

CHAPTER 4 CONSERVATION





VISION 2025 GENERAL PLAN DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA

Downey Vision 2025 Chapter 4. Conservation Chapter

ADOPTED 1-25-2005

INTRODUCTION

Residents of Downey and the rest of Southern California enjoy a temperate climate, access to both beaches and mountains and many other amenities not found in many other parts of the world. The quality of life that the region offers its residents is one of the main reasons the region continues to attract visitors and newcomers. However, Southern California is a semi-arid desert environment with limited natural resources. These natural resources, as well as other limited resources, need to preserved for the continual use by existing residents and by future generations.

CONTENTS

1.	WATER SUPPLY	PAGE 4-2
2.	WATER QUALITY	PAGE 4-7
3.	WATER QUALITY – STORMWATER	PAGE 4-8
4.	TREES	PAGE 4-10
5.	AIR QUALITY	PAGE 4-17
6.	ENERGY	PAGE 4-20
7.	SOLID WASTE	PAGE 4-22

LIST OF FIGURES

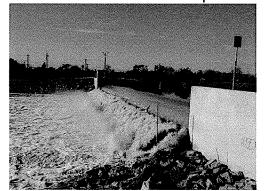
FIGURE 4-1.1.	MAP OF WATER COMPANY SERVICE AREAS	PAGE 4-4
FIGURE 4-4.1	SIGNIFICANT TREE SURVEY	PAGE 4-12
FIGURE 4-5.1	SOURCES OF OZONE-FORMING POLLUTION	PAGE 4-17

WATER SUPPLY

Issue 4.1. There is a limited supply of water available to Southern California.

Downey is located in Southern California, which is a semiarid desert environment with a limited amount of annual rainfall. As such, there is a limited supply of surface and ground water available to the region with most of the water supply imported from as far away as the Colorado River and Northern California.

The City of Downey Water Division supplies water to about 95 percent of the areas within Downey, with the remaining



areas serviced by three other companies: City of Santa Fe Springs, Southern California Water Company and the County of Los Angeles. The City of Downey Water Division extracts groundwater typically using around 20 of the 23 city-operated wells. The aquifers underneath the city are grouped into the Central Groundwater Basin, which underlies large portions of central and eastern Los Angeles County.

The basin is naturally recharged by regional rainfall, underflow from adjacent basins and runoff from surrounding uplands and mountains but the aquifers also receives supplemental imported water to meet demand and is recharged with highly treated wastewater. The Water Replenishment District of Southern California is charged with allocating water among the various jurisdictions and addressing potential water supply shortfalls by purchasing imported and reclaimed water for injection and spreading into the basin. Due to its high price, the direct use of imported water by the City is avoided except during periods of extreme drought. However, the increasing dependancy on imported water to replenish the basin is an issue due to the increasing potential that the supplies of imported water may be curtailed by Federal regulations. To minimize significantly increases in the price of water, the City must look towards public and private conservation measures to maximize the use of existing water supplies.

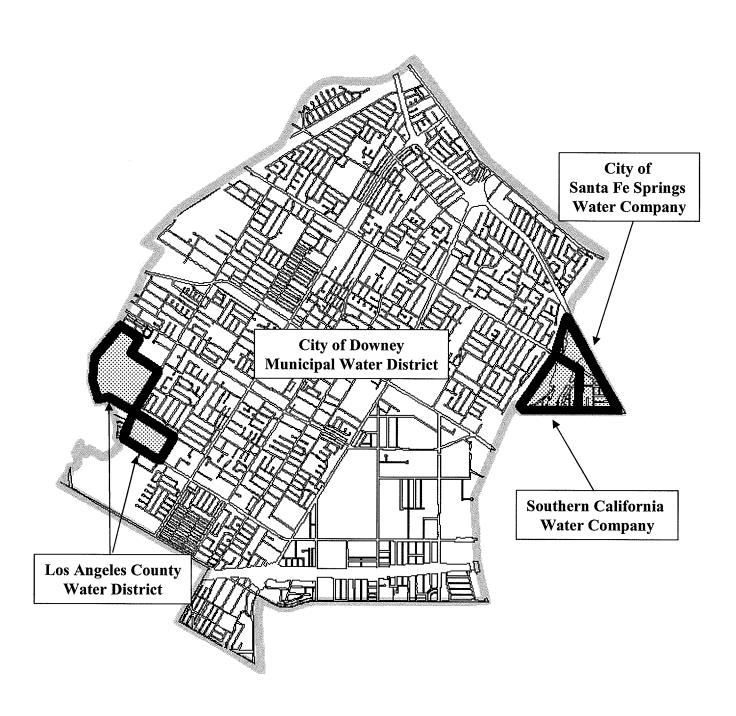
Water conservation is most successful when the consumer realizes the benefits of reducing demand. Providing apartments and business tenants with individual water meters provide incentives for these users to conserve water. The domestic water rates billing system may be structured to discourage excessive consumption by providing a tiered billing system that charges a higher rate for usage above a baseline amount.

