Franklin Heald then purchased Rancho La Laguna and founded the town of Elsinore in 1883, which was named after the famous lake side City of Helsingor from Shakespeare’s Hamlet. With the construction of the Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe Railroad and the discovery of mineral ores in the late 19th century, immigration began to increase significantly to the lake area. Many people also visited the newly created town of Elsinore looking for recreational opportunities, which helped to stimulate its tourist industry. In 1972, by popular vote, the area incorporated and officially became known as the City of Lake Elsinore.

As a result of its historical evolution, the City encompasses significant prehistoric and historical archaeological sites in addition to a rich record of fossil life. The policies in this section are intended to promote and preserve the City’s existing cultural and paleontological resources. In addition, each of the 16 district plans contains goals and policies regarding historical sites and buildings within its specific boundary.

4.6.2 Cultural and Paleontological Resource Baselines

Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology

The record search indicated that 157 prehistoric and historical archaeological sites have been previously recorded in the City of Lake Elsinore. Of these 157 sites, two prehistoric archaeological sites (CA-RIV-1022 and CA-RIV-2798) have been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. CA-RIV-1022 is described as a rock shelter and CA-RIV-2798 is recorded as a prehistoric village site.

Archival research was conducted at the Lake Elsinore Historical Society; the University of California, Irvine; and the research library at Jones & Stokes. This research was conducted in an effort to determine the prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic contexts for the City of Lake Elsinore. The City shall consider adopting the 1988 North American Vertical Datum of 1242.2.

Prehistoric Context

A distinct cultural sequence has yet to be specifically defined for Lake Elsinore. Traditionally, this area has been incorporated within discussion of Luiseño ethnographic traits, and previous descriptions depended upon the similarity of the limited assemblages with those from the more extensively studied Pauma Valley sites (Hampson et al.1992). A discussion of Moratto’s (1984) Southern Coast Region (San Diego) sequence is based on these comparisons and included here. In addition, Moratto’s (1984) Desert Region (Colorado River) sequence is also discussed.

Southern Coast Region - San Diego Sequence

San Dieguito (Beginning ca. – 5500 Before Present (B.P.))

This period reflects a generalized hunting tradition distinct from the Desert Tradition. California units of the San Dieguito Complex include the C.W. Harris site (San Diego County),
Playa I and II (San Bernardino County), Lake Mojave, Death Valley I, Panamint Basin, Mono Lake, and Owens Lake assemblages characterized by leaf-shaped knives and points, Lake Mojave and Silver Lake points, scrapers, engraving tools, and crescents.

La Jolla Complex (5500 – 1000 B.P.)

The origin of the La Jolla Complex began sometime before 7,500 years ago with the arrival on the coast of a gathering people from the interior desert. The reason for the migration may have been that the California deserts became increasingly unfavorable for human habitation. The La Jolla Complex is recognized by millingstone assemblages in shell middens, often in the vicinity of sloughs and lagoons. Characteristic of this assemblage are millingstones, unshaped manos, a large amount of flaked cobble tools, and a few Pinto-like projectile points. Burials tend to be flexed, heads to the north, under stone cairns. Some writers interpret this period as having three distinct phases that reflect developmental changes: La Jolla I (5500–3500 B.P.) identified by flexed burials, the first appearance of millingstones, and percussion-flaked scrapers; La Jolla II (3500–2000 B.C.) with true cemeteries, ground-stone discoidals, and several types of projectile points in addition to the Phase I inventory; and La Jolla III (2000–1000 B.C.) showing Yuman cultural influence from the east.

Pauma Complex (5500 – 1000 B.P.)

In 1958, D.L. True identified a complex similar to both La Jolla and San Dieguito in an area west of Escondido in the Peninsular Ranges of Northern San Diego County (30 to 35 miles south-southeast of Lake Elsinore). An examination of nearly 25 sites revealed San Dieguito-like flaked-stone crescents and leaf-shaped points or knives associated with the La Jollan millingstones, core scrapers, and stone discoidals. The name Pauma Complex was assigned to these materials after the Pauma Valley where some of the sites were located. As a result of additional surveys and further analysis of artifacts, True recognized that the Pauma Complex as originally defined may have been a conglomeration of the San-Dieguito-like materials, Millingstone elements, and assemblages with Millingstone artifacts unlike those typical of the La Jolla Complex.

San Luis Rey Complex I-II (A.D. 1400 – 1750)

Initially attributed to the ancestors of the Diegueño, studies have determined the complex as almost certainly representing the forebears of the Luiseño. Diagnostic features for San Luis Rey I include cremations, bedrock mortars, milling stones, triangular arrow points, bone awls, and stone and shell ornaments. In addition to those items, San Luis Rey II components include pottery vessels, cremation urns, red and black pictographs, and such non-aboriginal items such as metal knives and glass beads.
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Desert Region – Colorado River Sequence

Paleo-Indian Period (ca. 12,000 – 7000 B.P.)

The earliest humans to occupy North America are believed to have been highly mobile hunters and gatherers. Rogers (1966) assigned the Paleo-Indian sites within the Colorado Desert to the San Dieguito Culture. Moratto (1984:92) notes that San Dieguito artifact assemblages are similar to those of Lake Mojave and other Paleo-Indian cultures in Southern California. Moratto goes on to suggest that assemblages of this early era be divided into a Fluted Point tradition (12,000–10,000 B.P.) and, following Bedwell (1970), a Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition (10,000–7000 B.P.).

Pinto Period (ca. 7000 – 4000 B.P.)

The Pinto Period is marked by the gradual transition from pluvial to arid conditions during the terminal Pleistocene-Early Holocene. Pinto Period sites are associated with the margins of pluvial lakes and with now-extinct springs. Pinto-series projectile points, crudely made stemmed or basally notched dart points, are the most distinctive artifact type of the Pinto Period. Other artifacts found at Pinto Period sites include large leaf-shaped knives, thick, split cobble choppers and scrapers, scraper-planes, and small milling slabs and manos.

