

S O C I A L E L E M E N T

THOUSAND OAKS

G E N E R A L P L A N

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SOCIAL ELEMENT

Explanation of Abbreviations

SNA	-	Social Needs Assessment (Conejo Future Foundation)
HSA	-	Health Systems Agency of Ventura/Santa Barbara County
DPSS	-	Department of Public Social Services of Ventura County
VCCHCCD	-	Ventura County Commission on Human Concerns and Community Development
CRPD	-	Conejo Recreation and Park District
AC	-	Arts Council of the Conejo Valley
CVAS	-	Conejo Valley Attitude Survey (1979)
FC	-	Federal Census (1970)
SC	-	Special Census (1975)
EDD	-	State of California Employment Development Department
TOPD	-	City of Thousand Oaks Planning Department
SCAG	-	Southern California Association of Governments

BACKGROUND

Presently, nine elements are mandated for inclusion in all city and county General Plans: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Seismic Safety, Scenic Highways, Safety and Noise. All are intended to promote orderly physical growth within the community and all have been adopted by the City of Thousand Oaks. While physical and social inter-relationships are addressed in several of these elements, there is only limited integration of social and physical concerns.

The League of California Cities has taken the position that cities should become more actively involved in addressing local social or human needs and has been encouraging cities to adopt Social Elements to their General Plans. Since a Social Element is not a mandated element, the State has no guidelines for its preparation. Nevertheless, the League has developed what it considers to be a three step approach for the development and implementation of a Social Element to the General Plan.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The heart of the League's proposal is the Needs Assessment process which is the first phase in any approach to social planning. The Needs Assessment attempts to identify not only the existing social problems in the community but to identify existing resources to meet these problems.

SOCIAL ELEMENT

The second phase in the League's proposal would be the preparation of the Social Element itself. Based largely upon the information generated in the Social Needs Assessment, it would contain:

1. A statement of findings, evolving from the Needs Assessment.
2. Major issues and broad statements of social concern setting forth the major problems the City is, or is likely to be, facing in the future.
3. Goals and objectives: would be the basis for insuring that social concerns are considered in the general planning process. The goals and objectives would provide policy direction for the development of a Community Services Plan or Action Program.

COMMUNITY SERVICES PLAN/ACTION PROGRAM

The Community Services Plan would be a working plan evolving directly from the Social Element and the Needs Assessment processes. It would contain specific recommendations for City action in the various areas of human services with priorities given to identified needs.

In February 1977, the City of Thousand Oaks entered into a contract with the Conejo Future Foundation to conduct the first phase, a community assessment

of human needs. This citizen based effort was completed, along with a Directory of Human Services, and presented to the City Council in April 1978.

In June 1978, the City Council agreed to proceed with the second phase, the Social Element. This Element, presented here, was prepared jointly by the City Manager's Office and Planning Department, but is based largely upon the efforts of the Conejo Future Foundation in its Social Needs Assessment and its continuing role as advisor to the Social Element process.

SOCIAL ELEMENT

Introduction

The Social Element defines the role and responsibility of the City in the area of social planning, including planning and delivery of human services. It is a vehicle by which social concerns are brought directly into the planning process. By incorporating a Social Element in the General Plan, the importance of the social environment in the community development process is recognized.

Philosophy

The following policy statements are provided as a backdrop to the detailed sections that follow. These policies reflect the general philosophical intent of the Social Element.

1. The City will facilitate the development of plans and the application of resources to meet human needs.
2. Necessary criteria and methods will be developed to determine and evaluate the social impacts of major physical, environmental, and social changes, where the City has appropriate authority. The social impacts of such changes will be given at least equal standing with other factors in determining their acceptability.

3. The City will provide necessary human services directly only when it is not possible for other community agencies to provide such services, or where it can be demonstrated that the City can deliver such services in a more effective and economic manner.
4. In all cases where the City is the prime sponsor of human services, every effort will be made to contract with appropriate community agencies for implementation of programs.
5. Broad representation and community participation at all levels of planning, resource allocation and evaluation are to be parts of all human service programs.
6. Human services are to be administered in a manner which respects the dignity of the individual and fosters self-sufficiency and individual choice.
7. Coordination between public and private agencies and various levels of government in human service field and elimination of overlapping efforts shall have major priority.
8. The City will seek maximum use of federal, state, regional and private resources to solve social problems which are area-wide in nature.

9. The most important role city government can play is to serve as an "advocate", for needed services, a "broker" of resources and potential services, a "signator" or a co-sponsor of planning and funding documents, and as a catalyst to ensure that the service needs of citizens are being met.

ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

Income Demographics

The 1970 Federal Census reported that Thousand Oaks had a median family income of \$14,625. This increased to \$16,200 in 1975 at the time of the mid decade census update. (FC, SC)

The percent of total households having low or moderate income is 28 percent (percentage of families with annual income less than \$11,560, which is 80% of SMSA median family income of \$14,450) (FC)

The 1977 Conejo Future Foundation (CFF) Social Needs Assessment indicates that over 60% of the respondents to its citizen survey had family incomes over \$20,000 per year. This increased to 76% in the 1979 City Attitude Survey. While these figures do not represent total households in Thousand Oaks, they do suggest that the annual median income is on the rise in the community. (SNA, CVAS)

The racial/ethnic makeup of the City is; 96.1% Caucasian, .6% Black, 2.1% Mexican American, .1% American Indian, 1.1% Oriental. (SC)

Over the past 10 years, the Thousand Oaks median family income has remained

higher than that of Ventura County. (FC)

Age characteristics of the City are; 35.9% under 18 years old, 10% age 55 or older (of this group 55% are female). (SC)

EMPLOYMENT

The City has no data on identifiable population groups experiencing significant unemployment or underemployment.

According to the State Employment Development Department, the City's unemployment rate has been about seven percent over the past two years (1977-78). This compares to an 8% unemployment rate for the County as a whole during the same time period. (EDD)

As reported in the 1977 CFF Needs Assessment, 40 % of the survey respondents indicated that employment services (job service, vocational training) were very important. (SNA)

In the 1979 City Attitude Survey, 37 % of the respondents indicated that the Conejo Valley has adequate employment opportunities for its residents; 43% felt that it does not have adequate opportunities. (CVAS)

Private employment agencies interviewed during the CFF Needs Assessment indicated that their placement percentage in Thousand Oaks was lower than the state average and that they had more applicants than placements. (SNA)

The largest single employer within the City is the Conejo Valley Unified School District with 1363 employees. The next is Northrop with 965 and Burroughs with 850 employees.

According to the 1975 Census, the largest occupational category of the City's employed households is that of "Professional" or "Technical" comprising 32% of the working respondents. The next highest category is that of managerial or administrative positions, at 15%. (SC)

Approximately 53% of the City's principal wage earners currently commute into Los Angeles County to work. Of the remaining 47% employed within Ventura County, 77% are employed within the Thousand Oaks area (23% are employed elsewhere within the County). (CVAS)

The 1979 Attitude Survey shows 49.1% of second adults in the household working 20 hours or more per week (31.4% are full time employees). (CVAS)

In general, Thousand Oaks is an exporter of high-income wage earners and an importer of low and moderate income wage earners. (CVAS)

The Manpower Agency funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, provides training and employment services for youth, such as high school dropouts. Currently less than 10% of the Manpower clients originate in the Conejo Valley and thus, the Agency may be less sympathetic to the needs of Thousand Oaks. (SNA)

The 1977 CFF Needs Assessment indicates that the employment base within the Conejo Valley is satisfactory and becoming stronger. The proportions in manufacturing, government, trade and other categories are close to proportions in Los Angeles County and the State as a whole indicating a relatively well balanced economy. The proportion of service jobs is lower, but gradually on the rise. (SNA)

Unlike many new suburban communities, the Thousand Oaks area has a good supply of manufacturing jobs. (SNA)

New firms are continuing to locate in the area and the new Prudential Insurance Company regional office, for example, will add approximately 1,300 new jobs to this employment base, a large percentage of which will be entry level positions. Lexitron, also moving into the area, will employ approximately the same number of people. (TOPD)

FINANCIAL STATUS

As a general indicator of economic activity in the community, taxable retail sales

in 1977 were \$240 million, a 25% increase over the previous year. Preliminary estimates are that the 1978 increase will also reflect at least a 25% increase over 1977. (TOPD)

The CFF Needs Assessment found that the commercial bankers view the Thousand Oaks area as a valuable one for business. Personal loans constitute the majority of the local banks and, of these loans, over 90 percent are made to residents of the area. (SNA)

Savings and loan institutions view the area as prime territory. One of the measures used for evaluation is the number of dollars in passbook accounts and, more specifically the ratio of dollars to number of accounts. The ratio in Thousand Oaks is much higher than the California average. (SNA)

ISSUES AND NEEDS IDENTIFIED

There is no single source from which to collect community statistical data relating to economics, employment needs and opportunities, industrial production, home values, and commercial transactions. (SNA)

There is currently a need for the development of a monitoring system of economic indicators, including employment, income, industrial and commercial activity and housing values. (SNA)

There is a need for up-to-date demographic information relative to senior citizens.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY GOAL

PROVISION OF INCREASED LOCAL EMPLOYMENT
AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL SEGMENTS
OF THE POPULATION

POLICIES: The City shall.....