The use of reclaimed or recycled water for landscape irrigation and other non potable needs, can significantly reduce the demand on potable water supplies. Before reuse, reclaimed or recycled wastewater receives at least secondary treatment and basic disinfection at a domestic wastewater treatment facility. There are dual pipes in parts of the City for potable and reclaimed water enabling many public properties (such as parks and schools) and private properties to use reclaimed or recycled water for landscaping and other non-potable needs. Expanding the dual pipe system would provide opportunities for other properties to use reclaimed or recycled water.

During the development review process, features may be added to a project design that conserve water over the long term. These features include:

- Restrict the amount of areas devoted to turf and other plant materials that requires significant amounts of water.
- Use xeriscape landscaping methods
- o Provide bubbler sprinklers for small boxes and basins
- Use lowflow fixtures
- Implement the use of telemetry controlled irrigation controllers
- New large (Downey Landing) or institutional consumers should procure additional water rights during the Conditional Use Permitting Process

FIGURE 4-1.1 MAP OF WATER COMPANY SERVICE AREAS



SCALE 1 INCH = 0.78 MILE



Goals, Policies, and Programs

Goal 4.1. Provide an adequate water supply for the needs of residents, workers, and visitors to the City.

Policy 4.1.1 Promote conservation of water resources.

- Program 4.1.1.1. Continue providing information to the public promoting the benefits of water conservation.
- Program 4.1.1.2. Develop, through the municipal water company. financial incentives for water users to conserve water, including individual meters and a tiered billing structure that charges excessive water use at a higher rate.
- Program 4.1.1.3. Promote the continued use of water conservation methods at city-owned facilities, such as parks and golf courses.
- Program 4.1.1.4. Encourage the use of reclaimed water, or re-use of water on-site, for new and redevelopment projects.
- Program 4.1.1.5. Expand the availability of reclaimed water by extending the dual-pipe water system.
- Program 4.1.1.6. Promote drought-tolerant plants, rain sensors, moisture sensors and other water conservation methods for plant landscaping projects.
- Program 4.1.1.7. Promote water conserving appliances, equipment, and plumbing fixtures for new developments and remodels.
- Program 4.1.1.8. Monitor periodically water pipe system to check and correct leaks.

Policy 4.1.2. Maintain the water supply system to meet water demands.

 Program 4.1.2.1. Coordinate with the Water Replenishment District to anticipate water demand and supply.

PAGE 4 - 5

ADOPTED 1-25-2005

- Program 4.1.2.2. Develop a Water System Master Plan that describes what will be needed for maintenance of the system.
- Program 4.1.2.3. Review periodically water service rates and fees to ensure that adequate funds are available for maintenance of the system.

WATER QUALITY

Issue 4.2. Water supply is impacted by the contamination of groundwater.



Since the source of the majority of the city's water supply is groundwater, it is critical that the city minimize the effects of groundwater contamination, which may reduce the supply of potable water. Some of the shallower aguifers are contaminated causing the closure of three water wells (Wells No. 1, 13 and 20). The contamination of aguifers occurs when the pollutants (often resulting from past pesticide use by agriculture percolates underground and migrates into aguifers. The remaining 20 wells draw from deeper uncontaminated aquifers. The quality of the water from these wells is so high that the water is used without treatment. However, the city continually monitors groundwater quality to determine if treatment may be needed in the future. To prevent further contamination, the City discourages business practices and land uses classes that might contribute to soil contamination that affects groundwater quality.

