

**2013 - 2021
HOUSING ELEMENT**

CITY OF BANNING

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JANUARY 2, 2014~~OCTOBER 23, 2013~~

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A. Introduction

The Housing Element is the City's primary policy guide for the maintenance, improvement and development of housing within the City of Banning. The Element provides an indication of the need for housing in the community in terms of affordability, availability, adequacy, and accessibility. It provides a strategy to address housing needs and identifies a series of specific housing program actions to meet community needs. A detailed Housing Needs Assessment, Constraints Analysis, and Resources Summary was prepared as part of the Housing Element update and serves as the technical background document to the Housing Element. Together, the two documents comprise the complete Housing Element.

PURPOSE OF THE HOUSING ELEMENT

The Housing Element is the City's official response to the need to provide housing for all economic segments of the community, as well as a legal requirement that housing policy be included as a part of the planning process. The Housing Element provides City officials, residents and other stakeholders the opportunity to plan for the existing and future housing needs in the community. This Housing Element has been prepared in compliance with the 2013-2021 planning cycle for cities in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region, and identifies strategies and programs that focus on: 1) conserving and improving existing affordable housing; 2) providing adequate housing sites; 3) assisting in the development of affordable housing; 4) removing governmental and other constraints to housing development; 5) promoting equal housing opportunities; and promoting energy conservation.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE HOUSING ELEMENT

The Housing Element consists of two documents: 1) the Housing Policy Plan, which contains goals, policies, programs and quantified objectives; and 2) the Housing Element Technical Report, which contains the Needs Assessment, Constraints, and Resources chapters. Appendix A of the Technical Report provides an Evaluation of the previous Housing Element and Appendix B includes the detailed Residential Land Inventory for evaluating the City's ability to accommodate its assigned share of regional growth needs for this planning period.

The State Legislature recognizes the role of local general plans, and particularly the Housing Element, in implementing statewide housing goals to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment for all persons. Furthermore, the Legislature stresses continuing efforts toward providing affordable housing for all income groups.

The major concerns of the Legislature with regards to the preparation of Housing Elements are:

- Recognition by local governments of their responsibility in contributing to the attainment of State housing goals;

- Preparation and implementation of City and County Housing Elements that are coordinated with State and federal efforts to achieve State housing goals;
- Participation by local jurisdictions in implementation efforts to attain State housing goals; and
- Cooperation between local, regional and state agencies to address housing needs.

The State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) sets forth specific guidelines regarding the scope and content of housing elements.

A number of local and regional plans and programs relate to the Housing Element. A brief description of these plans and programs follows.

RELATED PLANS AND PROGRAMS

REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT (RHNA)

State Housing Element Law requires SCAG to prepare a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) every eight years to identify existing and future housing needs. For the projection period of January 1, 2014 through October 31, 2021, the RHNA allocation for Banning is 3,792 units. The RHNA process and how the City intends to address this requirement is discussed further in the Resources section of the Technical Report.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

The Banning General Plan was comprehensively updated in 2006 and is comprised of 21 elements grouped in four major components:

- *Community Development*
- *Environmental Resources*
- *Environmental Hazards*
- *Public Services and Facilities*

The Housing Element is part of the *Community Development* component of the General Plan, which also includes the Land Use, Economic Development, Circulation, and Parks and Recreation Elements.

As required by state law, internal consistency is maintained among the various elements of the General Plan. For example, the framework for residential development established in the Land Use Element is reflected in the land inventory analysis of the Housing Element. The Land Use Element identifies residential land use designations at various densities that will facilitate the provision of a wide range of housing types for all income groups. The Circulation Element supports the Land Use and Housing Elements by identifying roadways, transit, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities that are needed to provide access and mobility for residents. Other elements that address public safety or

infrastructure issues help to ensure that adequate public services and facilities will be available to support residential developments. Whenever one element of the General Plan is amended, the other elements are reviewed and modified, as necessary, to ensure consistency.