Throughout most of the California desert region, sites containing elements of the Pinto Basin Complex are small and are usually limited to surface deposits, suggestive of temporary and perhaps seasonal occupation by small groups of people. Environmental conditions during the Pinto Period of the Early Holocene were characterized by increasing aridity. However, at least one period of increased moisture, from approximately 6,500 to 5,500 years ago, resulted in the return of pluvial lake conditions. Warren (1984:414) postulates that human occupation of the Southern California deserts during the periods from approximately 7,000 to 6,500 years ago and from 5,500 to 4,000 years ago may have been limited because of the arid conditions. It is also suggested that the Pinto Period populations withdrew to the desert margins and oases during these arid periods, leaving large portions of the California deserts unoccupied for many centuries.

Gypsum Period (ca. 4000 – 1500 B.P.)

The Gypsum Period is one of cultural intensification in the deserts of Southern California. The beginning of the Gypsum Period coincides with the Little Pluvial, a period of increased effective moisture in the region, wherein the ameliorated climate allowed for more extensive occupation of the desert regions. In addition, periods of drought within this era seem to have resulted in human adaptations to more arid conditions rather than a retreat from the deserts. Diagnostic projectile points of this period include Humbolt, Gypsum, and Elko-series dart points (Warren 1984). Late in the Gypsum Period, Rose Spring arrow points appear in the archaeological record, reflecting the spread of the bow and arrow technology from the Great Basin and Colorado River region. Other artifact types characteristic of this period include leaf-shaped arrow points, rectangular-based knives, flake scrapers, T-shaped drills, milling slabs and
manos, as well as core/cobble tools assemblages such as scraper planes, large choppers, and hammerstones (Warren 1984). In addition to the introduction of the bow and arrow, another technological innovation introduced during this period was the mortar and pestle for processing hard seeds, such as those derived from the mesquite pod. Trade relationships with the Pacific Coast are indicated by the presence of shell ornaments at several Gypsum Period sites.

In addition to diagnostic projectile points, Gypsum Period sites include leaf-shaped points, rectangular-based knives, flake scrapers, T-shaped drills, and occasionally, large scraper planes, choppers, and hammerstones (Moratto 1984:416). Manos and milling stones are common; the mortar and pestle also were introduced during this period. Other artifacts include shaft smoothers, incised slate and sandstone tablets and pendants, bone awls, Olivella shell beads, and Haliotis beads and ornaments.

**Saratoga Springs Period (ca. A.D. 500 – 1200)**

This period is, in large part, a continuation of the developments begun during the Gypsum Period, such as an increasing adaptation to the desert environment and an increase in trade relations (Warren 1984). Regional environmental conditions became much wetter, a development known as the Little Pluvial. Variations in regional cultural adaptations during the Saratoga Springs Period also become apparent.

The Saratoga Springs Period is characterized by cultural diversification, with strong regional developments. Turquoise mining and long-distance trade networks appear to have attracted both the Anasazi and Hakataya peoples into the California deserts from the east and southeast, respectively. Trade with the California coastal populations also appears to have been important in the Antelope Valley region and stimulated the development of large, complex villages. In the northwestern Mojave Desert, however, the basic pattern established during the Gypsum Period changed little during the Saratoga Springs Period. Toward the end of the Saratoga Springs Period, the Hakataya apparently moved far enough north to gain control of the turquoise mines in the central Mojave Desert, thus replacing the Anasazi occupation of the eastern California desert.

Developments during the Saratoga Springs Period in the southern cultural sphere include the gradual introduction of pottery, Cottonwood-series arrow points, and Desert Side-notched arrow points late in the period. Trade with the Pacific and Gulf coastal populations appears to have been extensive and was likely the driving force that led to the gradual expansion of Hatakaya cultural traits further west into the deserts and later into the mountains of the Peninsular Range as well as into the inland valleys and coastal regions of Southern California. Lake Cahuilla is believed to have formed around A.D. 500 and was the focus of cultural activities such as exploitation of fish, waterfowl, and wetland resources during this period.
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Shoshonean Period (ca. A.D. 1200 – 1800s)

During the Shoshonean Period, sometimes referred to as the Proto-Historic Period, there appears to have been a continuation of the technological developments from the earlier Saratoga Springs Period. Regional developments, however, indicate the formation of distinct ethnographic groups become clearer during the Shoshonean Period. Two major events affect the archaeological record of this period. The final desiccation of Lake Cahuilla, which had occurred by approximately A.D. 1640, resulted in a population shift away from the lakebed into the Peninsular Ranges to the west, including the Lake Elsinore area and the Colorado River regions to the east. Subsequently, Spanish exploration and establishment of the mission system during the late 1700s mark the end of prehistoric lifeways.

In the Southern Desert region, brown and buff ware pottery, first appearing on the lower Colorado River at about A.D. 800, started to diffuse across the California deserts by about A.D. 900 (Moratto 1984). Associated with the diffusion of this pottery were desert side-notched and cottonwood triangular projectile points dating to about A.D. 1150-1200, suggesting a continued spread of Hakataya influences. Large, complex housepit village sites were established along the headwaters of the Mojave River and were somewhat similar to those reported in Antelope Valley. Although both of these areas appear to have participated in extensive trade between the desert and the coast, the lack of buff and brown ware pottery at the Antelope Valley sites suggests that these people were minimally influenced by the Hakataya developments along the Mojave River (Moratto 1984). The Hakataya influence throughout the Colorado and Mojave deserts is evidenced by desert side-notched and cottonwood triangular projectile points and buff and brown ware pottery. During this period Lake Cahuilla began to recede, and the extensive Hakataya populations occupying its shores began moving westward into areas such as Anza-Borrego, Coyote Canyon, the Upper Coachella Valley, the Little San Bernardino Mountains, the San Jacinto Valley, and Perris Plain.

4.6.3 Ethnographic Setting

The ethnographic territory of the Luiseño Indians is within the geographic boundary of the City of Lake Elsinore’s SOI. The term Luiseño is derived from the Mission San Luis Rey and has been used in Southern California to refer to those Takic-speaking people associated with the mission.