Goals, Policies, and Programs

Goal 4.2. Prevent the contamination of groundwater.

Policy 4.2.1. Monitor and improve groundwater quality.

- Program 4.2.1.1. Monitor production well water quality.
- Program 4.2.1.2. Provide annual water quality reports.
- Program 4.2.1.3. Coordinate with local, regional, state and federal efforts to protect the groundwater supply and enhance groundwater quality.
- Program 4.2.1.4. Discourage business practices and land use classes that contribute to soil contamination that degrade groundwater quality.

STORMWATER QUALITY

Issue 4.3. The contamination of beaches and oceans is impacted by stormwater generated in Downey.

Similar to most regions in the western half of the United States, the Los Angeles County area has separate systems for the collection and treatment of wastewater (sewer) and stormwater. While an elaborate system is set up for the treatment of wastewater, stormwater is not treated as it is collected by the drainage system and directed towards the ocean via flood control channels.

Since the stormwater system collects runoff from streets, parking lots, commercial businesses, and private yards that may contain oil, grease, pesticides, construction debris, sediment and eroded soil, the amount of pollutants in stormwater has been found to be significant. These pollutant levels have been linked to the contamination of beaches and oceans.



San Gabriel River Flood Control Channel

Stormwater contamination may be reduced through the construction of treatment facilities and the redirection of storm drains to treatment facilities to disinfect stormwater prior to entry to the flood control channels. Due to the logistics and cost of such systems, the city is requiring new developments to provide treatment of runoff on-site prior to entry into the storm drain system. Both methods respond to treating stormwater contamination, but discouraging activities that generate pollutants may be most effective.

Goals, Policies, and Programs

Goal 4.3. Reduce the contaminant level at beaches and oceans.

Policy 4.3.1. Reduce the contaminant level of stormwater and urban runoff generated within Downey.

- Program 4.3.1.1. Provide treatment of runoff generated by properties on-site before release into the storm drain system.
- Program 4.3.1.2. Discourage activities that generate pollutants on parking lots, and public streets.
- Program 4.3.1.3. Promote effective street cleaning.
- Program 4.3.1.4. Encourage proper storage and handling of construction materials to avoid the contact of pollutants with storm water runoff during construction.
- Program 4.3.1.5. Preserve existing naturally vegetated areas and encourage re-vegetation and soil restoration where feasible.

TREE PRESERVATION

Issue 4.4. The removal of trees may have a negative impact on the quality of life in the City.

Trees and other plants are critical parts of the ecological



balance of the environment since they can filter airborne pollutants, remove carbon dioxide, screen noise and wind, attract wildlife, slow runoff, prevent erosion, and conserve energy by shading buildings. Moreover, trees and plant materials provide beauty and shade and making cities more pleasant places by providing a break from the mass of pavement and buildings found in urbanized areas.

In Downey, where buildings cover substantial portions of individual lots

and open space is limited, trees provides a much needed relief from the city's built environment. Mature trees create a distinct character and feel that greatly benefits the overall quality of life both from biological and aesthetic views. Therefore, the removal of trees may have a detrimental effect on the community and should be discouraged wherever possible.

In certain instances, trees have been recognized as significant in terms of age, historical or cultural importance and should be removed only in extreme circumstances. A list of such trees as identified by individuals is included as Figure 4-4.1. However, exclusion from this list does not necessarily mean that a tree is not significant.

However, other trees in the City did not have similar protection against removal. Many trees have been removed due to the pressure for optimizing development of properties. Although the development review process for new residential subdivisions and the design review process for commercial and multiple-family residential developments provide opportunities for identifying trees before these are removed, the city does not have an inventory of trees on private property to assist in the preservation of trees.

