

GORDON STEFENHAGEN

Mayor

JESSE M. LUERA

Vice Mayor

CHERI KELLEY

Councilmember

MICHAEL MENDEZ

Councilmember

RICK RAMIREZ

Councilmember

ERNIE V. GARCIA

City Manager

HOUSING POLICY
DEVELOPMENT, HCD

MAR 07 2011



City of
NORWALK

12700 NORWALK BLVD., P.O. BOX 1030, NORWALK, CA 90651-1030 * PHONE: 562/929-5700 * FACSIMILE: 562/929-5773 * WWW.CI.NORWALK.CA.US

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7009 1410 0000 3339 8792

March 2, 2011

Housing Policy Division
California Department of Housing and Community Development
1800 3rd Street
P.O. Box 952053
Sacramento, CA 94252-2053

RE: General Plan Annual Report

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Enclosed herewith, please find a copy of the City of Norwalk's General Plan Annual Report as required by Government Code Section 65400(b).

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 929-5775.

Sincerely,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Planning Division



Bing H. Hyun,
Planning Manager

CITY OF NORWALK
2010 GENERAL PLAN AND HOUSING ELEMENT
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
PLANNING DIVISION

April 1, 2011

INTRODUCTION

On February 29, 1996, the Norwalk City Council adopted the City's current General Plan for implementation. The General Plan contains ten elements: Circulation, Community Design, Conservation, Educational and Cultural Resources, Housing, Land Use, Noise, Open Space, Safety and Utility Infrastructure. Of these elements, Community Design, Educational and Cultural Resources and Utility Infrastructure are the three new elements that were added to the General Plan as part of the 1996 comprehensive General Plan update.

The Norwalk City Council adopted a revised Housing Element on July 17, 2001 to adequately address issues related to current and future housing opportunities and to meet the requirements of the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

As required by Government Code Section 65400 (b), every city must submit an annual progress report to their legislative body, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on the implementation status of their General Plan. The annual report must also include discussion on the City's progress in providing its required share of affordable housing pursuant to Government Code Section 65584 and its efforts to remove governmental constraints for the maintenance, improvement and development of affordable housing per Section 65583.c (3) of the California Government Code.

This General Plan and Housing Element Annual Progress Report covers the period from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010.

STATUS OF GENERAL PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

Land Use Element

The City of Norwalk is considered a developed community comprised mostly of single-family residential neighborhoods, with its predominant commercial and industrial land uses situated along several major roadways. As a developed community, any future development in the city would occur as infill or redevelopment.

In February 1996, an updated Land Use Element was adopted as part of the City's comprehensive General Plan update. Since adoption of the 1996 General Plan, the City has processed a variety of new land use developments and adopted new land use regulations that have continually upheld the Land Use Element.

During 2010, the City Council adopted ordinances to amend Title 17 of the Norwalk Municipal Code (NMC) to add regulations for check cashing businesses and wireless telecommunications facilities.

Circulation Element

The Circulation Element of the 1996 General Plan defines the transportation needs of the City and presents a comprehensive transportation plan to accommodate those needs. The element also focuses on identifying and evaluating local circulation needs, while balancing those needs with regional demands and mandates. The following outlines the City's efforts in addressing local circulation, regional circulation and public transportation needs in the Norwalk community:

Local Circulation

Through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the City has continued to make a variety of improvements to its existing network of public streets (e.g., street resurfacing, sidewalk repair, American Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) compliance, etc.). In the 2010 calendar year, several areas throughout the City were repaved and had curb and gutter repairs, which were administered through the Local Street Overlay and the Curb and Gutter Repair Programs.

The following projects are included as part of the street improvements that were constructed in 2010:

- Rehabilitation of Studebaker Road by repaving and restriping the street between Cecilia Street and Alondra Avenue;
- Rehabilitation of Firestone Boulevard by repaving and restriping the street between Hoxie Avenue and Imperial Highway;
- Grinding and repaving the Firestone Bridge located on the northwest portion of the City at the boundary line between Downey and Norwalk, and
- Repaving Pumice Street as part of mitigation measures for traffic impacts that will be caused by the construction of the I-5 freeway widening.

