

New development should be sited and designed to minimize any impairment of such views.

D-3i **Preservation of hedgerows (windrows, or rows of trees).** Preservation of the following windrows, hedgerows, or groves of trees shall be encouraged:

1. The cypress windrows separating Arcata Heights from the Sunset neighborhood.
2. The trees along the north and western edges (Alliance Road) of the Sunset neighborhood.
3. The trees on the small knoll adjacent to State Route 101 south of Spear Avenue.
4. The windrow of trees adjacent to the west side of the State Route 101 between 7th and 14th Streets.
5. Windrows in the Arcata Bottom.
6. The row of trees along the westerly side of State Route 101 at the State Route 299 interchange.
7. The groves of eucalyptus and other trees which line Bayside Road between Union Street and Crescent Way.
8. The elm trees on "J" Street between 14th and 16th Streets.
9. Redwood Grove at 7th and Union, and Bayside Road to be left intact.

D-3j **Streamside riparian areas.** Creeks or drainage channels and any associated riparian vegetation shall be retained in a natural state and incorporated into site design as a visual asset to development which adjoin them.

POLICY D-4 SUBDIVISION DESIGN

Objective. Achieve subdivision design which accommodates orderly growth; assures proper development of land and access to lots; promotes open space retention; insures adequate circulation, utilities, and services; preserves existing landforms; and retains significant vegetation.

D-4a **Design of roadways and subdivision improvements.** New subdivisions shall comply with the following criteria:

1. Unless it is demonstrated to be infeasible, all new lots shall have frontage on a public street or improved alley. Where direct access is infeasible, the number of lots or units to be served by a common access driveway easement shall be based on accessway design meeting all, but not limited to, these requirements: public safety access, ingress, egress, parking, utilities, drainage, and environmental issues.
2. The arrangement of proposed streets shall conform to the Transportation Plan, where possible. When not shown on the Street Plan, the design shall provide for the appropriate connections to existing streets. Cul-de-sacs should be avoided where possible.

3. The subdivision design may utilize narrow or "skinny" streets and various traffic calming approaches; alleys are encouraged for access to garages.
4. Gated subdivision streets shall be prohibited in order to maintain a sense of community.
5. Use of natural drainage techniques in subdivision design is encouraged. In general, curbing and gutters are appropriate for street drainage, safety and delineation and protection of pavement edge. Where curbing is not required, some other type of edge definition and stabilization shall be furnished.
6. Natural drainage patterns shall be preserved to minimize potential slippage and flooding. Building site grading shall be contoured to direct water away from structures.
7. No lighting shall be allowed that results in illumination above the tree canopy.
8. Sidewalks and bikeways shall be provided; sidewalks may be furnished on one side of the street only. In planned developments, additional sidewalks and bikeways may be located away from the street.
9. Illumination of streets shall be unobtrusive and the lowest intensity compatible with safety.
10. Landscaping shall be provided as part of subdivision design; plantings shall include street trees or an equivalent number of trees planted on individual lots adjacent to the street frontage.
11. Where subdivisions abut a major street or railroad, or include more than one land-use or housing type, landscape buffers shall be included at appropriate locations to create a visual screen and minimize any adverse impacts.

D-4b **Lot patterns.** Lot boundaries should be regular in shape and lots should either have direct access to a public street or to an access easement which connects to a public street. Clustering of lots with common open space areas and/or common parking lots is encouraged.

D-4c **Grading and hillside subdivisions.** In hillside areas, subdivision design and grading shall minimize disturbance to natural landforms, not destroy visual quality, nor create conditions that could increase the risk of landslides, flooding, or erosion. Designs shall comply with the following criteria:

1. Street layout should in general be parallel to topographic contours to reduce the extent of cut and fill slopes.
2. Long, continuous, or unbroken manufactured slopes should be avoided.
3. Graded slopes should be contoured by varying slope increments and undulating banks vertically and horizontally; building pad elevations should be varied to avoid the appearance of monotonous, flat, level pads.
4. Generally, slopes greater than 2:1 (horizontal: vertical) should be avoided.

5. Permitted densities shall be adjusted in designated hillside areas such that the steeper the slope, the less the allowed density; in such areas, at least fifty percent of each new lot shall be retained as ungraded "natural area."
6. Along ridgelines, new development or lighting which would extend above the tree canopy shall be prohibited.
7. Parallel on-street parking should not be provided on steep street segments; in such areas, alternative designs for on-street parking shall be required.

D-4d Retention of natural features. Design of subdivisions shall be based upon an analysis of the natural conditions and features of the site. To the maximum extent practicable, development shall be located to preserve natural features and avoid areas of environmental sensitivity, including but not limited to: wetlands, significant or mature trees or stands of trees, creekside riparian habitat areas, floodplain areas, and areas with slopes greater than thirty percent. Residential structures, including decks and balconies, shall not extend into significant natural areas.

D-4e Open space and parks. New residential subdivisions shall either be required to dedicate land for public parks or stormwater detention facilities, provide commonly-owned and maintained park or open space lands for use by residents of the subdivision, pay a fee in-lieu thereof, or some combination of the foregoing.

POLICY D-5 RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

Objective. Create residential living environments which meet the needs of residents, are aesthetically pleasing, provide for personal safety and privacy, promote social interaction, maintain continuity with the community's past, and provide for leisure needs. Blend residential design objectives with neighborhood conservation area objectives expressed in the Historical Preservation Element.

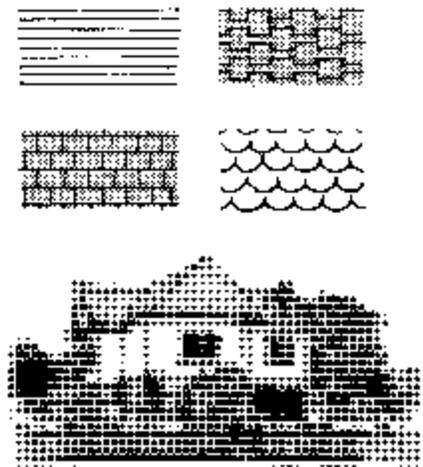
D-5a Multi-family housing design. Within each neighborhood where multi-family is allowed by the Land-Use Element, multi-unit housing designs should comply with the following criteria:

1. Buildings should maintain the scale and character of other residential structures in the immediate vicinity and avoid abrupt changes in height and bulk between structures.
2. Buildings should be grouped compactly to provide more usable open space.
3. Building elevations should be articulated and long, continuous wall and roof planes should be avoided. Architectural features such as bay windows, balconies, porches, and similar elements are encouraged.



4. Features should be incorporated into site and architectural designs which provide maximum exposure to sunlight and protection from rainstorms and other adverse climatic conditions (such as covered entryways).
5. Site and building design shall incorporate features to mitigate noise from nearby noise sources (see Noise Element).
6. Sufficient useable outdoor open space should be provided to accommodate the recreation and leisure needs of the residents, of the development, and individual households.
7. Individual units should be designed to be readily distinguishable from one another from the exterior.
8. Parking should be designed to protect the privacy of residents and prevent intrusion of noise and lights from vehicles.
9. Parking lots shall be landscaped with trees that reach a mature height of at least twenty feet and shall be visually screened from the street by solid walls, fences, or a planted landscape buffer of at least six feet in width. Site design should incorporate safety features that maintain visibility and provide security lighting.
10. Service and storage areas, such as for recycling and garbage, shall be screened by fencing or walls; appropriate landscape planting and setbacks from adjacent properties shall be provided.

D-5b Single-family residential design. The intent in single-family residential design shall be to allow maximum flexibility consistent with maintaining existing community character. Maintaining character means architectural style consistency, structures proportional to the site and surroundings, and harmony with the design of adjacent buildings. Good design respects its neighbors, is properly sited for privacy and solar access, minimizes disturbance of natural site conditions, and is landscaped to complement the streetscape, including street trees where appropriate.



Design of single-family houses on existing lots in hillside areas shall adhere to the following additional criteria:

1. Disturbance of existing landforms (cut and fill) shall be minimized.
2. Terrain-adaptive architectural designs which fit into the contour of the hillside are encouraged, including:
 - a. Reduced-footprint design with multi-level structures;
 - b. Multiple "Step-up" or "step-down" structures;
 - c. Stilt houses, with enclosure of area underneath the building.
3. Significant trees and drainageways should not be disturbed.

4. Development should be confined to portions of a site which are less steeply sloped.
5. Garages should be located under or over the structure depending on whether the lot is uphill or downhill from the street.
6. The scale and character of buildings should be matched with the terrain, scale, and character of the surrounding neighborhood.

POLICY D-6 DESIGN OF COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Objective. Create commercial centers and industrial areas which are functional, suited to the needs of the particular businesses, responsive to site conditions, and compatible with the neighborhood context.

D-6a **Design of commercial development.** The following criteria shall apply to design of new commercial development, except for the Plaza area (which is addressed in Policy D-2):

1. To encourage pedestrian access buildings should be sited so that entries and front facades face the public sidewalk; loading docks and vehicular entrances shall be located to the side or rear.
2. When located adjacent or near to residential areas, buildings should respect the residential character by avoiding long, uninterrupted expanses of wall and roof planes, and by incorporating architectural features such as covered entries or porches, cupolas, towers, arbors or pergolas, etc. which add variety and interest to larger buildings.
3. Pedestrians and bikes should be accommodated through appropriate location of walkways and rain-sheltered entrances to buildings.
4. Drive-through service windows for restaurants shall be restricted to the Valley West area.
5. Where commercial development abuts residential or other non-commercial uses, appropriate visual and noise buffers shall be included in the site design, such as increased setbacks or landscaped screening.
6. Service and storage areas shall be screened by fencing and appropriate landscape plantings.
7. The siting and design of buildings shall promote energy-efficiency and solar access, and shall minimize impacts on other nearby uses.
8. Parking areas are encouraged to be provided to the rear or side of buildings and include trees that reach a mature height of at least twenty feet whenever feasible.



9. Noise impacts shall be minimized through acoustical features in building design and on site sound attenuation.

D-6b Design of industrial development. In addition to the criteria stated in Policy D-6a, the following criteria shall also apply to new industrial development:

1. Building facades that include regional materials (e.g., locally produced wood, stone and recycled products) are encouraged. Prefabricated and manufactured materials may be used only where they are compatible with surrounding development.
2. Outdoor storage areas, including storage of trucks and equipment, shall be screened from view from adjacent streets and parcels by appropriate fencing and landscaping.



D-6c Design of institutional development. Since institutional uses—such as churches, schools, government facilities, and others—are frequently located within residential areas, their design shall be reviewed for compatibility with the adjacent residential neighborhood. In addition, the City requests that HSU, school districts, and other institutional entities adhere to the following criteria, which shall apply to design of any facilities within Arcata:

1. Long, uninterrupted expanses of wall and roof planes should be avoided and architectural features which add interest and variation, such as porches, cupolas, towers, arbors or pergolas, etc., should be incorporated.
2. Appropriate buffers and screening should be provided between institutional uses and adjacent residential uses, including increased setbacks, fencing, and landscaping.
3. The massing of buildings and the visual organization of facades, including the proportion of window and door openings to total wall surface, exterior materials and colors, and architectural detailing and ornamentation, should be designed to harmonize with any adjacent residential uses.
4. Appropriate setbacks and landscaped buffers should be provided to minimize noise and visual impacts.

D-6d Design of signs. The following criteria shall apply to all signs, except those located within the Central-Commercial Area use category:



1. Signs shall be placed so that they do not obscure other building elements such as windows, cornices, or decorative details.
2. Size, materials, style and color shall complement the building facade and shall be compatible with the surrounding area.
3. Copy shall be limited to icons, logos, services identification, and hours of operation (rather than advertising copy) except as required by law or ordinance.
4. Flush-mounted signs and monument signs are the preferred types; no more than one free-standing sign may be allowed per

business street frontage (including alleys), and freestanding signs shall not exceed fifteen feet in height.

5. Pole signs are discouraged; when permitted, such signs shall not exceed fifteen feet in height.
6. Signs shall not be of a height or design which is intended to be read from the State Routes 101 or 299, except for in the commercial visitor-serving district.
7. When lighted, signs shall be designed to minimize glare and with the minimum amount of illumination necessary to make the sign legible; neon signs are acceptable.
8. All off-premises (or off-site) business identification and advertising signs are prohibited.
9. The planned sign program is encouraged whenever there are multiple businesses on a site; no more than three signs may be allowed per parcel except through approval of a planned sign program permit. The planned sign program shall require harmony in shape, placement, materials, and other appropriate design elements for all signs on the site.
10. At the time of any future alterations of a lawfully permitted existing sign, except for a change in copy, the entire sign shall be modified as necessary to conform to these policies.

POLICY D-7 LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Objective. Promote landscape designs which are appropriate for the climate zone and the specific site conditions, integrate harmoniously with the scale and architecture of buildings on the site, improve the overall aesthetic appearance of the city and its neighborhoods, and serve to protect the general safety and welfare.

D-7a Landscape plans required. A landscape plan drawn to scale shall be required for all new development subject to discretionary review by the City. The plan shall

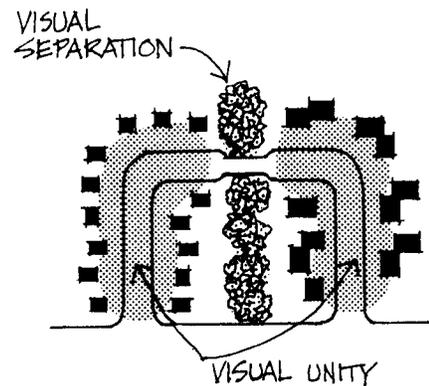
identify existing and proposed trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and other landscape elements. Native species are encouraged for all new landscaping.

D-7b Planting area required. A minimum landscape planting area shall be required in all commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential land-use zones; these shall be contained in the zoning ordinance and expressed as a percent of site area. [Revised by Ordinance No. 1377, September 2008]

D-7c Parking lot landscaping. All parking areas, other than single family residential, containing two or more parking spaces shall be landscaped. Landscaping shall include a minimum of a six-foot wide screen or buffer between the parking area and any public street. Trees that reach a mature height of at least twenty feet shall be provided within the parking area at a ratio of one or more trees to each five parking spaces.

D-7d Site design criteria. Landscaping shall be an integral part of site development, connecting site design elements, enhancing the site identity, and creating a pleasing appearance. Landscape designs shall conform to the following criteria:

1. Existing natural site vegetation should be incorporated, to the extent appropriate.
2. Coverage by impervious surfaces should be minimized in order to reduce runoff.
3. Cut and fill slopes shall be landscaped for erosion prevention.
4. Landscaping should include trees adjacent to the public street right-of-way, where appropriate.
5. Consideration should be given to native plant species and to those non-invasive exotics which have demonstrated adaptability to local climate.
6. Where a development borders a major street, railroad, or different land-use type, a landscape buffer shall be provided to create a visual screen, promote privacy, and to shield the development from any adverse external effects, and to shield neighboring properties from any adverse effects of the development. The buffer may include fencing, berms, plantings, or a combination thereof. The appearance of fences from public streets should be softened with plant materials.
7. The design for a particular site should harmonize with the surrounding landscape, including the landscape design of adjacent lots.
8. Site design should incorporate safety features such as maintaining visibility and providing security lighting.



