

## 4.0 PUBLIC FACILITIES/SERVICES ELEMENT

### 4.1 Introduction

A Public Facilities/Services Element is not one of the state-required elements for inclusion in a General Plan. Typically, many of the issues discussed herein have significant overlap with other elements. However, the City of Calexico is committed to providing adequate public facilities and services to its residents, and thus feels compelled to address these issues in greater detail. The adequacy of public facilities and services is key to providing the City's residents with the ability to attain a high quality of life. Since the adoption of the last General Plan by the City in 1992, the population of Calexico has grown by more than 50% and is expected to continue to grow. It is important to provide adequate public facilities and services to existing residents as well as provide them for new development—these facilities and services are essential for quality urban living and the framework for new development.

Public facilities and services are responses by institutions to basic human needs such as safety, health, education, and worship. They include police, hospitals, schools, churches, and safe drinking water. Public facilities and service are provided by all levels of government as well as other public and quasi-public organizations. The degree to which these basic types of needs are met helps to define the character and identity of a community.

This element addresses sewer facilities, water systems, and storm drain facilities. It will also address public services in the form of health care, library, education, and police and fire protection. Other public facilities/services such as parks and recreation are discussed in Element 6.0 of this General Plan. A key component of the discussion and policies herein are implementation mechanisms to finance the required capital improvements.

### 4.2 Existing Conditions

#### 4.2.1 Public Facilities

##### 4.2.1.1 Sewers

The City's sewer system is segmented into three "zones" defined, as such, by into which of the three sewer interceptors they discharge. As stated in the current *Service Area Plan*, as a result of the flat topography, most of the sewer lines are constructed at minimum slope and the interceptors are fairly deep, some as much as 20 feet. Also, the flat topography necessitates the construction of many small lift-stations to provide adequate flow. All sewage flows to the activated sludge wastewater

treatment plant located north of Calexico International Airport and south of the New River. Treated effluent is deposited into the New River.

The maximum daily flow capacity for the existing sewage treatment facility is 4.30 million gallons per day (mgd). The City operates currently with an average daily flow (“ADF”) of 2.7 mgd<sup>1</sup>. Although rain is rare in Calexico, peak wet weather flows (“PWWF”) currently exceed plant capacity at 4.9 mgd. By 2015, growth is projected such that flow demand will exceed capacity with an ADF of 5.0 mgd. Bond funding is being put in place now to rectify deficiencies and accommodate future needs. By 2010 the treatment plant should be upgraded to a capacity of 8.5 mgd which will accommodate projected ADF and PWWF at least through 2015. Ultimate build-out for the treatment facility (2030) according to the 2005 Service Area Plan is 18.4 mgd. However, an accurate assessment of sewage capacity and subsequent policies requires an updated sewer master plan and *Service Area Plan* updates every five years.

#### **4.2.1.2 Potable Water**

Calexico receives all of its potable water from the Calexico Water Department. The Calexico Water Department purchases its raw water from Imperial Irrigation District (IID) which acquires its water from the Colorado River via an open canal system. Currently, 2% of IID water is divided among Calexico and other Imperial Valley cities. According to the current *Service Area Plan*, the raw water from the canal is pumped through a 42-inch pipe into the City’s 25 million gallon reservoir. Three pumps transfer water via a 36-inch pipe from either the reservoir or the canal to the City’s treatment facility and have a maximum daily capacity of 18 mgd. The existing treatment plant has a capacity of 16 mgd. Treated water is transferred and stored in three above ground tanks. These tanks have a combined capacity of 8 million gallons. There is a proposal to build an 6 million gallon tank near Cole Road and Highway 98 to serve current needs and future growth in the City’s Sphere of Influence. As with the sewers, a sufficient assessment of water requirements can only be made within the framework of a 5-year *Service Area Plan*.