Luiseño territory comprised a total of 1,500 square miles of Southern California. Luiseño territory included most of the drainage of the San Luis Rey River and that of the Santa Margarita River (Bean and Shipek 1978). Along the coast it extended from Agua Hedionda Creek on the south to Aliso Creek on the northwest. The boundary extended inland to Santiago Peak, then across to the eastern side of the Elsinore Valley, then southward to the east of Palomar Mountain, then around the southern slope above the San Jose Valley. From there the boundary turned west and returned to the sea along the Agua Hedionda Creek.
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Villages were located in diverse ecological zones typically located along valley bottoms, streams, or coastal strands near mountain ranges. Each village area contained many named places associated with food products, raw materials, or sacred beings, and each place was owned by an individual, family, the chief, or by the group collectively (Bean and Shipek 1978). The village of Paiahche is ethnographically documented immediately north of the lake by Kroeber (1925), however consultation with the Pechanga Tribe shows that the village was located northwest of the Lake and that the correct spelling is Páayaxchi. This name also refers to the Lake itself. The area around and including the Elsinore hot springs was known to the Luiseño as iténgyu Wumówmu (meaning “hot springs”). The hot springs also figure prominently into Luiseño oral tradition. The location, iténgyu Wumówmu, is named in a song about the death ofWuyóot, a religious leader who led the people in their migration from the north (Du Bois 1908; Harrington 1978 in Grenda et al. 1997). Several additional Luiseño place names are within the Lake Elsinore area and SOI including We’éeva, Pi’í’iv, Qawiimay, Páayaxchi Nivé’wuna, Anóomay and others, reflecting this diverse and well utilized region.

Houses were primarily conical and partially subterranean, thatched structures of locally accessible materials, including reeds, brush, or bark. Round, semi-subterranean, earth-covered sweathouses were important for a variety of rituals.

The principal game included deer, rabbit, jackrabbit, woodrat, mice and ground squirrels, antelope, and valley and mountain quail and other birds. Trout and other fish were caught in mountain streams. Acorns were the most important single food source, and villages seem to have been located near water resources necessary for the leaching of acorns. Grass seeds were the next most abundant food source (Bean and Shipek 1978). Seeds were parched, ground, and cooked as a mush in various combinations. Additional food sources included various greens, cactus pods, yucca buds, and bulbs, roots, and tubers.

Tools for food acquisition, storage, and preparation included an inventory made from widely available materials. Hunting tools included shoulder-height bows with fire-hardened wood or stone-tipped arrows, curved throwing sticks, rabbit nets, slings, and traps. Seeds were ground with handstones on shallow unshaped basin metates. The same granites were made into shaped or unshaped mortars and pestles for pounding acorns or small game (Bean and Shipek 1978). Coiled and twined baskets were used in food gathering, preparation, storage, and serving. Food was cooked in wide-mouthed clay jars over fireplaces or in earth ovens wrapped with clay or leaves. Other utensils for food preparation included wooden food paddles, brushes, tongs, tweezers, steatite bowls, and wooden digging sticks (Bean and Shipek 1978).

While the literature recognizes Lake Elsinore as a part of Luiseño linguistic territory, references are also made to possible previous occupation by the Juaneno based on their place names and creation myths and overlapping use or influence by adjacent groups, including the Gabrieleno, Serrano, and Cahuilla (Hampson 1992).
4.6.4 Historic Context

The information contained below is a summary statement from Tom Hudson’s: Lake Elsinore Valley, Its Story 1776–1977, and General History of Southern California.

Spanish Period

Beginning in 1769, the Spanish set up missions throughout the area called Alta California. Most of the missions failed to have an impact beyond their respective region. The San Luis Rey Mission, however, extended its influence into the surrounding regions and used the lands for grazing cattle and other animals. Then in 1818, Leandro Serrano settled in what the Spaniards were calling Laguna Grande. He was the first non-Indian to settle what was to become Riverside County, with his settlement just north of Glen Ivy Hot Springs. Throughout the Spanish Period, this lone settlement was the only region in Riverside County that continued to grow. Mexican independence, however, in 1822 changed the makeup of Laguna Grande, Riverside, and all of Alta California.

Mexican Period

Mexican independence and the Secularization Act of 1833 led to population increases and disastrous consequences for the Luiseño tribes. Many of the local Indians became accustomed to the mission way of life and were not prepared for the aftermath. It became common practice for large land grants to be issued to those friendly to the Mexican cause. As the land grants were developed, local tribes were pressured to relocate or to become laborers and workers on the ranches. The comisionados, who were placed in charge of the land transfer, took advantage of the situation and became the powerful land holding class known as the rancheros.

Early American Period: La Laguna

The treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo was signed in 1848, ending the Mexican-American War and marking the end of the Mexican Period in California. The treaty ceded much of the southwest to the United States, including all the lands around La Laguna and the rest of Southern California. The City of Lake Elsinore’s historic name, La Laguna, is derived from Laguna Grande, the name the Spanish gave the lake and used in the early 1800s. The historic roots of the La Laguna/Laguna Grande influenced the name given to Rancho La Laguna, land granted to Julian Manriquez in early 1844. For the non-Indian occupants, the beginning of the American Period can be called a golden era for the region, with the announcement of the discovery of gold shortly after the war.

Before the outbreak of war between Mexico and the United States, Julian Manriquez received a sizable land grant in 1844 that included the lands of La Laguna. Battle was waged over the land from 1846 to 1848. Then, in 1850, California became the 31st state in the Union. Soon thereafter, in 1851, Julian Manriquez sold the land to Abel Sterns, who was Massachusetts-born and the largest landholder in all of Southern California. In 1858, Augustin Machado acquired the land.
and named it Rancho La Laguna. He was the first landowner since the Indians to call the lake home, and he immediately began construction of a seven-room adobe, which immediately became a local landmark. Machado’s adobe was the first stop for the postal service in the area surrounding La Laguna. From its inception, La Laguna became an important crossroads for the stagecoach, the railroad, prospectors, recreation seekers, and all travelers alike.