In cooperation with the business community, strive to develop a system for collecting and maintaining a data base of community economic indicators, readily available to the general public.

In cooperation with other agencies and organizations, assist residents in gaining access to eligibility information for individuals entitled to income services.

In cooperation with other agencies and organizations, assist those who are unemployed to find jobs, particularly young adults and senior citizens who may have difficulty finding employment.

In cooperation with the business community, strive to encourage the location of a wide variety of business and employment opportunities in the community.

When the 1980 U.S. Census data becomes available, develop a comprehensive breakdown of the population characteristics of senior citizens.

HOUSING

HOUSING

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

Forty eight percent of the local citizens surveyed favor a small amount of low income housing within the Conejo Valley, although this percentage drops to 35 percent favoring it within each new subdivision and 30 percent favoring it within the respondents' neighborhood. (CVAS)

Twenty eight percent of the respondents indicated that low cost housing is very important in planning residential neighborhoods; 41 percent indicated that it is somewhat important; 27 percent felt it was not important. (CVAS)

There are presently 30,000 housing units in the Conejo Valley, 72 percent of which are single family detached, 5 percent single family attached (townhouses) and 22 percent multiple. (TOPD)

Home values of the largest percentage of the respondents (30.8%) fall within the 80,000 - 100,000 range. (CVAS)

For renters, the highest proportion (28%) indicated their monthly rent to be in the \$300-\$400 range. (CVAS)

There are 93 units suitable for rehabilitation* and 107 units which are considered substandard or deteriorated.** (SCAG)

There is an increasingly dramatic need for affordable housing and increased opportunity for rentals, especially for families. (SNA)

The City continues to experience rapid growth in housing units (6.5 percent in 1978) and accordingly the housing stock is largely composed of relatively new units of good standard. (TOPD)

The continued growth in housing units has been accompanied by an increase in housing costs. In 1975, the average cost of a single family home was \$46,679 which increased to \$81,966 in 1977. (SC, CVAS, TOPD)

ISSUES AND NEEDS IDENTIFIED

Issue Housing costs in the Conejo Valley are higher than in any other part of Ventura County.

* Substandard Housing: Housing that does not provide safe and adequate shelter.

** Suitable for Rehabilitation: Housing that has one or more defects of an intermediate nature that must be corrected.

Need There is a need for the City to update the Housing Element of the General Plan to include provision for low and moderate income housing.

Issue Section 8 (1) housing subsidy programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development make it difficult, through their ceilings, to find eligible rentals in Thousand Oaks. Some apartment managers refuse to accept tenants under this program.

Need The City should elicit the cooperation of apartment owners in accepting tenants who qualify under HUD Section 8.

Issue The private sector cannot fully meet the housing needs of low-income families and senior citizens.

Need The City should take action in the area of housing need consistent (2) with the provisions of Article 34 of the California Constitution.

(1) Section 8 is a Federal rent subsidy program which provides that eligible low income applicants pay no more than 25% of their income for housing.

(2) Article 34 of the California Constitution provides that no public low cost housing may be constructed in a community without prior voter approval.

HOUSING GOAL

PROVIDE, IN A BALANCED MANNER THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY, A CHOICE OF ADEQUATE HOUSING IN A VARIETY OF LOCATIONS AND TYPES FOR ALL RESIDENTS REGARDLESS OF AGE OR INCOME

OBJECTIVE:

To insure that basic housing needs within the community are met.

POLICIES: The City shall.....

Revise the Housing Element of the General Plan and in so doing, include provisions for low and moderate income housing, to include definitions of those qualifying for such housing.

Be receptive to, and encourage developers to provide, innovative approaches to affordable housing. (Affordable housing is that which can be afforded by households with annual incomes below 120% of the median income.)

In cooperation with the Ventura County Areawide Housing Authority, publicize availability of subsidy programs both to housing developers and to potential tenants in an effort to make them available to eligible Thousand Oaks households.

Pursue with developers a below-market interest rate mortgage program through State SB 99 housing bonds.

Review and evaluate various available state and federal housing rehabilitation programs as to their appropriateness to the City of Thousand Oaks.