#### **4.2.1.3 Storm Water**

Storm water drainage in the City currently utilizes a combination of piping into the New River and discharge through IID main and lateral drains. Due to the precariousness of this arrangement, detention basins are used to control the amount of water that is discharged into IID canals. The IID canals were originally designed only to handle agricultural runoff, and as such, IID limits the amount of storm water that is discharged into them to prevent downstream flooding. There are also numerous unresolved water

<sup>1</sup> City of Calexico Service Area Plan for Wastewater and Water Facilities, 8/2005.

quality issues regarding the New River and ultimately the Salton Sea (the water body to which the river and the canals drain) which prohibits simply diverting all storm runoff from new developments to the river. Currently, there is no lead flood control agency to ensure compliance with the various regulations associated with storm water discharge into the New River or any type of stream bed alterations necessary to accommodate new capacity. A current 5-year *Service Area Plan* is necessary for an accurate and detailed storm water assessment.

#### **4.2.1.4 Public Buildings**

Public buildings are an important part of the City of Calexico. Typically, public buildings refer to those owned by the City, but are also made up of buildings owned by the County of Imperial and IID. Public buildings are used primarily as places of public meeting, assembly, or public information. An example of a public building in Calexico is City Hall. Public buildings may also be important socially or culturally, serving as sources of civic pride and enrichment. See Figure PF-1.

#### **4.2.2 Public Services**

##### **4.2.2.1 Health Care**

The City of Calexico currently does not have an operational hospital. The Heffernan Memorial Hospital officially closed in 1997 after a long history of financial troubles and diminished quality of care issues. The City has five privately-operated medical facilities: Clinicas del Pueblo, Inc., Valley Family Care Centers, Pioneers Health Center, Imperial Valley Women's Clinic, and the Calexico Medical Center. Residents of Calexico use El Centro Regional Medical Center and the Pioneers Health Center in Brawley for hospital services. The Heffernan Hospital District and Pioneers Health Memorial Healthcare District have developed a partnership and have opened an urgent care facility at the site of the former Heffernan Memorial Hospital. The City of Calexico had a ½ cent sales tax in place for ten years, but its extension was not approved by the voters in November of 2005. The tax expired on March 31, 2006. The Heffernan Hospital District now has a plan to phase development of a new medical complex and funds the staffing of a second ambulance unit for the City of Calexico Fire Department.