Government Code Sec. 65302 requires amendments to the Safety and Conservation elements to include analysis and policies regarding flood hazard and management information upon each revision of the Housing Element. If necessary, amendments to the Housing Element will be processed concurrently in order to maintain consistency between elements.

State law also requires that water and sewer providers grant service priority to new developments with units that are affordable to lower-income households. The Housing Element will be transmitted to these providers upon adoption of the element to ensure that they have up-to-date information regarding the housing needs and objectives in Banning.

Senate Bill 244 of 2011 amended the *Government Code* and *Water Code* to require cities and counties to analyze unincorporated island, fringe and legacy communities and amend the Land Use Element of the General Plan prior to or concurrent with the next update of the Housing Element. This bill also imposes requirements on Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) regarding annexations and the analysis of municipal services in disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs). According to Riverside County LAFCO, there are no DUCs within the Banning area.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Section 65583(c)(5) of the Government Code states that "the local government shall make diligent efforts to achieve public participation of all the economic segments of the community in the development of the Housing Element, and the program shall describe this effort."

The City's efforts to encourage public participation along with a summary of the comments received during the update process are presented in **Appendix C** of the Technical Report.

During the required HCD review period, copies of the Draft Housing Element were made available to interested parties on the City's website, at City Hall, the Banning Library and the Community Center. In addition, public meetings and hearings to review the draft Housing Element were held by the Planning Commission and City Council. Notification was published in the local newspaper in advance of each hearing, and direct notices were mailed to interested individuals.

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Housing Plan

The purpose of the Housing Plan is to formulate a set of Housing Element Action Programs that will guide the City of Banning and all of its housing stakeholders toward the preservation, improvement and development of housing. The City intends to create a municipal climate that encourages a variety of housing types and affordability levels to meet the needs of residents at all income levels.

The programs described below establish specific actions, time frames and objectives consistent with the City's housing goals. Department/agency responsibilities and funding sources are also indicated.

A. GOALS AND POLICIES

CONSERVE AND IMPROVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Substandard and deteriorating housing units, in addition to the obvious problems of blight and appearance, can expose occupants to a variety of hazards ranging from electrical fire to toxic substances and materials used in construction. A number of factors affect the life expectancy of a housing unit, such as quality of workmanship, age of structure, location, type of construction, and degree of maintenance. As a city with a large number of older housing units, it is important that on-going maintenance programs are implemented in Banning. In addition to rehabilitation efforts, conservation of the existing stock of affordable housing is also important, as the cost to preserve existing affordable housing is often lower than replacing the units.

Housing Goal 1: Conserve, improve, and rehabilitate existing housing.

- Policy 1.1:** Develop and foster activities to increase the health, safety, and property values of the City's existing housing stock.
- Policy 1.2:** Preserve existing single-family neighborhoods.
- Policy 1.3:** Encourage continued and new investments in established communities.
- Policy 1.4:** Monitor the status of at-risk multifamily rental housing units, work with potential nonprofit purchasers/managers as appropriate, and explore funding sources available to preserve the at-risk units.

ADEQUATE HOUSING SITES FOR NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Economic forces are driving jobs and housing development eastward in Riverside County, which will result in increased pressure in Banning for new housing opportunities. Although the recent housing market downturn has interrupted this pattern of rapid growth, history suggests that the pause will be temporary and the long-term prospect for the Inland Empire is continued economic expansion.

To keep pace with future growth, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has identified a need for 3,792 new housing units in Banning during the January 1, 2014 through October 31, 2021 planning period. New housing developments should provide a range of housing types and price levels to allow for the upward mobility of Banning residents, as well as affordable housing opportunities for households of modest means.

Housing Goal 2: Provide adequate sites for new residential construction to meet the needs of all segments of the community without compromising the character of the City.

