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City of Whittier

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DEPT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Housing Policy Department
Received on:
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December 12, 2013

Housing & Community Development
1800 Third Street
P.O. Box 952050
Sacramento, CA 94252-2050

Subject: City of Whittier 2012-2013 General Plan Progress Report

Dear HCD Official:

Enclosed is a copy of the "*City of Whittier 2012-2013 General Plan Progress Report*," approved by the Whittier City Council on December 10, 2013, for your records. Government Code Section 65400(b) requires that an annual General Plan progress report be provided to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The report covers the period between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 567-9320.

Sincerely,

Don Dooley,
Planning Services Manager

Enc: City of Whittier 2012-2013 General Plan Progress Report

2012 – 2013 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
PLANNING DIVISION

NOVEMBER 4, 2013

BACKGROUND

State law requires that each City adopt a general plan that incorporates the seven mandated elements required by State planning and zoning law. While additional elements may be adopted for inclusion within a local general plan, they are considered optional elements.

In order for each city to keep its general plan elements current, as required by State law, comprehensive updates and amendments are completed to each general plan element. Comprehensive updates are usually recommended every ten years in order to evaluate underlying local conditions and broad city policy preferences for future development and growth in a community. Amendments, however, are typically smaller in scope and normally involve minor changes to the text of a general plan element that do not necessarily have broad public policy implications. Amendments are typically triggered by a change in State law, public needs or by policy direction from the City Council. All changes to the General Plan require a public hearing before the Planning Commission and the City Council.

On August 3, 1993, the Whittier City Council adopted the City's current General Plan. The General Plan contains eight elements: Land Use, Housing, Transportation, Environmental Resource Management, Air Quality, Public Safety, Noise and Historical Resources. Table 1 shows the status of the City's General Plan elements, including both State mandated and optional elements.

Table 1. General Plan Element Status

Element	Date of Adoption	Required or Optional	Dates of Element Amendments Since Original Adoption	Comment
Land-Use	1993	Required	July 12, 2005 (Amended August 9, 2011) May 18, 2006	Adoption of the Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan. The City Council approved General Plan Amendment 06-001 on May 18, 2006, to permit exceptions to the City's minimum residential density requirements in the City's R-2 (Light Multiple Residential); R-3 (Medium Multiple Residential); and R-4 (Heavy Multiple Residential) Zones.

Element	Date of Adoption	Required or Optional	Dates of Element Amendments Since Original Adoption	Comment
Land-Use			November 18, 2008	Comprehensive update to the Uptown Whittier Specific Plan
Housing	2009	Required	Adopted on October 27, 2009. Element was State certified on January 12, 2010	City Staff is currently updating the Housing Element for the Planning period 2014 - 2021 to comply with its Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements. Staff anticipates that the City's draft Housing Element will be adopted by the City Council on December 10, 2013 with State certification obtained by January 2014.
Transportation	1993	Required	None	
Environmental Resource Management Element	1993	Required	None	
Air Quality	1993	Required	None	
Public Safety	1993	Required	None	
Noise Element	1993	Required	None	
Historical Resources	1993	Optional	None	

As required by Government Code Section 65400(b)(1), every city must submit an annual General Plan Progress Report to their local 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 effort to remove governmental barriers for the maintenance, improvement and development of affordable housing per Section 65583.c(3) of the California Government Code.

This report covers the planning period October 1, 2012, through September 30, 2013.

STATUS OF GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Land Use Element

The Land-Use Element serves as a guide for public and private decision-making regarding land-use issues and future development. Specific goals and policies are provided to correspond to major land-use issues of concern including: compatibility, residential, commercial and industrial uses, parks and open space areas.

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

In 1993, an updated Land-Use Element was adopted as part of the City's comprehensive General Plan update. Since its adoption, the City has processed a variety of new land-use developments.