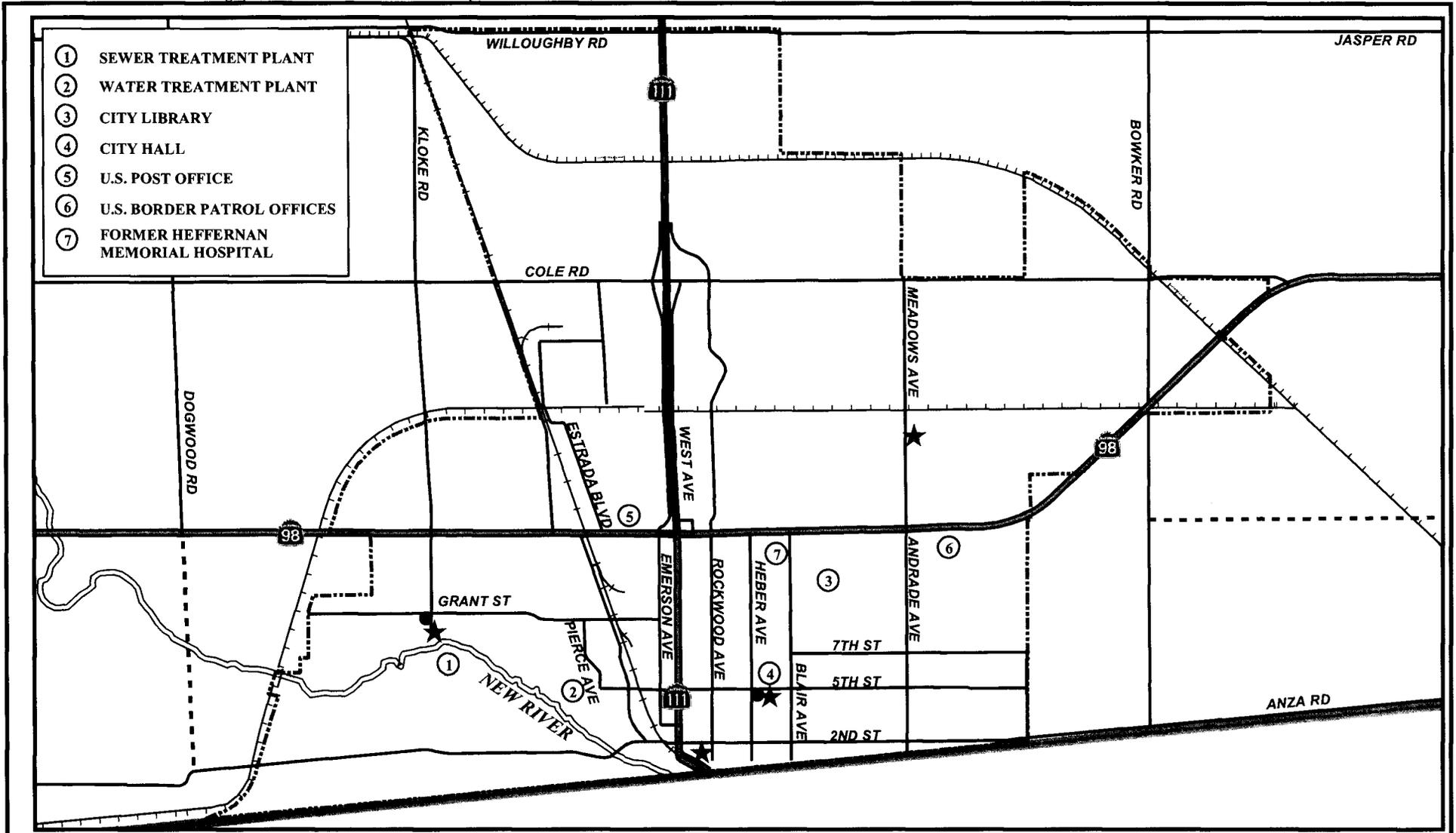
##### **4.2.2.2 Libraries**

The Camarena Memorial Library currently serves the City of Calexico along with a branch location at William Moreno Junior High School. The branch library operates with very limited hours. The Camarena Memorial Library has a collection of over 70,000 books, periodicals, and other materials housed in 12,000 square feet. This Library has special

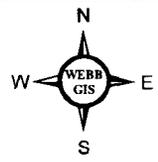
collections on Imperial Valley history and Caesar Chavez. Other facilities at the library include internet access, word processing equipment, copy machines, and meeting rooms. The Library also offers a variety of bilingual (English and Spanish) community programs and classes including: adult literacy tutoring, summer programs, teen programs, internet training, and Families for Literacy for children under 5.

The Library has a current staff of 4 full-time and 4 part-time workers. The existing facilities are at capacity. The Library Board recognizes the need to expand the main library to 24,000 square feet and eventually build another branch library. Included in the main library expansion would be facilities for arts/crafts, more computers, additional staff, and small conference rooms.

Additional library facilities available in the City of Calexico are provided by the San Diego State University Imperial Valley Campus. The university library serves approximately 900 students and contains over 110,000 books and other materials.



Source: City of Calexico



0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet

- FIRE
- ★ POLICE
- ⬜ CITY LIMITS
- ⬜ INTERNATIONAL BORDER

**LEGEND**

- ══ HIGHWAY
- ══ PROPOSED FREEWAY
- - - PROPOSED STREET
- +— RAILROAD
- STREET
- ALL AMERICAN CANAL
- CENTRAL MAIN CANAL
- NEW RIVER

Figure PF-1

**Existing Public Facilities**

City of Calexico General Plan



### 4.2.2.3 Education

The City of Calexico is served by the Calexico Unified School District (CUSD). CUSD currently has nearly 9,000 students in 6 elementary schools, 1 high school, 1 continuation high school, 2 junior high schools, and one adult education center. (See Figure PF-2.) Table PF-A names the facilities shown on Figure PF-2. There are 500 certificated personnel and 400 staff employed by CUSD. The District was recognized in 1994 by the National Association for Bilingual Education and boasts about a 75% rate of students continuing on to some type of post-secondary education. The schools operated by CUSD are:

#### High Schools

- Calexico High School (Grades 10-12)
- Aurora Continuation High School (Grades 9-12)

#### Junior High Schools (Grades 7-9)

- De Anza Junior High School
- William Moreno Junior High School

#### Elementary Schools (Grades K-6)

- Blanche Charles Elementary
- Dool Elementary School
- Rockwood Elementary
- Kennedy Gardens Elementary
- Jefferson Elementary
- Mains Elementary

#### Adult Education

- Robert Morales Adult Basis Educational School

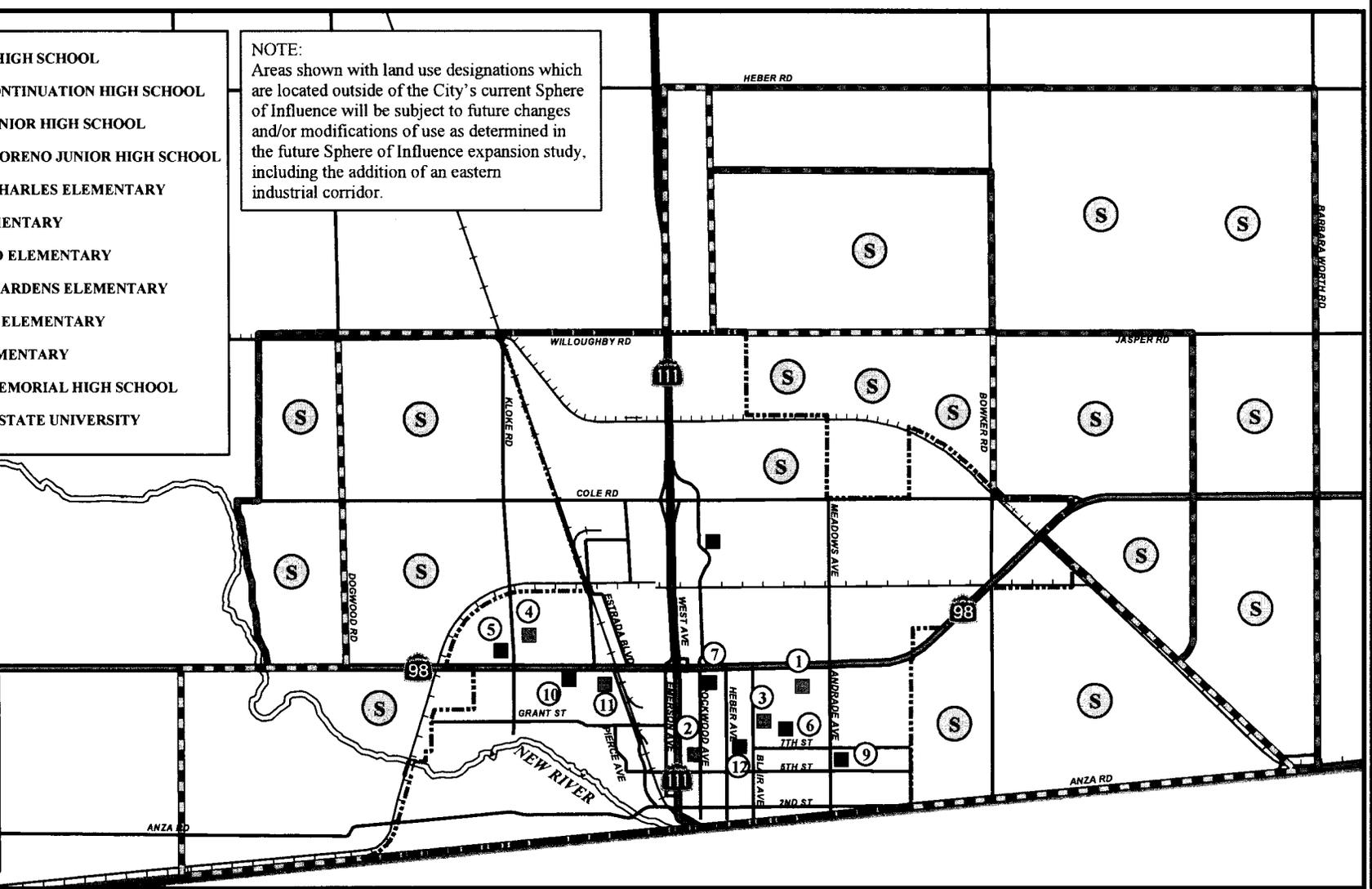
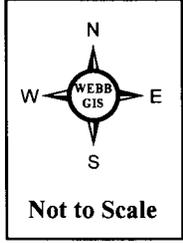
CUSD has had to cope with tremendous growth and has had issues of overcrowding. Other schools in Imperial Valley have changed to the multi-track year-round schedule to help mitigate overcrowding from burgeoning student populations. CUSD, however, has not been able to change from a traditional school year due to the significant number of students from families of migrant farm workers. Approximately 23% of all students enrolled in CUSD schools are from migrant families. CUSD has determined that switching to a year-round school year would make it impossible for these students to attend school.