Policy 2.1: Provide adequate sites for a range of new housing construction to meet the Regional Housing Need Assessment (RHNA) for Banning of 3,792 units during the 2014-2021 planning period.

FACILITATE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

New construction is a major source of housing for prospective homeowners and renters. However, the cost of new construction can be high in comparison to housing preservation programs. In addition, market-rate new construction may not provide housing that is affordable, or adequate, for special needs populations such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and homeless. Incentive programs such as density bonuses offer a cost-effective means of promoting affordable housing development. Public sector assistance can also promote the construction of affordable housing that meets the needs of all segments of the community. Banning is fortunate in that the cost of land is relatively low in comparison to much of Southern California, which increases the feasibility of affordable housing development.

Housing Goal 3: Assist in the development of housing that is affordable to all segments of the community.

Policy 3.1: Support the development of housing affordable to all income groups by utilizing a variety of public and private efforts.

Policy 3.2: Assist the development of housing that targets the needs of special populations, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and homeless.

Policy 3.3: Promote the development of attractive and safe housing to meet community needs.

REMOVE GOVERNMENTAL CONSTRAINTS TO HOUSING PRODUCTION AND AFFORDABILITY

Under current State law, the Housing Element must address, and where appropriate and legally possible, remove governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing.

Housing Goal 4: *Remove governmental constraints to the provision of housing to the greatest extent feasible and legally permissible.*

Policy 4.1: Promote efficient and creative alternatives to help reduce governmental constraints.

Policy 4.2: Provide incentives and regulatory concessions for affordable and senior housing.

Policy 4.3: Streamline the City's development review and approval process to facilitate housing construction while also ensuring that new development meets all applicable standards.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Housing should be made available to all persons regardless of race, religion, sex, family size, marital status, national origin, color, age, disability, or income. To make adequate provisions for the housing needs of all segments of the community, the City should promote equal and fair housing opportunities for all residents.

Housing Goal 5: *Promote equal opportunity for housing throughout the City of Banning.*

Policy 5.1: Support efforts to eliminate discrimination in the sale or rental of housing with regard to race, religion, disability, gender, family size, marital status, national origin, or income.

Policy 5.2: Continue to further fair housing choices by actively expanding housing opportunities and removing impediments to fair housing.

Policy 5.3: Encourage the development or renovation of residential units that are accessible to disabled persons or are adaptable for conversion to residential use by disabled persons.

Policy 5.4: Accommodate housing for persons with special needs, including emergency shelters and transitional housing, in compliance with applicable State law.

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Energy conservation can reduce development cost as well as ongoing utility bills for residents. City housing policies can also promote long-term sustainability through efficient land use and transportation planning to reduce fuel usage and travel cost.

Housing Goal 6: Promote residential energy conservation and sustainable development.

Policy 6.1 Support energy conservation and sustainable residential development through construction technology and land use planning.

B. HOUSING PROGRAMS

This section describes the programs that will implement Housing Element goals and policies. The housing programs define the specific actions the City will undertake in order to achieve the goals for the current planning period.

1. Code Enforcement

The City will identify potential code violations, utilize property maintenance inspections and work with property owners to resolve code and property maintenance issues to maintain the quality of housing units in the City. The City has brought Code Enforcement and Building Inspection staff under one department, and engaged in a cross-training effort to more actively and efficiently address code violations and improve communication with owners of properties in need of improvement.

Program Objectives: Decrease the number of unresolved code violations within the City and increase the number of improved properties.

Responsible Agency: Community Development Department

Funding Source: Community Development Department budget.

Schedule: Continuous throughout the planning period.

2. Housing Rehabilitation Program

The City will continue to pursue grant programs such as the Riverside County Home Improvement Program to provide loans to eligible lower-income families for necessary home repair and rehabilitation work, including room additions to alleviate overcrowding. The City will continue to publicize assistance offered by the County, including flyers available at the City Planning counter and information posted on the City's website. The City will prioritize funding as it becomes available to target projects

benefitting extremely-low-income households. To the extent feasible, projects may also be eligible for deferral or waiver of City application and processing fees.

