were identified as operating at unacceptable levels of service: Lost Hills Road/Ventura Freeway Westbound Ramps, Lost Hills Road/Ventura Freeway Eastbound Ramps, Las Virgenes Road/Mureau Road, Las Virgenes Road/Ventura Freeway Eastbound Ramps, Ventura Freeway Westbound Off-Ramp/Ventura Boulevard, parkway Calabasas/Ventura Freeway Westbound On-Ramp, and Parkway Calabasas/Ventura Freeway Eastbound Ramps.

Transportation Alternatives

Calabasas Dial-A-Ride. The City provides a city-subsidized taxi service for residents who are 55 years of age or older and community members who are disabled.

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Parking Facilities

When the City of Calabasas incorporated, the parking standards in the Los Angeles County Zoning Ordinance was adopted. These parking standards have been inadequate in meeting the local parking demand. For example, in the Old Town area and at the Ralph's Market, insufficient parking is in short supply. Therefore, the City has adopted some revisions to the parking requirements through Ordinance 91-18A - Site Plan Review Ordinance, which includes general guidelines regarding circulation, parking, and site access.

Public Transit

Public transit in the City of Calabasas includes Southern California Rapid Transit District (RTD) buses, and Calabasas Dial-A-Ride. In addition, Commuter Computer, a private, nonprofit ridesharing organization, is a clearinghouse for information on various types of alternative modes of transportation serves the region.

RTD operates two types of services in the City. Regular bus service is provided by RTD along Route 161, which connects to other RTD routes. In addition, RTD operates the Commuter Express in the City of Calabasas. This service offers peak hour bus service with minimal stops from the City to major employment centers.

The Calabasas Dial-A-Ride is a service offered to City residents who are over the age of 55 or disabled. The City contracts with a taxi company to provide this transportation service between their residences and designated locations, such as shopping centers. The cost of the service is 50 cents per one-way trip.

Commodity Movement

The City of Calabasas does not formally designate any of its roadways as truck routes. However, trucks are restricted on some of the roadways, such as Parkmor Road. The City is in the process of restricting trucks from additional roadways, such as Lost Hills Road.

Trucks travelling on Highway 101 often travel along City streets, such as Las Virgenes Road, to reach coastal communities. This has created noise and congestion problems for residents located on along these streets. The City is examining various strategies to deter this truck traffic.

CIRCULATION AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES AND OPTIONS

How does the City propose to relieve "Z" traffic?

The City has a number of options for addressing "Z" traffic, including:

- Work with Ventura County, Los Angeles County, and Caltrans to widen the 101 Freeway through Calabasas and west into Ventura County.
- Expand roadway rights-of-way through rural residential areas of the City to accommodate additional through traffic, spreading traffic over a number of different routes.

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- Expand additional rights-of-way through rural residential areas of the City to create one route, or a limited number of routes, to accommodate additional through traffic.
- Create alternative routes, such as Las Virgenes Road, to accommodate "Z" traffic during commute hours.
- Leave the present roadway system at its present unacceptable level of service during commute times to discourage increased traffic flows through the City.
- Create disincentives for through traffic by installing stop signs and timing traffic signals to slow down traffic during commute hours.
- Construct temporary signage or barriers to prevent "Z" traffic from entering residential neighborhoods.
- Work with Ventura County and cities to the west of Calabasas to increase employment in their communities and thereby reduce the need for commutes through Calabasas into the Los Angeles Basin.
- Work with Ventura County, Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, and Caltrans to extend Metrolink commuter rail service or similar mass transit facilities along the 101 freeway corridor.
- Work with Ventura County and cities to the west of Calabasas to establish a system of park and ride lots along with an active rideshare matching program.
- Work with the City of Los Angeles and the South Coast Air Quality Management District to establish a Transportation Management Association in the Warner Center area, as well as other major employment centers, as a means of encouraging carpooling and the establishment of other transportation demand management programs to reduce the number of vehicles commuting from Ventura County through Calabasas during peak hours.

What should the City do to facilitate traffic movement along Calabasas streets in the future?