CUSD expects to see significant growth in student population; enrollment is predicted to double in the next ten years. With this amount of growth, the district expects to need an additional 9 to 12 new schools in the next



- ① CALEXICO HIGH SCHOOL
- ② AURORA CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL
- ③ DE ANZA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
- ④ WILLIAM MORENO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
- ⑤ BLANCHE CHARLES ELEMENTARY
- ⑥ DOOL ELEMENTARY
- ⑦ ROCKWOOD ELEMENTARY
- ⑧ KENNEDY GARDENS ELEMENTARY
- ⑨ JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY
- ⑩ MAINS ELEMENTARY
- ⑪ VINCENT MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
- ⑫ SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

**NOTE:**  
 Areas shown with land use designations which are located outside of the City's current Sphere of Influence will be subject to future changes and/or modifications of use as determined in the future Sphere of Influence expansion study, including the addition of an eastern industrial corridor.



Source: Calexico Unified School District

LEGEND					
	CITY LIMITS		HIGHWAY		ALL AMERICAN CANAL
	INTERNATIONAL BORDER		PROPOSED FREEWAY		CENTRAL MAIN CANAL
	NEAR-TERM SPHERE OF INFLUENCE		ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		NEW RIVER
	MID-TERM SPHERE OF INFLUENCE		JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL		RAILROAD
	LONG-TERM SPHERE OF INFLUENCE		HIGH SCHOOL		STREET
			COLLEGE		FUTURE SCHOOL(S) - LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

Figure PF-2

Schools



#### **4.2.2.4 Police**

The City of Calexico receives law enforcement services from the Calexico Police Department. The City's police station is located at 420 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street with substations at Nosotros and International Parks, and near Meadows Avenue north of SR-98, see Figure PF-1. As of April 2005, there are 43 sworn officers working for the department (however, the City is budgeted for 48 officers), for a staffing ratio of approximately 1.3 officers per 1,000 residents. The majority of officers work on a beat system which means that they are assigned to patrol a certain section of the City. The current *Service Area Plan* estimates that the existing police stations will be adequate to accommodate the department's future growth of personnel through the year 2020. There is, however, a proposed joint-use fire/police station to be located in the northeast area of the City that will serve proposed new development in that area and maintain quick response time.

#### **4.2.2.5 Fire Protection**

The city of Calexico currently has two fire stations, located at 430 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street and at 900 Grant Street, see Figure PF-1. There are a total of 32 professional firefighters employed by the Calexico Fire Department: 1 chief, 30 firefighters, and an administrative staff.

The Department is also working toward adding reserve firefighters in the near future. The Calexico Fire Department is a member of the Imperial Valley Firefighters Strike Force which is responsible to respond to fire emergencies throughout California. The Department is also a member of the Imperial Valley Hazardous Materials Response Team and is available to respond to hazardous materials emergencies throughout the Imperial County. The Fire Department presently belongs to Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority ("IVECA") and Radio Community Server ("RCS") which have integrated communications in the Imperial Valley and San Diego County; and will soon include Yuma County, AZ.

