

Our Parker community will provide sustainable and reliable public services to its residents, businesses and visitors in an efficient and cost-effective manner.



# Public Services and Facilities



## INTRODUCTION

Public services and facilities represent the public’s investment in the design, development and delivery of services and programs to the community. These services and facilities are also an investment in our future ability to serve our growing population. These complex systems are necessary to maintain and support the high quality of life that our residents expect. Public services can provide social, physical and economic health of our community as well as providing safety, comfort and general well being for the public. These facilities are a Town’s most visible functions and are where government operations ‘touch’ most people.

Parker’s citizens receive their services from a number of governmental agencies, not just the Town. Parker and the Special Districts that supply services to our Town have always sought to provide services and public facilities that meet and exceed the needs and expectations of our citizens, businesses and visitors. This quest has enjoyed repeated success over the past years, a testimony to the ongoing interest and participation of the public in assuring the quality, livability and attractiveness of our community.



## Public Services and Facilities

**Police Protection** – Town of Parker

**Fire Protection** – South Metro Fire Rescue Authority

**Water and Sanitation\***

- Parker Water and Sanitation District
- Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District
- Stonegate Village Metropolitan District

**Circulation, Traffic Control and Street Lighting**

- Town of Parker
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- E-470 Authority

**Municipal Court** – Town of Parker

**Surface Drainage and Flood Control**

- Town of Parker
- Urban Drainage and Flood Control District

**Schools** – Douglas County School District RE-1

**Parks and Recreation** – Town of Parker

**Libraries** – Douglas County Library District

**Human and Social Services** – Douglas County

**Power, Utilities and Communications Systems** –  
Private utility companies

*\* Several other districts provide water and sanitation services through purchase agreements with the water and sanitation districts listed above.*

Parker’s physical size, development pattern and future configuration, based on our Urban Growth Area, are conducive to continued high quality service. Even with the advantage of a well planned community, the cost effectiveness of providing services to lower density development is more expensive and requires maximum participation by developers to avoid negative net balances in the Town’s operational and capital expenditure accounts.

Besides the services mentioned to the left, many other services to Parker residents are provided by special districts. Residents of these districts pay additional property taxes to these districts and in some cases pay fees for services as well. The Town and all districts work closely together to assure that the provision of services to our residents is coordinated and efficient.



## TOWN FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The Town provides a number of services to our residents including road construction and maintenance, trail construction and maintenance, parks and recreation amenities, building permit review, development review, code enforcement, animal control, law enforcement and other governmental services. Many of these services are discussed in other chapters in this Plan.



The Town has a variety of public buildings that serve our constituents. The more visible of these facilities are Town Hall, the Police Department, the Parker Arts, Culture and Events (PACE) Center, the Recreation Center, the Fieldhouse, and our parks. As the Town grows and ages, our need for space and improvements to these facilities will continue to grow. The Town will, on occasion, need to make capital investments to make improvements to existing structures or build new structures to continue to adequately serve our growing population.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Town of Parker provides police service and protection to residents, businesses and to visitors. The Police Department currently has 58 commissioned officers and 36 other personnel. The Town of Parker is a relatively safe community with a low crime rate compared to the Denver Metropolitan area. Proactive policing is key to maintaining our community as a safe place to live. The mission of the Police Department is to provide community service that is specifically designed to maximize public safety, customer satisfaction and the quality of life for citizens who live and work and visit Parker. Members of the department accomplish their mission through problem-solving partnerships with community members and groups.



## We listened...

### **Water is a precious resource**

Ensuring a permanent, renewable and reliable water supply for our residents and businesses was a primary concern expressed by our citizens in the public participation process. Water and Sanitation services in the Town are provided by separate Special Districts that are not under the control of the Town. These Districts are continually looking for additional sustainable water resources, such as Reuter-Hess Reservoir. Knowing that water is an important issue for the sustainability of the future of our community, coordinating with Districts that provide water to our residents is of the utmost importance.