Program Objectives:	Reduced number of substandard properties.
Responsible Agency:	Community Development Department.
Funding Source:	Grant funds
Schedule:	Continuous throughout the planning period.

3. Conservation of Existing and Future Affordable Units

Banning has several assisted affordable housing developments, although none is at risk of conversion to market rate during the current planning period. The City will monitor the status of these projects and take steps to preserve affordability should any become at-risk of conversion in the future.

Program Objectives:	Monitor the status of assisted projects.
Responsible Agency:	Community Development Department, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), and the Housing Authority of Riverside County (HARIVCO)
Funding Source:	HUD Section 8 vouchers, other funding sources as available.
Schedule:	Throughout the planning period

4. Section 8 Rental Assistance

The Section 8 Rental Assistance Program provides rental subsidies to very-low-income (up to 50 percent of areawide median income – [AMI]) family and elderly households who spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent. The subsidy represents the difference between 30 percent of monthly income and the actual rent. Section 8 assistance is issued to the recipients as vouchers, which permit tenants to choose their own housing and rent units beyond the federally determined fair market rent in an area, provided the tenants pay the extra rent increment.

Program Objectives:	Continue to support the HARIVCO's applications for additional Section 8 allocations and efforts to provide vouchers for lower-income residents.
Responsible Agency:	Housing Authority of Riverside County
Funding Source:	Federal HUD Section 8 program
Schedule:	Throughout the planning period

5. Adequate Sites for Residential Development

The General Plan Land Use Element and the Zoning Code establish the regulatory framework for residential development. The Land Use Element provides for a variety of residential types, ranging from lower-density single-family houses to higher-density apartments and condominiums and mixed-use development.

A significant portion of the inventory of sites for higher-density housing is located in large parcels, planned developments or areas where approval of a specific plan may be required. In some cases, large parcels must be subdivided to create suitable building sites prior to construction. When large sites must be divided into smaller parcels or a specific plan is required prior to development, the City facilitates this process through pre-application meetings to clarify procedures, concurrent priority processing of subdivision maps with specific plans or any other required approvals, and incentives such as density bonus and modified development standards when the project includes affordable housing. The City has a successful track record of facilitating development applications, and will continue to work cooperatively with developers to streamline the permit process for large parcels requiring subdivisions or approval of a specific plan.

The City will monitor future development approvals and continue to ensure that adequate sites are available throughout the planning period to accommodate the City's share of regional housing need identified in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, as required by the *no net loss* provisions of Government Code Sec. 65863.

Program Objectives: ~~Maintain adequate residential sites with appropriate zoning to accommodate Banning's regional housing needs.~~

- The City will continue to annually update an inventory that details the amount, type, and size of vacant and underutilized parcels sufficient to accommodate the City's remaining need, by income, to assist developers in identifying land suitable for residential development. As part of the City's Annual Progress Report (APR), required pursuant to GC 64000, the City must report on the number of extremely low-, very low-, low-, and moderate-income units constructed annually.
- To ensure sufficient residential capacity for units affordable to lower-income households is maintained within the planning period to accommodate the identified regional need for lower-income households, the City will develop and implement a formal ongoing (project by project) monitoring procedure, pursuant to Government Code Section 65863.
- Should an approval of development (residential, commercial or mixed-use) result in a reduction of capacity below the residential capacity assumed on sites needed to accommodate the remaining need for lower-income households, as assumed in Tables B-2, B-4 and B-5, the City will immediately identify and zone sufficient sites to accommodate the shortfall.
- The City will offer the following incentives for the development of affordable housing including but not limited to priority processing of subdivision maps and

specific plans that include affordable housing units, expedited review for the subdivision of larger sites into buildable lots, financial assistance (based on availability of federal, state, local foundations, and private housing funds) and modification of development requirements, such as reduced parking standards for seniors, assisted care, and special needs housing on a case-by-case basis.

Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Funding Source: Community Development Department budget
Schedule: Throughout the planning period

6. Facilitate Development of Affordable and Special Needs Housing

In order to facilitate the development of housing for low- and moderate-income households and persons with disabilities (including developmental disabilities), the City will implement the following actions:

- Provide administrative assistance to developers seeking available state and federal funding and/or tax credits for the construction of low- and moderate-income housing
- Facilitate projects that incorporate affordable units and accessible units by granting modifications to development standards, expedited processing, or financial incentives consistent with state law.
- Affordable housing developers will be contacted each year to solicit interest and apprise them of available assistance programs.
- Targeted assistance will be prioritized for special needs housing and extremely-low-income (ELI) units through density bonuses and/or regulatory incentives, modified development standards and fee deferrals, when feasible.
- Coordinate with the Inland Regional Center regarding the needs and assistance programs targeted for persons with developmental disabilities, and make information available on the City website.
- Clarify development standards in the VHDR zone as necessary to facilitate affordable housing development.
- Continue to monitor residential development to evaluate whether the required design amenities are acting as an unreasonable constraint on development. If the requirements are found to be an unreasonable constraint, a Code amendment will be initiated to modify the design requirements.

Program Objectives: Facilitate affordable housing development commensurate with the RHNA and the production of accessible and supportive housing for persons with disabilities.

Responsible Agency: Community Development Department

Funding Source:	Community Development Department budget
Schedule:	Contact affordable housing developers and the Inland Regional Center annually; assist developers with applications for funding assistance upon request; <u>initiate a Zoning Code amendment in 2014 to clarify development standards in the VHDR zone.</u>

7. Infill and Mixed-Use Housing Development

Infill housing and mixed-use development helps to promote investment in older neighborhoods while also contributing to meeting the community's housing needs. The City has targeted the Downtown Commercial (DC) area for special incentives for multi-family, SRO and mixed-use development to stimulate revitalization. The downtown area is particularly well-suited to affordable and special needs housing due to the availability of employment, services and transit.

Since many parcels in the downtown are relatively small, the City will encourage consolidation of adjacent parcels to enhance development feasibility by providing a lot consolidation density incentive of 5% when two or more parcels totaling at least 0.5 acre are consolidated, and 10% when two or more parcels totaling at least 1.0 acre are consolidated. This density incentive will be in addition to the density bonus currently allowed. City incentives will also include consolidated permit processing, reduced fees for parcel mergers or lot line adjustments, density bonus and modified development standards.

The DC district zoning regulations will also be amended to increase allowable base densities to 24 units/acre for any project that meets the minimum affordability standards under state Density Bonus law (e.g., 5% very-low- or 10% low-income units). The City will also provide administrative and technical assistance with grant applications for affordable or special needs housing developments in the downtown area.

In recent years the City has facilitated infrastructure upgrades such as water lines and electrical service in the downtown. In order to incentivize development in the downtown area, the City will prioritize future Capital Improvement Program funds for downtown infrastructure improvements, if feasible.

The City will also review development standards for the General Commercial (GC) zone and consider appropriate revisions to facilitate revitalization and mixed-use development in this area. The GC zone is located to the west of downtown along Ramsey Street in the area known as "The Midway" and also along the south side of the I-10 freeway.

Program Objectives: Facilitate development of multi-family and mixed-use development in the downtown and nearby areas, with special emphasis on housing affordable to low- and moderate-income households or persons with special needs.

Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Funding Source: Grant funds; CIP Budget
Schedule: Zoning amendment by June 2014.
 Publicize development opportunities by contacting affordable housing developers annually.