A tree preservation ordinance will discourage the removal of trees. However due to the challenges of providing sufficient space for trees to grow, such an ordinance should allow provisions for the removal of damaged and dying trees and trees that are causing damage to infrastructure, such as sidewalk and sewers. The ordinance may also narrow its focus on particular types of trees with certain specie type, status native to Southern California, location within street yards, rarity, or size (such as girth of trunk at a certain height measured from the ground).

Goals, Policies, and Programs

Goal 4.4. Preserve trees wherever possible.

Policy 4.4.1 Preserve trees on private and public property.

- Program 4.4.1.1. Discourage the removal of trees on private and public property.
- Program 4.4.1.2. Adopt a tree preservation ordinance requiring a permit to remove mature trees.
- Program 4.4.1.3. Promote the installation of new trees when damaged or dying trees are removed.
- Program 4.4.1.4. Maintain an inventory of significant trees on private property.

FIGURE 4-4.1 SIGNIFICANT TREE SURVEY - SHEET 1 OF 5

PALMS

Tweedy Lane, from Florence to Gallatin

"Planted and watered by Maude Tweedy Copass and her father, Mr. Tweedy more than 90 years ago."

-- Mrs. Arlyss Kelley, 9206 Gaymont, Downey

"They are a unique landmark and can be seen from blocks away."

--Betty Livingstone, Downey

Downey Avenue, 5th Street north to Florence

"...were planted either in 1914 or 1915 by my father (S.H. Wilson) who was then the road foreman. They were alternated with magnolias planted from Third and Downey to Easy Street (Florence), then to Tweedy Lane, down Foster Bridge Road (Suva)...to the Red car tracks (now Garfield in Bell Gardens)."

-- Marian Wilson Jones, 8036 Third Street, Downey

Rives Avenue, north of Firestone

"...used to be posted as Burke Lane. Frank Burke planted them. (1910?) He went up to the Hall of Records and on the way back stopped at Germains and bought 5 lbs. of palm seed. He planted them along his irrigation ditch and thinned them out evenly as he gave them away."

—Marian Wilson Jones

Dolan Street, west side, between Firestone and SPRR tracks

"They have always been there, as far back as I can remember, when the Myers Family lived there and we lived next door."

Others

--Virginia Darby Warren, Downey native aged about 80

Two on south side of Lexington, east of Downey Avenue, probably marked entrance to former Willeford estate, 1919.

Several on east side of Lakewood Boulevard, north of Stewart & Gray Road, landmarks for years.

Several very old palms at Downey District Cemetery.

MAGNOLIAS

Tweedy Lane, from Florence to Gallatin

Were alternated with palms, said to be planted by S.H. Wilson about 1914-15.

Nance and la Reina, SPRR right-of-way

This magnolia is all that remains of the trees which once surrounded the Downey Depot. There had been a palm tree shaded walkway which ran diagonally from the corner of Downey Avenue and Firestone Boulevard (turn of the century). Last palms disappeared in the late 1970s.

FIGURE 4-4.1 SIGNIFICANT TREE SURVEY - SHEET 2 OF 5

11745 Rives Avenue

Private property? Said to be over 100 years old in 1954 by L.A. County parks department.

CAMPHORS

4th Place, between Rives and Paramount (7810 and 7921)

"A huge specimen of this type at 7810 4th Place, the sidewalk has been re-routed to accommodate it."

--John Vincent, 10710 Wiley-Burke

"This is a beautiful tree and over 100 years old." (7810 4th Place)
--Darlene Ingwersen, 7626 Fostoria

Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center

Documented in EIR and Specific Plan

Downey Cemetery, Lakewood and Gardendale

"Line both sides of entry road east from Lakewood Boulevard."

--Joyce Lawrence

SYCAMORES

Muller Street, west of Rives Avenue

"It is very large and has an 'interesting' shape. It looks old."
--Gloria Heer, 10257 Rives Avenue

Arrington, north of Gallatin - mature street trees

Irwingrove, at Morning

"Spectacular 3 to 4 story sycamore, they pay a cherry-picker pruner, really cherish the tree (Barth family, owners).

--Lyn Fisher, 10226 Hopeland

Downey City Library

The second of the

"Nominated for size and beauty."

--Clara H. Miller

Irwingrove Drive, between Rives and Wiley-Burke

"Planted 36 years ago, tall and stately."