**Founding of the Town**

The years between the Civil War and the coming of the railroad saw only gradual progress. Instead, it saw the death of Augustin Machado and the rise of his son, Juan Bernardo Machado, who became known as the legendary Don Juan. Franklin Heald purchased Rancho La Laguna in 1883. He then founded the town of Elsinore, which was named after the famed city of Elsinore from Shakespeare’s Hamlet. The lake at Helsingor is also a center of attraction as it is at Lake Elsinore. It was not until December of 1972 that, by popular vote, Elsinore City formally acknowledged the importance of the lake and became officially known as the City of Lake Elsinore.

In 1884, George Irish bought the remainder of Don Juan Machado’s estate, thus ending the Machado family’s reign over the valley. Shortly after its inception, and because of its rapid growth, the town of Lake Elsinore became a full-fledged city on April 9, 1888, located in what was then San Diego County. In 1893, Lake Elsinore joined the new county of Riverside, encompassing lands that were formerly part of San Diego and San Bernardino Counties.

Throughout this time period, the City continued to expand, and developers continued to construct buildings, some of which still stand today. In 1884, Wilson Heald, Franklin’s father, built a two-story home on the corner of what is now Grand and Riverside. Lake Elsinore also built its first post office and schoolhouse in the same year.

In early 1887, one of Heald’s major accomplishments was the building of a bathhouse in the ancient hot springs of the Páayaxchi, known as the Crescent. Also completed in the same year was a two-story meeting hall dedicated to Elsinore’s chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic. This building is located at the northeast corner of Main and Franklin, and it has seen many uses throughout the years. Also built that year was the Consolidated Bank, later used as a schoolhouse and then a hotel, the Ambassador Hotel, which was the tallest building in all of Lake Elsinore. It is presently vacant.
In 1887, the Lakedale Hotel was completed, which later became the Lake View Inn. This building no longer stands; however, it symbolizes the transformation of Lake Elsinore from a tranquil lakeside village to a vibrant resort town.

**Transportation**

The development of La Laguna followed similar patterns as the rest of California. The advent of rapid transportation brought many new peoples to the Pacific and the lake area. The motivations behind the new wave of immigration was both recreation and gold, which brought many well-to-do men and women to the shores of the lake and prospectors into the vicinity of La Laguna.

The transcontinental railroad opened the floodgates to settlement all along the Pacific, including the inland interiors. Its completion in 1869 opened the way for land speculators, miners, developers, farmers, and vacationers to swarm into California. The rail opened up the region to a larger population boom. The first colony in the area surrounding La Laguna sprang up in what is modern-day Riverside.

The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad was completed by the early 1880s, bringing the newly created City a lifeline to the outside world. In the history of California, those towns that were blessed with rail lines thrived; those without a rail line often suffered. The Elsinore station, later called Elsinore Junction, was located near the intersection of Railroad Canyon Road and Mission Trail. The original building was moved sometime in the past to either the City of Alessandro or Arlington but has since been destroyed, possibly by fire. The historic train depot that is currently in the City of Lake Elsinore was moved from the City of Arlington where it was originally constructed.

As it did in the rest of California served by railroads, the rail line brought new life to the area. The completion of the railroad began the process of growth and urbanization for Lake Elsinore. The City and its surrounding region experienced a large influx in population, due in part to the excitement for gold. Once these people settled, they learned of the splendors along the shores of the lake. Many began to settle and vacation in the valley, and development grew to accommodate the demands of vacationers seeking relaxation and recreation.

Signaling the transition away from the railroad toward more modern means of transportation, W. Leonard Bonney and Miss Margaret Stahl were the first to fly over Lake Elsinore in 1913. Soon after, to celebrate the Fourth of July, Harry Holmes flew and landed Glenn L. Martin’s hydroplane in the lake. Then, in 1914, five automobiles succeeded in driving the 17-mile course around the lake.

Finally, in 1932, the Ortega Highway was opened to the public, continuing the influx of people to the city. Around this time, an airport was built, bringing many enthusiasts to hang glide and sky dive. As transportation progressed, it brought more people and new ideas to the heart of
Lake Elsinore. The development of a strong middle class and ownership of a family automobile in the post World War II era expanded recreational potential in Lake Elsinore.

Mining
The gold rush and the advancing railroads brought more people to California. Lake Elsinore and the surrounding area were no exception, with its mining of tin ore, coal, clay, and some gold.

In the late 19th century, the town experienced a boom because of gold mining between the towns of Elsinore and Perris. The most prosperous mine was Good Hope Mine, the discovery of which has been credited to Juan B. Castillo and Madison Chaney or possibly a Frenchman by the name of Mache. This mine produced more than $2 million worth of gold (over $20 million in current dollars) during its working years. At its height, it used coal extracted from the Terra Cotta mines to process the gold. The coal mines, which were discovered in 1883 by Madison Chaney and his wife, Esther, were also used to fire kilns and heat homes. The region surrounding Alberhill was also known for its coal mining. Coal was also mined in the Warm Springs Valley. The coal mine provided employment but also gave Lake Elsinore a degree of energy self-sufficiency.

Mining of asbestos also began during the 1880s. John D. Huff, owned and operated the Asbestos Company and founded the coal and clay mines near the town of Terra Cotta. The clay mine at Terra Cotta was in operation until the 1940s when the Alberhill mine became the sole operating clay mine in the region. The clay extracted from these mines was of such high quality that it won a gold medal at the prestigious Panama-California Exposition at San Diego in 1916. The Pacific Clay Brick Products Company is the present owner of the Alberhill commercial area. Within its grounds is the Alberhill School, which served the area from 1912 until it was abandoned in 1964.