The City has a number of options to facilitate traffic movement along Calabasas streets in the future. These include:

- Establish acceptable levels of service for individual *classes of roadways* within the General Plan study area, and tie future development to the maintenance of these acceptable levels.
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- Ensure that each of the General Plan alternatives, including the Land Use map ultimately selected, is compatible with the acceptable levels of service established as part of General Plan preparation.
- Prepare and adopt roadway/highway design standards, including standards for the following:
 - ▶ typical street sections;
 - ▶ design speed, including standards for minimum horizontal and vertical curves based on design speed;
 - ▶ street lighting;
 - ▶ driveway spacing and requirements for reciprocal access, as well as guidelines or requirements for consolidation of driveways in developed areas;
 - ▶ intersection controls (stop signs, traffic signals, roundabouts); and
 - ▶ raised medians.
- Emphasize transportation *demand* management programs to reduce the number of automobiles on area roadways and highways.
- Emphasize transportation *systems* management to increase the carrying capacity of the existing and future roadway system.

What should the future role of the 101 Freeway be in relation to east-west access across the City?

Options for the role of the 101 Freeway as an east-west access across the City include:

- Continue to use the 101 Freeway as the primary means of east-west access across Calabasas.
- Fully construct existing potential alternative roadways, such as Mureau Road, Agoura Road, and Calabasas Road.
- Convert private streets to public roadways and extend these new public roads to provide an east/west connection.

How should the City promote transportation alternatives to the single-occupancy automobile within Calabasas?

The City has a number of program options to de-emphasize the role of the single-occupant automobile in the future, including:

- Establish and implement a master plan of bikeways.

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- Facilitate completion and ensure maintenance of a comprehensive system of pedestrian paths and sidewalks.
- Work with the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission and the RTD to establish local bus routes within Calabasas.
- Require that the design of future commercial centers and other major attractors include safe and secure bicycle parking facilities.
- Require that the design of future commercial centers and other major attractors facilitate internal pedestrian access, and not favor automobile traffic over pedestrian movement.
- In situations where commercial centers are developed adjacent to residential neighborhoods, require that they be designed so as to facilitate pedestrian access from the neighborhood to the center.
- Promote the development of mixed use projects to minimize the need for external trips.
- Work to establish a community bus/jitney system.
- Utilize City publications to foster greater acceptance of carpooling, and assist agencies such as Commuter Computer to increase the number of Calabasas residents carpooling to work.

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B. INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Solid Waste

Solid Waste Collection. Three waste disposal companies serve the City of Calabasas:

- Las Virgenes Disposal;
- Hillside Rubbish; and
- Calabasas Park Disposal.

Solid Waste Disposal. Solid waste is disposed at the Calabasas Landfill, located north of the Ventura Freeway on Lost Hills Road in the northwest portion of the City's Sphere of Influence. The landfill is owned by the County of Los Angeles and is operated by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County under a Joint Powers Agreement. Currently, the landfill accepts only nonhazardous municipal solid waste. In the past, this site accepted limited quantities of liquid hazardous wastes; however, this practice was discontinued in July, 1980. The landfill opened in 1961 and it is expected to be filled by 2010.

Most of the land uses adjacent to the Calabasas Landfill remain in undeveloped open space. However, adjacent to the south/southwestern boundary of the landfill is an area of multiple family residential uses. Following the completion of landfill operations, the site is planned to be developed as open space and/or for park and recreation purposes. The exact nature of this ultimate use has not yet been determined.

The City is particularly concerned with long-term disposal capacity throughout the region. In response to this concern, the City has instituted recycling and reuse programs. This is due, in part, to Assembly Bill 939, which requires cities to reduce solid waste generation by 25 percent by 1995 and 50 percent by 2000.

Utilities

Electricity. Electrical power to the City of Calabasas is provided by the Southern California Edison Company (SCE). It is transmitted over 66kV (kilovolts) lines from the Valdez Substation located at Park Ora and Park Serento. Southern California Edison (SCE) has plans to provide future electrical service in conjunction anticipated development.

Natural Gas. Natural gas is provided to the City by The Gas Company (TGC). Subsidiaries of TGC are responsible for distributing natural gas to the community over transmission mains and local distribution lines.

A regulator station is located at Calabasas Road and El Canon Avenue and a 14-inch transmission main extends down Calabasas Road (parallel to the Ventura Freeway) from the intersection of Mureau Road.

Telephone. Telephone service to the Calabasas study area is provided by Pacific Bell (PacBell). According to PacBell, the existing service to the community meets or exceeds their current demand for telephone service.

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Water. The City of Calabasas obtains water service from the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD). LVMWD purchases 100 percent of its potable water supply from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). No local groundwater water sources are utilized.