The following projects are included as part of the street improvements that were approved in 2010 and are scheduled to be completed by 2011:

- Designs for the reconstruction of Firestone Bridge located on the northwest portion of the City at the boundary line between Downey and Norwalk;
- Undergrounding utilities on Pioneer Boulevard between Alondra Boulevard and 166th Street;
- Rehabilitation of Alondra Boulevard by repaving and restriping the street between Pioneer Boulevard and Shoemaker Avenue;
- Rehabilitation of 166th Street by repaving and restriping the street between Norwalk Boulevard and Elmcroft Avenue;
- Traffic signal improvement as part of I-5 Traffic Mitigation Project at Shoemaker Avenue and Excelsior Drive; and
- Traffic signal modification at Pioneer Boulevard and 163rd Street to be partially paid by developer of mini-self storage facility and the City;
- Local Neighborhood Paving Program to install/replace handicap ramps, cross gutters and curb and gutters; and
- Upgrade computer systems that control traffic signals through the City.

Other street improvements (e.g., street dedications, street widening, sidewalk construction, deceleration lanes, etc.) are funded and built by developers as part of their conditions of approval for developing their property. In addition, developers are responsible for paying their "fair share" of the cost to mitigate anticipated traffic impacts associated with new development in the City.

Additionally, developers are often required to conduct traffic studies to establish uses which have higher parking demands or larger development projects which may create traffic impacts on the existing network of public streets. These traffic studies are required to ensure that new uses and developments will not have negative traffic impacts.

Regional Circulation

The City of Norwalk currently participates in local and regional transportation planning and decision-making by implementing and conforming to the guidelines of the Los Angeles County Congestion Management Plan and the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Arterial Highways.

Additionally, the City has collaborated in regional transportation projects that will impact the Norwalk community, including the widening of the I-5 freeway between Orange County and the I-605 freeway and the proposed high-speed rail project that will extend between San Diego and San Francisco.

I-5 Freeway Widening: The City has been working with Caltrans regarding the widening of the I-5 freeway by attending meetings and reviewing the design for the widening to minimize the impacts of this project on surrounding neighborhoods in Norwalk. Permits have already been issued for the demolition of several houses in the adjacent affected areas.

High Speed Rail Project: Throughout the 2010 calendar year, the City has participated in a number of meetings with the California High Speed Rail Authority to address any issues related to the construction of the high-speed rail and to ensure the most benefit to the Norwalk community with the least negative impacts. The rail project, as of December 2010, has been placed on hold for the LA to Anaheim segment. The rail board decided to focus their energy on "a buildable" segment in Central California. Until funding is provided for the segment, a draft EIR originally scheduled for early 2011 has been placed "on hold".

Public Transportation

In addition to conducting street and circulation improvements, the City also provides a local transit operator for the community, which provides fixed-route and paratransit service since 1974. Norwalk Transit System (NTS) utilizes twenty-two (22) heavy-duty vehicles and four (4) Dial-A-Ride vans; continues to provide connector shuttle bus service between the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Transportation Center and the Metro Green Line Studebaker Station in Norwalk. Presently, Metrolink (commuter rail service between Orange County and Los Angeles) provides weekday train service to the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Transportation Center. This rail feeder service implemented

by Norwalk Transit provides direct interconnectivity between rail stations (Metrolink-commuter rail and Metro Green Line-light rail).

The City of Norwalk is continually maintaining and upgrading its public transportation facilities. In the 2010 calendar year, approval was obtained for the funding and design to upgrade nineteen (19) existing bus stops throughout the City.

Housing Element

The City's Housing Element identifies Norwalk's housing goals and objectives. As part of the current housing element, the City's share of affordable housing units (based on household income and size) has been incorporated into the City's Housing Element which is allocated based on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) conducted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

Norwalk is in the process of revising the current Housing Element to reflect the 2006 – 2014 planning period. The first draft of Norwalk's Housing Element has been completed and reviewed by the Planning Commission. The draft was then forwarded to HCD for review. HCD then provided comments that need to be addressed in the City's Housing Element. The city is currently working on revisions to the draft, which will be presented to the Planning Commission for review and re-submitted to HCD. Upon completion of the process with HCD, the Housing Element will be forwarded to the City Council for final consideration.