Rail transportation opened up the Lake Elsinore region to prospectors, miners, and investors who took advantage of the untapped reserves to expand their personal wealth to influence the City. Lake Elsinore became the main center for mining and transportation in the region. Many additional spurs were built to improve the connection of Lake Elsinore to its surrounding mines. The rails injected new life into the valley and kept a steady stream of prospectors, settlers, and vacation seekers flowing to the shores of Lake Elsinore. When the mines played out, the tourists and vacationers continued to provide a source of economic opportunity.

Recreation
Many people visited the newly created City of Lake Elsinore, looking for recreation along the shores of the pristine lake. The move toward creating a resort town began shortly after the town’s inception. The rail brought ranchers and prospectors to the City in 1883, and then in 1887 the City’s first hotel was completed. Most lakes in southern California, all of which were man made, were somewhat remote. Lake Elsinore sat on a major rail line and highway. This
move toward becoming a resort town continued into the 20th century when the Laguna Vista Club House was completed, the first lakefront resort. In 1923, the Mount Elsinore Country Club opened to great fanfare. Lake Elsinore attracted many Hollywood stars, such as Will Rogers, to its famous bathhouse and pristine waters with proximity to major cities and rails.

The earliest attraction of Lake Elsinore was its legendary bathhouse, known as the Crescent. At one point it was proclaimed the finest bathhouse in all of California, and more important, it still stands as of 2007. It is now known as the Chimes, located at 201 W. Graham Avenue, and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1884, Henry Lillie built a yacht, the Marguerita, to ferry passengers across the lake. The steamship, the Lady Elsinore, carried passengers on lake cruises, which occasionally featured bands.

In 1926, the Clevelin Reality Corporation attempted to revitalize the tourist industry by building a double-deck pier. It included a dance club and several games. In 1927, the Aloha Yacht Club sponsored the largest gathering of speedboats on the lake, which was a great success. The following year the lake held the National Speed Boat Race, which garnered nine world records.

Another bathhouse, known as the Briner Bathhouse, was completed at the corner of Sumner and Riley in 1928. Later that same year, Hunter’s Elsinore Sanitarium opened, bringing health seekers to Elsinore for many years. In 1930, construction was under way for a new bathhouse at Pachanga Hot Springs. Even during the lean years of the depression, Lake Elsinore still attracted a large number of visitors to the surroundings of the lake. The most unique construction of the 1930s was the Clevelin Realty Corporation’s “ship pier” on the south side of the lake. It was capable of allowing small ships to dock within it. Also, it was mounted on tracks to allow for easy repairs.

Mirroring the immense popularity of baseball in the 1900s, Local high school teams played against teams from southern California, winning several district championships. The Los Angeles Angels played in the ballpark east of Main Street during spring season of 1916. The Sacramento Solons and the Hollywood Stars both trained in the valley on a newly constructed field on Poe Street in 1940 and 1941, respectively. Today, the Lake Elsinore Storm have one of the largest fan bases in minor league baseball. The Storm logo is the best selling minor league logo and helps brand the City as a professional-level community.

The City of Lake Elsinore

Lake Elsinore began as a small town with the emergence of the railroad around 1883. It soon began to grow with the completion of its first post office and schoolhouse in 1884. In 1893, the town became officially recognized as a city in the same year as the establishment of the Cleveland National Forest. The original City Hall was completed on July 7, 1934; the original building no longer exists.
During the boom years of the 1920s the city of Lake Elsinore saw a great deal of development. This time period saw the building of the Masonic Temple in 1923 at East Graham Avenue, and the building of the Methodist church at Main and Heald, in the same year. This Church is still in use. In 1925, the Elsinore Woman’s Club built a meeting place at the corner of Graham and Lowell. The Elsinore Theatre on South Main, built in 1925 replaced the Star theatre, built c.1908, and has been the Franklin Store since 1938. Another interesting structure built in 1929 and located on the hills east of the lake is “Aimee’s Castle” that was the home of noted evangelist, Aimee Semple McPherson. It is also important to note that in 1924 the valley’s first telephone services were installed. The Great Depression limited expansion, except for the completion of a new post office in 1932.

Agriculture

Early settlers in the valley subsisted on ranching and farming. Even at the height of its tourist season, the region was still in peak production. The farmers in the area grew olives, grapes, apricots, and other produce.

The farmers in the area produced at such high levels that to handle their needs, the Lakeland Ranch, owned by C. H. Albers, built one of the largest canning facilities in the state. He was the owner of “Albers’ Folly” canned olives. In 1916, Elsinore olive oil took gold at the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego. Later, apricots became the boom crop. These crops sustained the valley during the worst years of the Depression and helped it flourish during its tourist peak. The eucalyptus trees, palm trees, and pepper trees that shade the walkway and line the shores and streets have been there for generations and keep the land connected to its past.

4.6.5 Prehistoric Archaeological Sites

As identified in the record search, Lake Elsinore has an extensive use history from the prehistoric era to modern times. The record search resulted in the identification of 132 prehistoric and historical archaeological sites within the project area. Two of the previously identified prehistoric sites, CA-RIV-1022 and CA-RIV-2798, have been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Additional previously identified prehistoric archaeological sites include: villages, rock shelters, habitation sites, lithic scatters, and milling slicks. Isolated artifacts have also been identified within the project area; however, given the limited amount of data typically derived from artifacts without associated features or assemblages, they have not been included in the discussion of previously identified sites in Table 4-3.

These previously identified archaeological sites can provide assistance in determining areas of known sensitivity for prehistoric archaeological resources. The site definitions provided in Table 4-3 are based on the information provided in the record search and are to be used as a general guideline to understanding the nature of prehistoric archaeological sites in the region.
In addition, the identification of known areas of sensitivity does not preclude the possibility of locating additional prehistoric sites in other portions of the City and SOI.