HEALTH/
MEDICAL

SOCIAL ELEMENT

HEALTH/MEDICAL

Statement of Findings

The Conejo Valley has, in relation to its population, a relatively high number of skilled medical personnel (physicians), from general practice to specialty services. (SNA)

Women of child bearing ages and the elderly use the health system more than other groups of the population. The increase in both of these groups, expected to continue in the future, will impact on the health system. (HSA)

Little is known about the availability of health education programs in the City, the need for them, their effectiveness, and their accessibility. (SNA) (HSA)

A very small percentage of total health care expenditures are devoted to preventative health care resulting in a low level of awareness and use of such services. (HSA)

Increased volunteer effort by physicians in the Community Services Clinic may be needed. (SNA)

General acute care services represent the largest individual segment of the health

care system and incur the largest portion of the health care dollar. (HSA)

There is a need for trained persons especially nurse's aides, in local health care facilities. There is also a transportation need for such persons. (SNA)

There exists a relatively large number of unneeded general acute care beds in most areas of the county including Thousand Oaks. (The exception in Thousand Oaks is the shortage of intensive care units (ICU) and critical care unit (CCU) beds.) (HSA)

A significant number of people in the community have Medi-Cal eligibility. Few local physicians will accept Medi-Cal patients, and essentially none will accept Medi-Cal prenatal cases. (SNA)

There is a local need for low-cost medical services for senior citizens. (SNA)

The demand for long-term care services is expected to increase as the proportion of the population 65 years of age and over increases. (SNA) (HSA)

Inappropriate placements of long-term care patients in skilled nursing facilities is occurring due to the lack of alternative, more appropriate facilities. (HSA)

The need for more skilled nursing beds in the Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Simi Valley

area has been a major concern in Ventura County. (HSA)

The addition of non-institutionalized residential care and ambulatory care (day care) facilities/services in the City would lessen the demand for and lower the cost of institutionalized residential care facilities. (SNA) (HSA)

Neonatal intensive care units (NICU) beds and trained personnel for the intensive care of newborn infants may not be sufficient and/or geographically accessible to Thousand Oaks residents. (SNA) (HSA)

There are no intensive care burn centers in Ventura or Santa Barbara County. However, the Thousand Oaks populace is within one to two hours ground travel time to the Sherman Oaks Burn Center (helicopter service, when available, would reduce the time of transport) and the LAC-USC Medical Center. (HSA) (SNA)

There is an undersupply of chronic dialysis services in Ventura County. There are presently 12 chronic dialysis stations with an estimated demand for 25 stations in 1979.

Cardiovascular surgery services appear to be in over supply in Santa Barbara/Ventura/Los Angeles Counties.

"Minimum volume" standards, designed to reflect a volume of service considered necessary to achieve operating efficiencies, are not being met

by many units in the planning area. (HSA)

At present there is not an ability to precisely identify local service needs.
(HSA)

Ambulatory surgery (outpatient surgery) is receiving increased professional and lay attention and will very likely have a significant impact on the supply and of inpatient services and on the costs and revenues from all surgical services. (HSA)

Future HSA actions are oriented toward encouraging the provision of ambulatory surgery services through existing surgical capacity, as opposed to adding new surgical clinics.

The use of existing Computed Tomography Head and Body Scanners (CT Scanners) is far below maximum capacity. This excess capacity can be translated into increased costs to the consumer for health care services. (HSA)

Expansion of Cancer Radiation Therapy Services through the addition of 2 megavoltage (MEV) units in the County appears to be unjustified in view of current utilization patterns. (HSA)

Current Emergency Department coverage appears to be adequate in terms of accessibility. (HSA)

Insufficient community resources exist for the support of mental hospital patients once they are discharged. (SNA) (HSA)

Accessibility to acute psychiatric services for private clients is a problem in Ventura County since the only facility offering such services is the County hospital in Ventura. A facility in Calabasas (L.A. County) may mitigate this to some extent for Thousand Oaks residents. (HSA)

Some retarded or mentally ill persons need day care. They are not sufficiently severe cases to be institutionalized, and their families love them and want to keep them. Working families may not safely leave such persons at home alone.

Resource requirements for Medical Rehabilitation services for the physically handicapped have not been defined; populations in need have not been adequately assessed; standards of care have not been adequately agreed upon and the inconsistencies in reimbursement have not been resolved. (SNA) (HSA)

The abuse of drugs in the community, especially among the youth, is on the rise and is reaching a lower age group. (SNA)

Adult alcoholism is a clear problem in the community in both the youth and adult populations. Evidence indicates that Thousand Oaks may have a greater incidence than neighboring communities in this affliction. (SNA)

HEALTH CARE GOAL

PROVISION OF A FULL RANGE OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES SO THAT EVERY THOUSAND OAKS CITIZEN SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO THE MEANS TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN GOOD HEALTH: WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE YOUNG, THE ELDERLY AND THE POOR.