From October 1, 2012, through September 30, 2013, the City of Whittier adopted a total of two Zoning Code Amendments. The details are as follows:

Zoning Code Amendments

1. Zoning Code Amendment 13-001 (City initiated). To add Section 18.10.020(L) (Cottage Food Operation) to Chapter 18.10 (Residential Zones Generally) and modify Sections 18.10.020(C) (Home Based Businesses), 18.58.020 (Functions and duties), 18.58.030 (Permits and variances-Procedures), 18.58.040 (Approval or denial-Notice),18.58.050 (Appeals from administrator decisions-Commission authority), and, 18.58.060 (Jurisdiction) in the Whittier Municipal Code for the purpose of establishing provisions for cottage food operations within residential homes in the City. (Adopted April 25, 2013)

2. Zoning Code Amendment 13-002 (City initiated). To extend an interim urgency ordinance by 10 months and 15 days (pursuant to California Government Code Section 65858) relative to a moratorium on the establishment of any residential uses within the Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan Workplace District. (Adopted August 27, 2013)

Housing Element

The City's Draft 2014–2021 Housing Element Update has been substantially reformatted and revised in content to reflect the City's current housing policy direction and applicable requirements of State law.

A key requirement in every housing element is the regional housing needs goal. Every eight years, SCAG assigns each city its housing goal as part of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). According to the RHNA, Whittier must accommodate 873 new units at four affordability levels: 228 very low income units, 135 low income units, 146 moderate income units and 369 above moderate income units. These planning goals are for an 8-year period of time, commencing from 2014 through 2021.

In a continuing effort to provide housing assistance within the community, the City of Whittier (and formerly the Whittier Redevelopment Agency) sponsored a number of housing programs which have been implemented by the Redevelopment and Housing Division of the Community Development Department. The Whittier Redevelopment Agency is a separate legal entity established in the early 1970's to eliminate blight and improve infrastructure within Whittier's four redevelopment project areas. It also assists low and moderate income families to secure decent, safe, and sanitary housing at affordable prices. The Whittier Redevelopment Agency was dissolved under State law on February 1, 2012. The Whittier Redevelopment Successor Agency is now charged with winding down the affairs of the former redevelopment agency, while certain housing functions formerly administered by the Whittier Redevelopment Agency have been transition to the Whittier Housing Authority.

The focus of the Redevelopment and Housing Division is 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.

Share of Regional Housing Need - The City's Housing Element identifies Whittier's housing goals and objectives. The City's share of affordable housing units is determined by a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) conducted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Table No. 2 (below) identifies the specific number and type of affordable housing units to be made available for development within the City of Whittier from 2006 to 2014. The identification of affordability type is categorized as "Very Low" (less than 50 percent of Los Angeles County median income), "Low" (50-80 percent of L.A. County median income), "Moderate" (80-120 percent of L.A. County median income), and "Above Moderate" (greater than 120 percent of L.A. County median income). However, the actual affordability is based on many factors including, but not limited to: household income, sales price, financing terms, required down payment, permitted debt ratio; and, household size (number of persons in a family).

Housing Element Update – The City's current Housing Element was updated in October 2009 and certified in January 2010 by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for the Planning Period 2006-2013.

Listed below are the City's RHNA requirements established for the Planning Period of 2006 to 2013.

Table 2. City of Whittier - Regional Housing Needs (2006-2013)

Income Category	Housing Units	Percent of Total
Very Low	226	25.3%
Low	140	15.7%
Moderate	151	16.9%
Above Moderate	375	42.0%
TOTAL	**892**	**100%**

Under the 2005 *Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan*, up to 1,490 new units are anticipated to be constructed along Whittier Boulevard through mixed-use development provisions and by taking advantage of development opportunity sites (i.e., former auto dealership sites) to provide new housing in Whittier. Additional housing stock is also anticipated elsewhere in the City, particularly within the *Uptown Whittier Specific Plan* which permits up to 1,035 new dwelling units. Therefore, the City of Whittier is actively in the process of trying to create new housing units for all socio-economic groups in the community.

Housing Objectives and Programs - The following summarizes the progress that the City has made toward achieving its Housing Element objectives and the development of specific housing programs:

1) **Assistance to the Salvation Army** (CDBG funded). The City has provided a small amount of grant funding to the Salvation Army to support the "Shower Program." This Program assists homeless individuals by providing a safe environment to eat, sleep, and shower.