### Table 4-3. Previously Identified Prehistoric Archaeological Sites within the SOI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Types</th>
<th>Site Definitions and Locations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village sites</td>
<td>Sites that exhibit a level of sustained residency with resources suitable for sustaining long-term or seasonal habitation. Typically located along watercourses (such as the San Jacinto River and its tributaries or near Lake Elsinore). Associated artifact assemblages may include (but are not limited to) bedrock outcrops, lithic artifacts, groundstone, shell, animal bone, fire-affected rock, ceramics, pictographs and petroglyphs, house rings, and evidence of funerary practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock shelters</td>
<td>Typically located in higher elevations in areas that sustain habitable rock overhangs that can support brief habitation episodes or be utilized for ceremonial purposes. Associated artifacts can include (but are not limited to) pictographs and petroglyphs, fire-affected rock, lithic artifacts, midden soil, animal bone, bedrock milling features, ceramics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitation sites</td>
<td>Temporary camps or transition areas that exploit an immediate or seasonal resource. Usually located near watercourses such as the San Jacinto River and its tributaries. Associated artifact assemblages may include (but are not limited to) ground stone, lithic debitage, and bedrock milling features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithic scatters</td>
<td>Flaking stations that may indicate possible opportunistic quarrying activities or tool reduction stations. Clusters can be identified in isolation or in association with other site types and are not restricted in geographic location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedrock Milling Features</td>
<td>Grinding stations typically located along watercourses (such as the San Jacinto River and its tributaries) near exposed bedrock outcrops (typically granite or granodiorite) with suitable resources in the area for processing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolates</td>
<td>Not included in the study group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 4.5 (Reserved)
Chapter 4.0

BACKSIDE OF FIGURE
4.6.6  **Historical Archaeological Sites**

The previously identified historical archaeological sites represent a range of activities including: mining, transportation, recreation, and ranching/homesteading and are represented throughout the City and SOI. The number of previously identified historical archaeological sites is much smaller than prehistoric sites making it more difficult to determine areas of known or established sensitivity. It is possible, however, to make informed deductions about the types of resources likely to be encountered in future projects based on the previously identified sites in combination with the documented history of the area.

For example, historical archaeological sites associated with recreation activities tend to be concentrated around, or within the immediate vicinity of Lake Elsinore. In addition, the lake itself has been previously recorded as a cultural resource (p33-11009). A majority of the previously recorded mining sites have been identified in the northeastern portion of the study area. These include sites that are representative of extractive operations focused on the acquisition of gold, granite, and limestone. This includes the Good Hope Mine Site (33-3352), the most prosperous gold mine in the region in the 19th century. Early transportation into the area is currently represented through previously recorded segments of the Santa Fe Railroad (CA-RIV-3832H) and associated features. It is also possible that early roads might be eventually added to the existing list of transportation related cultural resources. Ranching and homesteading sites consist of a variety of material culture remains including (but not limited to) building foundations, fence lines, rock walls, orchards and agricultural fields, landscaping elements, and outbuildings. These sites are distributed throughout the City and SOI.

4.6.7  **Paleontological Resources**

**County of Riverside**

To ensure that appropriate protection is afforded to the County’s rich and extensive record of fossil life, a Countywide inventory for paleontological sensitivity has been conducted. The resulting map evaluates all land within the County as having high, low, or undetermined sensitivity for paleontological resources, consistent with guidelines published by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Conformable Impact Mitigation Guidelines Committee 1995), which represent the industry standard for protection of paleontological resources. It serves as a general guide for environmental review of development proposals and identification of appropriate strategies for avoidance and mitigation of paleontological impacts.

The County’s paleontological resources sensitivity mapping shows areas of high paleontological sensitivity in Quaternary deposits north of Lake Elsinore along the west side of the I-15 corridor. Quaternary units of the valley floor immediately surrounding Lake Elsinore are of undetermined paleontological sensitivity, as are the fan deposits flanking the Santa Ana Mountains rangefront south of the lake; Mesozoic metasedimentary rocks northwest of the Lake; and Tertiary and Quaternary sedimentary rocks, and Mesozoic metasediments east of the
Lake. Most of the valley floor south of Lake Elsinore, and the plutonic highlands to the west and east of the valley, are considered to have low paleontological sensitivity, as seen in Figure 4.6, Paleontological Resources.

City of Lake Elsinore

The City of Lake Elsinore has identified geologic units that are known to contain important paleontological resources in the Alberhill Ranch area in the northeast portion of the SOI. In this area, the Silverado Formation of Paleocene age (approximately 66–55 million years old) is locally highly sensitive for invertebrate and plant material. The fossil plants from this unit have been studied for more than half a century and are therefore considered to be particularly significant.

4.6.8 Cultural and Paleontological Resources Goals, Policies and Implementation Programs

Goal 6 Preserve, protect, and promote the cultural heritage of the City and surrounding region for the education and enjoyment of all City residents and visitors, as well as for the advancement of historical and archeological knowledge.

Policies

6.1 Encourage the preservation of significant archeological, historical, and other cultural resources located within the City.

6.2 The City shall consult with the appropriate Native American tribes for projects identified under SB 18 (Traditional Tribal Cultural Places).

6.3 When significant cultural/archeological sites or artifacts are discovered on a site, coordination with professional archeologists, relevant state and, if applicable, federal agencies, and the appropriate Native American tribes regarding preservation of sites or professional retrieval and preservation of artifacts or by other means of protection, prior to development of the site shall be required. Because ceremonial items and items of cultural patrimony reflect traditional religious beliefs and practices, developers shall waive any and all claims to ownership and agree to return all Native American ceremonial items and items of cultural patrimony that may be found on a project site to the appropriate tribe for treatment. It is understood by all parties that unless otherwise required by law, the site of any reburial of Native American human remains or cultural artifacts shall not be disclosed and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act.
6.4 If archeological excavations are recommended on a project site, the City shall require that all such investigations include Native American consultation, which shall occur prior to project approval.

Implementation Program The City shall encourage owners of local sites to apply for recognition in the State Historic Resources Inventory as Riverside County Landmarks, State Points of Historic Interest, State Landmarks, and as sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

Agency/Department Community Development Department

Goal 7 Support state-of-the-art research designs and analytical approaches to archeological and cultural resource investigations while also acknowledging the traditional knowledge and experience of the Native American tribes regarding Native American culture.