The following is a discussion of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and the City's efforts towards achieving the housing goals and objectives through the Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and Home Investment Partnership (HOME):

Regional Housing Needs Assessment

A Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) conducted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) allocates the number and type of housing units that must be provided in cities within the Southern California region number. Table No. 1 (below), identifies the specific number and type of affordable housing units to be constructed within the City of Norwalk between 2006 – 2014.

**TABLE 1
 CITY OF NORWALK
 REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS
 01-01-06 to 06-30-14**

<u>Income Category</u>	<u>Required Housing Units</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Extremely Low	31	10.4%
Very Low	44	14.8%
Low	46	15.5%
Moderate	50	16.8%
Above Moderate	126	42.5%
TOTAL	297	100.0%

The identification of affordability type is categorized as Extremely Low (less than 30 percent of Los Angeles County's median income), Very Low (30-50 percent of L.A. County's median income), Low (50-80 percent of L.A. County's median income), Moderate (80-120 percent of L.A. County's median income), and Above Moderate (greater than 120 percent of L.A. County's median income).

The City's efforts in addressing housing needs during the 2010 calendar year included using Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds to acquire the following residential properties: 11836 162nd Street, 16014 Clarkdale Avenue, 11865 Chesterton Street, and 15416 Clarkdale Avenue in the City of Norwalk. These properties were foreclosed and were acquired by the City to be rehabilitated and sold to low to moderate income Norwalk residents. The City recognized that most low to moderate-income buyers may not be able to afford the sales price of the homes. Therefore, the City funded the gap between the mortgage the family does qualify for and the sales price of the home. Through this program funding, four Norwalk families will be able to purchase a home that they otherwise would not have been able to afford.

According to Building and Safety Division records, the building permits that were issued in the 2009 calendar year for a new residential unit were finalized in 2010. No building permits were issued for new residential units during the 2010 calendar year.

Using the forms and definitions, as adopted by HCD on March 27, 2010, information regarding Norwalk's progress in addressing the regional housing need allocation have been included in Tables "A", "A2", "A3", "B" and "C" contained in Attachment 1.

Housing Programs

In a continuing effort to provide housing assistance within the community, the City of Norwalk administers the Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) and housing programs such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership (HOME). These programs are a means to achieving the Norwalk's housing goals and objectives.

Norwalk Housing Authority – The Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA), a separate legal entity established in 1976, assists lower income families to secure decent, safe, and sanitary housing at affordable prices. The Housing Authority administers an ongoing Housing Voucher Program. During calendar year 2010, the NHA issued 29 vouchers to new families from a waiting list and an average of 709 families were assisted with their rent.

Community Development Block Grant – The federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program has the responsibility of administering a wide range of programs whose objective is to provide housing in a sound environment, principally for low and moderate-income households. The focus of CDBG activities are to provide financial assistance in the form of low cost home improvement programs, provide essential public services, stimulate the revitalization of older declining neighborhoods and monitor the modernization of essential infrastructure in neighborhoods with a high concentration of low/moderate income residents.

For the 2010 calendar year, CDBG funds have rehabilitated 69 homes and 12 mobile homes as of December 31, 2010 to benefit low and moderate-income households in order to prevent or eliminate slums or blight within the community. The number of homes assisted by this program in the 2010 calendar year is 35% higher than the prior year, despite the economic downturn. In addition, CDBG funds have been previously allocated to support housing services to several non-profit organizations that provide shelter for abused, homeless or disadvantaged women and children.

Home Investment Partnership – The Home Investment Partnership (HOME), administered by the Community Development CDBG Division, also provides a variety of resources to assist elderly, low-income residents, in addition to the City's special needs population. For the 2010 calendar year, the HOME Repair Program has assisted 22 low-income residents as of December 31, 2010 by providing needed residential repairs in addition to necessary handicap accessibility improvements. The number of homes assisted by this program in the 2010 calendar year is 38% higher than the prior year.

