

CHAPTER 2 **Vision**

VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES: A FRAMEWORK FOR PLANNING

The Vision is the overarching framework used to guide the formulation of updated goals and policies for the General Plan to address the role, character, and quality of the City’s built and natural environment. The Vision and Guiding Principles provide the foundation upon which the General Plan goals, policies, and implementation actions are measured. Crafted from the collective input of Simi Valley residents, elected and appointed officials, and the General Plan Advisory Committee, the Vision represents the community’s aspirations for its future, and it is reflected in the goals and policies throughout the General Plan. The Vision is supported by Guiding Principles that more specifically define the expected outcomes of the updated goals and policies, and articulate specific measures to attain Simi Valley’s Vision.

Simi Valley Vision

VISION STATEMENT

To provide a safe, functional, healthy, and environmentally sustainable community while expanding to meet the needs of the future where people can live, work, and recreate in peace and tranquility.

Nestled in a scenic valley, the quality of life in Simi Valley is closely linked to its natural setting, which physically separates the community from adjacent jurisdictions and contributes to its distinct identity. Maintenance of the attributes of its unique valley location and quality lifestyle are diligently pursued in order to maintain the character and identity of our community and its key resources, which include:

- Our hillsides and natural environmental setting
- Our distinct valley identity
- Our variety of neighborhoods in a safe, family-oriented and close-knit community
- Our support of a strong local economy
- Our investment in high-quality public services, infrastructure, and an accessible local government
- Our commitment to the City’s history and culture
- Our community pride through citizen involvement and volunteerism



Sinaloa Lake

WE BALANCE GROWTH WITH PROTECTION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

We value our scenic natural setting with its open spaces, views, wildlife areas, and waterways, and will conserve and restore this environment as a key determinant of Simi Valley's unique identity and quality of life. We will manage growth and protect our hillsides from incompatible man-made encroachments.

WE ARE STEWARDS OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES

We recognize the need to practice sustainable development for our future generations through land use planning, community and site design, and the provision of community services and infrastructure systems. We will locate housing, jobs, and services close to one another to reduce automobile traffic, congestion, and pollution, decrease resource consumption, increase the viability of businesses, and increase social interaction. The conservation and efficient use of energy and natural resources is a priority.

COMMUNITY CHARACTER AND DESIGN REINFORCE OUR STRONG COMMUNITY IDENTITY

The identity and lifestyle of Simi Valley is vested in the quality of its neighborhoods, community gathering places, job centers, corridors, public facilities, and open spaces. These are vibrant, safe, well-designed places that invite social interaction and foster a sense of pride. Our community places are accessible by various modes of transportation. Importantly, new development is sensitive in its design and respect for existing land uses and compatible in scale and character with its surroundings.

OUR SAFETY IS A PRIORITY

Simi Valley is rated among the safest cities in the nation, and we value this asset. The City's safety record contributes to the desirability of this family-oriented community as a place to live, work, and play. We proactively enforce public safety, exercise sensitive and safe community planning and construction techniques, and provide emergency response services and facilities (such as hospitals and fire/police stations)



Simi Valley Police Department

that contribute to the overall safety of our community. Feelings of safety and security enhance property values and residents' enjoyment of a wide range of community resources.

WE MAINTAIN FISCAL STRENGTH AND ECONOMIC VITALITY

Simi Valley will build, support, and maintain a strong and sustainable local economy. We will develop and strengthen local businesses and services. We will develop infill uses that are sensitive to adjacent land uses. We will plan for the housing needs of the community and provide affordable workforce housing.

WE PROVIDE QUALITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SOUND INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT STRONG INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

The City's infrastructure has historically provided a wide range of high-quality public services within the community. The City's infrastructure promotes smooth traffic flows, and access to transit as well as available water and sewer services to accommodate the City's continued growth and prosperity.

WE SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY'S PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING

We take pride in our City's history and culture and promote the continued enjoyment of a healthy lifestyle for our residents. We value the extensive recreational and open space opportunities available to residents to promote active lifestyles that include walking, biking, and other leisure activities. We value our rich cultural heritage and promote creative and performing arts as well as our historic resources. A range of volunteer and civic opportunities are available to residents who desire social interaction and civic engagement. The City enjoys high educational attainment and supports the local educational systems in the community.

Guiding Principles



Arroyo Simi

In support of the Vision Statement, Guiding Principles provide a framework for planning and define the expected outcomes of implementation of the goals and policies in the General Plan. They direct how and where growth will be distributed throughout the City within the context of natural resource protection and neighborhood conservation. Importantly, Guiding Principles are non-negotiable criteria that will guide the formulation of an updated General Plan. The Principles guided development of the Land Use Plan and update of the goals and policies.