D-7e **Upgrade of non-conforming landscape.** When improvements are made to structures on sites where landscaping is non-conforming, landscaping should be required to be upgraded if feasible.

D-7f **Maintenance of required landscaping.** All required landscape plantings shall be properly maintained to assure survival; any non-surviving plants shall be replaced.

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
LU-1	Design Review Standards, Sign Regulations, Language Standards (LUC Amendment) Prepare a PLUC amendment (formerly LUDG) to implement Design Element policies, including standards for review, sign regulations, landscape standards, and applicability of design review (specify when design review and approval is required).	Community Development Dept./ Planning Commission	Year 1
D-1	Design Review Commission/Project Design Review Review and approve the design of private and public projects.	Comm. Devel. Dept./ Design Review Comm.	Ongoing
D-2	Downtown Street Tree Program Prepare a street tree program consistent with the Design Element for review and recommendation by the Design Review Commission and approval by the City Council. Financial assistance may be provided by the Arcata Community Development Agency.	Public Works Department/ Downtown Business Organizations	Year 1
D-3	Design Criteria and Brochure Prepare design review brochures or handouts which explain and illustrate design criteria, standards, and procedures.	Community Development Dept./Design Review Comm.	Year 1
D-4	Design Awards Program Recognize and award projects that demonstrate the highest quality design and context.	Comm. Devel. Dept./Design Review Comm.	Ongoing
D-5	Samoa Blvd. Public Improvements Program The City of Arcata shall work to obtain funding to develop a specific public improvements program to improve the appearance of Samoa Blvd. from State Route 101 to "I" Street. These improvements may include uniform landscaping, pedestrian enhancements, and directional signing.	Public Works Department	Year 2
D-6	Design Review MOU Develop Memorandum of Understanding with other governmental agencies for design review	City/County/State agencies/Special Districts	Year 2

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ELEMENT

5.4 INTRODUCTION

Arcata's Historical and Cultural Resources. For centuries before the arrival of European-American settlers in 1850, Arcata and the Humboldt Bay region were the home of the Wiyot. An Algonquian-speaking people, the Wiyot lived along the lower Mad River, other local streams, and along Humboldt Bay. Their way of life was shaped by the remarkable surroundings of forested hills, bountiful streams and rivers, and the Pacific and Bay shores, which generously provided for both their survival and cultural needs.

Humboldt Bay was located by European-Americans for the first time in 1849. The discovery of gold in the Trinity and Klamath River regions resulted in large numbers of settlers coming to the area. The displacement, disease, violence, and cultural disintegration accompanying white settlement brought almost total annihilation to the Wiyot peoples. Today, the Wiyots are, for the most part, associated with three Humboldt Bay area rancherias. They are involved in various tribal economic projects and in the revitalization of cultural traditions such as language, basket weaving, ceremonies, and reclaiming ancestral lands.

Arcata, first known as Union, was settled in the spring of 1850 as a supply center for the interior mining districts. The townsite at the foot of Fickle Hill was selected by the Union Company and subdivided into blocks and lots. A wharf was soon constructed into Arcata Bay with a horse-drawn railway connecting to the Plaza, where merchandising establishments supplied both the miners and growing numbers of residents.



The importance of gold, however, was soon eclipsed by lumbering. It was timber resources — particularly the vast, virgin forests of giant redwoods which covered the ridges and valleys along California's north coast — that sustained the development of Arcata through the 19th century and into the mid-twentieth century. By 1930 Arcata's population had reached 1,700 and was growing. A public water system and fire department came along in 1884, followed by the *Arcata Union* newspaper in 1886, electricity in 1895, railroad connections with San Francisco in 1914, the establishment of Humboldt State Normal School (now Humboldt State University) in 1914, and the Redwood Highway in 1925 [Susie Van Kirk: *Touring Arcata's Architecture*, 1988].

Many fine examples of both residential and commercial structures from Arcata's early history survive today. The Plaza itself, with the statue of McKinley (1906) at its center, dates from the town's beginnings, and recalls the "greens" of New England or the town squares of the south. Although none of the original 1850s buildings around the Plaza remain, a variety of classical revival and false-front buildings from the turn-of-the century survive around its perimeter. The Plaza remains the city's commercial hub to the present day. Many of the commercial buildings have been restored, best exemplified by the Jacoby Building (1857), which pioneered modern-day historical preservation endeavors in the city with its restoration in 1977.

An inventory of Arcata's historical structures and sites in 1979 [Susie Van Kirk: *Reflections of Arcata's History: eighty years of architecture*, 1979] identified four early periods of residential building styles: settlement (1850-1885) Victorian (1885-1900), Transitional (1900-1910) and Craftsman (1910-1930), in addition to the modern period (1930-present). The City's first historic preservation ordinance [Ordinance No. 935] was adopted by the City Council in 1980. Since that time, 85 structures or sites have been formally designated by ordinance as local historic landmarks. The City's Historic Landmarks, Neighborhood Conservation Areas, and Specific Plan Districts are shown on Figures HP-a and HP-b.

[Throughout this element the name of the Historic Landmarks Commission has been changed to Historic and Design Review Commission, per Ordinance No. 1377, September 2008.]

Guiding Principles and Goals.

- A. Promote preservation of structures and sites that are representative of the various periods of the city's social and physical development.
- B. Preserve the historical character of the Plaza and the surrounding commercial district.
- C. Encourage owners of eligible structures to seek historic landmark status and to invest in restoration efforts.
- D. Conserve the many examples of early residential building styles found in the city's older neighborhoods, from Bayside to Arcata Heights.
- E. Assure that new construction and additions to existing historically-designated buildings maintain the character and livability of the historic neighborhoods.
- F. Promote interest in and appreciation of the value of Arcata's history and its heritage of historic buildings.
- G. Encourage tourism and economic development through historic resource preservation.
- H. Prevent destruction of archaeological and cultural resources and assure that any artifacts receive proper disposition.



5.5 POLICIES

The Historical Preservation Element contains the following policies:

- H-1 Historic Landmarks
- H-2 Noteworthy Structures
- H-3 Arcata Plaza Area Historic District
- H-4 Neighborhood Conservation Areas
- H-5 Controls on Demolitions of Structures
- H-6 Public Participation, Information, and Education Policy
- H-7 Archaeological and Cultural Resources

POLICY H-1 HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Objective. Designate and preserve significant structures and sites that are representative of the city's social and physical development; that are reminders of past eras, events, and persons important in local, state, or national history; which provide significant examples of architectural styles of the past; or which are unique and irreplaceable assets to the city, and the neighborhood in which the structure or site is located.

H-1a National Register and State Historic Landmarks designations. The City encourages owners of eligible structures to request National Register and State Historical Landmarks designations for their properties. As of 1998, three National Register sites have been designated: the Arcata Hotel (on the Plaza), the Whaley House (14th and H Streets), and the Schorlig House (1050 12th Street). The Jacoby Storehouse is among the State Registered Historical Landmarks.

H-1b Local Historic Landmarks designations. Structures or sites having special character or special historic, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value shall be designated as local Historic Landmarks. Such structures or sites shall be protected from demolition and inappropriate alterations. Locally designated Historic Landmarks are shown in Figure HP-a and are listed in Table HP-1, at the end of the Element. An updated inventory of structures and sites eligible for designation as a Local Historic Landmark shall be maintained by the City. One or more of the following criteria shall be required for a structure or site to be eligible for listing:

1. The building or site is particularly representative of a distinct architectural period, type, style, or way of life.
2. The building is of a type or style which was once common but is now rare.
3. The building is at least 50 years old.
4. The building or site is connected with a person or event important to local history.
5. The architect or builder is famous or well-recognized.

6. The building's style, construction method, or materials are unusual or significant.
7. The overall effect of the design or building details are beautiful or unusual.
8. The building contains original materials or workmanship of high or unusual value.

H-1c **Historic Landmarks (HL) combining zone.** The City shall formally designate Historic Landmarks with a special combining zone in the Land Use Code. The zone shall serve as a disclosure of the importance of the structure and of the limitations placed on its alteration or demolition. The request for designation may be initiated by the owner, City Council, Planning Commission, or the Historic and Design Review Commission. If initiated by the City, the owner shall be notified and be able to contest the process.

H-1d **Discretionary review and approval requirements for demolition.**
[See policy H-5].

H-1e **Design review approval for alterations and additions.** The following types of changes to a structure designated by the HL combining zone shall not be permitted without first obtaining approval of the Historic and Design Review Commission:

1. Any exterior modifications or alterations, including changes in materials.
2. Interior alterations that would affect the exterior appearance.
3. Any addition to the designated structure.
4. Construction of a new building on a parcel with a designated Historic Landmark.

H-1f **Design criteria for alterations of and additions to local Historic Landmarks.** At the discretion of the Community Development Director and/or Historic and Design Review Commission, an owner proposing any construction or alteration that may affect the historical character of the structure may be required to obtain an analysis of the proposed changes by a cultural resources consultant or other knowledgeable professional to determine the impact on the building's historical features.



In modifying historic structures, the distinguishing original qualities or character of the building shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural feature shall be avoided whenever possible. Whenever practicable deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired or restored rather than replaced. Contemporary design for additions are not prohibited when such additions are compatible with and do not destroy the historical or

architectural character of the property.

H-1g **Preservation Incentives.** To encourage property owners to obtain local Historic Landmark designation, the City will provide the following incentives or assistance:

1. Exemption from the requirements to provide any additional off-street parking, except for additions 200 or more square feet in size.
2. Exemption, for nonconforming uses, from Land Use Code limitations pertaining to non-conforming structures and site conditions.
3. Compliance with the State Historic Building Code and portions of the Uniform Code for Building Conservation, rather than the current edition of the Uniform Building Code.
4. Conservation easements for facades that may provide tax advantages to the donor.
5. Establishment of a Mills Act program, by the City, which would provide property tax reductions for historic properties subject to program criteria.
6. Facade rehabilitation grants or loans, through the Community Development Agency, for designated historic commercial structures.

H-1h **Historical Landmarks on the Humboldt State University campus (Not applicable in Coastal Zone).** The City encourages HSU to initiate procedures for the recognition and protection, in compliance with Public Resources Code Section 5024, of historic structures and other historic resources on the campus. The following structures, located on the HSU campus, are hereby identified as local Historic Landmarks.

1. Founders Hall.
2. Gist Hall.
3. Nelson Hall.
4. Jenkins Hall.

H-1i **Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC).** The City Council shall create a Historic and Design Review Commission consisting of persons having knowledge, by virtue of training or experience, of Arcata's social and building history or of design and building. The Commission shall promote public involvement and education in preserving Arcata's heritage of older buildings.

POLICY H-2 NOTEWORTHY STRUCTURES

Objective. Identify and encourage retention of structures which could qualify as historical landmarks, but are not currently designated. Although some of these structures may lack the level of significance attached to designated landmarks, they have an architectural or design character which represents particular building styles or eras in the City's development, and they contribute to the overall character and historical texture of a neighborhood.

H-2a **Noteworthy structures list.** The City shall direct the Historic and Design Review Commission to recommend and keep current a “Noteworthy Structures” list, and encourage retention of these structures. Noteworthy structures are those which may not have complete documentation as to their historical or architectural merit but which have notable characteristics. In order to be eligible for listing, a structure should have one of the following attributes:



1. Representative of a particular architectural style.
2. Representative of a period in the city's historical development.
3. Associated with social history of the city.
4. Of unusual or special design character.

H-2b **Incentives, list preparation, notification, and future landmark designation.** Those properties listed as noteworthy structures shall be eligible for the following incentives and assistance:

1. Exemption from the requirements to provide any additional off-street parking, except for additions 200 or more square feet in size.
2. Exemption, for nonconforming uses, from Land Use Code limitations pertaining to non-conforming structures and site conditions.
3. Compliance with the State Historic Building Code and portions of the Uniform Code for Building Conservation, rather than the current edition of the Uniform Building Code.
4. Conservation easements for facades that may provide tax advantages to the donor.
5. Facade rehabilitation grants or loans, through the Community Development Agency, for designated historic commercial structures.

The Historic and Design Review Commission shall notify the owners of property being considered for placement on the list. Those owners shall be given the opportunity to contest and appeal the listing. There shall also be a procedure established for properties to be removed from the list. The owners of properties listed as having noteworthy structures are encouraged to apply for Historic Landmark designation.

H-2c **Noteworthy structures on Humboldt State University campus (Not applicable in Coastal Zone).** The Wagner House located on campus is hereby identified as a noteworthy structure. The City requests that all structures of historic value be preserved and protected from demolition and from alterations or additions that are incompatible with their historical character.

Noteworthy structures on the HSU campus will be added to the

noteworthy structures list developed by the City pursuant to H-2a.



H-2d **Design review approval.** Design Review Commission review and approval, with input from the Historic and Design Review Commission, shall be required for all exterior alterations to noteworthy structures, when or if alterations require a building permit, including changes in types of materials and additions.

H-2e **Design criteria for alterations and additions.** Prior to approval of any exterior change, the Design Review Commission shall make findings of fact that the alteration or addition is compatible with and does not destroy the historical or architectural character of the property and the immediate neighborhood.

H-2f **Demolition Controls.** [See policy H-5].

POLICY H-3 ARCATA PLAZA AREA HISTORIC DISTRICT

Objective. Protect and preserve the Arcata Plaza and the older structures that border the adjacent streets and help define the Plaza's character, for the unique historical, architectural, aesthetic, and economic values that it represents to the city.

H-3a **Arcata Plaza Historic District (Not applicable in Coastal Zone).** The Plaza Area has a special character and unique historical, aesthetic and cultural interest and significance to the residents and businesses of Arcata. Reflecting its central place in Arcata's heritage and identity, the Plaza Area, as shown on Figure HP-a, is hereby designated as a local historic district.





H-3b Historic District combining zone (Not applicable in Coastal Zone). The Plaza Area Historic District shall, by ordinance pursuant to the Land Use Code, be designated within the Landmark Historic District Combining Zone. Structures within the Historic District shall receive the same protections as are provided to individually-designated Historic Landmarks.

H-3c Controls on demolition (Not applicable in Coastal Zone). [Policy H-5 applies.]

H-3d Design review approval (Not applicable in Coastal Zone). Review and approval by the Design Review Commission shall be required for all exterior alterations of and additions to structures located within the Plaza Area Historic District.

H-3e Design criteria for alterations and additions (Not applicable in Coastal Zone). [Policies D-2e and D-2g shall apply]

H-3f Regulatory and other incentives for preservation (Not applicable in Coastal Zone). In addition to the regulatory and other incentives in H-1g, the following shall also apply:

1. The City Council, with the help of the Historic and Design Review Commission and the Historical Sites Society of Arcata, shall develop a commemorative plaque program to provide special identification of historical structures.
2. Non-conforming uses that have historical value will be allowed to continue.