Conservation Element

The Conservation Element of the Norwalk General Plan is intended to provide for the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources (e.g., water, minerals, energy sources etc.). Since the City of Norwalk is a completely urbanized community, there are limited natural resources that can be conserved and/or developed. However, conservation of existing resources from contamination and providing adequate mitigation measures to ensure that new development does not adversely impact the existing environment is being routinely achieved. The following is a discussion of different City conservation efforts as they relate to water conservancy and recycling programs:

Water

In the on-going effort to improve water quality and eliminate pollutant discharges into municipal storm drains and underground aquifers, the Engineering Division is currently responsible for City compliance with the federally mandated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). As part of this program, the Engineering Division submits the NPDES Permit Annual Report and the San Gabriel Watershed Assessment Report to the County, which is due in September of each calendar year to demonstrate compliance.

Through the Capital Improvement Program, the City has taken measures to ensure water quality and conservation. One measure that was taken in the 2010 calendar year was that the City began a design to upgrade existing water well at Norwalk Park, in which new pumps and pipes would be installed to connect the water supply to a water distribution center. This upgrade is necessary to ensure adequate water supply for Norwalk residents.

In the 2010 calendar year, the City also identified the location of an additional water well site which is to be located at Hermosillo Park. The design and construction for the new water well will not commence until the 2011 calendar year.

Program activities to ensure the conservation of natural resources include interagency coordination with local and regional agencies, annual inspection and monitoring of the open channels and the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) for public construction projects.

Additionally, the City has been proactive in promoting water conservation particularly through the adoption of an ordinance in 2009, which contains water conservation requirements. The adopted water conservation requirements provide residents and business owners with regulations for watering lawns, washing vehicles and inspecting leaking plumbing and fixtures, among other regulations.

The City also works in collaboration with water purveyors that service Norwalk residents, such as Park Water and Golden State Water companies to promote water conservation. In the past, they have set up informational booths and distributed conservation items such as low-flow showerheads at the City's health fairs and other public outreach efforts.

Recycling

The City of Norwalk is committed to "going green," promoting public awareness on the importance of recycling/conservation and offering programs for its residents. All of the City's recycling programs are funded by either grants, partnerships, and/or forfeiture funds. Below is a summary of the various recycling programs and outreach efforts that took place within the 2010 calendar year within the City.

Used Oil Block Grants/Oil Payment Program – This program is funded by a State block grant. In the past, the City of Norwalk received an average of \$28,000 annually to promote proper disposal of used motor oil. This allocation was drastically reduced to half as a result of the State's financial crisis. In the 2010 calendar year, the funds were used to fund year-round residential curbside pickup as well as filter exchange events, in which residents take their used oil filters to a Kragen Auto Store for a new filter. Promotional items such as oil containers, filters, tote bags and cleaning rags were distributed during these events. We also promoted awareness by setting up an informational booth at City-hosted events such as the Summer Concert series.

In addition, the City conducted an artwork calendar contest, which is organized every other year. This included presentations at school assemblies for 5th graders and students are encouraged to participate in the contest. The contest involves the submittal of artwork depicting proper used oil disposal activities and the effects used oil has on our environment. A vote is taken to select the winning entries which are then included in the City's Calendar (one for each month of the year in addition to the 1st and 2nd place winners whose entries are placed on the front cover and first page of the calendar. Those students are then asked to participate in a Council meeting where they are recognized for their artwork. All artwork submitted is then displayed at the City's Cultural Arts Center for students and their families to view during the holidays.

Beverage Container Grants – This program is also funded by a State block grant. There has been much uncertainty with funding availability given the State's financial

situation, and cities/counties were paid 55% of the original allocation for FY 2009-10, which was \$13,615. The funds were used to partially subsidize a quarterly recycling publication called "The One Person's Trash..." and to purchase recycled content items for public distribution as well as the distribution of informational materials. A few years ago, the City established a partnership with the school districts with a calendar contest where students received recycling presentations and were asked to submit drawings with a recycled-content theme. Winners had their drawings printed in a calendar that was widely distributed.