OBJECTIVE: Health Care Services

To coordinate health care services in order to eliminate fragmentation and provide for continuity of care.

POLICIES: The City shall.....

Consider public transportation as a factor in planning decisions involving location of new health care facilities.

Encourage and facilitate the rational location of new and/or improved health related facilities trained staff, and special equipment in accordance with the overall planning process of the Ventura/Santa Barbara Health Systems Agency.

Encourage the provision of additional neonatal intensive care units for the intensive care of newborn infants in the community.

Cooperate with local health services providers whenever possible, in order to make the best use of available expertise and facilities for the benefit of the community.

Encourage and facilitate the increased volunteer involvement of local physicians in the Conejo Community Services Clinic.

Cooperate with local health services providers in identifying and correcting problems associated with acceptance of Medi-Cal patients for treatment. This will include the evaluation and planning for the provisions of low-cost medical services for senior citizens.

OBJECTIVE: Long Term Care

To prevent unnecessary institutionalized long term care of the elderly and the retarded/mentally ill through development of adequate intermediate care and in-home services.

POLICIES: The City shall.....

Encourage and facilitate the establishment of Board and Care Homes in the community.

Continue to support the development of ambulatory care (day care) services

to provide temporary relief for relatives or others responsible for care of the chronically ill, retarded, or infirm elderly.

Encourage and support the recruitment, training and placement of home-makers for those who need such assistance to remain at home.

Support, where the demand warrants, the provision of additional skilled nursing facilities (nursing homes) for those who cannot be served by day care and intermediate care facilities.

Encourage and support the provision of long term residential care facilities for the severely developmentally disabled adult.

Utilize the Council on Aging and the seniors' community for advice on health care issues affecting senior citizens.

OBJECTIVE: Preventative Health Care and Health Education

To increase the recognition of the importance of preventative health care and maintenance of good health as an alternative to the high cost of direct health care services.

POLICIES: The City shall.....

Support the dissemination of information on the availability of community health services.

Encourage a comprehensive formal health education program as a part of the Conejo Unified School District curriculum.

Support and encourage the use of nutrition and exercise programs for preventative care, especially for senior citizens.

Support and facilitate the coordination of present and future health education programs and preventative health activities.

Continue to support and facilitate the County Public Health Services program of examination and immunization of young children - to include support for a local (Thousand Oaks) Health Center.

Encourage and publicize the provision of family planning services which are available to, and affordable by all residents.

OBJECTIVE: Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

To significantly reduce the incidence of alcoholism and other drug abuse in the community.

POLICIES: The City shall.....

Work toward increasing public awareness of the fact that alcoholism and drug abuse are major health problems in Thousand Oaks.

Cooperate with the Ventura County Health Services Agency, Alcohol Education and Prevention sections, and the Drug Education and Prevention section in the dissemination of information in the community.

Encourage and facilitate the continued development of a community drug abuse prevention network in an effort to coordinate and maximize the efforts of the various agencies providing drug abuse prevention/treatment services.

Encourage and facilitate the establishment of an alcohol abuse prevention network in the community.

Cooperate with the drug/alcohol networks to encourage the development by the Conejo Valley Unified School District of a comprehensive K-12 curriculum to address these health problems.

OBJECTIVE: Medical Specialty Services

To develop and maintain needed medical specialty services within reasonable

access to the citizens of Thousand Oaks.

POLICIES: The City shall.....

Encourage an analysis by area health planners/providers regarding community accessibility to intensive burn center services.

Encourage and support the provision of additional chronic dialysis services in Ventura County that will be reasonably accessible to the community.

Encourage and support the provision of additional neo-natal intensive care units, general intensive care units and critical care units within the community.

Encourage analysis of the costs/benefits of increased ambulatory (outpatient) surgery services through existing surgical facilities.

Encourage and support the evaluation of the accessibility of acute psychiatric services for the community.

Encourage and support a comprehensive analysis and plan for the provision/coordination of medical rehabilitation services accessible to the physically handicapped.