H-3g Arcata Plaza as a historic site (Not applicable in Coastal Zone). The Arcata Plaza Historic District includes at its center the city park known as the Arcata Plaza. The following principal features of the Plaza which define its historical character shall be preserved:

1. The McKinley Statue at the center of the Plaza.
2. The generally symmetrical pattern of walkways.
3. The open nature of the Plaza and the absence of buildings within it.
4. The Women's Christian Temperance Union drinking fountain on "H" Street.
5. The existing Plaza palm trees.

POLICY H-4 NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREAS (NCAs) AND SPECIFIC PLANS

Objective. Designate the Central Arcata, Arcata Heights, Bayview, and Bayside areas as Neighborhood Conservation Areas and assure that new construction, modifications or alterations of noteworthy structures, and significant changes to other structures are harmonious with the existing character of these neighborhoods.

H-4a Neighborhood Conservation Areas. The following NCAs, with the boundaries shown in Figure HP-b, are hereby established:

1. Bayview Conservation Area.
2. Arcata Heights Conservation Area.
3. "Central" Conservation Area.

H-4b **Demolition controls.** [See policy H-5.]

H-4c **Design review.** All structures located within an NCA, including single-family houses, historic structures identified in specific plans, and existing structures with exterior alterations or renovation of more than 25 percent of the floor and/or exterior wall area, shall be subject to approval. Prior to approval, the finding must be made that the design will be compatible with the existing character of the NCA.

H-4d **Rehabilitation assistance programs.** Any City-sponsored or assisted rehabilitation programs shall give priority to qualifying structures within the boundaries of NCAs. Such rehabilitation shall be consistent with the architectural and aesthetic character of the area and the individual structure.

H-4e **Design criteria for alterations and additions.** Prior to approval of any exterior change requiring a building permit, the Design Review Commission shall make a finding that the alteration or addition is compatible with and does not destroy the historical or architectural character of the property and the surrounding neighborhood conservation area.

H-4f **Specific Plan Districts.** The following Specific Plan Districts, with boundaries shown in Figures HP-b and HP-c, are hereby established:

1. Bayside Specific Plan District.
2. "South of Samoa" (SOS) Specific Plan District.

Specific Plans prepared for these Districts will include preservation measures for historic and noteworthy structures.

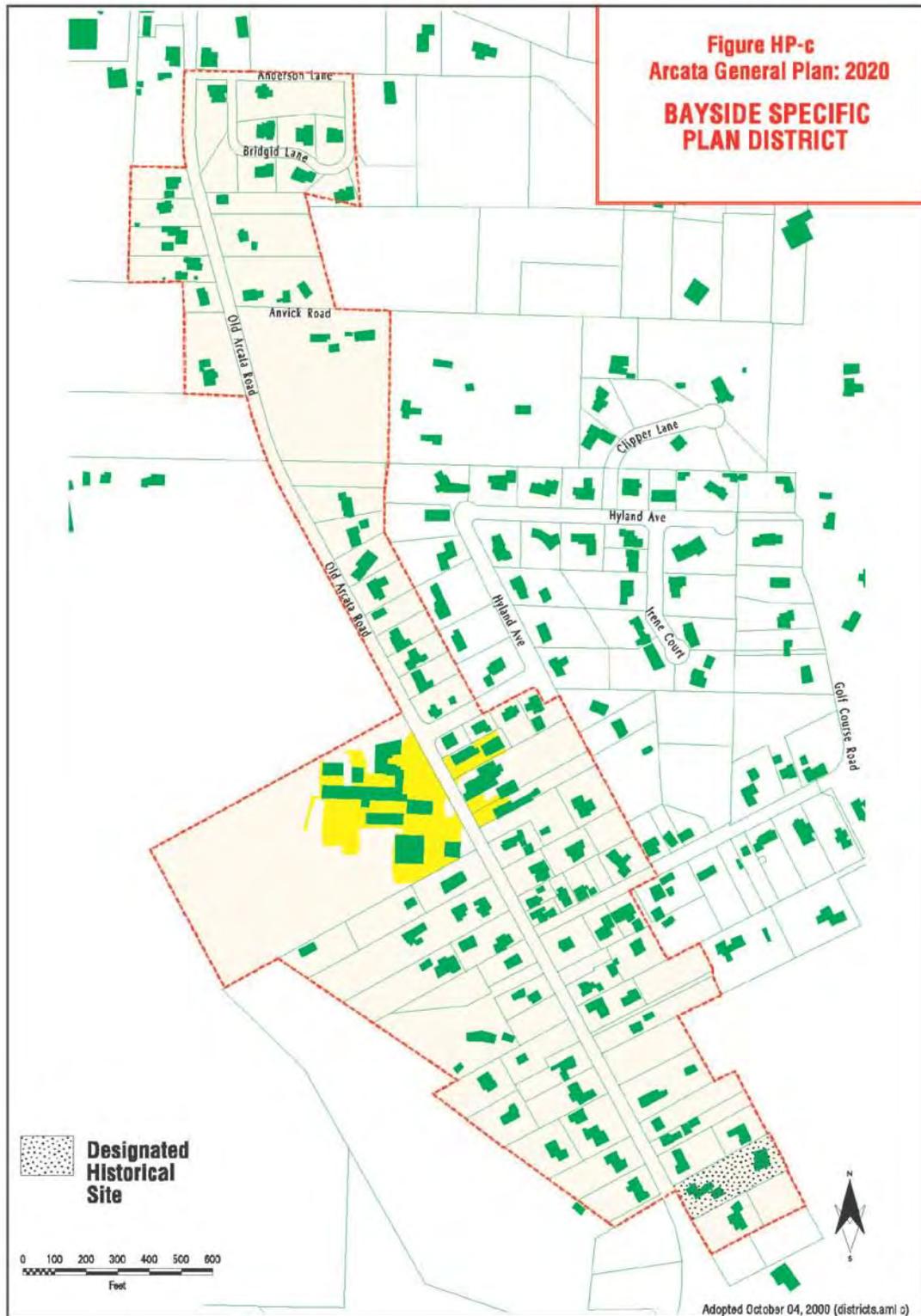
POLICY H-5 CONTROLS ON DEMOLITIONS OF STRUCTURES

Objective. To prevent the premature demolition of existing buildings without first evaluating whether they are contributory to the historical or architectural character of the City or neighborhood and to consider the potential for preservation of those found to contribute to such character.

H-5a **Discretionary demolition review required.** No building within the City shall be demolished, in whole or in part, without review and approval by the Historic and Design Review Commission prior to issuance of a Demolition Permit. A Notice of Proposed Demolition shall be provided to all property owners within a 300-foot radius and to the Historical Sites Society of Arcata.

Figure HP-b Historic Landmarks and Neighborhood Conservation Areas (11 x 17, front side)

Figure HP-b Historic Landmarks and Neighborhood Conservation Areas (11x17 backside)



Prior to its decision, the HLC shall consider the recommendations of the Historical Sites Society of Arcata or its designated representative. For partial demolitions, the applicant shall be required to submit a demolition plan showing those portions to be demolished and those to be retained. The following findings shall be required to approve demolition permit:

1. The building does not contribute to the historical or aesthetic character of the neighborhood or the city.
2. Although the building does have historical or aesthetic merit, it:
 - a. has sustained substantial damage to key structural components, and
 - b. there are no feasible alternatives to demolition of the building.

H-5b **Waiting period for demolition of designated landmarks.** Any approved demolition permit for designated historical landmarks shall be automatically subject to a delay of 180 days before the building permit for demolition may be issued by the City.

H-5c **Deconstruction of older buildings.** In those instances where demolition is authorized, it is encouraged that the buildings be deconstructed and that building components, fixtures, and materials be salvaged for future re-use.

POLICY H-6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, INFORMATION, AND EDUCATION POLICY

Objective. Promote public awareness of the City's historical heritage and resources, provide information and education about the methods and techniques to protect and enhance the quality of these resources, and encourage public participation in preserving Arcata's historical heritage.

H-6a **Role of Historical Sites Society of Arcata (HSSA).** The City shall send notice to the HSSA on all matters pertaining the preservation of historical resources. These include, but are not limited to, requests for comments on proposed Historic Landmarks, additions to the list of noteworthy structures, and proposed alteration or demolition of such structures.



The HSSA may submit its comments to the Historic and Design Review Commission. In consultation with the HSSA and the HLC, the Community Development Department shall prepare a brochure which provides guidelines and federal standards for restoration, alteration, and additions to historical landmark and noteworthy structures. The HSSA is also designated as the organization to oversee the operation of Phillips House Museum of the City of Arcata.

- H-6b **Commemorative plaques for historical structures.** In order to provide greater recognition and identification of designated historical landmark structures and to comply with federal standards, a commemorative plaque program should be developed. The HSSA is encouraged to be the lead organization for this effort.
- H-6c **Informational guides and walking tours.** The City encourages the HSSA and Arcata Chamber of Commerce to prepare informational guides or walking tour guides for Arcata's most significant historical resources. The purposes of the tour guide(s) are to promote appreciation of the community's heritage sites and contribute to Arcata's tourism attractions.
- H-6d **Brochure on benefits and advantages for designating historical landmarks.** The Arcata Community Development Department shall prepare an informational brochure which describes the benefits and advantages of having structures or sites designated as local Historic Landmarks.



POLICY H-7 ARCHEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Objective. Protect and preserve Native American and Euro-American archeological sites and cultural resources within the City of Arcata.

- H-7a **Cultural Resources Project Review.** As part of the environmental and project review process, the City of Arcata shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Northwest Information Center of the Historical Resources Information System of the State of California. Under the MOA, all proposed discretionary projects under the California Environmental Quality Act shall be subject to cultural resources sensitivity review by the Northwest Information Center. In order to provide a context for city projects, for the evaluation of cultural significance and for the interpretation of the results of cultural resources project reviews, the City of Arcata shall contract for a general prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic overview of the city and its environs.
- H-7b **Archaeological Surface Reconnaissance.** If the cultural resources project review determines that the project is located in an area with a high probability of archaeological resources, an archaeological survey by a professional archaeologist or other qualified expert shall be performed.

- H-7c **Mitigation of potential impacts on archeological resources.** If the results of the surface reconnaissance show that the project area contains a resource of cultural significance, and if it is demonstrated that a project will cause damage to such a resource, the City may require reasonable efforts to be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. Examples of other treatment include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Modifying the project to avoid portions of the site with archaeological resources.
 2. Providing or conveying easements or other deed restrictions.
 3. Capping or covering archaeological resources with a soil layer before construction.
 4. Planning open space to incorporate archaeological sites.
- H-7d **Monitoring of Construction.** In appropriate circumstances, when archaeological resources are likely to be present at a construction site, monitoring of excavation and other soil disturbing activities by archeological and/or Native American observers shall be required.
- H-7f **Discovery of archeological resources.** Upon discovery of archeological or paleontological materials, all grading or other land-disturbing construction activities at the site shall be suspended until the nature of the cultural resources has been ascertained and the appropriate disposition method determined.

TABLE HP - 1 DESIGNATED HISTORICAL SITES LIST

#	NAME		Street Address	Built	Historic Period
1	Fry House	290	12th Street	1874	Settlement Period
2	Dillon House	188	11th Street	1886	Settlement Period
3	Cates House	185	12th Street	1884	Settlement Period
4	Malvich House	1030	C Street	1914	Craftsman Period
5	Moore House	930	D Street	1903	Transitional Period
6	Shuman House	965	A Street	1906	Transitional Period
7	Aaron Alden House	947	A Street	1908	Transitional Period
8	Putnam-McCready House	913	A Street	1910	Transitional Period
9	Simms-Hunt House	855	A Street	1905	Transitional Period
10	Phillips House	71	7th Street	1855	Settlement Period
11	Beacom House	68	12th Street	1889	Settlement Period
12	Maronich House	87	12th Street	1889	Victorian Period
13	Susan House	67	11th Street	1874	Settlement Period
14	Leveque House	320	Park Avenue		
15	Ca. Central Creameries Plant	2151	9th Street	1918	Craftsman Period
16	Thomas Devlin House	885	K Street	1900	Transitional Period
17	Burrows House	453	F Street		
18	Simpson House	493	G Street		
19	Truesdell House	494	H Street	1876	Settlement Period
20	Fleckenstein-Newton House	588	H Street		
21	Monette House	665	F Street	1885	Settlement Period
22	Senevey-Menefee House	513	I Street	1880	Settlement Period
23	Baiocchi House	895	7th Street	1925	Craftsman Period
24	Selvage House	609	J Street	1874	Settlement Period
25	Eddy-Greene House	987	8th Street		
26	Vaissade House	927	J Street	1905	Transitional Period
27	Nixon House	1022	10th Street	1858	Settlement Period
28	Minor Theatre	1013	H Street	1914	Craftsman Period
29	Minor Building	1015	H St.	1914	Craftsman Period
30	Epicurean Restaurant	1057	H Street	1884	Victorian Period
31	First National Bank	1000	H Street	1913	Craftsman Period
32	Arcata Theater	1036	G Street	1937	Modern Period
33	Seely & Titlow Building	970	I Street		
34	Chevret House	739	10th Street		
35	Murray House	987	F Street	1901	Victorian Period
36	Hotel Arcata	780	9th Street	1915	Craftsman Period
37	Hunt House	839	9th Street		
38	Plaza		Block 167	1850	Settlement Period
39	Union Building	898	G Street	1890	Victorian Period
40	KXGO Radio/ Western Auto	826	G Street		
41	Old Post Office Building	735	8th Street		
42	Jacoby Building	791	8th Street	1857	Settlement Period
43	Packer's House	630	11th Street	1870	Settlement Period
44	Sowash House	1160	G Street	1914	Craftsman Period
45	Morgan House	1192	G Street	1901	Victorian Period
46	Miller House	1193	G Street	1900	Transitional Period

#	NAME	#	Street Address	Built	Historic Period
47	Pythian Castle	1100	H Street	1884	Victorian Period
48	Stewart Foster House	1139	H Street		
49	Moulton-Barlow House	860	11th Street	1907	Transitional Period
50	Wagner Block House	1157	J Street	1920	Craftsman Period
51	Wagner Block House	1187	J Street	1920	Craftsman Period
52	Wagner Block House	1087	12th Street	1920	Craftsman Period
53	Schorlig House	1050	12th Street	1885	Victorian Period
54	C.E. Daniels House	918	12th Street	1885	Victorian Period
55	Beers-Ely House	1285	I Street	1877	Settlement Period
56	Bair-Stokes House	916	13th Street	1888	Victorian Period
57	Horel House	980	13th Street	1904	Transitional Period
58	McCormack/ MacMillan House	1056	13th Street	1903	Transitional Period
59	Gastman-Gaynor Beer House	1362	K Street	1902	Transitional Period
60	David Wood House	1318	H Street	1910	Craftsman Period
61	Ericson House	1376	H Street	1870	Settlement Period
62	Whaley House	1395	H Street	1855	Settlement Period
63	Zehndner-Parton House	1164	14th Street	1902	Transitional Period
64	Stone House	902	14th Street	1888	Victorian Period
65	Cullberg House	1452	I Street	1862	Settlement Period
66	A. Gastman House	1492	H Street	1898	Victorian Period
67	William-Smith House	1542	H Street	1888	Victorian Period
68	Jako-Wagner House	1593	F Street		
69	Barter Bungalow/ Court	1645	G Street	1930	Craftsman Period
70	Smith-Mckenzie House	1619	H Street	1877	Settlement Period
71	Scribner House	1661	H Street	1885	Victorian Period
72	Sweet House	1717	H Street	1911	Craftsman Period
73	Godden House	938	17th Street	1919	Craftsman Period
74	Davidson-Carroll Store/ House	1593	I Street	1914	Craftsman Period
75	Keller House	1566	I Street	1894	Victorian Period
76	Stewart School Building	1125	16th Street	1925	Craftsman Period
77	St. Mary's Church	1090	16th Street	1884	Victorian Period
78	Greenwood Cemetery	1757	J Street	1860	Settlement Period
79	Nelson Hall		Humboldt St. Univ.	1940	Craftsman Period
80	Gist Hall		Humboldt St. Univ.	1933	Craftsman Period
81	Jenkins Hall		Humboldt St. Univ.	1950	Craftsman Period
82	Founders Hall		Humboldt St. Univ.	1921	Craftsman Period
83*	Bayside Post Office	1786	Old Arcata Road		
84*	Chaffey House	1220	Spear Avenue	1887	Victorian Period
85*	O'Grady House	1630	27th Street		
86*	Strobel House	1621	J Street	1874	Settlement Period
87*	Zehndner-Harpst-Austin House	1860	11th Street	1870	Settlement Period
88*	McMillian House	589	F Street		
89*	Old Methodist Church-Parsonage House	1166	H Street		
90*	Liscom-Morrell House	1166	I Street		
91*	Morrell-St. Louis House/Barn/Milk House	3215	St. Louis Road		
92*	Janes School House	1105	Spear Avenue		
93*	Pointsett House	3501	Boyd Road		

#	NAME		Street Address	Built	Historic Period
94*	Morrell-Christie House	1465	G Street		

*Numbers do not appear on map.