2) **The Housing Rehabilitation Program** (CDBG and HOME funded) offers low-interest or no-interest loans to promote the improvement, rehabilitation and/or the preservation of housing units. The loans are often times paired with a grant for exterior beautification or lead-based paint removal. Improvements and repairs eligible under the Program include: lead-based paint testing and hazard reduction, electrical, heating, plumbing, roofing, stucco application, exterior and interior painting, windows, insulation, concrete driveway, kitchen and bathroom repairs, flooring, etc. Like the Minor Home Repair Grant Program, the Housing and Rehabilitation Program is available to low-income households earning no more than 80% of the area median income adjusted for family size. Due to budget cuts, this Program funded no loans. However, program delivery has now been retooled and should produce results in 2013-14. Between its inception and 2011-12, the HOME Investment Partnership Program funded a portion of the Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) by assisting 85 homeowners. Community Development Block Grant funds are also used for housing rehabilitation purposes. From the Program's inception through 2011-12,

the Community Development Block Grant Program funded a portion of the Housing Rehabilitation Program and assisted approximately 288 homeowners. In addition to the loans the City now offers, the City offers a Home Improvement Grant Program (HIGP) of up to $10,000 primarily for more limited rehabilitation. Two households utilized the grant program in 2012-13.

3) The **Minor Home Repair Grant Program (MHRG)** (CDBG funded) is available to low-income families. It makes available grants of up to $5,000 for minor home repairs including accessibility improvements for the disabled. The Program was initiated in Fiscal Year 2004-05. In Fiscal Year 2012-13, the City Council allocated CDBG funds to the Program. Additional amounts were also carried over from the prior fiscal year. The Program is operated by Veteran's In Community Service (VICS) and Southern California Rehabilitation Services (SCRS). The VICS run Program was able to assist fourteen (14) households during Fiscal Year 2012-13, while the SCRS Program, which focuses on accessibility improvements, was able to assist three (3) households during the same period.

4) The **Whole Child** (formerly funded by the Whittier Redevelopment Agency, now City funded) provided transitional housing and related support services to assist families and individuals to regain self-sufficiency. The City of Whittier has provided annual funding in the amount of $50,000 to the Whole Child for the past two years. The Whole Child served 41 individuals from the City of Whittier in 2012-13. The Whole Child took over the services formerly provided by the Rio Hondo Temporary Home, which closed in 2011. The Whole Child transitioned programming from a single dorm-style facility to a scattered site model where individual housing units are leased by the Whole Child and provided to needy families.

5) The **Whittier Area First Day Coalition** (formerly funded by the Whittier Redevelopment Agency, now City funded) is a homeless shelter that opened in May 2000, and has been funded with $100,000 annually for the last two years using City General Funds. In 2012-13, First Day provided housing for 130 individuals. The facility also provides related supportive services to help homeless individuals regain self-sufficiency. In 2008, First Day also received a loan from City HOME funds (federal funding by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) to assist in the acquisition and rehabilitation of a three unit property on Newlin Avenue. The units are rented to homeless families or families at-risk of homelessness.

6) The **Women's and Children Crisis Shelter** (formerly funded by the Whittier Redevelopment Agency, now City funded) provided temporary

shelter, food, clothing, crisis intervention and advocacy for victims of domestic violence. For the last two years the City of Whittier has provided $34,000 annually using General Funds. In 2012-13 the facility gave shelter to 155 people.

7) On June 9, 2009, the Whittier Redevelopment Agency Board approved the new **Affordable Home Ownership Program** (AHOP). The AHOP is essentially a silent second loan that allows moderate income households to purchase a designated home at an affordable first mortgage amount that has been fixed by a pre-determined formula set by State Law. Ten (10) AHOP units were sold to moderate-income homebuyers during 2012-13.

8) The **First Time Home Buyer Program** (FTHB). The FTHB Program has assisted 73 families from its inception in 1997-98 through June 2006. However, due to the extraordinary market conditions, the Program was suspended in 2005-06 and has not assisted any buyers since that time.