#### **4.2.2.6 Solid Waste**

Solid waste collection and disposal is contracted through Allied Waste. The collected waste is deposited in a private landfill that is located in the City of Imperial. Estimates by the City's Public Facilities Director, regarding the capacity of the Imperial landfill, is that the landfill has adequate capacity to accommodate the City's growth for the next ten years. However, Imperial County is actively seeking a new site on which to build a landfill.

### **4.3 Establishing a Vision**

The Vision for adequate public services and facilities in the City of Calexico is essential for quality urban living. It is also necessary for the future of the city as new growth will require additional facilities and services. The Public Facilities and Services Element is responsive to the City's vision because it:

- a. identifies facilities and services that support the functions that are essential to the future development of the City while retaining and improving existing areas of the City,
- b. demonstrates a commitment to this important aspect of community development by our public officials,
- c. strengthens the City's overall sense of "community," and
- d. adds to the desirability of the community as a place to attract business investment and home ownership.

### **4.4 Goal, Objectives, and Policies**

#### **4.4.1 Goal**

To provide a full range of the necessary public facilities and services that are convenient to users, economical, and reinforce a quality City identity.

#### **4.4.1.1 Facilities and Services Development**

##### **Objective 1**

To coordinate planning and development of Calexico's public facilities and services with the private development sector, Calexico Unified School District, San Diego State University, Imperial County, and other public agencies.

##### **Policy 1**

- a. Establish funding mechanisms to fund the construction or expansion of public services and facilities necessitated by new development. The City should adopt appropriate ordinance(s) that implement impact fees and/or exactions on developers to fund the construction of public facilities caused by the new development. The ordinance should delineate methods for fee calculation to allow developers to know in advance their expected fee.
- b. The City should, where appropriate and feasible, create assessment districts to fund certain public improvements.
- c. The City should use general obligation and revenue bonds to finance long-term capital improvements.

- d. Develop joint-use/joint-power agreements with Calexico Unified School District, San Diego State University, and other special districts or agencies. Examples of facility agreements include libraries, theaters, learning facilities, and athletic fields.
- e. The City shall consider combining agencies that provide similar services in order facilitate acquisition of these services and to prevent similar agencies from performing the same tasks.

#### **4.4.1.2 Sewers**

##### **Objective 2**

To provide high quality sewage services to existing residents as well as to accommodate future growth and development.

##### **Policy 2**

- a. Approve new development only if sewer facilities will be expanded to serve these areas at the expense of the developer or City.
- b. Continually monitor the existing sewer system to identify any necessary improvements to maintain high quality service and to ensure compliance with secondary treatment standards.
- c. Sewer service shall exist prior to the approval of any new development application which requires community sewer service.
- d. Future sewer service expansions should be designed to maintain adequate level of service.
- e. The extension of sewage transmission lines or pumping services to accommodate new developments should be limited to within one quarter mile of developed areas.
- f. All improvements to the existing sewer system necessitated by the approval of a new development project shall be financed entirely by the proponent either by fee or actual construction.
- g. All future tentative maps should be approved only with conditions based on water and sewer service availability. There shall be no exceptions, either on occasion or by approval.

#### **4.4.1.3 Potable Water**

##### **Objective 3**

To provide high quality potable water services to existing residents as well as to accommodate future growth and development.

##### **Policy 3**

- a. The City shall assess existing water capacity when reviewing applications for new development, and comply with Senate Bills

610 and 221 requiring water supply assurance for projects of significant size (any project requiring water in the amount of or greater than that which would be required by a 500 dwelling unit residential project).

- b. All improvements to existing water system that are necessitated by a new development shall be financed entirely by the developer either by fee or actual construction.
- c. The dedication, maintenance, and construction of new water storage facilities, pumps, and transmission lines to serve new development shall be reviewed by the City with each new development application.
- d. The City shall incorporate measures to promote the conservation of water in new and existing development, specifically best available technologies in new construction and site development, including, but not limited to, water-saving toilets, showerheads, faucets, and water conserving irrigation.
- e. The extension of water service facilities such as transmission lines or pumps should be limited to one-quarter mile across an undeveloped area when necessitated by new development.

#### **4.4.1.4 Storm Water**

##### **Objective 4**

To maintain the current system and to provide long-term solutions for storm water runoff for the City.