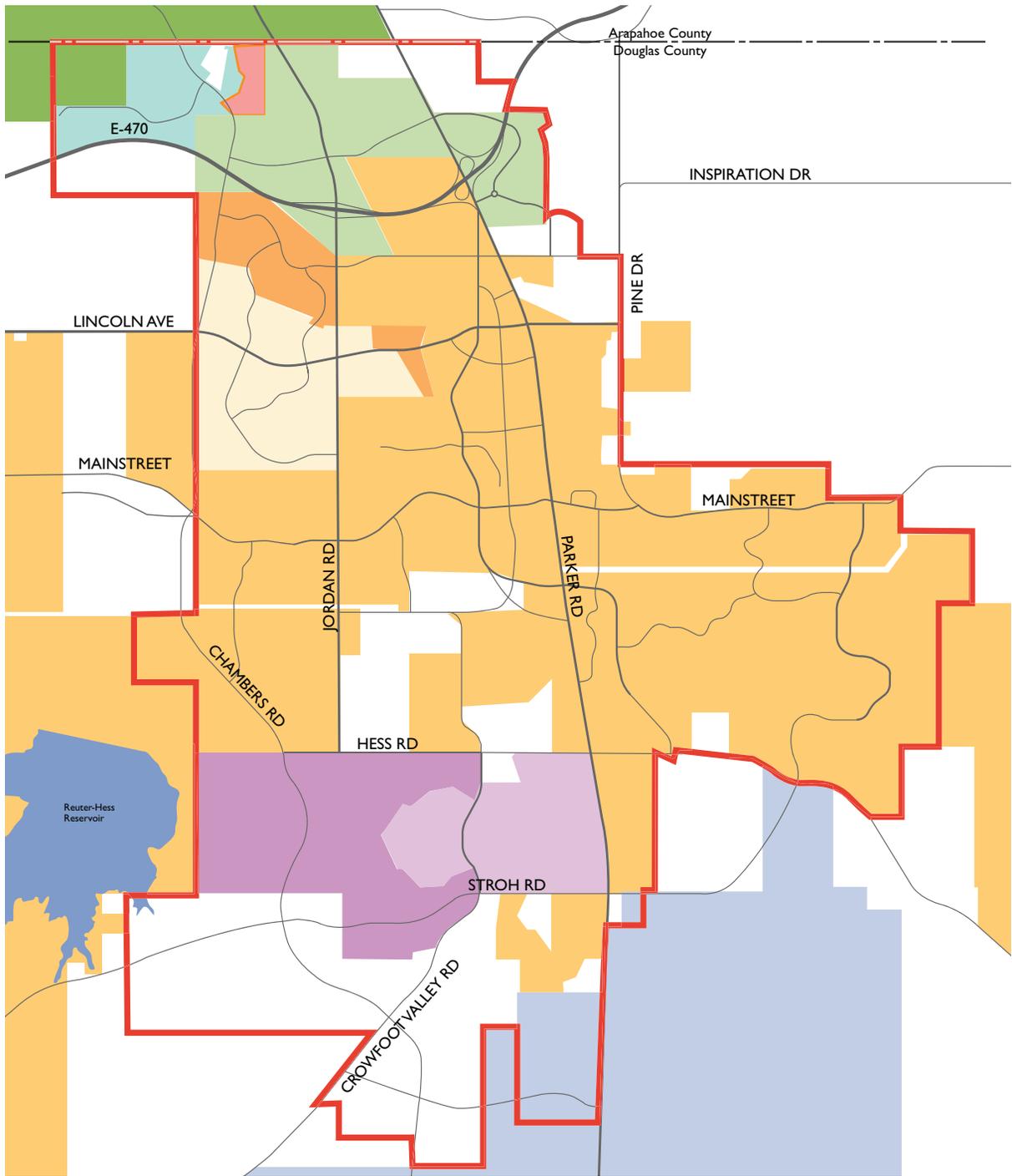
### **WATER AND SANITATION**

Water and wastewater in the Town's Urban Growth Area is currently provided by five (5) different Special Districts (*see Figure 11A*):