9) The **Community Alliance for Responsible Enforcement Program** (CARE) was added to the Whittier Redevelopment Agency housing assistance efforts in 1999. It has the primary goal of enhancing the visual appearance of neighborhoods while creating a sense of safety and security in the area. The Program allowed property owners to bring about improvement in building conditions. The minimum loan amount is $2,000 with a maximum loan amount of $22,500. Due to minimal participation by property owners, the Program was suspended several years ago. The Program assisted 45 properties from its inception in 1999 through June 2007.

10) **Other Developments** - The former Whittier Redevelopment Agency and the City of Whittier provided LINC Housing $5,095,000 in loan funds to construct a 21-unit affordable housing apartment complex at Philadelphia Street and Pickering Avenue. When LINC held a grand opening for the project on October 25, 2012, more than 50% of the units were already occupied. The Project was fully occupied soon thereafter. The Project provides affordable apartment units for at least the next 55-years. In addition, the former Whittier Redevelopment Agency also agreed to provide a pre-development loan to Heritage Housing Partners for construction of nine to ten affordable ownership units at the southeast corner of Comstock Avenue and Penn Street. The pre-development process was placed on-hold pending the outcome of new State law dissolving redevelopment agencies state-wide, but the project has now been restarted.

On February 1, 2012, Assembly Bill X1 26 dissolved Redevelopment Agencies in California which resulted in the Whittier Redevelopment

Agency transferring its remaining assets and liabilities to the Whittier Redevelopment Successor Agency and Whittier Housing Authority. Assembly Bill 1484 made further changes to the Redevelopment dissolution process on June 27, 2012. As a result, future affordable housing activities are anticipated to be severely curtailed.

Transportation Element

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

Through the Capital Improvement Programs (CIP), the City has undertaken various transportation projects from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 as described in Table 4 below.

Project	Description
Hadley Street/Whittier Avenue Traffic Signal	A signal was installed to regulate traffic flow and facilitate pedestrian safety adjacent to Whittier High School and the YMCA using federal grant funding for a cost of $311,000. These safety improvements included new ADA ramps and crosswalks.
Mulberry Drive/Greenleaf Avenue Traffic Signal	The existing signal will be modified to add protected left turn phasing as a result of a vehicular fatality. State funding used for the improvements for a cost of $250,000.
Bus Shelter Project-Phase II	Twenty new shelters and five relocated bus shelters were added on major arterial roadways to enhance transit facility/pedestrian safety and improve the aesthetics of bus stops. The project used federal funding for a cost of $540,000.
Villaverde Drive/Mar Vista Street/Carretera Drive overlay	The project consisted of an rubberized asphalt overlay on the roads. A new bike lane was added to Mar Vista Street. The total project cost was $650,000 using federal and local funding.
Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP)	Approved an update to Whittier's BTP to improve bicycle facilities (bike lanes, signs, bike racks), promote health, wellness, and recreation in the city, and encourage bicycle riding as an alternative

	transportation system. The BTP update was prepared by city staff and approved by the various City boards/commissions and adopted by the City Council.
In-roadway Lighted Crosswalks Project	To enhance pedestrian/schoolchild safety near schools, eight lighted crosswalks were installed using federal grant funding for a cost of $465,000.
Colima Road Rumble Strip Project	To enhance bicycle safety of the bike lane, the road was indented to provide a safety barrier between vehicles and bikes using federal grant funding for a cost of $30,000.
Alley Pavement Rehabilitation Project	Two alleys were reconstructed to improve ridability and drainage for an estimated construction cost of $159,000.
ADA Disabled Access Ramps/Sidewalks Project	To conform with ADA requirements, the Project constructed and/or retrofit 65 ramps and modified sidewalks in various residential neighborhoods to improve access and mitigate for ADA for an estimated cost of $180,000.
Congestion Management Program (CMP)-2010 Conformance Self Certification	The CMP is a county wide program enacted by California to improve traffic congestion. The City of Whittier was deemed to be in conformance with the program by the local administering agency (Metro). No fiscal impacts.
Preferential Permit Parking Program	To manage on-street parking near Hellman Park, the city approved it's first permit parking program. Over 100 homes lie within the permit parking zone.
Street Name Signs	To comply with federal reflective requirements and provide improved street name signage for the community, the third year of the city-wide street name replacement program was completed. The city uses various funds each year for a $50,000 per year replacement amount.