--Laura Hadley

Furman Park - 30 trees (Donated by D.A.R.)

--Clara H. Miller

FIGURE 4-4.1 SIGNIFICANT TREE SURVEY – SHEET 3 OF 5

OTHERS

)

- OAK Corner of Rives and 4th Place (private property) "Planted by Frank Burke from an acorn he picked up in Central California on a hunting trip with Gene Biscailuz."

 --Marian Wilson Jones
- CEDAR 9220 Gallatin, probably marked entrance to property of pioneer William Sex (Sax).
- **WALNUTS & ORANGES** 7th Street, between Smallwood and Rives, remnants from Rives family orchards?
- **EUCALYPTUS** Huge tree at entrance to Independence Park on Bellflower Boulevard. (Also macadamia nut trees here). Also at Rio Hondo Country Club, corner parking lot at Country Club Drive.
- JACARANDAS Fifth Street from Paramount to Smallwood
- LIQUIDAMBER (or sycamore?) Wiley-Burke from Florence north to Suva, and from Florence south to Quinn --Lyn Fisher
- AURUCARIA ("Monkey Puzzle") Paramount Boulevard just south of SPRR tracks, west side, in a parking lot which was paved around it.
- PINES Coolgrove street trees, between Tweedy and Guatemala.
- UNKNOWN yellow flowering trees, east side of La Reina & Firestone. <u>Parkway</u> trees, Eastbrook Avenue, Washburn to Gauldin School.

"Large trees almost cover entire street in summer and fall, creating a tunnel effect on the street."

-- David Gafin, 12236 Eastbrook Avenue

These people nominated their own trees on private property:

Silver maple, 9161 Arrington, 99' branch spread, 94' high, 16' girth, reported by owner Mrs. Brinkman

Avocado/Citrus orchard, 7819 8th Street: "Working avocado orchard in Downey, 75 trees, 30+ years old. Several other large old trees."

-- Gary P. McCaughan

English walnut, between 75-80 years old (62 ft. n/s, 54 ft. e/w, 60" circumference) and Persimmon trees planted in 1921 by his father, Fred Reinke, 8111 Florence.

--Edward Reinke, dec.

^{*} Source: Joyce Lawrence, Downey Historical Society

PICO RIVERA SANTA FE SPRINGS BELL GARDENS SOUTH GATE BELLFLOWER SOUTH GATE SIGNIFICANT TREE(S) PARAMOUNT

FIGURE 4-4.1 SIGNIFICANT TREE SURVEY – SHEET 4 OF 5

① ئ € ₹ (13) <u>\$</u> PARKING ΞO Q 1314 61313 (20) Outstanding specimens; superb condition and size. Trees recommended to be saved by designing around. Based on Rancho Los Amigos Hospital Tree Survey, June 1986 Befu Donan Associates, Landscape Architects and Site Planners Excellent or unusual examples because of size, recommended to be saved by designing around. Note: Trees of a combined rading of less than 13 (indicating trees value and condition have not been included in this exhibit. Very good or rare; (transplant # cost and survival probability justifies) **Tree Survey**

FIGURE 4-4.1 SIGNIFICANT TREE SURVEY – SHEET 5 OF 5

AIR QUALITY

Issue 4.5. Downey is located in a region with unhealthy air.

Downey and the rest of the Los Angeles area are considered part of the South Coast Air Basin. Due to its position as a commercial and industrial center, dependence on emission-producing vehicles, climate, and geographical factors, the Los Angeles area has some of the most polluted air in the nation. Through the efforts of federal, state, regional and local agencies however, air quality in the areas has increased significantly as compared to the 1950s despite substantial economic expansion and population growth.



Still, the air in the region is considered unhealthy and the South Coast Air Basin is considered a "non attainment" area for federal and state air quality standards for ozone and state standards for particulate matter less than ten microns in diameter (PM10). The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is a regional agency charged with monitoring air quality levels and regulating air quality improvement programs to achieve federal and state air quality standards.