- Parker Water and Sanitation District: provides service for the District residents and the residents of the following districts:
  - Cherry Creek South Metropolitan District #1
  - Cherry Creek South Metropolitan District # 2
- Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District
- Stonegate Village Metropolitan District: provides service for the District residents and the residents of the following districts:
  - Compark Business Campus District
  - E-470 Potomac Metropolitan District
  - Lincoln Park Metropolitan District
- Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority
- Pinery Water and Wastewater

All of our districts obtain water from underground aquifers. The Parker area is served by four aquifers: the Dawson, Denver, Arapahoe and Laramie-Fox Hills.





**Figure 11A: Water and Sanitation Districts**

Source: Town of Parker

**LEGEND**

- Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority
- Cherry Creek South Metro 1 (PWSD Agreement)
- Cherry Creek South Metro 2 (PWSD Agreement)
- Compark Business Campus (Stonegate Village Metro Agreement)
- Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District
- Pinery Water and Sanitation District
- E-470 Potomac Metro (Stonegate Village Metro Agreement)
- Lincoln Park Metro (Stonegate Village Metro Agreement)
- Parker Water and Sanitation District
- Stonegate Village Metro

Parker Water and Sanitation has separate agreements with certain developments in which they provide water and sanitation services even though the developments are not in the district.



0 0.25 0.5 1 MILE

Disclaimer: The property boundaries, titles, legends, scale, reference to individual parcels and any and all other data shown or depicted on this map is for visual representation only and may not be accurate. Further studies and surveys, on a site specific basis are required to verify this data.

### **Parker Water and Sanitation District**

The largest of these districts is Parker Water and Sanitation and they serve the majority of Town residents. The District also serves many areas outside of the Town. The District has planned for and has the capacity to provide water services to the District's expected population growth through the 'ultimate' build out as described in their 2005 Water and Sewer Master Plan.

The District recently completed the Reuter-Hess Reservoir. The new reservoir will help meet increasing demand and serve as a water management tool to extend the life of the aquifers by storing surplus groundwater and allowing the District to re-inject water into aquifers during non-peak demand. Parker Water continues to develop other programs and projects to reduce our impact on the aquifers including actively pursuing additional renewable water rights, metering, xeriscape education and reuse of wastewater for irrigation.

The District has planned for and has the capacity to provide wastewater services to the future expected growth in our community. The current system is developed to accommodate peak flows at 'ultimate' buildout.

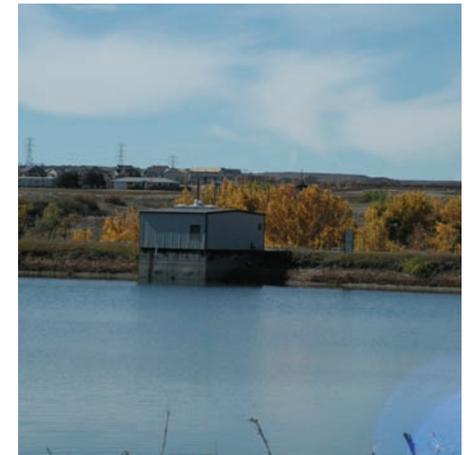
### **Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District**

Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District primarily serves the northern tier of Parker; generally the area is bound on the south by E-470, on the north by the Douglas County line and on the west by Chambers Road. The entire District is located within the Town of Parker Urban Growth Area and some portions of the District are currently outside of the Town boundary.

The District is primarily built out with the exception of portions of the District on the east side of Parker Road. The District has adequate water rights to supply its current residents and is actively pursuing additional water rights to assure a sustainable water source. The District will not consider expansion unless the property owner requesting inclusion can provide the District with adequate water rights to supply the additional demand.