Environmental Resources Management Element

The Environmental Resources Management Element (ERME) combines the mandated Conservation and Open Space Elements. This Element identifies environmental resources within the City and establishes a plan for their conservation, management, or preservation.

In terms of the Resource Management, the City has worked collaboratively with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a water treatment plant

on Durfee Road in the Whittier Narrows Dam area. The EPA plant has been producing treated water since January 2006. The water treatment plant treats water and then recharges it back into the ground, into the San Gabriel River or supplies water to the City. The EPA plant produces 90% of City's potable water demand with the other 10% produced from a combination of water from the Central Basin Municipal Water District's Treatment Plant and water from City Wells.

The City is working toward upgrading all city-operated irrigation systems to conserve water. Ten municipal sites have been upgraded to become part of a centralized irrigation system with two additional park sites to be added this year. Six other locations have been upgraded to "smart" systems which, among many features, shuts off irrigation valves automatically. As funds become available, additional municipal sites will be upgraded to "smart" systems and added to the central system.

Construction of the 4.75 mile Greenway Trail was completed in November 2009. The Greenway Trail landscaping is comprised of drought tolerant plant material along its entire length. Landscape enhancements during 2011-2012 with areas that interface with roadways being a priority. The Trail has four educational stations with a 6,000-square foot demonstration garden at the Laurel Station. Three additional stations are in the planning stages.

The City maintains 19 parks which encompass over 128 acres in addition to approximately 12 acres of greenbelts, landscaped medians and street ends. The planned landscaped medians on Whittier Boulevard between Valley Home and Santa Gertrudes will add nearly another acre to this total. The City also maintains an urban forest that consists of over 31,000 trees which enhances the "curb appeal" of City neighborhoods as well as provides a healthier and more comfortable environment. Two hundred additional parkway trees will be planted in the future as part of the Whittier "Tree City" initiative. The City also conditions that 10% of all commercial developments, including parkway lots, be landscaped. In addition, 350 square feet of landscaping must be installed per unit within a multi-family development.
The City continues to provide upgrades and improvements based on its recently completed Park Needs Study.

Air Quality Element

The Air Quality Element contains programs that will allow the City of Whittier to contribute to the attainment of State and Federal clean air standards. Listed below are projects the City of Whittier is implementing/developing to fulfill the goals of its Air Quality Element.

The City is actively pursuing alternative means of commuting to work. For example, in December 2001 with the aid of federal and state funding through

Metro's Call for Projects, the City obtained ownership and developed approximately 4.5 miles of Class I bikeway path along an abandoned rail line. Completed in 2008, construction of the Whittier Greenway Trail has helped improve air quality by providing alternative means of commuting (i.e., walking or biking) to work. In April, 2013 the City approved an agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad Company to purchase a 2.2 mile long and 15-foot wide easement for the eastern extension of the Greenway Trail from Mills Avenue and Lambert Road to Lambert Road and First Avenue. Once funding is obtained, the City will begin construction of the Class I Bikeway connection to the City of La Habra/Orange County and build a Trail Head parking lot accessible from Mills Avenue. In February, 2013 the City adopted the new five year Bicycle Transportation Plan which highlights the City's current and proposed bike lanes.

The City continues to encourage flexible work schedules (i.e., 9/80, 4/10) for various departments (i.e. Police Department, Water Division and Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department) and ride-sharing by offering preferred parking spaces and other awards. To get "credit" for those employees who are already carpooling, walking, biking or taking public transportation to work, a transportation survey was conducted in 2013. The survey included all employees reporting to work within two miles of the Whittier Civic Center complex. The survey results found that employees were split into those arriving during the peak commuting "window" from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and all others arriving after 10:00 a.m. Of the 450 employees that were surveyed, a total of 92 percent responded to the survey questionnaire.

The survey results showed that there were 1,770 employee trips generated within the peak commuting "window" and 1,160 of these peak trips were drive-alone vehicle trips. The survey results also demonstrated that there were 695 employee trips generated after 10:00 a.m., within the off-peak window and 303 of these off-peak trips were drive-alone trips. Therefore, when the peak and off-peak figures are combined the current air quality ratio is 1.12. The Air Quality Improvement Plan (AQIP) requirement is a ratio of 1.5 persons per vehicle which meant the City had to purchase emission credits in 2013 to meet this 1.5 target.

