

CITY OF CALABASAS GENERAL PLAN:

COMMUNITY ISSUES

PREFACE



January 11, 1993

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California planning law requires each city or county in the state to prepare and adopt a general plan and to certify an environmental impact report. Although a general plan is a policy document, the policies are tailored to address characteristics and issues that are specific to a particular community. A general plan must describe its community including information on physical characteristics, demographics, and issues of local concern.

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The Calabasas General Plan: Community Issues report is one of four documents that together will make up the City's General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR). These four documents include:

- **The Calabasas General Plan: Community Issues** report defines significant issues and identifies community needs and desires. It acts as the groundwork for the City's General Plan program, clarifying the issues to be addressed and identifying alternative policy choices. It is the product of a series of in-depth interviews with local officials, a Visioning Charette, a citywide workshop, a community attitude survey, and the concerns voiced by the City's General Plan Advisory Committee. The document also includes a summary of community characteristics. *The Calabasas General Plan: Community Issues* report documents the City's General Plan community participation program required by State planning law.
- **The Calabasas General Plan: Community Profile** report presents the research material necessary to understand the physical, natural, and economic environments of the City of Calabasas and meets the data and analysis requirements outlined in the State General Plan Guidelines.
- **The Calabasas General Plan: Policy and Strategy** document clearly outlines the vision which Calabasas has for its future and the policies and strategies it intends to follow in pursuit of that vision. It is a comprehensive policy document, identifying general issues and providing clear policy guidance. The report also presents specific actions or strategies designed to implement the City's goals, objectives, and policies. For each strategy, the agency responsible for implementing the action, the funding source, and the timing are identified. The policies in *The Calabasas General Plan: Policy and Strategy* document meet the development policy requirements described in the State General Plan Guidelines. The policies themselves will also function as the mitigation measures for the EIR on the Calabasas General Plan. The strategies outlined in *The Calabasas General Plan: Policy and Strategy* document meet the implementation requirements of the State General Plan Guidelines and together act as the mitigation monitoring program for the Calabasas General Plan EIR.

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- The Calabasas General Plan: Environmental Impact Report and Master Environmental Assessment provides the means for examining the implications of future growth and change in the City. It includes a summary of existing conditions and functions as a program environmental impact report for the General Plan. To complement the EIR, the General Plan goals and objectives presented in the General Plan Policy and Strategy document are written in a manner that will function as the standard by which the significance of impacts may be evaluated.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE CALIFORNIA GENERAL PLAN GUIDELINES AND THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) GUIDELINES

The Calabasas General Plan and Environmental documents were prepared in conformance with the 1990 State of California General Plan Guidelines and the 1992 CEQA Guidelines. The following sections describe how the Calabasas General Plan Policy and Strategy document meets specific requirements of State General Plan Guidelines and the CEQA Guidelines. The relationship between the four Calabasas General Plan and environmental documents and the State mandated content requirements is illustrated in Figure 1.

According to the State General Plan Guidelines, the role of a general plan is to:

" . . . act as a 'constitution' for development, the foundation upon which all land use decisions are to be based. It expresses community development goals and embodies public policy relative to the distribution of future land use, both public and private."

The Calabasas General Plan: Community Issues document describes the existing environment, prevailing community values, and concerns local residents have about their City. It identifies the constraints and opportunities that must be addressed in the Calabasas General Plan, if it is to be a workable foundation for communitywide decisionmaking.

THE CALABASAS GENERAL PLAN: COMMUNITY ISSUES DOCUMENT FORMAT

The Calabasas General Plan: Community Issues document is a summary of specific community characteristics and concerns which will provide the framework for the goals, objectives, and policies of the General Plan. It presents a description of the major themes that run through nearly all the discussion of Calabasas, a summary of the issues the City of Calabasas is currently facing; as well as general program options the City may pursue to resolve those issues. The document itself is divided into the major sections described below:

- **Introduction** -- provides a brief description of *The Calabasas General Plan: Community Issues* document and how it relates to the other components of the Calabasas General Plan program.

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- **The Process** -- this section explains the techniques used to describe the characteristics and issues specific to Calabasas and serves as a record of the initial portions of the public participation component of the General Plan program.
- **Primary Community Themes** -- this section lays out the basic community themes that are inherent in any examination of the future of Calabasas. These themes include:
 - Environmental Responsibility,
 - Local Management and Control of Calabasas' Future, and
 - Community Identity.
- **Community Development and Design and Related Issues** -- contains a description of existing land uses, demographic information on housing and population, a inventory of historic/cultural resources. It also includes a survey of community design features and data on fiscal management. In addition, issues associated with community development and design are included, along with a range of program options to address identified issues.
- **Municipal Facilities and Services and Related Issues** -- examines existing circulation and transportation, infrastructure, educational facilities, parks and recreation, and public safety services. In addition, issues associated with municipal facilities and services are included, along with a range of program options to address identified issues.
- **Environmental Resources and Related Issues** -- contains an inventory of existing natural resources including hillsides, canyons, and ridgelines, open space lands air quality, biological resources, water resources, and mineral resources. In addition, issues associated with environmental resources are included, along with a range of program options to address identified issues.
- **Environmental Hazards and Related Issues** -- describes the potential hazards in the study area including geology and seismicity, fire hazards, noise, and hazardous materials. This section also includes an analysis of disaster response facilities and services. In addition, issues associated with environmental hazards are included, along with a range of program options to address identified issues.
- **Appendices** contain the results of the individual components in the community participation program of the General Plan.