City E-waste and Shredding Events – The City organized electronic waste collection and document shredding events three times last year in January, April and October. Each event was held on a Saturday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and was simultaneously held at two (2) locations: City Hall and the Social Services Center, making it accessible to everyone within the City's 9.5 mile radius. These events were extremely successful, with an average of 550 vehicles participating. These events are funded with e-waste collection funds provided by the e-waste contractor, who receives this funding from the State of California SB 20 funds.

Construction and Demolition (C&D) Recycling – In response to AB 939 (mandatory recycling requirement) to divert at least 50% of discarded materials from landfills, the City requires property owners/contractors to submit a Waste Management Plan (WMP) along with a fully refundable deposit for construction and demolition projects. Those that fail to comply with submitting disposal and recycling receipts will have their deposits forfeited. The forfeiture funds are then used to fund City recycling efforts.

Public Education – The City contracts with Eco Partners to prepare, print and distribute "One Person's Trash," a quarterly publication exclusively devoted to recycling and conservation topics. The publication is funded by 3 sources: used oil block grant funding, forfeiture funds from our Construction and Demolition (C&D) recycling program, and subsidies from our two (2) franchised haulers.

In addition, the City accommodates elementary schools who request City Hall tours, which incorporated a recycling/conservation education component into the tour. The students were educated on the importance of recycling and were given recycled content items to show how items can be re-used.

Battery Recycling Program – The City offers the convenience for residents to properly dispose of household batteries. Containers are placed throughout our public facilities (City Hall, Arts and Sports Complex and several City Parks) and are accessible to residents during regular operating hours. Disposal fees are paid for by the City's Construction and Demolition (C&D) forfeiture fund.

SHARPS Disposal Program – The City also offers the SHARPS program in which residents can properly dispose home-generated sharps (needles, syringes and lancets). This program was established through a joint partnership with Coast Plaza Doctors Hospital and the JWCH Regional Health Clinic. Later, the City partnered with Los Angeles County to distribute free sharps disposal containers to residents. Once these

containers are full, residents can take them to participating locations free of charge. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has recently embarked on a pilot project in which drop-off containers are set up outside the Norwalk Sheriff's Station. Residents can anonymously drop off sharps, expired pharmaceuticals, and other drugs at no cost.

Open Space Element

The City's Open Space Element is primarily dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the City's remaining open space. These areas are generally located within public parks, schools, and developed greenbelts. Currently, the City is responsible for the maintenance and repair of 129 acres of park grounds, sixteen (16) baseball diamonds, the Aquatic Pavilion and the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex.

In the 2010 calendar year, the Recreation and Park Services Department, in coordination with the Community Development Department, has continued to maintain and enhance the City parks and community facilities through the Capital Improvement Program. Some of the improvements where the design and/or construction commenced at the City's recreational facilities in 2010 include:

- Roof repairs at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex;
- Rehabilitation of Hermosillo Park; and
- Replacement of existing building at Vista Verde Park.

Noise Element

The Noise Element of the General Plan is dedicated to protecting the community from excessive noise. The City recognizes that there are two (2) major categories of noise sources, mobile and stationary. Because the City is located along several major transportation corridors (e.g., three freeways, three railroad lines, and several major arterial streets serving regional traffic), the City has constructed screen walls along Imperial Highway between Hoxie Avenue and west of Studebaker Road. Additional screen walls have been constructed along the western and southern property lines of the Norwalk Transportation Center to mitigate the impact of any excessive noise created by mobile noise sources (i.e., cars, trucks and motorcycles etc.).

With respect to stationary noise sources, they are generally associated with industrial and commercial activities, construction work, and human activity. Mitigation of these noise sources typically involve limiting business hours, restricting commercial and industrial business operations to enclosed buildings, and/or considering land use compatibility when determining an acceptable limit for noise exposure for various land uses. A variety of these options continue to be implemented for all new developments in the City as a means of mitigating adverse noise impacts.