The City has also installed solar systems for irrigation, speed radar signs, bus shelters, bike lanes and pedestrian crosswalks throughout the City.

Public Safety Element

The Public Safety Element addresses both natural and man-made hazards that may result in economic and social disruption, the loss of life, and/or damage of property. In an effort to minimize such loss/damage due to: earthquakes, flood, fire, landslides, crime, hazardous materials/waste contamination and man-made hazards, the City has adopted a Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS) emergency operations plan. This disaster plan integrates community resources into municipal emergency management, including a list of local

resources such as personnel, equipment, material, specialized medical and other training and auxiliary communications ARES/L.A. County Disaster Communications Systems.

As required by Presidential Directive 5, which was issued after September 11, 2001, the City has adopted Resolution No. 7875, which recognizes the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) and adopts NIMS principles and policies into the City's emergency management system. The national NIMS is essentially based on California's SEMS model. Although the two systems are very similar, in 2008, the City's existing SEMS-based emergency operations plan was updated, where necessary, to be fully compliant with NIMS. In conformance with the SEMS/NIMS emergency operations plan, the City of Whittier has continued to perform regular workshops, exercises and disaster drills in conjunction with other agencies (e.g., L.A. County Fire Department) and other institutions (e.g., Whittier College) that will help establish and maintain an on-going state of readiness within the City organization.

The City also updated its Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan on March 23, 2010, which was certified by FEMA on December 10, 2010. The Plan includes resources and information to assist City residents, public and private sector organizations and others interested in participating in planning for natural hazards. The mitigation plan provides a list of activities that may assist the City of Whittier in reducing risk and preventing loss from future natural hazard events. The action items address multi-hazard issues, as well as activities for earthquakes, flooding and wildfires. The list of mitigation actions in the plan is reviewed by City staff on an annual basis prior to preparing yearly budget requests.

The Whittier Police Department continuously works to improve its policing strategies and efficient use of resources while enhancing community safety through various crime prevention programs, educational material and community partnerships. Existing programs include: Neighborhood Watch, Public Service Area Policing, DUI enforcement, School Resource Officers and Peer-Mentoring. As a way of effectively identifying community needs, the Chief of Police and his staff meet regularly with various community groups such as service clubs, the Hispanic Outreach Taskforce (HOT), each of the Whittier School Districts, City sponsored public outreach events, Chamber of Commerce; and, the Uptown Association.

In 2008, the City, Police Department and Whittier Union High School District (WUHSD) entered into a partnership for the purpose of implementing school resource officers in three of the high schools within its jurisdiction. The purpose of the program is to integrate an officer into these educational institutions to work with staff and students addressing crime prevention and school safety through mutual support. As a result of the successful partnership, the WUHSD requested to continue this Program and both the City and WUHSD agreed to extend their partnership through 2014.

In 2008, East Whittier City School District (EWCSD) was awarded the Federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant. This grant is the result of a unique collaboration among the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice and was created in response to rising concerns about youth violence and school safety. The Whittier Police Department and EWCSD entered into a partnership as a result of obtaining this grant for the purpose of implementing a school resource officer to support the intermediate and elementary schools within their jurisdiction through education and enforcement programs. The SS/HS grant ended in April 2012. As a result of teamwork, cooperation and a collaborative effort, the City of Whittier was awarded the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Grant. This Grant extended the presence of a School Resource Officer and associated programs with the EWCSD for an additional year and a half. With this grant, the Police Department was able to keep a full-time sworn police officer working with the EWCSD through the end of 2013. Police Department staff is again working with members of the EWCSD to obtain another grant to further extend our partnership and resources at the District.