Policies

7.1 Consult with California Native American tribes prior to decision-making processes for the purpose of preserving cultural places located on land within the City’s jurisdiction that may be affected by the proposed plan, in accordance with State or Federal requirements.

7.2 Continue to identify, document, evaluate, designate, and preserve the cultural resources in the City.

7.3 Continue to update a citywide inventory of cultural resources in conformance with state standards and procedures while maintaining the confidentiality of information as required by law.

7.4 Support the permanent curation of archaeological artifact collections by universities or museums or appropriate tribal facilities.

7.5 Increase opportunities for cultural heritage tourism by promoting the history of Lake Elsinore to attract cultural heritage travelers while maintaining the confidentiality of Native American sites, places and other information as required by law.

Implementation Program Through the CEQA process the City shall request state-of-the-art and best-available research designs and approaches be utilized in archaeological and cultural resource investigations.

Agency/Department Community Development Department
Goal 8 Preserve paleontological resources occurring within the City.

Policy

8.1 For development in areas delineated as “High” or “Undetermined” potential sensitivity for paleontological resources, require the project applicant to hire a certified paleontologist, who must perform a literature search and/or survey and apply the relevant treatment for the site as recommended by the Society for Vertebrate Paleontology.

Implementation Program The City shall use the development and environmental review processes to ensure that appropriate archaeological and paleontological surveying and documentation of findings is provided prior to project approval, and require monitoring of new developments and reporting to the City on completion of mitigation and resource protection measures.

Agency/Department Community Development Department

4.7 Historic Preservation

4.7.1 Introduction

A city cannot attempt to understand its present or to forecast its future if it fails to recognize its past. By tracing its past, a city can gain a clear sense of the process by which it achieved its present form and substance. Lake Elsinore’s rich and varied historical and cultural resources include buildings, districts, landforms, and archaeological sites that possess historical, scientific, architectural, aesthetic, cultural, or ethnic significance. These resources, with their inherent ability to evoke the past, represent important aspects of the history of Lake Elsinore, from the time before and during European contact with Native Americans, to periods of settlement, agricultural and industrial development, and to boom periods with increased leisure time, which made the City a recreational destination.

Preservation of important historical resources enhances the quality of life in Lake Elsinore. It improves the character of the built environment, encourages appreciation for the City’s history and culture, maintains the identity of communities, and contributes to the City’s economic vitality. The identification, evaluation, registration, and protection of these resources are the essential components of Lake Elsinore’s historic preservation responsibilities.
The goals and policies in this section are intended to preserve the City’s important historical connections to the past.

4.7.2 Historical Preservation Baselines

Cultural and Historical Resources

Record Search
A records search for the study area was conducted at the Eastern Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at the University of California, Riverside on July 12, 2005. The researcher consulted the state’s database of previous cultural resource studies and recorded cultural resource sites as well as the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, and local historical registers.

According to the records search, 194 cultural resource studies have been previously conducted within the study area and 447 cultural resources (buildings, structures, objects, and archaeological sites) have been previously recorded within the same boundary.

Historic Built Environment
Two buildings within the City boundaries, the Crescent Bath House and the Grand Army of the Republic Armory Hall, are currently listed in the NRHP. The armory hall is also listed in the California Points of Historical Interest (RIV-070) as is the Elsinore Women’s Club (RIV-071). California Historical Landmarks lists no properties within the study area.

In the 1980s, the Riverside County Historical Commission designated Historic Downtown Lake Elsinore as a local historic district. Historic Downtown Elsinore encompasses areas of early residential and commercial development within the City of Lake Elsinore, as seen in Figure 4.7. A majority of the district is focused in the areas around Main Street, Heald Avenue, and Graham Avenue where some of the earliest development occurred. The City is working with the County of Riverside to protect its local cultural heritage and structures of merit. The Historic Lake Elsinore District has been officially recognized by the County of Riverside and the City of Lake Elsinore.

Currently Listed in the National Register of Historic Places:
- Crescent Bath House/Chimes Building (P33-6998)
- Grand Army of the Republic Armory Hall (RIV-070)
Currently Listed in the California Points of Historical Interest:
- Grand Army of the Republic Armory Hall (RIV-070)
- Elsinore Women’s Club (RIV-071)

Currently Listed in the Riverside County General Plan as a Significant Historical Resource:
- Lake Elsinore Downtown Historic District (P33-7142) includes:
  - Masonic Lodge (P33-6982)
  - Train Depot (P33-6997)
  - First Presbyterian Church (P33-7040)
  - Pioneer Lumber Company—127 West Graham Avenue (P33-6996)
  - Lake Theatre—310 West Graham Avenue (P33-7001)

Unofficially Recognized Significant Historical Resources.
According to the 1990 General Plan, the community unofficially recognizes several sites and structures as significant historical resources. Locally recognized historic resources in the Lake Elsinore area include:

- Delaney Estate—north of Lake Elsinore
- Aimee’s Castle—Skyline Drive
- The Adobe Machado House and Butterfield Stage Stop—Riverside Drive, northwest of the lake
- Alberhill School—Lake Street
- The Cannery—Spring Street
- Elsinore Naval Military Academy—Grand Avenue
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Sources: City of Lake Elsinore, County of Riverside

**Figure 4.7**

**Sphere of Influence**

**City Boundary**

+ Historically Recognized Buildings

**Historic Transportation**

- Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad lines
- Cariso Truck Trail

**Water Bodies**

**Historic Archaeological Sites**

- Lake Elsinore Recreation
- Recorded Historic Mine Locations
- Historic Ranching & Homesteading
- Approximate Location of Unrecorded Historic Mine Locations
BACKSIDE OF FIGURE
Additional Lake Elsinore Historic Homes of Interest:

- 16919 Bell Street, 1930
- 219 Riley Street, 1920
- 29610 Hague Street, 1928
- 29444 Kalina Street
- 29431 Kalina Street
- 17912 Hamlet Circle, 1929, Bredlau Castle
- 17747 Skyline Drive, 1930, Village La Shell
- 16921 Holborow Avenue, Journeys End
- 17541 Barkshatt Drive
- 16685 McPherson Circle, 1926
- 17271 Lakeview Avenue, 1929
- 226 East Franklin Street, 1924, Scotty’s Castle
- 228 Spring Street, 1912, Gardner Home
- 257 Hill Street

4.7.3 Historical Preservation Goals, Policies and Implementation Programs

Goal 9 Assure the recognition of the City’s heritage through preservation of the City’s significant historical sites and structures.