##### **Policy 4**

- a. The City shall continue to require developers to construct or finance the necessary storm water runoff facilities such as underground storm drains and retention basins.
- b. The City should continue to work with the appropriate agencies to develop new arrangements for the discharge of storm water into the New River. To the extent feasible, these arrangements shall be consistent with the New River Improvement Project referenced and described in Section 5.2.5 of the Conservation/Open Space Element.
- c. The City shall continue to work with IID to provide adequate storm water discharge in areas where applicable and in new development.
- d. Continually monitor the existing storm water system to identify any necessary improvements to maintain high quality service.

#### **4.4.1.5 Public Buildings**

##### **Objective 5**

The City should encourage a responsible development pattern for any new public buildings, maximize the usefulness of existing buildings, and conserve energy whenever possible.

##### **Policy 5**

- a. The City should allow the use of existing public buildings for other uses that benefit the community, such as clubs, recreation, and charity organizations.
- b. The City should attempt to use existing public buildings to create a cultural center for its residents.
- c. The City should plan any new publicly-oriented buildings to be located near the existing City Hall.
- d. The City should encourage the County of Imperial to locate any new public buildings that serve the Calexico area in the Local Government Center area.
- e. The City shall annually assess the energy usage of each public building and develop plans to conserve energy, including retrofitting for energy conservation where feasible.
- f. All new public buildings shall be designed to be as energy efficient as is financially feasible.

#### **4.4.1.6 Healthcare**

##### **Objective 6**

To provide adequate hospital and healthcare facilities to meet the demand of existing and future residents.

##### **Policy 6**

- a. The City shall support efforts by the Heffernan Hospital District and Pioneers Health Memorial Healthcare (or other service provider) to create new medical facilities and/or services in the City, including such services as urgent care, emergency medical, hospital, and clinics.

#### **4.4.1.7 Libraries**

##### **Objective 7**

To provide adequate public library facilities, staffing, inventory of items and volumes, up-to-date technology and related services for all residents of the City of Calexico, within the State of California published

guidelines, including “California Libraries in the 1980’s: Strategies for Service,” or most recent state guidance, as feasible.

### Policy 7

- a. The City of Calexico, through the Camarena Memorial Library Board of Trustees (“the Library Trustees”), shall make all reasonable efforts to provide and maintain the following library facilities and service standards:
  - Library facilities at a ratio of 0.55 square feet per resident of the City of Calexico;
  - Library facilities accessible for all City of Calexico residents within two miles distance (walking distance) or ten (10) minutes driving time, whichever is less;
  - A ratio of three (3) public library staff, consisting of one librarian plus two clerical staff, per 6,000 residents of the City of Calexico and;
  - A ratio of total items in the library inventory of three (3) items per resident of the City of Calexico.
- b. The City, through the Library Trustees, shall continue to participate in system and networking activities which enable it, in cooperation with other libraries in Imperial and San Diego Counties, to provide adequate public library services for the citizens of Calexico.
- c. The City of Calexico, in cooperation with the Library Trustees, shall undertake a systematic capital improvements program for the construction of new and expanded library facilities in order to supplement and complement facilities and services provided at the Camarena Memorial Library. This program shall include:
  - Construction of a new branch library to serve residents on the west side of the City and new developments proposed to the west.
  - Construction of a new branch library to serve residents on the east side of the City and new developments proposed to the east.
    - Designation of the Camarena Memorial Library as the Main Library facility.
- d. The library should continue to share services with other libraries or create other joint use arrangements with schools and pursue additional beneficial joint-use arrangements to help meet desired library services standards established in Policy 7a, above.

- e. The City and the Library Trustees shall continue to provide financial resources to improve and maintain adequate staffing, inventory of items and volumes, computers and related technology and community library services and programs for all residents of the City of Calexico. Review of funding status and availability of staff, services and facilities to meet desired library services standards established in Policy 7a, above, should be thoroughly reviewed every three (3) years.
- f. Future libraries should be conveniently accessible to pedestrians, automobiles and public transit. Locations where large numbers of potential users gather should be considered desirable site. If possible, these facilities should be combined with other public facilities, parks, shopping centers, or other activity centers in order to encourage the joint use and shared parking in a community facilities campus concept.
- g. Library programs should be available to all members of the community and should include services for those who cannot conveniently access a library.