Safety Element

The Safety Element addresses both natural and man-made hazards that may result in the loss of life and/or damage of property. The City strives to ensure the safety of Norwalk residents through emergency preparedness efforts and programs administered through the Public Safety Department.

Emergency Preparedness

In an effort to minimize such loss/damage due to seismic activity, flood, fire, and man-made hazards, the City has created an Emergency Preparedness Section in the Safety Element to prepare and develop emergency plans, drills, training and communication/coordination with intergovernmental agencies.

In 2004, the City of Norwalk adopted a National Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP). This disaster plan integrates community resources into municipal disaster management, including a list of local resources such as personnel, equipment, material, specialized medical and other training and auxiliary communications/L.A. County Disaster Communications Services. The city is currently working on revisions to the NHMP in order to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements.

In conformance with the NHMP, the City of Norwalk has continued to perform annual mock disaster drills and conduct bi-monthly training regarding emergency response that will help establish and maintain an on-going state of readiness within the City organization.

The City participates in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program which is a national program that educates citizens in emergency preparedness at the local level through cities, fire departments, police departments, hospitals and other community facilities. Norwalk is a member of the Area E Regional CERT program which consists of twenty-five (25) member cities. This program is the only known regional pool of volunteer mutual aid emergency assistance in which volunteers provide disaster response for jurisdictions affected by a major emergency or disaster.

Through the CERT program, both Norwalk personnel and volunteer community members are educated about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact Norwalk and the surrounding areas. Free monthly and quarterly training is provided to assist members in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. To be a CERT member, individuals must attend 20 hours of training annually. Advanced CERT members participate in 50 additional hours of training annually.

During the 2010 calendar year, the City continued to take a lead role in organizing training opportunities for CERT members through both volunteer and paid instructors and by supplying equipment needed for training sessions and as part of the certification process. Cross training is also available to CERT members to enable them to learn about emergency response in different settings, such as responding to disasters in both urban and wilderness environments.

Public Safety Department Programs

During the 2010 calendar year, the Public Safety Department has also continued to assist the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to enhance community safety through crime prevention. Some of the existing law enforcement programs that have promoted public safety in Norwalk include:

- Norwalk Enforcement Team (NET),
- Sheriff Problem Solving Team,
- Junior Park Ranger Program,
- Community Safety Partnership Team,
- Business Watch and Neighborhood Watch Programs,
- Public Safety Cadets,
- Nuisance Abatement,
- Norwalk Apartment Partnership Association,
- Parking Enforcement on Private Property (PEPP),
- Graffiti Abatement Team,
- Norwalk Park Patrol and Security,
- AMC/Civic Center and Transportation Center Security,
- Juvenile Intervention,
- Behavior Modification Program,
- Curfew Enforcement Program,
- Safe Housing and Property Enhancement Program (S.H.A.P.E),
- Public Safety Volunteer Program,
- Parental Responsibility Ordinance, and
- Multi-Agency Youth Task Force.

Recommendations are often made by the Public Safety Commission concerning various Public Safety Department programs, such as Business Watch and Neighborhood Watch Program and Parking Enforcement on Private Property (PEPP), among other programs. In addition, the City continues to participate in a multi-agency crime task force that maintains collaborative partnerships between various law enforcement agencies, courts, parole officers, the District Attorney's office and local school districts.

Community Design Element

The Community Design Element was adopted as part of the General Plan update in 1996. Although the Community Design Element does not prescribe a set of particular design standards, it does offer guiding principles that promote quality design. The following is a discussion how the goals and objectives of the Community Design Element are achieved in new developments and through the Arts in Public Places Program:

Development Review and Approval

Prior to the construction of any new or remodeled development in the City, proposed projects must go through a development review process in which the Community Development Department works with developers and property owners to ensure compliance with the City's zoning requirements as well as aesthetic considerations such as architectural style, scale, massing and building orientation. These are important design features associated with any new or remodeled development, particularly, when a project design may impact the surrounding physical environment.

