

AB 162 Amendment to the Open Space/Conservation Element

New sections are underlined, deleted sections are shown as ~~strike through~~ and the ... denotes text remaining in place

V. THE OPEN SPACE/CONSERVATION ELEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE, AND AUTHORITY

A. INTRODUCTION

...

B. PUROPOSE

...

C. AUTHORITY

1. Open Space

...

2. Conservation

Government Code Section 65302(d) requires a conservation element of all city and county general plans as follows:

A conservation element for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources. The conservation element shall consider the effect of development within the jurisdiction, as described in the land use element, on natural resources located on public lands, including military installations. That portion of the conservation element including waters shall be developed in coordination with any countywide water agency and with all district and city agencies, including flood management, water conservation, or groundwater agencies that have developed, served, controlled, managed, or conserved water of any type for any purpose in the county or city for which the plan is prepared. Coordination shall include the discussion and evaluation of any water supply and demand information described in Section 65352.5, if that information has been submitted by the water agency to the city or county.

The conservation element may also cover:

- (a) The reclamation of land and waters.
- ~~(b) Flood control.~~
- (b) Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters.
- (c) Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan.
- (d) Prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils, beaches, and shores.
- (e) Protection of watersheds.
- (f) The location, quantity and quality of the rock, sand, and gravel resources.

II. OPEN SPACE USES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

A. PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

...

B. WATER SUPPLY

...

C. WATER QUALITY

...

D. HYDROLOGY

...

Flooding is a recognized hazard in some areas of Hercules. Storm water flooding of Refugio Valley occurs during periods of heavy rainfall and runoff, coincident with high tides affecting Refugio Creek. A backwater effect is created that prevents effective flood water discharge to San Pablo Bay. Extensive flooding of Refugio Creek occurred during severe storms of January 1983, with the creek overflowing its banks. ~~A large area west of I-80 along is within the 100-year floodplain of Refugio Creek. Flood improvements to and around Refugio Creek have reduced the areas within the City that are within the 100-year floodplain (see the Figure S-3: Floodprone Areas Map in the Safety Element). See the Flood Zones Map within the Safety Element.~~ Runoff in urban areas increases with the amount of impermeable surfaces created. Drainage facilities help control this runoff. Flooding is addressed in more detail within the Safety Element.

Figure OSC-1 “Watercourses and Riparian Areas” identifies rivers, creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitats, and land that may accommodate floodwater for purposes of groundwater recharge and storm water management.

1. Pinole Creek

...

E. AIR QUALITY

...

F. LAND RESOURCES

...

G. VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

...

III. OPEN SPACE/CONSERVATION PLAN

Figure OSC-2 Open Space and Conservation Plan