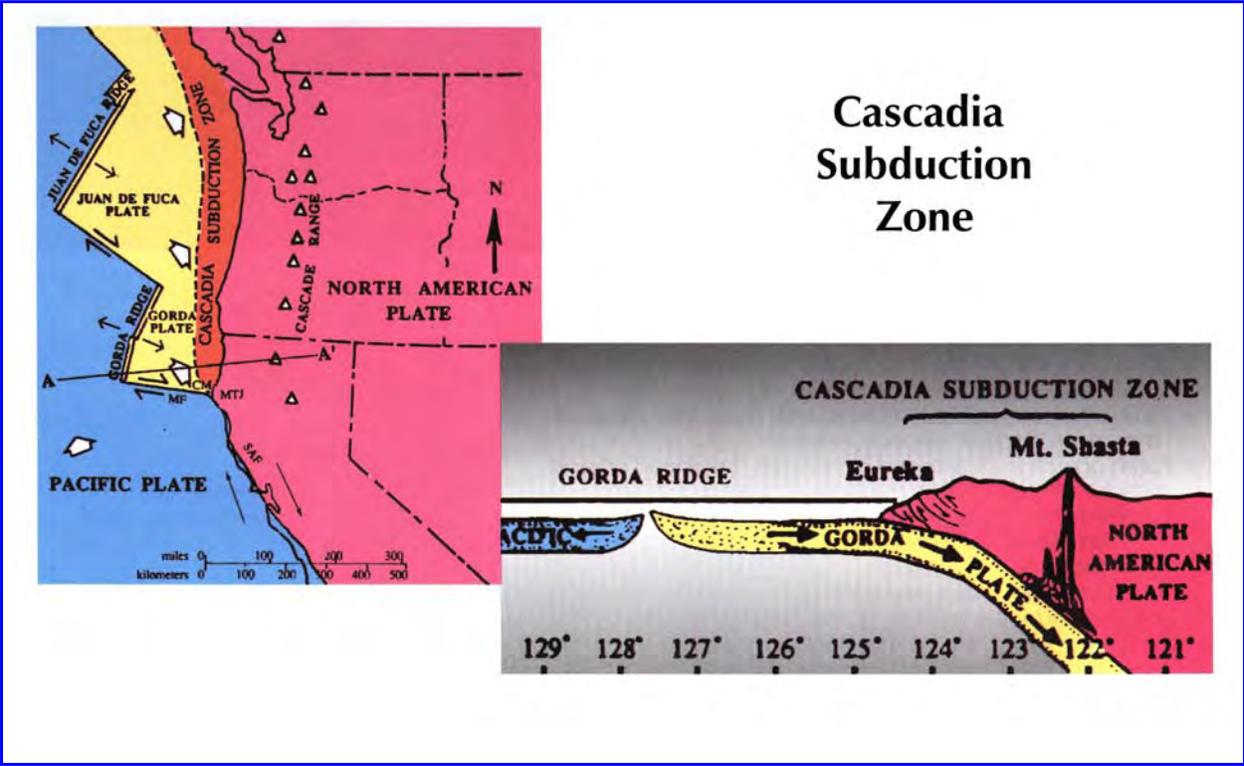
[Revised by Ordinance No. 1377, September 2008]

5.6 IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
LU -1	<p>Historic Landmarks, conservation easements (LUC Amendment)</p> <p>A. Revise development standards for designated landmarks (delete additional uses, restrict conversion of res. structures in res. zones to non-residential uses, add other incentives).</p> <p>B. Revise Historical Landmarks combining zone re: demolition controls.</p> <p>C. Add authority for conservation (facade) easements.</p> <p>D. Define role of Historic and Design Review Commission.</p> <p>E. Add requirement for demolition permit.</p> <p>F. Create authority for Mills Act contracts.</p>	Community Development Dept./ Planning Commission	Year 1
H-1	<p>Create Historic and Design Review Commission</p> <p>The City shall appoint a Historic and Design Review Commission for the purpose of pursuing Certified Local Government status, developing a Noteworthy Structure List and promoting other historic preservation activities. This includes coordinating with HSU for listing of State owned historic structures.</p>	City Council	Year 1
H-2	<p>Historic resources inventory</p> <p>Update historical resources inventory (add structures throughout the City based on age, and add Bayside area to inventory).</p>	Comm. Devel. Dept./ Historic and Design Review Commission	Year 2
H-3	<p>Certified local government status</p> <p>Apply to the State Office of Historic Preservation for Certified Local Government status.</p>	Historic and Design Review Commission	Year 2
H-4	<p>Training and information program</p> <p>Develop a design brochure(s) and a brochure on benefits of landmark designation.</p>	Historic and Design Review Commission	Year 2
H-5	<p>Noteworthy Structures List</p> <p>The Historical and Design Review Commission shall prepare and maintain a noteworthy structures list.</p>	Historic and Design Review Commission	Year 1

Chapter 6 Health and Safety

Public Safety Element Noise Element



PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Overview of Emergency Preparedness and Police and Fire Services. Preparation for, and timely and adequate response to emergencies are essential community services that require planning and community-wide coordination. Emergency preparedness is the combined responsibility of the City, emergency response organizations, and community residents. Arcata's Volunteer Fire Department and City Police Department provide critical emergency response services and leadership, and serve as the community's primary response agencies in emergency situations. These agencies are most efficient when they can rely on emergency response organizations, such as the State of California's Office of Emergency Services, community groups, and individuals to provide organized support when needed. The Neighborhood Emergency Services Teams (NEST) that exist in several of Arcata's neighborhoods are good examples of local organizations with the resources and training to respond to emergencies.



Overview of Arcata's Potential Seismic and Geologic Hazards. The northern coast is one of California's most seismically active regions, and special precautions must be taken to protect residents from the effects of seismic events and hazards. Faults in and around the community, and the offshore Cascadia subduction zone (a 750-mile long major thrust fault) are considered active. Recent geotechnical studies identify fault zones, as well as areas susceptible to ground shaking, liquefaction, and tsunami run-up that represent safety hazards to the community. The potential for a major seismic event has prompted emergency response organizations, such as the Humboldt Earthquake Education Center at Humboldt State University, to provide information promoting earthquake and tsunami awareness and emergency preparedness. Geologic safety hazards also include potential slope instability on Arcata's hillsides and soil erosion. Mapped hazard areas are shown on Figure PS-a, located in a map pocket at the end of this Element.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone

North of the Mendocino Triple Junction, the Gorda Plate and its northern extension, the Juan de Fuca Plate, move eastward on a collision course with the North American Plate. The Gorda Plate slowly descends beneath the North American Plate along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Most scientists believe that the upper 50 miles or so of the contact between the Gorda Plate and the North American Plate is locked. This boundary is called the megathrust.

Source: [Living on Shaky Ground](#).
Humboldt State University

Potential Flooding Hazards Overview. Arcata is bordered by the Mad River to the north, and bisected by several streams. These watercourses and their associated floodplains have been altered over time and are subject to future change. They have the potential, during peak flows, to overtop their banks with sufficient volume and velocity to damage adjacent structures, facilities, and natural areas. A number of Arcata's creeks have been modified with culverts, channels, and coverings. These structures inhibit natural infiltration and flood protection, resulting in increased flood volumes and velocities downstream. There is strong community interest in returning local creeks to more natural conditions, and incorporating measures, such as detention basins and natural infiltration, that will reduce flood velocities and volumes.



ARCATA'S DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN GOALS INCLUDE:

- Minimize increases in the volume and the flow of stormwater runoff associated with new development, so as to minimize increases in the hazards and the costs associated with flooding.
- Minimize the erosion potential from a development or construction site so as to prevent deposition of sediment into streams and other receiving water bodies.
- Maintain the integrity of stream hydrology by preventing stream channel erosion so as to sustain the hydrologic functions of streams.
- Reduce the pollutant load in stormwater runoff from developing and urbanizing areas so as to preserve the natural biological functions of streams and other receiving water bodies (and flood management and stream habitat quality).
- To the extent practical, acquire easements and properties necessary for effective drainage management.

Hazardous Materials Overview. Human exposure to hazardous materials and conditions must be minimized to ensure the well being of the community. Reducing this exposure must include cleaning up contamination from the past and avoiding use of hazardous materials in the future. Hazardous materials used primarily in wood products processing and auto-related operations have resulted in site and groundwater contamination that remain today. Minimizing future health hazards can be accomplished by:

1. Elimination of many toxic substances.
2. Substitution of environmentally safe alternatives.
3. Safer handling and disposal procedures of those materials still available.

There is community interest in replacing harmful substances and materials with biodegradable and less damaging substitutes, and cleaning up existing contaminated sites.

Human Health Hazards Overview. Sound physical and mental health are important factors when considering the well being of the community. Access to health care providers, social services, counseling, and facilities such as hospitals, clinics, temporary shelters and food distribution sites, should be taken into consideration when planning the community's future. These services and facilities are typically provided by agencies and organizations other than the City; however, the City can play an important role in minimizing health hazards by identifying locations where treatment and assistance are available, and by promoting accessibility to these services.

Guiding Principles and Goals.

- A. Establish and maintain emergency response capabilities and services at both the City and neighborhood levels.
- B. Promote seismic safety by restricting development in high risk areas, and strengthening buildings and infrastructure to withstand seismic events.
- C. Recognize that certain slopes and soils lack stability and are best left undisturbed.
- D. Establish and maintain sufficiently sized flood areas along Arcata's watercourses, to accommodate flood flows without damaging property or injuring residents.
- E. Reduce fire hazards through prevention and suppression.
- F. Protect residents and the natural environment from exposure to hazardous materials and substances.
- G. Promote a sense of security and safety by maintaining and supporting police services.
- H. Promote social services and programs that improve the physical and mental well being of community residents.
- I. Continue participating in the Humboldt joint powers authority, and promote hazardous materials reductions and safe handling.

NEST GOALS ARE TO:

- Organize the neighborhood.
- Evaluate your risk at home.
- Practice your skills as a group.
- Learn about disaster-preparedness.
- Prepare your family for any event.
- Train in survival & life saving skills.
- Obtain the necessary equipment & supplies.
- Get the neighborhood ready to support itself.
- Provide accurate information to emergency services.
- Provide skilled volunteer services to the community.
- Recover quickly from any disaster.
- Get positive results in disaster efforts (PRIDE).

6.2 POLICIES

The Public Safety Element contains the following policies:

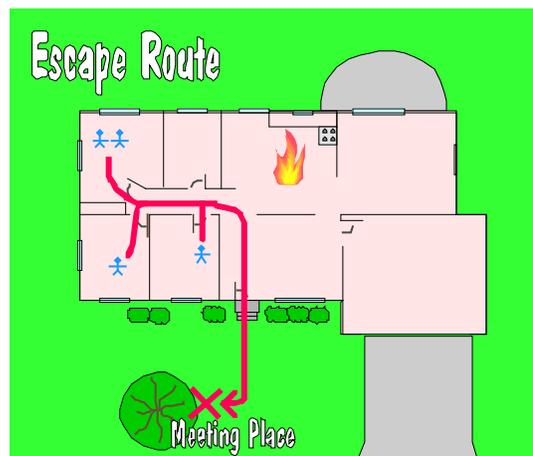
- PS-1 Emergency Preparedness
- PS-2 Seismic Hazards
- PS-3 Other Geologic Hazards
- PS-4 Flood Hazards
- PS-5 Fire Hazards
- PS-6 Hazardous Materials
- PS-7 Crime Prevention and Response
- PS-8 Human Health Hazards

POLICY PS-1 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Objective: Ensure that the City, its residents, businesses, agencies, and organizations are prepared for emergencies or disasters and have effective response and recovery plans in place.

PS-1a **City Emergency Response Plan.** The City shall maintain a comprehensive response plan for emergencies, including seismic events, tsunamis, slope failures, floods, storms, fires, and materials spills or contamination. The plan will provide for timely and coordinated response to emergencies that threaten community residents, property, and vital services. The plan will identify City and other emergency response agencies that should be contacted, and also identify neighborhood resources available for more localized assistance and relief.

PS-1b **Evacuation routes/transportation facilities.** Emergencies such as floods, storms, fires, distantly generated tsunamis, and hazardous materials spills may necessitate immediate evacuation of affected areas. A map of evacuation routes shall be included in City and neighborhood emergency response plans. These plans will also include evacuation methods for residents who are without, or unable to operate, vehicles. An emergency access plan shall be developed for access to the east side of town (east of State Route 101) after a major seismic event.



- PS-1c **Disaster preparedness coordination using the Standardized Emergency Management System.** City staff responsible for emergency response shall be trained in Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) implementation, which is necessary to receive reimbursement from the State of California for disaster response related costs. This training includes instruction about the Incident Command System (ICS) which is used to manage emergency incidents or non-emergency events.