FIGURE 4-5.1 SOURCES OF OZONE-FORMING POLLUTION

Sources	Percent
On-Road Vehicles	49%
Paints and Solvents	18%
Other Mobile Sources	13%
Stationary Fuel Burning Sources	11%
Petroleum Process, Storage and Transfer	5%
Industrial Processes	2%
Miscellaneous Processes	2%

Source: South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)

Local agencies can promote improvements to air quality through land use decisions that discourage uses that are major contributors to air pollution, such as power plants, or by provide sufficient areas for land uses to serve residents locally thereby reducing the length of vehicle trips. Local agencies can also promote improvements to air quality by promoting the use of alternative fuel vehicles that result in reduced emissions than standard gasoline vehicles and by encouraging alternative modes of travel, such as walking, biking and public transit, to reduce emissions associated with vehicle use.

Goals, Policies, and Programs

Goal 4.5. Encourage activities that improve air quality.

Policy 4.5.1. Pursue every available means and opportunities to reduce air particulate and pollutants within the city and region.

- Program 4.5.1.1. Coordinate with other agencies, including school districts, transit agencies, and regional agencies, including South Coast Air Quality Management District and the Southern California Association of Governments, in their efforts to implement the regional Air Quality Management Plan and otherwise improve air quality.
- Program 4.5.1.2. Support regional and subregional efforts in strategically managing goods movements in order to reduce emissions from truck traffic.
- Program 4.5.1.3. Reduce air particulate and other pollutants created by, but not limited to the operation of diesel engine and increased truck traffic from marine and port operations in the Long Beach and Los Angeles ports and City operations, especially along the I-710 freeway corridor.
- Program 4.5.1.4. Encourage alternative modes of travel, such as walking and cycling, to vehicle use and alternative modes of employment, such as telecommuting and home-based businesses, to reduce emissions associated with vehicle use.

- Program 4.5.1.5. Promote the use of alternative fuel vehicles, including clean diesel, compressed natural gas, hydrogen, that result in reduced emissions, including in instances involving City operations.
- Program 4.5.1.6. Promote community participation in developing strategies and projects addressing air quality, such as Tier 2 I-710 corridor citizen advisory committee.
- Program 4.5.1.7. Pursue means to prohibit unnecessary operation of engines.

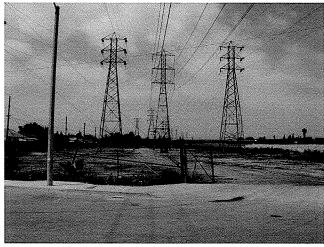
Policy 4.5.2. Improve air quality through land use decisions.

- Program 4.5.2.1. Discourage the placement of airsensitive uses in close proximity to areas with concentration of pollutants, such as congested traffic intersections.
- Program 4.5.2.2. Reduce the number and length of vehicle trips by promoting the provision of services needed by residents locally.
- Program 4.5.2.3. Discourage land uses known as major sources of air pollution.

ENERGY RESOURCES

Issue 4.6. There is a limited supply of energy resources.

The continued supply of energy is critical to meet the needs of those who live, work, and visit the city. However, most of the energy comes from non-renewable sources and its supply is limited. Furthermore, the extraction of energy from these sources requires process that pollutes the air and environment and causes health problems.



The limited supply of energy issues became increasingly important during the California energy crisis of 2000-2001. During the summer of 2001, portions of Downey experienced periods without electricity that were planned (termed "brownouts") and unplanned (termed "black-outs"). This created a great inconvenience to residents, and had a negative economic impact on local businesses.

Downey's electricity is supplied by Southern California Edison and natural gas is supplied by The Gas Company (Sempra Energy). Downey should continue to work with the utility companies to encourage residents and businesses to reduce energy consumption. Downey is home to The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center (ERC). The ERC provides seminars, demonstrations and consulting services to help businesses find the most cost-effective and energy efficient solutions to their energy needs. The center is also open on a limited basis to residents.

The City of Downey is a major user of energy. Electricity is used for all street lights and traffic signals. Electricity and natural gas is used at all public buildings. The City should continue installing energy conserving street lights and traffic signals. In addition, the use of solar panels for residential, commercial and industrial projects should be encouraged.