Water service deliveries to the District are based on an allocation quota from MWD. This allocation varies depending on the overall water availability to MWD from its sources.

Water is distributed through a network of underground water mains of various sizes with a central spine of the system generally located parallel to the Ventura Freeway. During the winter months, water is pumped into Westlake Reservoir and stored; during the summer when water use is high, water is pumped through the filtration plant at Westlake Reservoir and back into the system to augment deliveries from MWD.

Infrastructure

Wastewater. There are some areas within the City and study area that are on local septic systems. The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) is responsible for wastewater treatment and trunk sewers for wastewater collection services in the City of Calabasas. Local intercept collector sewers are provided by the City of Calabasas, which connect with the District's trunk sewers. Most of the wastewater flows by gravity trunk mains; however, some pumping and use of force are needed in specific locations.

LVMWD operates the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, on Malibu Canyon Road in Malibu Canyon, approximately five miles south of the Ventura Freeway. Current flows are estimated at approximately 70 percent of design capacity. The LVMWD plans to expand the treatment plant, completing construction in 1993-1994 to accommodate additional capacity and improvements, in conjunction with the Regional Facilities Expansion Plan.

Reclaimed water is pumped from the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility and distributed throughout the City for irrigation in landscape districts, greenbelt areas, golf courses, parks, schools, and the Calabasas Landfill.

Flood Control. The City of Calabasas is subject to the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Hydraulics, and Water Conservation Division (HWCD) for flood control needs. The HWCD maintains the responsibility for providing flood protection to City residents where regional or subregional storm drain improvements are needed, and storm drain maintenance. Locally, the City is responsible for providing storm drains and minor flood control to protect residents from nuisance flooding conditions.

Natural drainage channels are located along Las Virgenes Creek, Liberty Canyon and along Calabasas Creek through Old Town.

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INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SERVICE ISSUES AND OPTIONS

How will the City address a reduction in water supply in the event LVMWD restricts water allocations?

- Impose emergency mandatory water conservation measures.
- Impose a building moratorium on new water connections in the event of severe water restrictions.
- Continue to review development proposals on a project by project basis, requiring appropriate flood mitigation as necessary.
- Develop a master flood control plan that respects natural flow and preserves that natural state of tributaries.
- Continue to coordinate development proposals on a project by project basis to ensure that adequate water supply and infrastructure is available through the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District.
- Promote water conservation measures, such as xeriscape and reclaimed water usage, in the development review process.
- Work with the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District to coordinate long-term water supply with regional demand.

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C. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Schools. The City of Calabasas is served by the Las Virgenes Unified School District, which maintains four elementary schools (K-5), one middle school (6-8), one high school (9-12), and one continuation high school. Several of the schools within the District are at or over capacity, but continue to operate with the use of portable classrooms.

Community college educational services are provided locally by Los Angeles Pierce College, located in Woodland Hills. Approximately 18,000 students currently attend Pierce College and it is considered to be operating at, or near, its design capacity.

Library. Library services to the City of Calabasas are provided by the Los Angeles County Regional Library system. The City is served by the Las Virgenes Regional County Library, located at Kanan Road and Ventura Freeway, west of the City, adjacent to the City of Agoura Hills. Other libraries serving Calabasas residents are found throughout the San Fernando Valley.

Recently, the Cities of Calabasas and Agoura Hills jointly agreed to finance construction of a new 25,000 square foot regional library for use by the two cities, which will be located in the City of Agoura Hills.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES ISSUES AND OPTIONS

How shall the City assist the school district in relieving overcrowding?

- Work with Las Virgenes Unified School District to initiate a Mello-Roos district to assist in building new schools to accommodate new development.
- Implement the provisions of SB1287 designed to assist in funding construction of new schools.
- Work with Las Virgenes Unified School District to reduce the cost of new school construction through the development of joint school/park sites.

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D. PARKS AND RECREATION

Local Parks. Until incorporation, the Los Angeles County Parks Department was responsible for providing public parks and local recreation services. In total, the County has developed approximately 10 acres of local park area to serve the Calabasas area. The County continues to own and maintain the seven acre Gates Canyon Park, while the three acre Grape Arbor Park was transferred to the City upon incorporation. Funds are now available through the recent passage of Proposition A. Regional projects include mountain and canyon land acquisition in Los Angeles County, available with \$23 million. Specifically, \$3 million is available for a recreation center with tennis courts, and \$250,000 to build a regional youth baseball facility in the City of Calabasas.