The Planning Commission is the approving body for all projects that require discretionary approval and are responsible for ensuring that projects are:

- Compatible with other developments in the area and will have a positive effect on the appearance of the surrounding neighborhood;
- Consistent with the General Plan;
- Will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare or adversely affect property values or the present or future development of surrounding areas; and
- Compliant with the regulations contained within the Norwalk Municipal Code.

The City takes into account all design considerations during the development review process and promote and obtain aesthetically attractive, quality developments throughout the City. In 2010, the Planning Commission continued to hold developers and builders to high architectural standards that enhanced the aesthetics of newly constructed and remodeled buildings. Additionally, the City strives to maintain that level of high architectural standards through its own projects.

On September 8, 2010, the Planning Commission approved the construction of a new 11,464 square foot office building on a City-owned property. The Housing Division of the Community Development Department and the Child Care Division of the Social Services Department are scheduled to be tenants of the new office building. Additional tenants are unknown at this point, but the building will be owned by the City of Norwalk and used for office or retail purposes as permitted within the General Commercial zone. The architect has incorporated elements and materials that are both consistent with the character of other uses near the San Antonio Drive and Foster Road intersection while creating a building that is unique in its own way. Elements of the adjacent developments are visible in the proposed project through the use of stucco and aluminum storefronts, however, the architecture will have a positive impact through the use of curved, standing seam metal roofs and the use of clerestory windows to enhance the effect of natural daylight on the interior office space.

Arts in Public Places Program

Additionally, efforts have also been made to beautify the City by way of the Arts in Public Places Program. A fee is assessed on developers constructing commercial developments within the City. Developers can either pay an in lieu fee to Arts in Public Places Program or incorporate artwork into their development, which must be reviewed and approved by the Arts in Public Places Commission. Most recently, funds collected by the Arts in Public Places Program paid for the installation of a bronze statue entitled "Newspaper Boy", located on the corner of Rosecrans Avenue, Orange Street and Funston Avenue. The bronze statue depicts a life-sized newsboy seated on a rock holding a newspaper labeled The Call, with the main story being Norwalk's incorporation as a city in 1957. The art piece commemorates the City's first newspaper and late editor Neil Donovan.

Educational and Cultural Resources Element

Educational and Cultural Resources is an element that was added in the 1996 General Plan update. The purpose of the element is to maintain and enhance the quality of education within the community and provide a sense of community identity through the preservation and expansion of the City's cultural facilities, programs, and services.

Educational Resources

At present, Norwalk's educational resources include a Community College and two public school districts that serve twenty-seven (27) schools ranging from elementary through high school level. The City's cultural resources include two (2) public libraries (the Norwalk Regional Library and the Alondra Library), and the Cultural Arts Center, which is located at the Arts and Sports Complex. In addition, there are eleven (11) parks throughout the City, which are sources of educational and cultural activities for Norwalk residents.

The City has continued to enhance and develop the City's educational and cultural resources through diligent maintenance of City facilities and continued community programs at local parks and community centers, which are organized and managed by the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Some of the improvements where the construction during 2010 at the City's educational and cultural facilities include:

- Roof repairs at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex; and
- Replacement of air conditioning units at the Social Services building and Alondra Library.

Historic Resources

There are also several historic resources within the community such as the Sproul Museum, the Paddison Ranch Buildings, the Darius David Johnston House, and the Front Street Buildings that celebrate the City's historic past during the beginning of the 20th Century. Norwalk has continued to promote and support its educational and cultural resources through continued community involvement and public awareness activities.

Utility Infrastructure Element

The City's new Utility Infrastructure Element, adopted during the 1996 General Plan update, is intended to ensure that adequate utility levels (e.g., water, sewer, storm drains, natural gas, electricity, etc.) are provided within the City to meet Norwalk's current and future needs. During the past year, the City has continued to maintain all existing utility infrastructure and enhance its functional longevity to maximum performance.

Utility Improvements

Through the Capital Improvement Program, the City has taken measures to ensure that the utility infrastructure is working efficiently and effectively. One measure that was taken in the 2010 calendar year was a special study in which the City's sewer system was analyzed to determine whether it is working efficiently and whether future repairs are necessary.