BASIC
ASSISTANCE

SOCIAL ELEMENT

BASIC ASSISTANCE

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

Many public assistance services are not available locally. (SNA)

There is no local Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) permanent office in Thousand Oaks. It is estimated that over one-third of the Simi Valley DPSS office clients come from Thousand Oaks. (SNA)

The eligibiilty requirements and coordination of benefits of the various public assistance programs are complex and confusing. (SNA)

There is a lack of public awareness of the availability of public assistance services in the community. (SNA)

There is little functional communication among the various agencies set up to provide public assistance services in the community. (SNA)

It has been suggested that there is a lack of interest or awareness in the community for the problems of the disadvantaged. (SNA)

Limited public transportation for the transit dependent compounds the problems caused by the location of social services outside the community. (SNA)

Large public agencies tend to present an impersonal, bureaucratic, and condescending attitude to the citizens who need their services. (SNA)

Collection and distribution services for clothing and furnishings for low income have been identified as a need in the Thousand Oaks area. (VCCHCCD)

Emergency family relief services are very limited in the community (food, shelter, clothing and financial aid on a short term emergency basis.) (S)

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE GOAL

INSURE THAT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE/
WELFARE PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE
AND ACCESSIBLE FOR THE BASIC
RELIEF OF THOSE IN NEED OF SUCH
SERVICES IN THOUSAND OAKS

OBJECTIVES:

To locate a permanent public social services office in Thousand Oaks.

To provide information to local residents on public and private assistance available and to provide guidance on the pursuit of such assistance.

To provide for maximum coordination between agencies providing basic assistance services.

To heighten awareness of the need for basic assistance services not presently being provided.

To make such services available to those dependent upon public transit.

To foster courtesy, respect and human dignity in the public dealings of basic assistance agencies.

POLICIES: The City shall

Increase cooperation and communication with Ventura County Department of Public Social Services in identifying the need for and facilitating the location of an office in the community.

Maintain an active directory of all available basic assistance services along with a person to answer enquiries and provide directions.

Facilitate regular communication opportunities for the basic assistance service providers.

Encourage and support the continued identification and monitoring of the need for and provision of basic assistance services.

Establish public transit routes to facilitate the use of needed public services.

Take the lead in fostering courtesy, respect and human dignity in its public dealings.

Continue to support those present public and private efforts working toward meeting the basic material needs of the community.

EDUCATION &
TRAINING

SOCIAL ELEMENT

Education and Training

Statement of Findings

There is available to residents of Thousand Oaks a variety of educational and training activities both of a formal and informal nature.

There is a need, especially for high school students and the graduating youth of our community, for better services in career training and placement. (SNA)

There is evidence that availability of more vocational training is needed in the community. (SNA)

There is evidence that communication between the City and the School District should be improved. (SNA)

The educational goals of the Conejo Valley Unified School District are vague and need refinement. (SNA)

Present community library facilities have become inadequate. (SNA)

The present library facilities while offering excellent programs are housed in an inadequate structure with too few books and related resources.

Conejo Valley has an impressive number of preschools, most of them private, independent institutions. There is probably sufficient supply for current needs.

(SNA)

Some preschool children are not enrolled because of cost or lack of transportation.

(SNA)

There is a variety and ample supply of adult school programs offered through the local school district, area colleges and a private career college. (SNA)

There is a variety of college and university opportunities within easy reach of the community. (SNA)

The Conejo Recreation and Park District offers a continuing series of classes and events in a wide variety of non-academic skills and interests. (SNA)

Cultural and performing arts education opportunities are available in the community both from private schools (e.g. schools of dance) and through the voluntary activities of the Conejo Arts Council. (SNA)

There is a critical need for City/School District dialogue and cooperation regarding the pace and location of future residential growth.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING GOAL

PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT
AND MAINTENANCE OF QUALITY SERVICES AND
PROGRAMS WHICH MEET THE EDUCATIONAL,
VOCATIONAL AND TRAINING NEEDS
OF COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

OBJECTIVES: Education

To lend support to the CVUSD and other educational institutions in their efforts to provide educational services to the community.

POLICIES: The City Shall

Insure continuing presentation of a variety of high quality education classes to Thousand Oaks residents by maximizing coordination and cooperation among all extended education services.

Promote the best, most efficient use of available facilities for programs, including use of school facilities.

Encourage broad community involvement in the establishment, operation and evaluation of programs.

Encourage and promote specialized educational programs to meet adult needs (e.g. young mothers, seniors, handicapped, etc.).

Encourage and promote the cooperation of school and industry representative in the development and enhancement of vocational training.

Promote a more regularized communication process between the City and the School District at both the policy and staff levels.

Encourage and promote a clear delineation of community educational goals by all education providers.

Take the lead in the provision of a quality library facility of sufficient capacity to serve the ultimate population in the community.

Evaluate the availability and accessibility of pre-school facilities for those of low/moderate incomes.