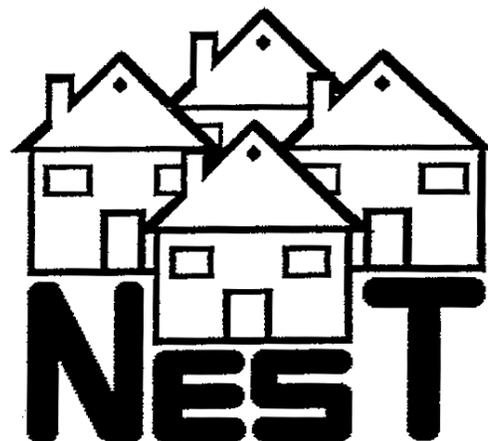
APPLICATIONS FOR THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM:

- Fires, hazardous materials (HAZMAT), and multicasualty incidents.
- Multijurisdiction and multi-agency disasters.
- Wide area search and rescue missions.
- Pest eradication programs.
- Oil spill response and recovery incidents.
- Single and multi-agency law enforcement actions.
- Air, rail, water, and ground transportation accidents.
- Planned events (celebrations, parades, concerts).
- Private sector emergency management programs.
- State or local major natural hazards management.

- PS-1d **Siting and design of critical facilities.** Adequate shelter and continued operation of essential services, including communications, medical treatment, water delivery, fire and police services, and key transportation facilities are vital for responding to emergencies. These facilities and services shall be located and designed to withstand disaster impacts and have backup systems, such as emergency generators and water storage (including private and open water sources), that allow for their continuous operation during emergencies. New critical facilities shall not be located in areas with high physical hazards, including high liquefaction potential, flood zones, and tsunami hazards. Critical facilities shall be designed to be functional at peak capacity, following a magnitude 7.7 earthquake in the Mad River fault zone.

- PS-1e **Development & design standards for emergency response.** New and renovated structures, as well as streets, driveways, and alleyways, shall be designed to provide adequate entry and exit by emergency vehicles and personnel. This includes visible street numbering, emergency vehicle turn-arounds, accessible building entry points and stairways, lighting, and interior evacuation routes.

- PS-1f **Citizen training/Neighborhood and Business Emergency Services Teams.** The City of Arcata Police Department coordinates the organization and training of Neighborhood Emergency Services Teams and Business Emergency Services Teams (NEST and BEST). The NEST program is essential for mobilizing neighborhood response to emergencies. The NEST program shall be expanded to all neighborhoods.



POLICY PS-2 SEISMIC HAZARDS

Objective: Protect existing and new structures from seismic hazards. Identify and map seismic hazards and assure that any development within such hazard areas does not proceed until geologic and soils conditions are adequately investigated and appropriate mitigation measures, if any, are incorporated into development plans.

PS-2a Development within fault zone/surface rupture areas.

The City shall maintain current seismic information that identifies fault zones and probable surface rupture areas. Development in these areas shall be avoided, unless it can be demonstrated that structures and facilities can be designed to withstand effects of faulting and surface rupture. Building setbacks from faults, surface ruptures, and other seismic hazards, as specified in the most current Uniform Building Code, shall be maintained.



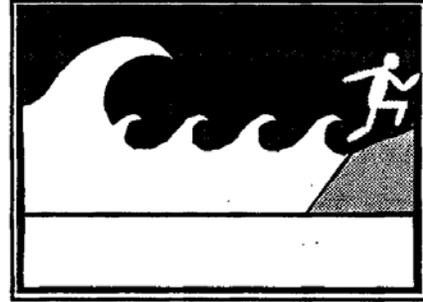
PS-2b Mitigation of ground-shaking hazards. Arcata will experience ground-shaking during an earthquake. The City maintains seismic data files that identify areas where ground-shaking will most likely damage buildings and infrastructure. New construction and renovation shall incorporate the most current and effective seismic engineering measures to strengthen building foundations and infrastructure in these areas.

PS-2c Mitigation of surface rupture and groundshaking hazards. The City's Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone map (Figure PS-a) and Geologic Hazard Land Use Matrix (Table PS-1) identify areas highly susceptible to surface rupture and groundshaking. Construction in these areas shall be restricted, unless it can be demonstrated, in geotechnical reports prepared by qualified personnel, that structures and facilities can be designed to withstand liquefaction hazards induced by seismic events.

PS-2d Requirement for and review of "Geotechnical Reports." New building and infrastructure construction, and substantial renovations in areas with seismic hazards, shall incorporate geotechnical report specified measures into project design. Geotechnical reports shall be required for structures or infrastructure in seismic hazard areas. Required reports, prepared by a registered geologist, certified engineering geologist, or registered engineer with expertise in seismic engineering, shall recommend mitigation for seismic impacts and identify alternative solutions. The City may require independent review of the geotechnical reports.

PS-2e **Shoreline hazards (tsunami, tidal flooding).** A

State of California study (*Planning Scenario in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, California, for a Great Earthquake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone, Special Publication 115, California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines & Geology, 1995*) indicates that the Arcata Bay shoreline and adjacent areas, between McDaniel Slough and Mad River Slough, could be inundated by tsunami run-up. The City shall prohibit the location of critical facilities in the tsunami run-up area, and use available emergency broadcasting systems to communicate tsunami warnings. Should coastal access within the tsunami run-up zone be provided in the future, appropriate evacuation route signage shall be posted.



PS-2f **Failure of Matthews Dam.** All new buildings designed for human occupancy or use that are located in the area of potential inundation resulting from a catastrophic failure of Matthews Dam shall have an early-warning system and evacuation plan in place for those persons living and working there.

PS-2g **Earthquake-resistant building and infrastructure standards.** The current Uniform Building Code standards for strengthening buildings and infrastructure to withstand earthquakes shall be enforced. The competency of existing road and utility networks shall be evaluated and, where necessary, upgraded to withstand the most current ground acceleration standards.

PS-2h **Public information and disclosure.** The Humboldt Earthquake Education Information Center, at Humboldt State University, and the City of Arcata have earthquake/tsunami awareness information that is available to the public. The Center and the City will continue to make the most current information available to help the community prepare for and respond to seismic events.

THE HUMBOLDT EARTHQUAKE EDUCATION INFORMATION CENTER:

- Prepares and distributes earthquake education materials.
- Provides information when significant earthquakes occur.
- Conducts workshops for emergency planners, teachers and others.
- Has speakers for community group conferences and meetings.
- Operates the Humboldt earthquake hotline.
- Maintains a website.
- Conducts intensity studies of regional earthquakes.

GEOLOGIC HAZARD LAND USE MATRIX – KEY TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Explanation
P	Development prohibited
R1	Engineering geologic report and soils engineering report required. Engineering geologic report must be prepared by a Certified Engineering Geologist®. Soils engineering report may be prepared by a Registered Civil Engineer® with appropriate geotechnical knowledge and experience or by a Certified Engineering Geologist® with appropriate geotechnical knowledge and experience.
R2	Engineering geologic report required. Engineering geologic report may be prepared by a Registered Geologist® with appropriate geotechnical knowledge and experience.
®	All registrations and certifications must be licensed by the State of California.
D	Report requirement is left to the discretion of the City Building Inspector.
*	Fault Rupture Hazard. "SSZ" refers to Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone. "PAF" refers to Potentially Active Fault. See Hazards Map (Figure PS-a) and Seismic Safety Policies
**	See Slope Stability Hazard Map (Figure PS-b)
***	High Liquefaction indicates soil saturation and instability in moderate seismic events. Medium Liquefaction indicates soil saturation and instability in major seismic events. Low Liquefaction indicates soil saturation and instability in major seismic events. See Hazards Map (Figure PS-a)

POLICY PS-3 OTHER GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

Objective. Protect existing and new structures from non-seismic geologic hazards such as unstable slopes and soils. Require that all non-seismic geologic hazards be adequately addressed and mitigated.

PS-3a **Slope stability hazards.** Slope areas greater than 15%, shown on Figure PS-a, and certain less steep slopes with erosive soils may become unstable if disturbed. The City shall restrict grading, vegetation removal, and new construction in areas with unstable soils unless it can be demonstrated that these activities can occur without impacts. All grading of slope areas shall follow natural contours to maximize stability.

TABLE PS - 1 GEOLOGIC HAZARD LAND USE MATRIX

BUILDING TYPE/ LAND USE	EARTH-QUAKE SHAKING HAZARD	FAULT RUPTURE HAZARD*		SLOPE STABILITY HAZARD**				LIQUEFACTION POTENTIAL ***					
		SSZ	PAF	LOW	IV	III	II&I	LOW	II	HIGH			
Hazardous substance storage, reservoirs, natural gas storage tanks Hospitals, fire and police stations, emergency control centers, power plants, power and communications substations, schools, theaters Auditoriums, hotels, large motels, major office buildings, high density residential	R1	R2	R2	V	D	D	R1	R1	III	D	R1	I	
				IV	D	D	R1	R1	D	R1	II	D	R1
				II&I	D	D	R1	R1	D	R1	I	D	R1
Residential structures on existing lots with footing loads greater than typical 2 story wood frame dwellings or residential structures with 3 stories or more Major Subdivisions Heavy Industrial	D	R2	R2	D	D	D	R2	R1	D	D	R1	R1	
				R2	D	D	R2	R2	R1	R1	D	R1	R1
Multi family structures greater than 4-plexes Minor subdivisions Light industrial, warehousing, commercial Residential wood frame structures 2 stories or less on existing lots	D	R2	R2	D	D	D	R2	R2	D	D	R1	R1	
				R2	D	D	R2	R2	R1	R1	D	R1	R1
				R2	D	D	R2	R2	R1	R1	D	R1	R1
Critical		Non Critical											

PS-3b **Grading standards for erosion and sedimentation control.** The design, extent, and location of grading shall minimize disturbance of the natural terrain and land features and shall not impact offsite areas. Trees and native vegetation shall be retained around graded areas to stabilize hillsides; retain moisture; reduce erosion, siltation and nutrient runoff; and retain the natural beauty of the area. Cleared areas susceptible to erosion shall be stabilized so that no materials are transported offsite.

PS-3c **Hillside development standards.** The land areas subject to hillside development standards are shown in Figure PS-a. Development on lands within these areas shall be subject to the following standards:

1. Each new lot created in areas subject to hillside development standards shall be required to contain a contiguous buildable area of at least 4,000 square feet. All parts of the building area shall have a natural slope of less than 15%. No more than 4,000 square feet of any existing lot which was legally created prior to adoption of this plan, and does not meet the preceding 15% standard, may be disturbed for development.
2. At least 50% of the area of any lot undeveloped as of the date of this plan shall be included in a "natural area" which shall remain in a natural, ungraded, undeveloped state. All slopes in excess of 25% shall be included in the natural area.
3. Vegetation removal in the natural area of each lot shall be subject to review and approval by the City.
4. All access roads and driveways shall be kept to the minimum feasible width and shall be designed to minimize grading and disruption of vegetation.
5. Access roads shall not exceed 15% slope for any distance. Individual driveways shall not exceed 17% slope.
6. Access roads or driveways shall be designed to avoid steep slopes and shall not have cuts exceeding fifty feet (50') nor fills exceeding twenty-five feet (25') in height.
7. The design, scope and location of grading for development should cause the minimum disturbance of the terrain and natural features of the land. Unavoidable grading should complement natural land forms. Mass grading of large pads and terraces shall not be permitted.
8. All manufactured slopes shall be planted or otherwise protected from the effects of storm run-off and erosion.
9. Time limits to avoid extensive grading during the wet season shall be imposed on new developments.
10. Any necessary conditions to control erosion and assure site restoration shall be required by the City. Measures shall include short-term controls to minimize erosion at construction sites and long-term controls for minimizing sedimentation and maintaining water quality.
11. Development in areas subject to development standards should demonstrate a concern for the view of the hills as well as the view from the hill.

- PS-3d **Slope-density land use restrictions.** Slopes greater than 25% are to be designated as natural areas and shall not be included in density calculations. Minimum parcel sizes on slopes shall be contingent on the site's ability to accommodate a building site with adequate access and utilities.
- PS-3e **Geotechnical reports.** Geotechnical reports shall be prepared for development of areas with unstable slopes and/or erosive soils. These reports will be prepared by qualified professionals, consistent with Policy PS-2d. Measures to ensure slope and soil stability shall be incorporated into the project design.
- PS-3f Provide available information, including potential for site slippage, effects of groundwater on slopes and soils, erosion potential, and other hazards, to homebuilders prior to the start of construction.

POLICY PS-4 FLOOD HAZARDS

Objective. Protect current and future populations and property from flood hazards. Assure that new development within floodplains does not proceed until appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated into development plans.

- PS-4a **Floodplain Mapping.** The City shall continue participating in the National Flood Insurance Program and maintain the most current Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) on file. The City shall also continue requesting that the Federal Emergency Management Agency provide hydrographic modeling (using the 1964 flood levels as a benchmark) and an update of flood mapping for the Mad River.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) manages the National Flood Insurance Program providing insurance to the public in participating communities. FEMA is the main federal government agency contact during natural disasters and publishes Flood Insurance Rate Maps, which identify flood potential based on a 100-year flood.

- PS-4b **Limitations to development adjacent to Arcata Bay and along Bay shoreline (tidal flooding, tsunami, failure of dikes or tidegates).** The Arcata Bottom and other low lying areas adjacent to Arcata Bay, McDaniel, Butcher's and Gannon Sloughs, and Arcata Marsh are susceptible to flooding from extreme Bay tidal action, tsunami run-up, seiche, dike or tidegate failure, heavy rainfall that can't drain, and Mad River flood events. Where not otherwise restricted, habitable structures and related improvements shall be appropriately elevated above flood levels, designed so as not to restrict flood flows, and shall comply with applicable provisions of Resource Conservation and Management Policy RC-2: Streams Conservation and Management, pertaining to Streamside Protection Areas (RC-2b and RC-2c). Land alterations for recreation and natural resource uses shall also not restrict or increase or channelize flood flows in a way that could cause inundation to adjacent areas.

PS-4c **Limitations on development within Flood Zone.** The mapped Floodzone A as determined by FEMA should be kept free of structures and other obstructions that would restrict flood flows. New construction in Flood Zone A shall be elevated, flood-proofed, designed to not constrict flood flows or drainage, and/or include other features, such as access for evacuation and emergency response, to protect human safety and minimize property damage. Landform alterations shall not impede flood flows in adjacent upstream or downstream areas. Any development in the floodplain must be consistent with City floodplain zoning regulations.

PS-4d **Limitations to development within flood hazard zones.** Arcata's creeks and sloughs have the potential to cause localized flooding and shall be maintained to allow the flow of floodwaters. Structures and other land form alterations in areas susceptible to localized flooding, outside areas defined in policies RC-2b and RC-3c, should be setback from the watercourse. Elevated and flood-proofed structures, and/or floodwater detention basins shall be provided to minimize flood damage and prevent any net increase in floodflows upstream or downstream. The City shall promote flood management practices for entire watercourses, to minimize the need for sandbagging and other temporary flood control measures that can have detrimental impacts to adjacent areas.



PS-4e **Flood Insurance.** Flood insurance is available from private insurers to compensate home and business owners for flood-related losses. Flood insurance rates are set by a site's proximity to mapped flood-prone areas. The City shall make information about flood-prone areas available to the public, to aid community residents and business owners in determining whether flood insurance should be purchased.