Additionally, the City initiated and designed several projects in 2010 that will improve the community's infrastructure which include:

- Upgrading the existing water well at Norwalk Park; and
- Installing a new water well at Hermosillo Park.

These improvements are necessary to ensure that Norwalk residents are provided with adequate utility services.

CONCLUSION

The 2010 General Plan and Housing Element Annual Progress Report is the tenth annual report on the implementation status of the Norwalk General Plan. To date, staff believes the City has continued to faithfully implement the City's 1996 General Plan as the actions, plans, programs and projects documented in this report represent the City's commitment to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in the ten (10) elements of the Norwalk General Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Annual Element Progress Report: Housing Element Implementation

ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT Housing Element Implementation

(CCR Title 25 §6202)

Jurisdiction City of Norwalk
Reporting Period 1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010

Table A

Annual Building Activity Report Summary - New Construction Very Low-, Low-, and Mixed-Income Multifamily Projects

1		2		3		4				5	5a		6		7	8	
						Housing Development Information					Affordability by Household Incomes		Housing with Financial Assistance and/or Deed Restrictions			Housing without Financial Assistance or Deed Restrictions	
Project Identifier (may be APN No., project name or address)	Unit Category	Tenure R=Renter O=Owner	Very Low-Income			Moderate-Income		Above Moderate-Income		Total Units per Project	Est. # Infill Units*	Assistance Programs for Each Development		Deed Restricted Units		Note below the number of units determined to be affordable without financial or deed restrictions and attach an explanation how the jurisdiction determined the units were affordable. Refer to instructions.	
			Very Low-Income	Low-Income	Moderate-Income	Above Moderate-Income	See Instructions	See Instructions									
(9) Total of Moderate and Above Moderate from Table A3			▶	▶	▶	0	0	0	0	0							
(10) Total by Income Table A/A3			▶	▶	▶												
(11) Total Extremely Low-Income Units*			▶	▶	▶												

* Note: These fields are voluntary

ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT Housing Element Implementation (CCR Title 25 §6202)

Jurisdiction: City of Norwalk
Reporting Period: 1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010

**Table A2
Annual Building Activity Report Summary - Units Rehabilitated, Preserved and Acquired pursuant
to GC Section 65583.1(c)(1)**

Please note: Units may only be credited to the table below when a jurisdiction has included a program in its housing element to rehabilitate, preserve or acquire units to accommodate a portion of its RHNA which meet the specific criteria as outlined in GC Section 65583.1(c)(1)

Activity Type	Affordability by Household Incomes				TOTAL UNITS	(4) The Description should adequately document how each unit complies with subsection (c)(7) of Government Code Section 65583.1
	Extremely Low-Income*	Very Low-Income	Low-Income			
(1) Rehabilitation Activity					0	
(2) Preservation of Units At-Risk					0	
(3) Acquisition of Units			4		4	Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds were used to acquire 11835 162nd Street, 16014 Clarkdale Avenue, 11885 Chesteron Street, and 15416 Clarkdale Avenue. This satisfies Program Category #2 of the Housing Element.
(5) Total Units by Income	0	0	4		4	

* Note: This field is voluntary

**Table A3
Annual building Activity Report Summary for Above Moderate-Income Units
(not including those units reported on Table A)**

	1. Single Family	2. 2 - 4 Units	3. 5+ Units	4. Second Unit	5. Mobile Homes	6. Total	7. Number of infill units*
No. of Units Permitted for Moderate						0	
No. of Units Permitted for Above Moderate						0	

* Note: This field is voluntary

ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT
Housing Element Implementation
(CCR Title 25 §6202)

Jurisdiction	City of Norwalk
Reporting Period	1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010

General Comments:

During the 2008 calendar year, Norwalk's Draft Housing Element was completed and reviewed by the Planning Commission and City Council. The draft was then forwarded to the State Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) for review. HCD then provided comments that need to be addressed in the City's Housing Element. The city is currently working on revisions to the draft, which will be presented to the Planning Commission for review and subsequently to the City Council before it is re-submitted to HCD.