Evaluate the growing need for before and after-school and vacation child care for the increasing number of two-working parent and single parent families.

Take the lead in fostering a continuing dialogue with the school district on growth related issues.

Take the position that the quality of schools and education in the community is directly related to the quality of life.

PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION

SOCIAL ELEMENT

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Statement of Findings

The City of Thousand Oaks is a low density, suburban community with a relatively large physical area, containing an irregularly shaped street pattern and restricted access subdivisions. (TOPD)

The growth patterns over the history of the City has depended on the private automobile, for both local and intercommunity transportation. (TOPD)

The employee trip requirement has a high degree of orientation to the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles. (CVAS)

The City has the traditional transit dependent groups - senior citizens, youth, single car families, and handicapped. (TOPD)

Public transportation is a high cost service and to be effective requires a sizable commitment of funds at the expense of other public services. (s)

Energy cost and energy supply are becoming more critical to the community's transportation needs. (s)

64.6% of the work force travel outside the Conejo Valley on a daily basis. Of these nearly 60% travel 40 or more miles each day to and from work. (CVAS)

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GOAL

TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE IMPROVEMENT
OF THE OVERALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM INCLUDING COMMUTERS, YOUTH, & SENIOR
CITIZENS SERVING THEIR BUSINESS, RECREATIONAL,
MEDICAL, SOCIAL, AND EDUCATIONAL TRANSIT NEEDS

OBJECTIVE:

Support the development of a wider range of transportation options for the citizens of Thousand Oaks.

POLICIES: The City Shall

As appropriate, expand the local bus system and the intercity bus system and re-evaluate the feasibility of dial-a-ride, taxi subsidy and other local transit options on an ongoing basis.

Encourage and support specialized transit activities to serve the commuter - i.e. van pools, car pools, pool parking areas, and subscription bus services.

Encourage and support efforts designed to coordinate and integrate the para-transit operations of public and private health and social services with regular transit operations.

Encourage public and private service providers to consider the transportation

needs of their clients when locating new facilities.

Support the creation of a Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee which would be charged with advising the City Council on all aspects of local transit, bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian transportation needs.

Cooperate with the Southern California Rapid Transit District in the provision and coordination of a commuter bus line from the Conejo Valley through the San Fernando Valley to Los Angeles.

LIFE
ENRICHMENT

SOCIAL ELEMENT

LIFE ENRICHMENT

Statement of Findings

Available to the residents of Thousand Oaks is a variety of religious, recreational, social and cultural programs and activities accessible through a variety of sources. (SNA)

The Conejo Recreation and Park District (CRPD) is involved in a wide variety of people programs both as a program initiator (over 12,000 annual units of activity) and as a sponsor-host (over 2,000 activities) to the 90,000+ residents within the 60 square miles of the District. (CRPD)

The CR&PD operates programs out of a number of geographically dispersed physical facilities: Four community centers (Borchard, Conejo, Old Meadows and Thousand Oaks) and the City-owned Goebel Senior Center are extensively used by the community for a variety of activities. Outdoor areas include community parks, playfields, neighborhood parks and natural open space areas. Swimming pools at two area high schools were constructed by CRPD and are operated under a joint use agreement. (CRPD)

The CRPD Master Plan (Rev. 1977) provides a comprehensive analysis and

guide to the acquisition and development of park and recreation areas and facilities for future recreational needs of the Conejo Valley community. (CRPD)

There is no community social and cultural center currently in existence. The continuing lack of such a facility forces appropriate events out of the community. (SNA)

There is an Arts Council and a Historical Society of the Conejo Valley that offer programs including films, classes, exhibits, lectures, and performing arts opportunities for community residents. (AC)

There is a lack of public meeting facilities for service/social organizations in the community. (SNA)

Community churches are many and for the most part well attended. The clergy and in some cases congregations play an active role in counselling and formally addressing the human needs of their parishioners. (SNA)

It has been suggested that the community needs more activities that encourage and enable the elderly and the youth to work together toward diminishing the loneliness and alienation experienced by each group. (SNA)

The special life enrichment needs of single parents and their children should receive more coordinated attention. (SNA)

The number of people involved in community mobilizing through volunteer participation is relatively small, though the number of citizens affected may be large. (SNA)

Thousand Oaks' numerous special interest groups address the gamut of personal interests, social services and activities. A significant number of these are service clubs providing a solid base of volunteer resources for community service. (SNA)

There is a need for increased attention to providing opportunities for community volunteers to become involved in life enrichment activities. (SNA)

LIFE ENRICHMENT GOAL

MAINTENANCE OF QUALITY SERVICES
AND PROGRAMS WHICH MEET THE
RELIGIOUS, RECREATIONAL, SOCIAL
CULTURAL AND OTHER LIFE ENRICHING
NEEDS OF COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

Objective: Recreation

To provide meaningful and diversified programs which meet the recreational needs and interests of the community.