PS-4f **Development standards in floodplains (surface drainageways and detention areas).** All plans for new construction that could potentially encroach into a floodplain must incorporate measures for flood protection and show that there will be no adverse impact to the carrying capacity of the floodway. Setbacks, easements covering Floodzone A, and minimal use of impervious surfaces are measures strongly encouraged. Elevation of structures, anchoring, flood-proofing, and construction of detention basins are considered secondary and less desirable measures. The City's floodplain administrator shall verify this information and require appropriate certification before any development permits are granted.

PS-4g **Preventive maintenance of streams and drainageways.** Local streams carry the majority of Arcata's floodwaters and shall be maintained for flood protection as well as natural biological functions. All improvements and maintenance shall be done in accordance with the City's Drainage Master Plan.

PS-4h **Development review: drainage standards and drainage fees.** All new development shall meet current City drainage standards and pay all applicable drainage fees. The City shall provide incentives to reduce the amount of impervious surface associated with new and renovated uses by reducing drainage fees.

POLICY PS-5 FIRE HAZARDS

Objective. Minimize risk of personal injury and property damage resulting from structural (urban) and wildland fires.

PS-5a **Management of urban fire hazards (development/design standards).** Structural fires demand immediate response from a combination of onsite and Fire Department resources in order to minimize injury and damage. Fire suppression devices such as extinguishers and sprinklers are important for initial response, reduce fire insurance premiums, and satisfy operations requirements for certain types of businesses. These devices are encouraged in new and renovated non-residential buildings and in all residential structures with more than four units, even when not required by fire and building code.



All buildings should have adequate lighting, street numbering, and access to ensure rapid response by fire-fighting vehicles. To ensure urban fire safety, the City shall enforce the Uniform Building and Uniform Fire Codes (UBC & UFC) currently in effect, and the Universal Building Code when it is adopted.

PS-5b **Review of development for fire safety.** The Arcata Volunteer Fire Department takes an active role in reviewing new development for compliance with fire safety standards. The City shall continue to incorporate Fire Department review to ensure that driveways, turns-arounds, and other access ways have sufficient width, vertical clearance, and turn-around space for fire fighting vehicles. Roadways shall have an all-weather surface and grades shall not exceed the Fire Department's maximum slope standards for emergency access.

PS-5c **Water supply (fire flow).** The City's fire hydrant system provides the primary source of water for fighting urban fires. The City shall maintain fire hydrant spacing so that no residential structure is more than 500 feet from a hydrant and no commercial or industrial structure is more than 300 feet from a hydrant. Each hydrant shall have adequate fittings and be capable of providing adequate water flows to meet Fire Department standards.



The City shall maintain adequate fire flows in its water system. Open-water sources such as ponds, swimming pools, private storage tanks, and reservoirs may be used as a secondary water source by fire-fighting apparatus. These sources shall be equipped with appropriate filtering devices or strainers to prevent clogging of water pumps.

PS-5d **Management of wildland fire hazards.** Wildland fires in forested areas of the City can cause property damage and threaten nearby structures. Buildings in forested areas shall use materials such as non-flammable perimeter vegetation and roofing material to prevent exposure to wildland fires. The City shall encourage the Arcata Fire Department to maintain its mutual aid agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CDF) to insure rapid response to wildland fires.

PS-5e **Fire suppression services.** The Arcata Volunteer Fire Department's (AVFD) jurisdiction (shown as District #1 on the AVFD service area map) includes the City's incorporated, sphere of influence, and planning areas, except for an outlying area along Jacoby Creek Road. The AVFD maintains two fire stations to provide rapid response to all fire calls within its service area. They also maintain mutual aid agreements with the CDF and the Eureka Fire Department for rapid response to fires in outlying areas.

POLICY PS-6 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Objective. Minimize the personal injury, property damage, and public health risks associated with the production, use, storage, disposal, and transporting of toxic substances or hazardous materials.

PS-6a **Reduction of hazardous waste (source reduction).** There are increasing numbers of environmentally safe materials and substances available that offer alternatives to hazardous materials. Improved water-based paints that replace oil and lead based paints, cellulose insulation materials that replace asbestos, and biodegradable antifreezes that replace glycol based coolants, are all examples of safer materials and substances currently in use. The City shall request information from County, State, and Federal agencies, as well as manufacturers and suppliers, regarding environmentally safe products and shall have a list of those products available to the public.



PS-6b **Contaminated sites.** There are sites in and around the City where wood product milling and production, vehicle and equipment storage and repair, agricultural production, and other uses may have resulted in site contamination. Materials such

as lead based paints may also contribute to contamination. Many of these sites are inactive and may be appropriate for alternative uses. Environmental Site Assessments shall be required prior to development review and approval of potentially contaminated sites, and cleanup is required prior to reuse. The City shall record and map sites with known contamination.

PS-6c Use of potentially harmful materials on public lands and rights-of-way. The City of Arcata does not use toxic sprays or substances on vegetation in public lands or rights-of-way, and has been persuasive in stopping State agencies, such as Cal-Trans, from using toxic sprays along State rights-of-way within the City limits. The City shall continue this practice and prohibit other public agencies from using toxic sprays or substances within the City limits (see Resource Conservation and Management Element Policy RC-1i).

PS-6d Siting of facilities handling hazardous waste. Businesses and agencies that use, store, or produce hazardous materials shall train employees and other users in safe handling and storage procedures, and shall post current Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and Humboldt County hazardous materials requirements. Businesses shall also comply with Federal "community right-to-know" regulations. The City shall consider proximity to sensitive receptors, such as schools, hospitals and other health care facilities, day care centers, and other immobile populations, when reviewing new facilities and businesses involved in these activities.

PS-6e Household and other small-quantity generators. Households and small businesses accumulate solvents and cleaners, petroleum products, pesticides, and other toxic substances that are potentially hazardous if spilled, released into the atmosphere, or ingested. The City shall maintain a list of toxic substances which should be avoided and publicize collection dates and locations where these substances can be disposed of properly. The City shall coordinate with the County Hazardous Materials Department (Humboldt County) and the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (California Environmental Protection Agency) to ensure that collection sites are accessible to community residents.

The City shall also encourage property owners and real estate agents to remove hazardous materials, or disclose their presence, to purchasers as part of property transfers. Property purchasers should have the option of accepting certain materials, such as paint, or requesting removal and cleanup prior to the property transfer.

PS-6f Hazardous waste management (recycling, treatment, disposal). All commercial and industrial businesses and other operations that use, store, or produce hazardous materials, shall contract with a licensed hauler for pickup and disposal of waste materials, except for individual disposal complying with County, State and Federal requirements. All hazardous materials shall be stored in safe containers and locations, and use of these materials shall be in compliance with County, State and

Federal standards.

PS-6g **Hazardous materials education program.** The City shall work with the Humboldt County Health Department and the California Department of Toxic Substances to develop educational materials explaining hazardous materials' impact on people, plants, and animals, and provide information on alternatives to hazardous materials. This information shall be made available to the public.

POLICY PS-7 CRIME PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Objective. Promote law enforcement agency and community group efforts to reduce crime and assure timely and effective responses to calls for service.

PS-7a **Development/building and site design standards for crime prevention.** Some criminal acts in and around buildings can be prevented or minimized by incorporating safety and security precautions into building and site design. These include a combination of onsite features such as alarm systems, secured entryways, lighting, and visible access. Crime prevention measures, such as providing alarm systems, security lighting, street numbers, and visibility for police surveillance, should be incorporated into, and around, new and renovated buildings. Gated communities hinder police and fire suppression access and shall be prohibited, consistent with Community Design Element policy.

PS-7b **Community-based policing.** Community-based policing has proven effective in reducing crime by involving citizens in crime prevention. The City Police Department provides training to business and neighborhood groups in how to discourage crime and best respond when crime occurs. The City shall continue to provide citizen training, maintain relationships with community groups, and encourage Business Emergency Services Teams (BESTs) to reduce crime and augment the essential services of the Police Department. Foot and bike patrols shall be promoted to maximize interaction between citizens and police, to foster friendship, understanding, and mutual help.

PS-7c **Cooperative Law Enforcement.** There are three law enforcement agencies based in Arcata: The Arcata Police Department, the HSU Police Department, and the California Highway Patrol. These agencies work together, responding to incidents throughout the City. The City shall continue to cooperate with other law enforcement agencies to maximize public safety within its boundaries. The City Police Department shall be the primary response agency within City limits since it is the only agency directly accountable to the government and citizens of Arcata.



PS-7d **Independent review.** The Arcata Police Department has an established review procedure for investigating complaints against law enforcement personnel. Complaints may also be referred to the Humboldt County Grand Jury.
[Revised by Ordinance No. 1377, September 2008]

PS-7e **Education and crime prevention funding.** The City recognizes that funds spent on education and crime prevention are more effective in reducing crime than funds spent on apprehending, prosecuting, and incarcerating criminals. The City shall pursue a long-term strategy of funding education and crime prevention programs.

POLICY PS-8 HUMAN HEALTH HAZARDS

Objective. Promote access to services and programs (prevention, treatment, and long term care) that will improve human health conditions for current and future populations. The City recognizes that its resources are limited but will work with other government agencies, non-profit organizations, social service and health care providers to help all residents meet and maintain basic physical and mental health. The City will serve as a model for other governmental entities that are addressing local health needs

PS -8a **Health care programs and facilities.** The City of Arcata does not directly provide health care programs or facilities; however, these facilities are operated in the City by a variety of health care providers and professionals, as well as non-profit and other organizations. The City shall allow health care facilities (such as clinics, counseling centers, and doctors offices) to be located in appropriate areas of the City, and encourage programs that serve all segments of the population.

PS-8b **Social services programs.** The City administers certain social services, such as temporary and permanent housing programs. Other public agencies, including the State of California, and Humboldt County, offer social services, such as public assistance, and food subsidy programs. There are also non-profit, religious, social, and other organizations, as well as businesses that offer social services such as counseling, educational, family assistance, child care, health education, and food subsidy programs. Social service needs shall be monitored, through population trend analysis and other indicators, and information disseminated to other social service providers.

Larger employers shall be encouraged to provide childcare services. The City shall coordinate with other public agencies and service providers to avoid duplication of services and shall assist in coordination, planning, and evaluating social services delivery. Additional services, such as Travelers Aid, shall also be encouraged, either through City sponsorship or identification of appropriate service providers. Social service facilities shall be located in areas that are accessible to users.



The General Plan Housing Element goal is to provide housing opportunities for people of all income levels, through the development of a wide range of housing types. The Element also contains affordability and fair housing policies as well as design standards to serve the needs of all population segments. The Housing Element shall be implemented to promote affordable and accessible housing for segments of the population with limited financial resources and limited mobility.

PS-8c Needs of cultural groups and special populations. Cultural groups, such as Native Americans and other local ethnic populations, and special populations, such as those with physical and mental disabilities, may require more specialized services than those provided in community-wide programs. The City shall allow, where appropriate, use of public spaces for cultural group activities, and shall consider the needs of special populations in City programs, activities, and land use planning.

PS-8d Improving community health. Health care costs and other factors, such as lack of knowledge, limited mobility, and cultural beliefs, prevent certain segments of the community from seeking both preventative care and treatment for illness. This can lead to increased rates of infection and the spread of disease, which impact community health. Non-communicable diseases, such as alcoholism and substance addiction, worsen without treatment and can also impact community health. The City shall encourage low cost health providers to offer preventative, urgent, and continuing health care services, including alcoholism and substance abuse programs, that are accessible to all segments of the community.

Community health may be jeopardized by lack of free access to clean water and sanitation facilities. The City shall work with other government agencies, non-profit organizations, and social service providers to plan, develop, and maintain such facilities.

The City shall prohibit camping/living in areas such as the Arcata Community Forest, where clean water and sanitation facilities are not available. If feasible, the City may provide or permit a short-term camping area for unsheltered persons.

6.3 IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
LU -1	Update seismic setbacks/structural requirements and hillside development standards (LUC Amendment) Update City land use code for setbacks from known faults and other hazards, geotechnical review and structural requirements, and hillside development standards.	Community Development Dept.	Year 1
PS -1	Neighborhood and Business Emergency Services Teams (NEST and BEST) Promote the formation of NESTs in all neighborhoods and the formation of BESTs in business communities. The City Police Department shall have a designated NEST/BEST coordinator available to assist neighborhoods with NEST organization and training, and to supply training materials (such as the <u>Captain's Handbook</u> Disaster Planning Guide).	Police Department	Ongoing
PS -2	Emergency preparedness and response programs Maintain and distribute current information about seismic risks and emergency preparedness (such as living on shaky ground – <u>How to Survive Earthquakes & Tsunamis on the North Coast</u> distributed by the Humboldt Earthquake Education Center, HSU). Maintain Standardized Emergency Management System training for senior City staff, including Incident Command System, multi/inter-agency coordination, mutual aid, and operational area concepts.	City Manager's Office/Arcata Fire & Police Departments	Ongoing
PS -3	Floodplain mapping and management program Update floodplain mapping throughout the planning area, including continued participation with National Flood Insurance Program.	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Year 5
PS -4	Cooperative law enforcement/independent review Establish an ombudsman and/or police review commission for independent investigation and mediation of complaints, and for reviewing law enforcement procedures.	District Attorney/ State AG/ Grand Jury/ Human Rights Commission	Year 5
PS -5	Safer materials and substances list Maintain a list of safer materials and environmentally friendly substances to replace toxic substances and hazardous materials.	Environmental Services Dept.	Year 2
PS -6	Education program for reduction of hazardous waste (resource reduction) The City shall compile information from County, State and Federal agencies, as well as from manufacturers and suppliers, regarding environmentally safe products and shall make that information available to the public.	Environmental Services Dept.	Ongoing

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
PS -7	Brownfield sites Record and map sites having known contaminants, contingent upon funds availability.	Community Development Dept.	Year 2
PS -8	Hazard information and protection Complete the updates of the GIS base maps for hazards, and link a computer at the Permit Application Counter in Community Development to the GIS for public and staff access.	Environmental Services Dept./ Community Development	Year 1

NOISE ELEMENT

6.4 INTRODUCTION

The Noise Element is one of the seven required General Plan Elements that must be prepared by California cities and counties (Government Code Section 65302). The



California General Plan Guidelines state that the Noise Element of the General Plan provides a basis for comprehensive local programs to control and abate environmental noise and to protect citizens from excessive exposure. The Noise Element is required to identify and appraise noise in the community and follow the guidelines adopted by the Office of Noise Control in the State Department of Health Services. Local governments must analyze and quantify noise levels, and the extent of noise exposure, through actual measurements or the use of noise modeling.

The air into which noise is emitted, and on which it travels, is a common resource of the community. It is a public good and as such its use, as well the responsibility of maintaining it, belongs to everyone.