10. Mortgage Credit Certificate Program

A Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) entitles qualified home buyers to reduce the amount of their federal income tax liability by an amount equal to a portion of the interest paid during the year on a home mortgage. This tax credit allows the buyer to qualify more easily for a loan by increasing the effective income of the buyer. The Riverside County MCC Program provides for a 15% rate which can be applied to the interest paid on the mortgage loan. The borrower can claim a tax credit equal to 15% of the interest paid during the year. Since the borrowers taxes are being reduced by the amount of the credit, this increases the take-home pay by the amount of the credit. The buyer takes the remaining 85% interest as a deduction. When underwriting the loan, a lender takes this into consideration and the borrower is able to qualify for a larger loan than would otherwise be possible. The City will provide referral information regarding the MCC program on the City website, at City Hall and other public locations.

Program Objectives: Provide information regarding the MCC Program to eligible home buyers.
Responsible Agency: Riverside County Economic Development Agency (EDA) and participating lenders
Funding Source: Federal tax credits and EDA
Schedule: Throughout the planning period

11. Fair Housing Services

Banning is not an "entitlement city" and works cooperatively with the County of Riverside, which provides fair housing services to all unincorporated areas of the county and non-entitlement cities. Fair housing services offered through the County include counseling and information on potential discrimination and landlord/tenant problems; special assistance for ethnic minorities and single-parent households; and bilingual housing literature. Information regarding available services from the County will be provided at City Hall, on the City website, and at other governmental offices within the city. In addition, the City will work cooperatively with the County of Riverside to distribute fair housing information annually.

Program Objectives: Continue to work with the County of Riverside to provide fair housing services to residents of Banning.
Responsible Agency: Riverside County

Funding Source: Riverside County; Community Development Department budget

Schedule: Throughout the planning period

12. Reasonable Accommodation in Housing for Persons with Disabilities

Both the Federal Fair Housing Act and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act require local governments to make reasonable accommodations (i.e. modifications or exceptions) in their zoning laws and other land use regulations to allow disabled persons an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling. The Zoning Code establishes administrative procedures for reviewing and approving such requests in conformance with state law. The City will continue to implement this ordinance.

Program Objectives: Continue to process requests for reasonable accommodation in conformance with state law and the Development Code.

Responsible Agency: Community Development Department

Funding Source: Community Development Department budget

Schedule: Throughout the planning period

13. Residential Energy Conservation

With the adoption of AB 32, California's greenhouse gas legislation, energy conservation is a growing concern. In addition to helping to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, residential energy efficiency can reduce home heating and cooling costs.

- a. Support the use of innovative building techniques and construction materials for residential development, such as energy efficient buildings that utilize solar panels and sustainable building materials that are recyclable.
- b. Encourage maximum utilization of Federal, State, and local government programs, such as the County of Riverside Home Weatherization Program and the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) HERO Program, that assist homeowners in providing energy conservation measures.
- c. Maintain and distribute literature on energy conservation, including solar power, additional insulation, and subsidies available from utility companies, and encourage homeowners and landlords to incorporate these features into construction and remodeling projects.
- d. Encourage energy conservation devices including but not limited to lighting, water heater treatments, solar energy systems for all residential projects.

Program Objectives:	Work cooperatively with property owners, utility companies and other government agencies to reduce energy use in residential developments.
Responsible Agency:	Community Development Department
Funding Source:	Community Development Department budget; grant programs, as available
Timeline:	Throughout the planning period

C. QUANTIFIED OBJECTIVES

The City's quantified objectives for the development, rehabilitation and conservation of housing during the 2013-2021 planning period are summarized in the following table. The accomplishment of these objectives will depend on general economic conditions and the availability of funding assistance.

Income Category	New Construction	Rehabilitation	Conservation/ Preservation**
Extremely-Low	436	*	-
Very Low	436	*	-
Low	593	*	-
Moderate	685	*	-
Above Moderate	1,642	-	-
Totals	3,792	*	-

Notes:

*depending on available funding to replace lost redevelopment revenues

**No assisted units at risk (see Technical Report Table 18)

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