Policies: The City shall

Continue to cooperate with and support the CR & PD in their provision of recreational and leisure time activities.

Coordinate the growth related issues affecting future parks and recreation facilities with the CR & PD.

Encourage the use of recreation programs and facilities by individuals, families and groups.

Solicit the assistance and advice of the CR & PD regarding the full utilization of City owned community facilities (e.g. Fitzgerald House, Goebel Center, Los Robles Pool, Cameron Center, Arts Council Building).

Encourage the CR & PD to address the special social/recreational needs of the single parent and their children.

Encourage the CR & PD to expand their social/recreational programs for the developmentally disabled adult as well as children.

Work with and support the CR & PD in mobilizing community volunteers for participation in and support of the wide range of social/recreational activities.

Continue to provide direct support to the CR & PD through the allocation of Construction Tax revenues and Quimby Act fees.

Encourage the CR & PD to consider programs that provide for a mixture of age groups, i.e. the young with the old.

Continue to cooperate with Ventura County and the CR & PD in seeking mutual solutions to providing recreational facilities that serve a greater need than the immediate area of the community.

Objective: Cultural Needs

To provide cultural center facilities appropriate to the needs of the community that will provide for quality performing and creative arts activities.

Policies: The City shall.....

Take steps to bring about a master cultural plan and a specific action plan to identify current cultural activities and needs. The plan will address the type and potential location of facilities as well as community participation in the planning process.

Continue to encourage and support the activities of organizations with a wide range of cultural interests including the Arts Council, the Conejo Valley Art Museum and institutions of higher learning.

Support the development of cultural programming and education by the various public agencies and institutions serving the community.

Objective: Service/Social Meeting Facilities

To provide adequate facilities for social and service related community groups.

Policies: The City shall.....

Cooperate with community groups in the use of City facilities.

Provide liaison service to groups and organizations in identifying potential

shared facilities and encourage coordinated solutions to space needs.

Address some of the need for added meeting space in the design of the new library facility.

Objective: Moral and Spiritual Guidance

To provide the opportunity for a variety of choices and exposure to agencies and institutions offering moral and spiritual guidance.

Policies: The City shall.....

Encourage the active participation of churches and other agencies in the identification of and addressing the social needs of the community.

Solicit views of religious leaders in the development of program priorities.

Encourage special attention by churches and other agencies to the needs of the single parent and the developmentally disabled.

INFORMATION &
REFERRAL

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

One of the inherent problems associated with human services is the lack of awareness on the part of the public regarding the availability of existing services. In the 1977 CFF Social Needs Assessment Survey, people were asked if they were aware of various services available to the community. Of those who responded, over 50 percent, for example, were unaware of available addiction services, single parent services, housing or handicapped services. Approximately 47 percent were also unaware of available employment services. A large proportion of the respondents were, generally, not aware of many existing services available to the community. (SNA)

There is currently a need within the City for a centrally located information and referral service. (SNA)

There is a need for functional communication and coordination among the various agencies which provide services to the Thousand Oaks area. (SNA)

An improved awareness on the part of the public regarding available services will contribute to their assuming a greater role in addressing their own social needs. (SNA)

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL GOAL

TO PROVIDE THE CITIZENS OF THOUSAND OAKS
WITH ACCURATE AND CURRENT INFORMATION
ON ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SERVICES AND
PROGRAMS DIRECTED TOWARD MEETING
HUMAN AND CULTURAL NEEDS

POLICIES: The City shall.....

Promote inter-agency cooperation in order to enhance the coordination of services and provide for wide dissemination of information.

Act as a clearinghouse and focus for information exchange relevant to human service planning activities throughout the community.

In cooperation with other agencies and organizations, establish procedures for the better coordination of human services delivery.

In cooperation with other agencies and organizations, develop means for improving the accessibility of human services to its citizens.

Continue to utilize the various excellent resource directories such as those provided by the Ventura County Public Social Service Agency, Interface Community and St. Patrick's Episcopal Church as well as the City of Thousand Oaks/Conejo Future Foundation Directory of public and private social services.

Continue to utilize the excellent toll free telephone information and referral service ("Your Information Unlimited" - 529-2060) provided by Ventura County Public Social Services Agency.