1. Natural and Environmental Resources

- Preserve the natural hillsides setting surrounding the City for their valuable aesthetic and visual qualities intrinsic to Simi Valley’s landscape and identity.
- Maintain the City’s hillside preservation standards as a means to protect natural environments and open spaces surrounding Simi Valley.
- Enhance the Arroyo Simi as a natural resource that serves as a scenic recreational resource as well as a public safety resource for flood protection.
- Improve air quality through development patterns that reduce the need for automobile travel and minimize congestion.
- Achieve sustainable levels of energy and resource consumption through efficient land use, transportation, building design, construction techniques, waste management, and efficient infrastructure design and operation.
- Strengthen the City’s water recycling program to reduce water consumption and lessen the need for imported water.
- Partner with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District to promote open space attainment.



Wood Ranch

2. Community Identity, Character, and Design

- Provide a diversity of neighborhood environments.
- Focus higher density developments and mixed-use projects in areas adjacent to transit stations, along transit corridors and commercial corridors, near job centers, and in strategic opportunity areas throughout the City.
- Promote neighborhood design for development that is compatible with the scale and character of existing adjacent development.
- Promote livable and well-designed neighborhoods with a mix of uses and services that are walkable to support improved health and the needs of families, youth, seniors, and a growing population.
- Create vibrant public areas that serve as gathering places, town centers, and villages for the community.
- Locate and design buildings, streetscapes, and public spaces that are pedestrian-friendly.
- Promote developments that foster accessibility and connectivity between areas, and safely and efficiently accommodate a mixture of cars, transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians.
- Guide new development with design standards that promote well-designed properties that are context sensitive.

3. Land Use and Growth Management

- Utilize infill development and reuse, while maintaining important qualities of community character.
- Prioritize the reuse of obsolete or underutilized commercial centers.
- Promote land uses that achieve the City's regional fair share of housing and strengthen its economic and jobs base.
- Utilize sustainable development and land use planning practices that provide for the needs of existing residents and businesses while preserving choices for future generations.
- Maintain the City Urban Restriction Boundary (CURB) as a means to maintain the City's distinct identity and to limit inefficient urban development in the natural areas surrounding Simi Valley.
- Prioritize infill development and redevelopment within areas currently developed consistent with community character objectives.

4. Neighborhood Security and Housing Choice

- Foster public safety through good community design and the use of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) concepts.
- Maintain the City's rating as one of the safest cities in the nation by continuing to provide a high level of public safety services.
- Minimize the City's vulnerability to natural and manmade disasters and strengthen the City's emergency response systems.
- Provide a mix of housing to meet the needs of current and future residents, including an equitable distribution of affordable housing, throughout the City.
- Encourage a mix of housing types within neighborhoods to promote a diversity of households for residents of all ages and income levels.

5. Economic Vitality and Security

- Maintain a broad range of jobs that are accessible to all residents.
- Attract highly skilled and professional jobs in finance, professional services, and biotech industries to match residents' education and skills.
- Promote strategic reinvestment in underperforming commercial centers as potential for job centers and mixed-use neighborhood centers.
- Promote clean industries and businesses that provide job opportunities, enhance the local economy, and encourage new businesses to locate adjacent to existing and planned business parks and transit corridors.

6. Public Services, Infrastructure, and Mobility

- Promote a high level of public services to maintain the quality of life that Simi Valley residents have come to expect through good traffic circulation systems and other infrastructure including water and sewer.
- Reduce the City's need for imported water through increased water conservation practices and recycling.
- Partner with the Simi Valley Unified School District to promote quality education and continued high levels of educational attainment in Simi Valley.

- Pursue additional commuter transit service to the west end of the City by Metrolink as a means to decrease roadway congestion and enhance regional mobility for residents and visitors to the City.
- Provide a range of transportation choices to residents that promote alternatives to automobile use including walking, biking, and public transit.

7. Health, Social, and Cultural Well-Being

- Recognize and preserve areas of Simi Valley that contribute to the City's history and culture.
- Recognize the need to provide a variety of recreation and leisure activities for the diverse population of Simi Valley as a means to support active and healthy lifestyles for residents of all ages and income groups.
- Support community health by promoting the availability of organic and whole food choices to residents.
- Recognize that trails are an important recreational asset that may be integrated with transportation systems to encourage mobility within the City.
- Promote ongoing volunteer opportunities and civic engagement as a means to provide social opportunities and enhance community life.