The Whittier Police Department continues to use Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grants to augment its resources specific to traffic safety. As traffic safety is always a high priority for Whittier, the Police Department received and implemented two OTS grants this fiscal year. One grant was a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Grant that provided the Police Department with funds for traffic enforcement activities in Whittier. These activities consisted of: court stings, speed and intersection violations, red light violations, stake-outs on drivers with suspended license for DUI's, 22 two-person DUI enforcement unit deployments, four deployments for motorcycle safety and warrant service. The second grant from OTS was for conducting DUI checkpoints. As a result, we completed ten DUI/driver license checkpoints throughout the City. Funding was also permitted in the grant to send six officers to standardized field sobriety training, seven officers to Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement and to purchase three new radar units.

The Whittier Police Department also participated in the "AVOID the 100" Grant which is a grant managed by the Glendora Police Department for DUI related activities within Los Angeles County. The Whittier Police Department participated in three DUI enforcement deployments and the CHP Law Enforcement Challenge. The Department continued to utilize Department of Transportation funds to cover its patrol of the Greenway Trail.

The Whittier Police Department also continued to use additional government grants that were obtained to purchase and invest in new technology and equipment to upgrade the City's communication infrastructure and officer body armor.

The City continued its participation in a multi-agency crime taskforce that focuses heavily on illegal drug trafficking and money laundering. The Police Department's

participation helps build mutual partnerships with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, courts, parole, probation, the District Attorney's Office and local school districts to effectively identify and resolve criminal acts and trends within our communities.

Finally, the Department continues to actively enforce the gang injunction, identify new gang members who qualify under the gang injunction and enjoin them to it when appropriate. The strict enforcement of this injunction has resulted in arrests and criminal filings which have a direct impact on the quality of life for citizens living within the gang injunction area.

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 major categories of noise sources, mobile and stationary. 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 involves 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. It is important to note that the City routinely requires noise studies (particularly for new residential development) to ensure compliance with the City's Noise Ordinance. Noise mitigation is therefore applied to all new projects, as necessary.

Historical Resources Element

The 1993 Historical Resources Element of the Whittier General Plan is an optional element that identifies the specific historic preservation objectives and goals of the City.

There are currently a total of seven buildings within the City that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, 27 buildings/structures/objects listed on the California Register of Historic Resources and 48 buildings/structures/objects listed on the City's Official Local Register of Historic Resources. There are also a total of four local historic districts within the City which are referred to as the "Central Park," "Hadley-Greenleaf," "College Hills;" and, "Earlham" Historic Districts.

With respect to Mills Act contracts, the City adopted an ordinance approving of their use in Whittier during the early 1990's for the owners of individually designated historic landmarks and contributing resources within historic districts. The City actively promotes local public awareness of Mills Act contracts through brochures and public announcements. City staff has also given public presentations as part of various California Preservation Foundation seminars and

through the American Planning Association (California Region). For example, on October 2012, City Staff spoke at the California American Planning Association Conference held in Rancho Mirage, California on Mills Act Contracts. Currently, the City of Whittier has entered into a total of 32 Mills Act contracts with owners of qualified historic properties.

The City also approved 20 Certificate of Appropriateness applications to buildings and structures over 50 years old throughout the City between October 1, 2012, and September 30, 2013.

In 2012, Whittier completed a city-wide residential historic resource survey of all single-family residential structures built prior to 1941. This survey was based on an architectural context. A total of 62 properties were identified as being potentially eligible for either: local, state or federal historic landmark designation. Between August and September 2013, these 62 properties were individually reviewed by the Historic Resources Commission and a recommendation for local landmark eligibility and designation was forwarded to the City Council for final consideration. The survey is anticipated to be completed in 2014.

In 2013 another historic resources survey was commissioned by the City to evaluate all non-residential historic resources in Whittier through 1967. Using the multiple property approach and the survey guidelines contained within National Register Bulletin 24, over 1,000 non-residential properties were identified as part of an initial reconnaissance survey of the City. Of these, 637 properties appear to warrant further consideration as part of the development of the historic context statement for the survey. The completion of the non-residential historic resource survey is anticipated to be completed by July 2014.

During Fiscal Year 2012-2013, the City also updated its comprehensive historic resource webpage to provide current information to help promote local historic landmarks. Among several of the webpage's attributes, it contains information on: historic resources within the City, historic resource consultants, the processes and procedures for filing a variety of different historic resource applications; and, links to historic resource related websites.

-The End-