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA GENERAL PLAN GUIDELINES* FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL GOALS OF THE NOISE ELEMENT ARE:

- To provide sufficient information concerning the community noise environment so that noise may be effectively considered in the land use planning process. In so doing, the necessary groundwork will have been developed so that a community noise ordinance may be utilized to resolve noise complaints.
- To develop strategies for abating excessive noise exposure through cost-effective mitigating measures in combination with zoning, as appropriate, to avoid incompatible land uses.
- To protect those existing regions of the planning area whose noise environments are deemed acceptable and also those locations throughout the community deemed "noise sensitive."
- To utilize the definition of the community noise environment, in the form of CNEL or Ldn noise contours as provided in the Noise Element for local compliance with the State Noise Insulation Standards. These standards require specified levels of outdoor to indoor noise reduction for new multi-family residential constructions in areas where the outdoor noise exposure exceeds CNEL (or Ldn) 60 dB.

(*Appendix A of the Guidelines)

Loud noise is a health issue. The human ear is not designed to accommodate loud noise for long durations. Exposure to sounds louder than 90 decibels (e.g., a power lawnmower) for more than one or two hours begins to damage the inner ear. Therefore, all people, businesses, industry, and organizations have an obligation to respect the health and

comfort of others, and to acknowledge that the effects of broadcasted noise are not limited to their own private property. In sharing the community's common resources, everyone has an obligation to respect the health of others in ways that are compatible with, and do not detract from, other uses. Noise levels from sources commonly found in the community are shown in Figure N-a.

Definitions of noise, potential effects on people, and existing ordinances. Noise, commonly defined as unwanted sound, is an environmental phenomenon to which people are exposed throughout life. Noise is among the most pervasive pollutants, a waste product generated primarily by human activities.

As urbanization and development have intensified globally, regionally, and locally in Arcata, noise levels have also increased. Studies have shown that increased noise levels have a direct adverse impact on the quality of home, work, and recreational environments.

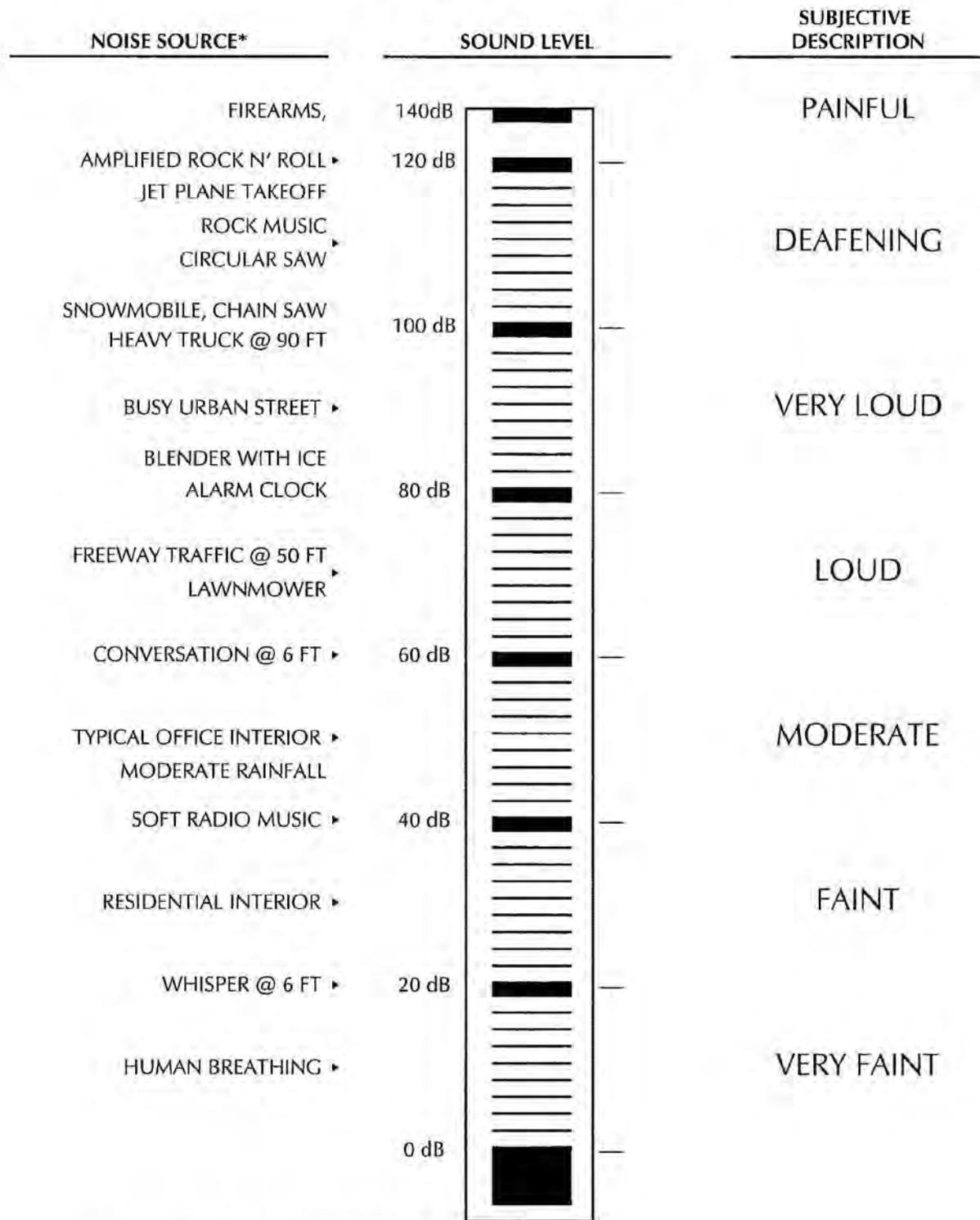
In recognition of these adverse impacts, the Arcata City Council passed a Plaza Area Noise Ordinance (City Ordinance #1249) prohibiting unnecessary, excessive, and annoying noise from all sources. The Noise Ordinance states that excessive noise levels, offensive noise, and unreasonably disturbing noise are detrimental to the public health, welfare and safety and are contrary to the public interest. Detrimental noises interfere with: sleep, communication, relaxation, and the full use of private property; use and enjoyment of the Arcata Plaza by the general public; noise-sensitive land uses, particularly residential apartments and lodging; and productive commerce. Detrimental noises contribute to hearing impairment and a range of adverse physiological stress conditions and adversely affect the value of real property.

It is the intent of the Noise Ordinance to protect the public health, comfort, convenience, safety, welfare, prosperity, peace, and quiet by reducing excessive noise levels and by prohibiting the generation of offensive, or unreasonably disturbing, noise.



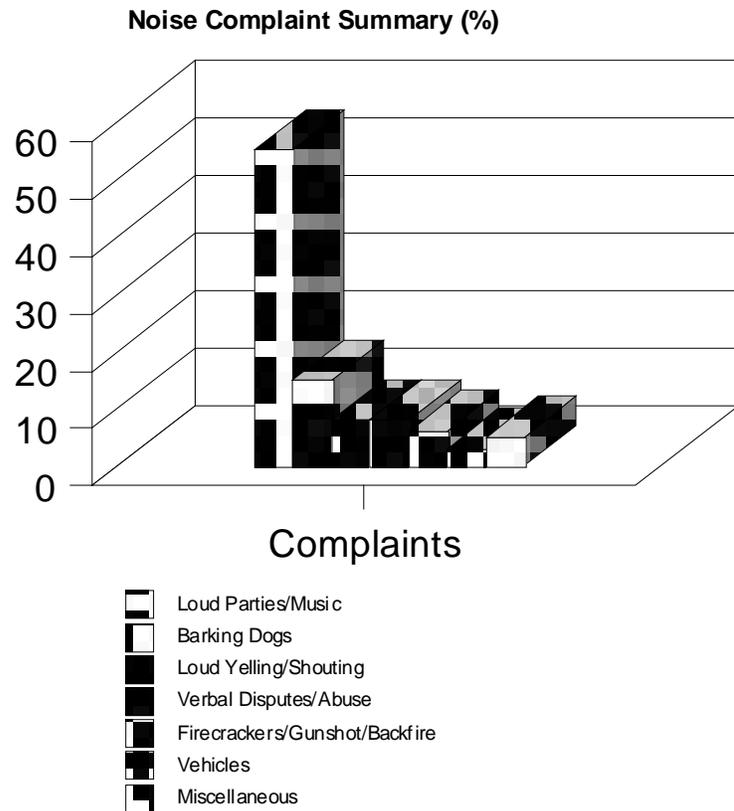
Noise environment overview. Arcata has experienced change from its small, rural town beginnings to a growing, urban community with more intensive and diverse uses. Preservation of surrounding open spaces, and General Plan policies for more efficient land uses, have promoted in-fill urban development which intersperses residential uses (noise receptors) with commercial and industrial land uses (noise generators). The proximity of noise generators to noise receptors such as higher volume vehicle travel on local roadways has resulted in increased noise levels at receptor sites. Future development of commercial and industrial uses will increase the potential for future noise conflicts.

FIGURE N-a A WORLD OF NOISE



* Unless otherwise noted, noise levels are measured at the source

A September 1997 community noise survey conducted as part of General Plan background studies showed that typical noise levels in noise-sensitive areas of the City range from 46 dB to 63 dB L_{dn}. Traffic, local roadways, major roadways (including State Routes 101, 299 and 255), railroad operations, industrial activities, and neighborhood activities are the primary sources of background noise levels. Some residences have outdoor activity areas directly exposed to major noise sources (such as the railroad tracks, major roadways, and industrial areas) that exceed generally acceptable noise exposure criteria.



Note: The percentages expressed in this figure are projected based on the existing noise element (1986).

Noise complaints received by the City also measure noise levels. The Arcata Police Department has received increasing numbers of noise complaints over the last several years. Police activity reports show 866 noise complaints in 1995; 951 in 1996; and 1,043 in 1997, which is a twenty percent increase. Some of the most frequent noise complaints within the City of Arcata are associated with barking dogs, loud parties, boom boxes, car stereos, existing industrial activities, and existing on-site commercial noise sources such as outdoor speaker systems, street sweeping, and early morning garbage pickup. Some of these noises are considered infractions, and are covered in the penal code. Others are referred to other agencies, or determined to be unenforceable, and are not included in the complaint records.

Future noise environment overview.

Community noise levels can increase with development. This is especially true for noise along major roadways, such as State Routes 101 and 299. The projected future noise controls are shown in Figure N-b. As development continues, there is a growing potential for noise increases due to commercial or industrial operations. It is now



recognized that noise pollution can often be reduced through attenuation measures such as barriers, mufflers, and insulation, with little or no penalty to progress.

Figure N-b Projected Future Noise Contours (11 x 17)

Figure N-b Projected Future Noise Contours part 2

Responsibilities of a Noise Element. The Noise Element advances the ethic that a low-noise-level environment is a common resource that can be enjoyed by all, and that noise generated by some has the potential to negatively affect others. The Noise Element provides a mechanism for evaluating and mitigating the potential effects of noise on the community. It identifies potential noise sources that exceed acceptable standards and noise sources that may be considered annoying. It also provides criteria for determining acceptable noise exposure. The California General Plan Guidelines state that the Noise Element will be as detailed as necessary to describe the local situation and mitigate local noise problems. This means that the City is not limited to applying noise controls and noise reduction techniques to projects and other activities requiring City review and permits, but can address other noise generating activities in the community.

The Noise Element sets policy direction for evaluating the potential effects of noise due to new industrial processes or commercial noise sources. (Projected future noise contours are shown on Figure N-b.) Many times, however, noise sources are overlooked during the review process, or are added on-site at a later date. Once the project is approved, the administrative actions for responding to complaints of these noise sources generally fall outside of the City's review process. In these cases a noise ordinance is required in order to determine compliance with local standards or the potential for annoyance.

In the event of an individual being annoyed due to a neighbor's barking dog or an existing commercial activity, a noise ordinance would provide a complaint and enforcement mechanism. These types of noises, however, are most effectively addressed through educating community members about "good neighbor policies," since dog ownership, or existing commercial activities, are not subject to City review, and enforcement is usually considered as a last resort. Complaint and enforcement mechanisms include:

- Ordinance 1249, for the Plaza Area only.
- Penal code 415 – Disturbing the Peace.
- Land Use and Development Guide regulations.

City responsibilities. The City of Arcata can set an example for business and industry by considering the acoustic concerns and future noise impacts of City operations and business. The City can lead the way by demonstrating that ongoing operations and new noise-producing uses and products can meet specified noise criteria by making effective noise attenuation information available, and by providing a procedure for mediating noise disputes. The City can accomplish this by preferential purchasing of quieter equipment; reducing use of noisy equipment (as demonstrated by City Council action to eliminate the use of leaf blowers in certain public areas); limiting hours of operation for public works projects (except for emergencies) in residential areas; and incorporating acoustic materials and barriers in all



new City facilities.

Public surveys on noise show that many people do not know how to effectively address noise issues. Community members in general appear to lack knowledge of how to reduce noise conflicts. There also seems to be a pattern of governmental agencies responding to noise complaints with little or no enforcement or action against noise violations. This pattern may be as typical of Arcata as other urban settings. To address this issue, procedures and educational materials are being developed, including a noise control manual.

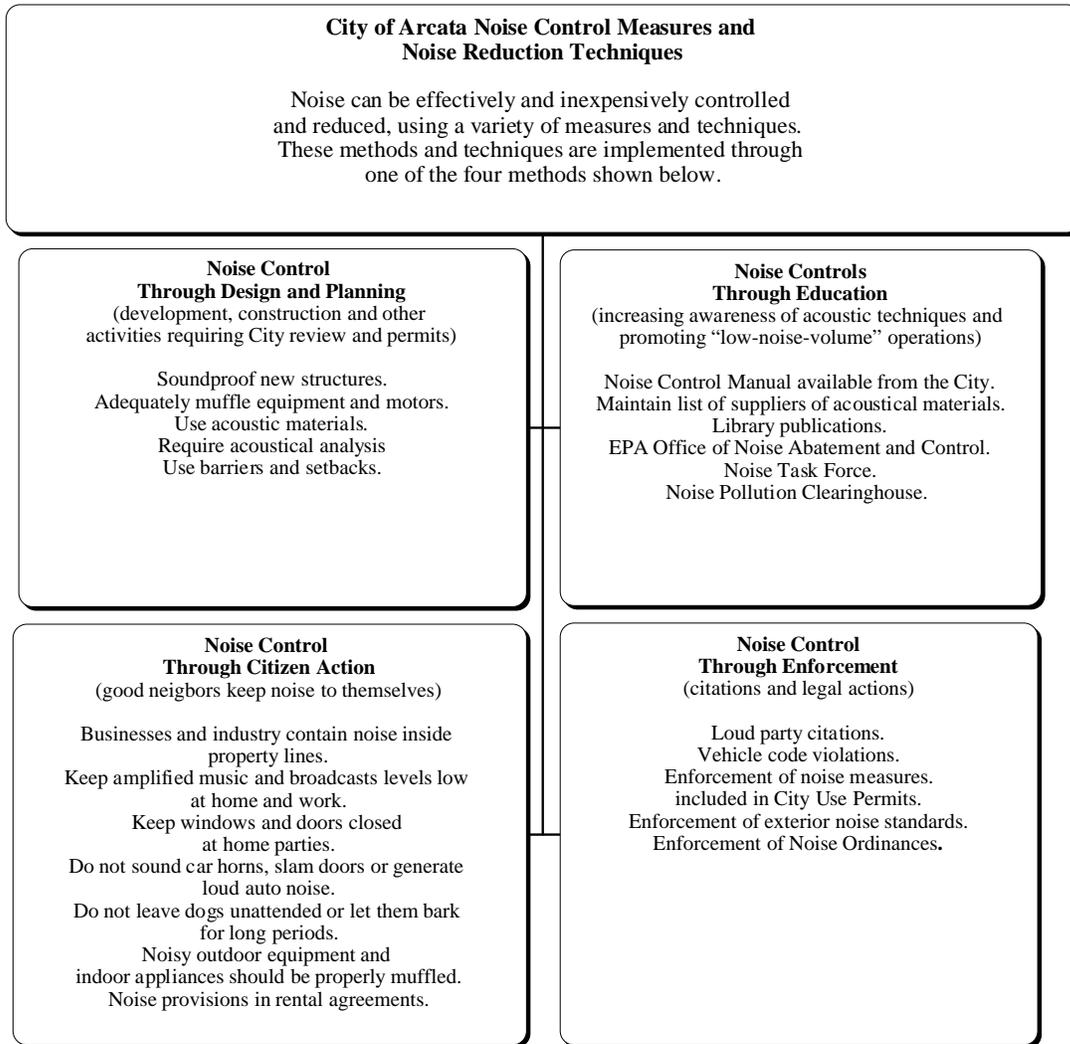
Community responsibilities. The quality of the soundscape is a growing environmental concern and is an important aspect of the City's livability. To increase public awareness of achieving and maintaining a high quality soundscape, the community can draw on noise attenuation techniques, such as those in the Noise Control Manual.