Other building design considerations include:

ADOPTED 1-25-2005

- An advanced programmable thermostat,
- Windows with high-performance, low-emission, doublepane glazing.
- Duct work installed inside the conditioned space to reduce cooling and heating losses to the exterior.
- An exterior house wrap which acts as an infiltration barrier under the exterior surface.
- o A fluorescent-lighting system.
- o High efficiency appliances.
- o An increased attic insulation level.
- A solar hot water pre-heating system.
- An advanced programmable home energy management system.
- o A photovoltaic-powered attic fan.

Goals, Policies, and Programs

Goal 4.6. Conserve energy resources.

Policy 4.6.1 Promote the conservation of energy by residents and businesses to conserve energy.

- Program 4.6.1.1. Provide incentives for people to use renewal energy sources such as solar energy.
- Program 4.6.1.2. Implement program to mitigate potential negative impacts on residents and businesses during energy "black outs".

Policy 4.6.2. Reduce energy consumption by City operations.

- Program 4.6.2.1. Ensure the installation of energy efficient street lights and traffic signals.
- Program 4.6.2.2. Ensure the installation of energy efficient fixtures, computers and appliances at all public buildings.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Issue 4.7. The cost for solid waste disposal is expected to rise significantly.

The average U.S. resident throws away about 6 pounds of trash per person per day. For a Downey family of four, this adds up to 8,760 pounds, or 4.4 tons, of garbage in a year. Cal-Met, the solid waste disposal company for Downey properties, has automated some of its operation in its efforts to provide trash collection in an efficient manner with low cost to residents, property owners, and businesses. However, the cost of solid waste disposal has been increasing significantly due to the reduced capacity of local landfills.



Large quantities of this waste have been placed in local landfills, particularly Puente Hills landfill in Whittier. With the Puente Hills landfill nearing capacity and the closure of other landfills in Los Angeles County, there is a trend to transport waste to landfills further away, particularly the FBR landfill in Irvine. This trend is expected to continue as more waste will have to be transported to landfills located further away, such as the remote areas of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

The impact on residents, property owners, and businesses will be increased service fees to cover the costs of transporting waste longer distances. Additional indirect costs are created through the worsening air pollution and traffic congestion caused by trucks that have to drive further distances.

The City has implemented programs to reduce the amount of waste generated as well as reducing the amount of wastestream sent to landfills by diverting items in the wastestream that may recycled or reused. In 1976, the City of Downey sponsored the DART (Downey At-Home Recycling Team), which was a voluntary recycling program for single-family residences. In 1990, the city adopted a source reduction and recycling program in conformance with

state legislation (AB 1290). In 1996, Downey Area Recycling and Transfer (DART) facility was constructed at 9770 Washburn Road as a materials recovery facility (MRF) where the solid waste collected from Downey and other communities is sorted for recyclable and reusable materials. Waste that cannot be reclaimed is then transported to landfills.

The programs have increased the amount of solid wastestream diverted from landfills from 20 percent in 1990 to 48 percent in 2001, but has remained constant since then. Although the diversion rate is short of the 50-percent target mandated by state law, the increases in the amount of materials recycled are significant. For example, 825 tons of newspaper was recycled for Downey 1990. This figure increased to 3,430 tons in 2000.

To continue efforts towards increasing the amount of wastestream that is diverted and recycled, public information is provided to continually remind residents and businesses of the importance of recycling. Downey works with the Downey Unified School District, after school programs, Keep Downey Beautiful and the Downey Chamber of Commerce in these continuing education programs.

Goals, Policies, and Programs

Goal 4.7. Provide efficient and low-cost solid waste disposal.

Policy 4.7.1. Reduce the amount of solid waste generated within the City.

- Program 4.7.1.1. Promote educational programs to explain the benefits of recycling and source reduction.
- Program 4.7.1.2. Encourage recycling and source reduction to divert recyclable and reusable materials from the solid waste sent to landfills.
- Program 4.7.1.3. Encourage the establishment of buyback recycling centers and material recovery facilities (MRF).

 Program 4.7.1.4. Promote recycling procedures that are easy for residents and business to understand and follow to improve compliance.