Regional Parks. Although there is limited land devoted to local parks, the study area is adjacent to regional parks, which include both National, State, and County facilities. These facilities are under the jurisdiction of the following agencies: the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), administered by the National Park Service (NPS); the California Department of Parks and Recreation; the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, a State Agency involved with resource conservation and preservation efforts in the Santa Monica Mountains; the Topanga-Las Virgenes Resource Conservation District, a State Agency involved in various forms of open space preservation in Los Angeles and Ventura County; the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, which currently controls land use decisions for unincorporated lands through the Malibu/Santa Monica Mountains Area Planning Program and implementing the Malibu Local Coastal Plan for the area.

Park Standards. National Recreation and Park Association uses local park standards of 4.0 acres per 1,000 population as a goal for the provision of parkland. Using this ratio and the present population in the City of Calabasas, there is a significant shortage of local park facilities in the City. However, there are several private recreational facilities, owned and operated by various homeowners associations in the City.

Trails The National Park Service, together with other local public agencies and private concerns, is planning an integrated regional trail system that will link recreation facilities and connect trails between the mountains and the coast. The primary trail, known as the "Backbone Trail", extends in an east-west direction to the south of Calabasas corporate limits within its Sphere of Influence. There are several officially designated bicycle trails and bikeways in the area.

Local Recreation Programs At one time, the City of Calabasas provided recreation services, in conjunction with the City of Agoura Hills, along with a beach bus program instituted solely by the City of Calabasas. The City recently hired a community service director and will be appointing a parks and recreation commission. The City of Calabasas provides recreation and community services programs during four program seasons throughout the year. School district facilities are currently used for the activities, with Gates Canyon Park (Los Angeles County), homeowner association, clubhouses and City Hall conference rooms providing additional space.

CITY OF CALABASAS GENERAL PLAN:

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PARKS AND RECREATION ISSUES AND OPTIONS

To what extent should the City establish municipal parks?

The City has a number of options regarding the balance between public and private parks, including:

- Continue to emphasize private provision of park facilities by individual homeowner associations.
- Actively pursue the acquisition and development of local park facilities through the establishment of a system of neighborhood parks.
- Actively pursue the acquisition and development of local park facilities through the establishment of a communitywide park.
- Through implementation of the Quimby Act and AB 1600, require new developments to construct and dedicate park facilities or to pay appropriate park in-lieu fees.
- Work with the Las Virgenes Unified School District to establish joint use of school sites as school/park sites. Such sites could include establishment of neighborhood park type facilities at elementary schools or a community park facility at Calabasas High School.
- Adopt a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to identify future needs and direct park development and recreation programs.

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E. PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Police Protection

Sheriff. City police protection services are provided through a contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Police protection services are contracted according to the need established by the City of Calabasas.

Range of Services. Sheriff services are dispatched from the County's new Lost Hills Station, located on Agoura Road. These services are primarily concerned with traffic control, burglary, automobile burglary and theft, and domestic disputes. Supplemental police services are shared with adjacent communities and include a juvenile intervention team, community relations office, and a patrol car available for city identified assignments.

Fire Service

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County. The City of Calabasas contracts with the Los Angeles County Fire Department for fire protection and paramedic services. The district is responsible for fire protection not only within the city limits, but in the surrounding Sphere of Influence as well.

Fire Protection Facilities. Fire Station 68, located at 24130 Calabasas Road, provides most of the fire protection services in the Calabasas community. Fire Station 125, located at 5215 North Las Virgenes Road, and Fire Station 67, located at 2580 Piuma Road serve the remaining area of the City and study area.

Wildland Fires. In addition to structural fires, wildland fires are particularly hazardous in the study area due to the abundance of native vegetation. Therefore, special development provisions are specified in the fire code to reduce the risk of wildland fires.

Other Agencies. The California Department of Forestry and the United State Forest Service normally provide fire suppression services for State and Federal lands, respectively. However, neither agency maintains fire fighting crews in the region for this purpose, and would be required to import crews and equipment to provide assistance.

PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Should the City continue to contract with fire and police providers?

- Examine the feasibility of establishing City Police and Fire Departments.
- Continue to Contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for police services.
- Continue to Contract with the consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County.

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- Review options for creating regional police and/or fire agencies or for contracting with City of Los Angeles, if services could be provided more efficiently.
- Hire a public safety coordinator and fire/police chief as City employees and contract for staffing.

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