One of the most effective ways to contribute to the solution is to be a good neighbor. Most importantly, this means taking responsibility for reducing noise at the source. Businesses and industry can contain noise generating uses and activities within buildings, or construct barriers so that noise does not reach adjacent areas. Residents should also consider how the noise they generate could affect others and reduce the level accordingly. Motorists and other vehicle operators should be conscientious of the potential for vehicle noise to disturb others. Figure N-c shows noise control measures for all neighbors and neighborhoods.

Guiding Principles and Goals.

- A. Reduce noise at the source.
- B. Protect City residents from the harmful and disturbing effects of noise through controls on noise-producing activities.
- C. Promote noise mitigation techniques in the design of both noise receptors and noise generators.
- D. Encourage state-of-the-art land use planning methodologies and acoustic control techniques (refer to City Noise Control Manual) to reduce existing and potential noise conflicts.
- E. Encourage cooperative and voluntary action by businesses and industry, to reduce noise emissions from annoying noise sources.
- F. Promote mediation as a means of reducing noise complaints which result from existing noise sources.
- G. Educate community residents about good neighbor policies, the benefits of reduced noise levels, and living in a community with a high quality soundscape.
- H. Bring all noise sources into compliance with noise guidelines by strongly encouraging voluntary compliance, pursuing funding for noise attenuation measures to mitigate any financial hardships, and through enforcement of a Noise Ordinance.

FIGURE N-c NOISE CONTROL MEASURES



6.5 NOISE POLICIES

The Noise Element contains the following policies:

- N-1 Noise Attenuation
- N-2 Stationary Noise Sources and Levels
- N-3 Transportation Noise Sources and Levels
- N-4 Requirements for Acoustical Analysis
- N-5 Intrusive and Intermittent Noise Sources

POLICY N-1 NOISE ATTENUATION

Objective. Reduce, or eliminate, noise impacts at their source by providing enclosures, barriers, and other on-site noise attenuation measures for noise generating activities. Monitor noise levels to ensure that acceptable noise levels are maintained on adjacent sites.

- N-1a **Noise attenuation measures.** Noise attenuation measures, and stationary noise source controls shall include the use of barriers, setbacks, site design, baffles, enclosures, silencers, and improved facade construction techniques.
- N-1b **Noise attenuation guidelines.** Noise attenuation measures and stationary noise source controls shall follow the guidelines provided in the technical document entitled: Noise Control Manual (which is considered an implementation measure).
- N-1c **Noise mitigation.** Where noise mitigation measures are required, the emphasis of such measures shall be placed upon site planning and project design. The use of noise barriers shall be considered a means of achieving the noise standards only after all other practical design-related noise mitigation measures have been integrated into the project.
- N-1d **Noise level reduction.** To reduce existing, objectionable, industrial, and stationary noise levels at the source, the City shall work with local industries to incorporate noise control technology through building and site design and engineering solutions. The City shall make available current acoustical attenuation techniques (Noise Control Manual) for new and retrofitted industrial development.
- N-1e **Noise standards enforcement.** Enforcement of noise standards shall be accomplished through development and implementation of a noise control ordinance, post-project compliance testing, and through the use of mediation.
- N-1f **Mediation of noise conflicts.** Where noise conflicts may occur, all affected parties shall strive to use innovative and positive solutions to solve those disputes, including the use of trained mediators. The City recognizes that many noise issues can be resolved before they get to the complaint stage if there is a procedure for airing the issue with an impartial third party.
- N-1g **Resolution of noise disputes.** The City shall establish positive ways to discuss and resolve noise issues and disputes, including the use of trained mediators.

POLICY N-2 STATIONARY NOISE SOURCES AND LEVELS

Objective. Establish acceptable noise levels for land uses and activities that will protect community residents from the harmful effects of excessive noise exposure from stationary

noise generators. Maintain interior and exterior noise standards that will achieve land use compatibility with respect to community noise.

N-2a Noise contour maps. The noise contour map (Figure N-b) and other estimates of noise source levels shall be used in conjunction with the noise source criteria to evaluate the feasibility of a proposed project.

N-2b New development of noise-sensitive uses. New noise receptors shall not be allowed where the noise level from non-transportation noise generators will exceed noise level standards (Table N-1), unless effective noise mitigation measures that meet City standards are incorporated.

N-2c Noise created by new or proposed stationary noise sources. Noise created by new or proposed stationary noise sources, or the expansion or alteration of an existing use, shall be mitigated so as not to exceed noise level standards (Table N-1) at noise-sensitive land uses. All noise generators not in compliance with these standards will be encouraged to mitigate impacts.

N-2d Acceptable noise levels. New construction and retrofits at existing buildings shall include appropriate insulation, glazing, and other sound attenuation measures so that they comply with standards contained in Table N-1. These standards are intended to set levels for external noise sources that could potentially impact a new dwelling or other noise-sensitive use.

TABLE N-1 – NOISE STANDARDS FOR NEW PROJECTS AND RETROFITS

LAND USE	EXTERIOR			INTERIOR		
	Noise Level Descriptor	7am-7pm	7-10 pm	10pm-7am	7am-7pm	7pm-10pm
Residences, Transient Lodging, Hospitals, Nursing Homes						
Hourly L_{eq}	55 dB	50 dB	45 dB	45 dB	40 dB	35 dB
Maximum	75 dB	75 dB	70 dB	65 dB	65 dB	60 dB
Auditoriums, Theaters, Libraries, Schools, Churches						
Hourly L_{eq}	55 dB	55 dB	n/a	40 dB	40 dB	n/a
Maximum	75 dB	75 dB	n/a	60 dB	60 dB	n/a

1. The City can impose noise level standards which are up to 5 dB less than those specified above based upon determination of existing low ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project site.
2. These noise level standards do not apply to residential units established in conjunction with industrial or commercial uses (e.g., caretaker dwellings).
3. The standards will be applied at the outdoor activity areas of the receiving land use, and at the building facade for upper floor receivers which do not have an outdoor activity area facing the noise source. Where no outdoor activity area is identified, the City has the option to apply only the interior noise level performance standards.

POLICY N-3 TRANSPORTATION NOISE SOURCES AND LEVELS

Objective. Establish acceptable noise levels, for land uses and activities, that will protect community residents from the harmful effects of excessive noise exposure due to transportation noise sources. Maintain interior and exterior noise standards that will achieve land use compatibility with respect to community noise.

N-3a New development of noise-sensitive land uses. New development of noise receptors will not be permitted in areas exposed to existing or projected levels of transportation noise exceeding levels specified in Table N-2, unless exterior noise or noise levels in interior spaces can be reduced to meet City Standards (Table N-2).

N-3b Transportation noise. Transportation noise sources shall be periodically measured, and significant increases mitigated, so as not to exceed the levels specified in Table N-2 for outdoor activity areas or interior spaces of existing receptors.

TABLE N-2 - MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE TRANSPORTATION NOISE SOURCES EXPOSURE

LAND USE	OUTDOOR ACTIVITY AREAS ¹ L _{dn} /CNEL, dB	INTERIOR SPACES	
		L _{dn} /CNEL,dB	Leq, dB2
Residential	603	45	--
Transient Lodging	604	45	--
Hospitals, Nursing Homes	603	45	--
Theaters, Auditoriums, Music Halls	--	--	35
Churches, Meeting Halls	603	--	40
Office Buildings	--	--	45
Schools, Libraries, Museums	--	--	45
Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks	70	--	--

1. Where the location of outdoor activity areas is unknown, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied to the property line of the receiving land use.
2. As determined for a typical worst-case hour during periods of use.
3. Where it is not possible to reduce noise in outdoor activity areas to 60 dB L_{dn}/CNEL or less using a practical application of the best-available noise reduction measures, an exterior noise level of up to 65 dB L_{dn}/CNEL may be allowed provided that available exterior noise level reduction measures have been implemented and interior noise levels are in compliance with this table.
4. In the case of hotel/motel facilities or other transient lodging, outdoor activity areas such as pool areas may not be included in the project design. In these cases, only the interior noise level criterion will apply.

N-3c Roadway projects. To minimize noise impacts, the following criteria may be used as a test of significance for roadway projects:

1. Where existing traffic noise levels are less than 60 dB L_{dn} at the outdoor activity

- areas of noise receptors, a + 5 dB L_{dn} increase in noise levels due to a roadway improvement project will be considered significant.
2. Where existing traffic noise levels range between 60 and 65 dB L_{dn} at the outdoor activity areas of noise receptors, a + 3 dB L_{dn} increase in noise levels due to a roadway improvement project will be considered significant.
 3. Where existing traffic noise levels are greater than 65 dB L_{dn} at the outdoor activity areas of noise receptors, a + 1.5 dB L_{dn} increase in noise levels due to a roadway improvement project will be considered significant.

POLICY N-4 ACOUSTICAL ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS

Objective. Establish a consistent procedure and framework for conducting and reviewing acoustical analyses.

N-4a **Noise-sensitive land uses.** Where receptor land uses are potentially exposed to existing or projected exterior noise levels exceeding the levels specified in Table N-2 or the performance standards of Table N-1, an acoustical analysis shall be required as part of the environmental review process, so that noise mitigation may be included in the project design. An acoustical analysis prepared pursuant to the Noise Element shall:

1. Be the financial responsibility of the applicant.
2. Be prepared by a qualified person experienced in the fields of environmental noise assessment and architectural acoustics.
3. Include noise level measurements, with sufficient sampling periods and locations, to adequately describe local conditions and the predominant noise sources.
4. Estimate existing and projected cumulative (twenty years) noise levels in terms of L_{dn} or CNEL and/or the standards of Table NI, and compare those levels to the adopted policies of the Noise Element.
5. Recommend appropriate mitigation to achieve compliance with the adopted policies and standards of the Noise Element, giving preference to proper site planning and design over mitigation measures which require the construction of noise barriers or structural modifications to buildings which contain noise-sensitive land uses.
6. Estimate noise exposure after prescribed mitigation measures are implemented.
7. Describe a post-project assessment program which could be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures.

POLICY N-5 INTRUSIVE AND INTERMITTENT NOISE SOURCES

Objective. Protect community residents from the effects of excessive, intrusive, and intermittent noise. Set standards for intrusive and intermittent noise sources for both daytime and nighttime periods. Intrusive noise sources have a qualitative aspect that can be annoying. These sources may contain a tonal component which is absent from the existing general background noise. They may also be rhythmic, reoccurring or impulsive in nature, or comprised mainly of music or speech. Intrusive noise can result in annoyance or interference with sleep. These types of noise sources can include, but are not limited to, industrial processes, warning horns, backup alarms, and pressure release devices.

N-5a **Intrusive noise.** When intrusive noise sources have been identified, the detrimental effects (sleep interference or the potential for annoyance) shall be disclosed to neighboring receptor properties.

N-5b **Noise levels due to non-transportation sources.** Noise levels due to non-transportation sources which may be intermittent or recurring, impulsive noises, pure tones, or noises consisting primarily of speech or music, shall be subject to the criteria contained within Table N-1, with a -5 dB penalty applied to the criteria.

N-5c **Rhythmic, reoccurring, or impulsive noise sources.** When noise sources have been identified to be rhythmic, reoccurring, or impulsive in nature or comprised mainly of music or speech, they may comply with applicable noise level criteria and still be annoying to individuals. When these types of noise sources have been identified, they may be subject to additional mitigation or mediation.

N-5d **Construction site tool or equipment noise.** The following shall apply to construction noise from tools and equipment:

1. The operation of tools or equipment used in construction, drilling, repair, alteration or demolition shall be limited to between the hours of 8 A.M. and 7 P.M. Monday through Friday, and between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturdays.
2. No heavy equipment related construction activities shall be allowed on Sundays or holidays.

This shall apply to construction noise from tools and equipment which are subject to the review of the City, and which may affect receptor uses. This policy shall not apply to emergency work of public service utilities or by variance under a noise ordinance.

N-5e **Stationary and construction equipment noise.** All stationary and construction equipment shall be maintained in good working order, and fitted with factory approved muffler systems.

N-5f **Noise Ordinance.** The City of Arcata shall develop and adopt a City-wide noise ordinance. The ordinance shall contain noise level criteria consistent with the criteria contained within the noise element.

6.6 IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
N -1	Citywide and downtown noise ordinances Adopt a citywide noise ordinance to protect public health, safety, welfare, and quiet by reducing existing noise levels and prohibiting the generation of loud noise from new sources. Amend the existing downtown noise ordinance to be consistent with Noise Element standards.	Police Department	Year 1
N -2	Noise Control Manual Maintain and apply a Noise Control Manual that contains techniques for soundproofing new structures and muffling equipment and motors; promotes use of acoustic materials, barriers and setbacks; and requires acoustic analysis to determine potential noise impacts.	Community Development Department/ Planning Commission	Year 1
N -3	Education programs The City shall maintain current information about noise monitoring and attenuation techniques effective in identifying and reducing noise.	Community Development Dept.	Ongoing
N -4	Record of noise complaints The Arcata Police Department shall maintain a record of noise complaints.	Arcata Police Dept.	Ongoing
N -5	Noise reduction inquiry procedure The City recognizes that many noise issues can be resolved before they get to the complaint stage, if there is a procedure for airing the issue with an impartial third party.	Community Development Dept.	Year 1

Glossary



GENERAL PLAN GLOSSARY

[The General Plan Glossary has been replaced by Article 10 (Glossary) of the Land Use Code to promote consistency, per Ordinance No. 1377, September 2008, and is bound in a separate document.]