### **Stonegate Village Metropolitan District**

The Stonegate Village Metropolitan District is generally bound by Chaparral High School on the north, Jordon Road on the east, Chambers Road on the west and north of Mainstreet on the south side. The entire District is located within the Town's Urban Growth Area. Only a small portion of the District near the corner of Jordan Road and Lincoln Road is located inside the current Town boundaries. Stonegate Village Metropolitan District provides water and wastewater service for District residents, Lincoln Park Metropolitan District, Compark Business Campus District and E-470 Potomac Metropolitan District.



### **Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority**

The Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority primarily serves properties located in Arapahoe County. However the Authority does serve a small area within the northwest corner of the Town's Urban Growth Area called Highfield Business Park. This District is currently entirely outside of the Town boundary.

### **Pinery Water and Wastewater District**

The Pinery Water and Wastewater District serves residents and businesses located in the Pinery Subdivision. The portion of the Pinery Water and Wastewater that is located in the Town's Urban Growth Area is located on the west side of Parker Road south of the Town. This District is currently entirely outside of the Town boundary.



## SCHOOLS

Public education K-12 in the Town is provided by Douglas County School District RE-1. The District currently has ten (10) elementary schools, three (3) middle schools, three (3) high schools and three (3) charter schools that serve the Town of Parker. The District updates their Master Capital Plan annually to respond to student growth and infrastructure needs. Currently, the School District does not have enough sites reserved in the Town to serve the expected future student population and will continue to work with the Town through the development process to ensure that adequate school sites are provided.

When locating schools, the Town considers the bussing requirement for all elementary students that live over one mile from the school or where they would need to cross dangerous intersections. Also, bussing is required for all middle school and high school students that live over two miles from the school or where they would need to cross dangerous intersections. Bussing is one of the major expenses of the school district. The school district now charges for bussing of students. Locating schools in neighborhoods where students can walk to school is important to community building, the health of our children and reduces transportation costs for the school district. The impact of new developments on elementary schools usually peaks about 7-10 years after the development begins.



## Parker Area Public Schools

### Elementary

Prairie Crossing Elementary  
Iron Horse Elementary  
Pine Lane Elementary  
Cherokee Trail Elementary  
Frontier Valley Elementary  
Pioneer Elementary  
Gold Rush Elementary  
Pine Grove Elementary  
Legacy Point Elementary  
Mammoth Heights Elementary

### Middle School

Cimmaron Middle School  
Sagewood Middle School  
Sierra Middle School

### High School

Legend High School  
Ponderosa High School  
Chaparral High School

### Charter Schools

Challenge to Excellence  
Parker Core Knowledge  
North Star Academy

In addition to the public system, there are a number of private schools serving our community's families.

## South Metro Fire and Rescue Authority Mission Statement

To partner with our communities to provide the best protection of lives and property while wisely managing our resources.

### FIRE PROTECTION

The Town of Parker is served by the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority, a consolidation of the Parker Fire Protection District and the South Metro Fire Rescue District. The District serves an area of over 176 square miles covering portions of Douglas County and Arapahoe County, including the following jurisdictions, Castle Pines, Cherry Hills Village, Foxfield, Lone Tree, Greenwood Village and Centennial.

The Authority approved a Strategic Plan in 2010 to establish the mission, vision, and philosophical foundation that will guide their organization into the future. Currently there are four (4) fire stations in the Town's Urban Growth Area. Future station sites in the community will also be needed to provide fire protection services for current and future development. Zoning has been set aside for these future sites at three locations:

- Buffaloberry Drive in Villages of Parker
- West of the intersection of Chambers Road and Hess Road
- South of the future intersection of Chambers Road and North Pinery Parkway

These sites, along with sites surrounding the Town, will adequately provide fire protection service for current and future residents in the Town. The construction of these future sites is dependent on the rate of growth of the Town and surrounding areas.

The Town and the Authority work together through the development review process and the Building Permit process assuring that new developments and buildings built within the Town are safe and accessible. This coordination significantly increases the safety of our residents.