#### **4.4.1.8 Education**

##### **Objective 8**

The provision of quality schools is a paramount concern for the City of Calexico. The maintenance and development of new schools must be supported by the City and new development must not degrade current service quality.

##### **Policy 8**

- a. The City shall work with Calexico Unified School District to ensure that the desired pupil enrollment/capacity ratio is maintained.
- b. The City shall submit copies of development proposals to Calexico Unified School District for review and comment.
- c. The City shall provide the Calexico Unified School District with regular reports on building permit activity.
- d. The City shall assist and cooperate with Calexico Unified School District in their efforts to obtain and annually update residential development school mitigation fees outlined in Government Code (Sections 65995.5-65995.7).
- e. The City should consider the effect of residential development on the existing and design capacity of all affected educational facilities as defined by the Calexico Unified School District.

#### **4.4.1.9 Police Protection**

##### **Objective 9**

To provide the lives, health, and property of all residents, businesses, and visitors to the City of Calexico through adequate levels of law enforcement service.

##### **Policy 9**

- a. Police staffing and facilities shall be expanded commensurably to accommodate the needs of Calexico's growing population.
- b. Require new development projects to pay fees proportional to their demand for police services.
- c. Periodically evaluate police service based on incidence of crime, emergency response times, and desired levels of service.
- d. Provide police facility sites in subsequent Specific Plans based on community need.
- e. Achieve and maintain the industry standard ratio of 2 police officers per 1,000 residents.
- f. The City should regularly update the police department on new development so that they may evaluate their ability to support said projects.

#### **4.4.1.10 Fire Protection**

##### **Objective 10**

To provide an adequate service level of fire protection for all residents, businesses, and visitors to the City of Calexico.

##### **Policy 10**

- a. Fire staffing and facilities shall be expanded commensurably to accommodate the needs of Calexico's growing population.
- b. Require new development projects to pay fees proportional to their demand for fire services based on an updated Development Fee Ordinance or other legal and equitable funding mechanism.
- c. Provide fire facility sites in subsequent Specific Plans based on community need.
- d. The City should regularly update the fire department on new development so that the fire department may evaluate their ability to support said projects.
- e. Maintain an on-going fire inspection program to reduce the fire hazards associated with older buildings, residences, critical facilities, public assembly facilities, and industry.

- f. The City should consider adopting a sprinkler ordinance in new residential, commercial, and/or industrial development.
- g. With the input of all City departments, periodically review and update the City's Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- h. Maintain the standard ratio of 1.5 firefighters per 1,000 residents.
- i. The City shall ensure that fire flows are maintained to meet the following minimum standards during maximum daily flow conditions: 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm) for residential; for two simultaneous fires for residential uses 1,000 gpm; and 2,500 gpm for commercial.

#### **4.4.1.11 Solid Waste**

##### **Objective 11**

To maintain solid waste collection and disposal services in accordance with the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 and pursue funding sources so as to reduce the cost of said services in the City.

##### **Policy 11**

- a. The City should monitor the operations of the solid waste solid waste collection contractor to ensure an adequate level of service.
- b. Encourage and support regional and statewide recycling programs that aim to reduce the solid waste stream.
- c. Continue to administer existing recycling programs and enact new ones as necessary to achieve current 50% solid waste diversion goal as set forth by the California Integrated Waste Management Board.
- d. Actively pursue methods of educating the public on solid waste recycling and reuse.
- e. The City should support regional efforts to expand and locate new landfills.
- f. Explore the possibility of the development of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF).

**4.4.1.12 Electricity**

**Objective 12**

To provide reliable electrical service capable of serving existing and future residential, commercial and industrial uses within the City.

**Policy 12**

- a. The City shall coordinate with IID for the provision of adequate land within new developments and throughout the City for electrical substations and transmission facilities.
- b. The City should work with hospital and medical care providers to ensure that emergency generators are available onsite in the event of extended power outage.