## LIBRARY

The Parker Library is a part of the Douglas County Library District and is located in the Parker Crossroads Shopping Center on the northwest corner of Mainstreet and Parker Road. The Parker Library is a source of community pride and lifelong learning. Knowledgeable and friendly staff provides access to intellectual capital, showcase art and culture, and highlight local history through evolving collections and programs. Douglas County Libraries are good stewards of public funds.

The rapid growth in the Parker area has created a significant demand on the existing facility. In order to meet current and future demand the library requested a mill levy increase from the voters in 2007 and 2008. Both requests were not approved by the voters of Douglas County. The Library continues to see increasing demand on the current facility. When a funding source is secured in the future, the District will look for a location to build a larger, regional facility. The Parker downtown area is an attractive location for the Library to locate due to its central location in the community. The Town and the Library Board will work together to plan and secure a downtown location when funding becomes available.



## Douglas County Libraries Mission Statement

The Douglas County Libraries provide resources for learning and leisure to build communities and improve lives in Douglas County.



## PUBLIC HEALTH

The variety of options to live a healthy and active lifestyle as well as the availability of quality health care in the Town has increased significantly. The Parker Adventist Hospital opened its doors in Parker in February 2004. With the opening of this hospital, Town residents now receive quality healthcare close to home. The hospital has also attracted medical office building development to expand the availability of health care services in Town.

The Town has an extensive parks and trails system as well as a variety of recreational options to help our residents maintain a healthy lifestyle. More information on existing and future plans for recreation and non-motorized transportation in the Town can be found in the Town plans: “Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan, From Values to Vision: A Strategic Action Plan for Parker’s Parks and Recreation” and the “Bike Lane Plan.”



## Tri-County Health

Tri-County Health serves more than 1.3 million citizens living in the 3,000 square miles of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, including Parker. Tri County Health is funded by state and federal appropriations, county appropriations, service fees, grants, contracts, in-kind contributions and Medicaid funds. Tri County Health offers a wide variety of programs and services in nursing, disease prevention and control, health promotion, nutrition, environmental health, and emergency preparedness.

Tri County Health has three offices near Parker; Lone Tree, Castle Rock and their administrative offices in the Denver Tech Center. Tri County Health provides comprehensive environmental, health care, nutrition and health education services. Some examples of services include:

### Environmental Health

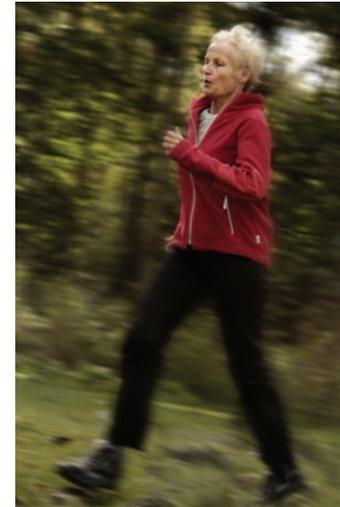
Inspects businesses that handle food for sale to the public; solid and hazardous waste disposal; air and water quality; land use; day care centers; issues septic system permits; controls diseases in animals which are transmittable to humans; consults on workplace safety; investigates injuries or near-injuries that involve the use of consumer products.

## Health Care

Offers services such as: administers the Child Health Plan Plus program; offers immunizations; family planning services; disease control; dental care for children from income-eligible families; education and classes on any health topic.

### Nutrition

Administers the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program which provides information, education, counseling and supplemental food program for income-eligible children through age 5 as well as pregnant and breast-feeding women.



The variety of options to live a healthy and active lifestyle in the Town has increased significantly.

### Douglas County Human and Social Services

Douglas County provides a number of human and social services. Two of the primary services that effect residents of the Town are veteran's services and senior services.

The County's Office of Veteran Affairs staff provides services and assistance to military veterans and their dependents. This ongoing federal program is administered by the County's Human Services Department. Eligibility determination for veterans and social programs is coordinated between the County and the Federal government.

The Office of Veterans Affairs provides access to special programs and services for veterans and their families. As advocates for veterans, the staff provides timely information on services, events and activities affecting veterans. This includes coordination with the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs and the United Veterans Committee (UVC) of Colorado. The Veterans Affairs staff assists all veterans in applying for benefits, employment assistance, medical care, transportation, and coordination to other services.

The Senior Services division is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older adults by providing County-wide leadership, needs assessment, information exchange, networking, and service advocacy. The division serves as an advocate for county citizens, 55 and over. The goals are to provide a social setting, a support network for older people trying to live independently, and assistance in alleviating health problems. The primary programs are Information and Referral Services (Outreach) and the Neighbor Network Program. The Senior Services Advisory Council (a volunteer citizens group) provides community input.



## UTILITIES

Utilities in Parker are provided through franchise agreements with the Town. Each utility company has a separate agreement with Parker. These agreements assure that the Town residents receive high quality utility service, while protecting utility company investments over a set period of time.

Electricity in the Town is provided through Intermountain Rural Electric Association. Natural gas service is provided through Excel Energy. Cable services are provided by Comcast.

The Town requires utility lines to be buried with new development. The primary exceptions are regional high power lines. These lines are not buried due to cost and maintenance issues. As technology progresses it is the hope of the Town that these lines will eventually be able to be buried drastically improving the aesthetics of our community.

## METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS

Many services and public improvements are provided in the Town by Metropolitan Districts. Metropolitan Districts are quasi-municipal governmental entities organized and governed pursuant to provisions of the Colorado Special District Act. Metropolitan Districts can provide ongoing services or may simply function as a financing mechanism for new developments that include regional infrastructure improvements.



## GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

### **I. Provide sustainable and reliable public services to Town residents, businesses and visitors in an efficient and effective manner.**

#### **1.A. Schools**

Coordinate with the Douglas County School District to plan for and secure an adequate number of future school sites and needed facilities that are integrated within neighborhoods to serve our community.

Continue to coordinate with the School District to facilitate joint use of public park sites that are adjacent to schools.

#### **1.B. Library**

Coordinate with the Douglas County Library Board to promote a new regional public library facility that is located in Parker's downtown.

#### **1.C. Fire Protection**

Coordinate with the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority to continue to provide responsive and reliable fire protection for our community.

#### **1.D. Law Enforcement**

Provide coordinated law enforcement resources concurrent with population growth and service levels desired by the community, to ensure the level of safety, security and life quality our community desires.

Continue to work cooperatively with State, County and other jurisdictions in the planning and execution of emergency preparedness.

#### **1.E. Town Facilities**

Plan for and construct an adequate number of Town facilities to meet the needs of our growing community in a cost-effective manner.

#### **1.F. Public Health**

Integrate quality health care and needed facilities for all ages into the community.

Promote a healthy community through site design that encourages active living.

Work collaboratively with Tri-County Health.

### **1.G. Water Resources and Sanitation**

Coordinate with the Parker Water and Sanitation District and other special districts that serve Parker residents and businesses to ensure a sustainable water supply and adequate sanitation systems.

Actively encourage the conservation of water and the reuse of wastewater.

Support Parker Water and Sanitation and other special districts in meeting or surpassing all applicable water quality standards for domestic, commercial and industrial uses.

Develop a recycling program.



### **1.H. Stormwater Management**

Ensure that stormwater systems are properly planned, designed, constructed and maintained to prevent flooding, protect water quality and to preserve the natural creeks and riparian habitats throughout the Town.

Coordinate stormwater management improvements with Douglas County and Urban Drainage and Flood Control District.

#### **1.I. Other Utilities and Communication**

Keep pace with demand and anticipated needs related to utilities and communication technologies.

Minimize the aesthetic and environmental impacts of transmission and distribution systems and facilities.

Support the development and use of alternative energy sources.

#### **1.J. Metropolitan and Special Districts**

Encourage special districts to be fiscally and operationally sustainable.