Policies

9.1 Require the developer to obtain a professional, qualified historian to conduct a literature search and/or survey for any project that entails demolition or modification of an existing structure that may be of historical value in relation to the City’s cultural heritage.

9.2 Apply the General Plan “Historic Elsinore Design Standards” to the Lake Elsinore historic district, as defined in the City zoning ordinance.

9.3 Work with the Lake Elsinore Historical Society to create and periodically update a historic register of structures and other landmarks valuable to the cultural heritage to the City.

1 Information provided by the Lake Elsinore Historical Society, December, 2005.
9.4 Where historic structures that do not possess a meaningful association with the immediate surroundings are identified within the City, the City shall consider allowing relocation of the structure to an appropriate site.

Implementation Program  The City shall recognize, support and encourage the maintenance of a historic register of structures and other landmarks that are valuable to the cultural heritage of the City.

Agency/Department  Community Development Department

Goal 10  Encourage the preservation, protection, and restoration of historical and cultural resources.

Policies

10.1 Continue to implement the Historic Preservation Guidelines that guide historic preservation efforts as set forth in the Historic Elsinore Design Guidelines and the Downtown Master Plan.

10.2 Integrate historic and cultural resources in land use planning processes where feasible to avoid conflict between the preservation of historic resources and alternative land uses.

10.3 All City-owned sites designated as historical resources should be maintained in a manner that is consistent with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

10.4 Encourage owners of historic resources to utilize federal incentives including Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits, façade and conservation easements, and to coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Implementation Program  The City shall support programs for the preservation, enhancement or maintenance of key historic or cultural sites in the City.

Agency/Department  Community Development Department
4.8 Aesthetics

4.8.1 Introduction

The City and the SOI surrounding Lake Elsinore are located in a valley with panoramic views of the Santa Ana Mountains to the southwest, rolling hills to the east, and a valley that sweeps to the north and south. The visual character of the area is dominated by Lake Elsinore, which is accentuated by the area’s topography and visible from several areas within the City. Other scenic resources include the Cleveland National Forest, rugged hills, mountains, ridgelines, rocky outcroppings, streams, vacant lands with native vegetation, buildings of historical and cultural significance, parks, and trails.

As the City continues to urbanize, it will be important to maintain a healthy balance between the natural and built environment. The goals and policies in this section are intended to protect and enhance the area’s rich array of aesthetic resources.

4.8.2 Aesthetics Baselines

Visual Character

The 38 square mile city of approximately 38,000 people and a 3,000-acre natural lake make up Lake Elsinore. Trees and scrub bushes surround the lake and nearby mountains and hillsides, hiding patches of development. Older buildings including housing, commercial buildings, retail shops, and light industrial uses are scattered around the lake. Southeast of the lake, large areas of undeveloped land are interspersed with older housing and newer, sprawling subdivisions. The mountains on the southwest shore rise up dramatically providing a backdrop for the lake.

The topography of the area accentuates the beauty of the lake. The City is located in a valley with panoramic views of the Santa Ana Mountains that extend from the southwestern edge of the lake, rolling hills along the northeastern borders, and a valley that sweeps to the north and south.

Relative to other cities in Southern California, the City of Lake Elsinore is non-urban. A city center was developed in the northeast portion of the lake known as historic Lake Elsinore, with additional development dispersed around the lake. As the city grew, development patterns spread up the valley towards the north. Development within the current City boundaries is limited due to various topographical barriers including the Santa Ana Mountains to the west and rolling hills to the east.
Chapter 4.0

Scenic Resources

Scenic resources within and surrounding the City of Lake Elsinore include the lake, Cleveland National Forest, rugged hills, mountains, ridgelines, rocky outcroppings, streams, vacant land with native vegetation, buildings of historical and cultural significance such as the cultural center, bathhouse and military academy, parks, and trails. Examples of these scenic resources can be seen in photos listed as Figures 4.8a-d.

Sensitive Viewer Groups

Sensitive viewer groups for the City of Lake Elsinore include, but are not limited to, city residents, unincorporated county residents, people who live in other cities but work in Lake Elsinore, tourists, commuters, and motorists on I-15 or Highway 74. Public vantage points for the various viewer groups include the highways, recreational facilities around the lake as well as within the center of lake, and hang gliders, small planes, and others from the sky. Private vantage points include views from individual residences.

Viewsheds

Viewsheds or landscaped viewshed units of scenic vistas include the lake, urban areas around the lake, and the rugged vacant hills in the northern and eastern portion of the City. For purposes of discussion, 15 landscape viewshed units have been identified in the Lake Elsinore area as seen in Figure 4.9, Landscape Viewshed Units. Each of these areas have distinct viewsheds defined by man-made structures and physiographical features such as landform, water, or cultural features.

The following is a brief summary of each of the Landscaped Viewshed Units from Figure 4.9:

1. Mainly vacant land with steep hillsides interspersed with development. Unit is both within the City and SOI.
2. Partially graded land due to mineral extraction. Unit is half in the City and half in the SOI.
3. Mainly developed with residential, commercial, and recreational land uses.
4. Steep slopes mainly outside City boundaries, but within the SOI. Includes portions of the Cleveland National Forest. This unit is mainly undeveloped, but has patches of residential, commercial, and recreational development.
5. Rolling hillsides characterize this unit. It is mainly residential with limited commercial use.
6. Unit is adjacent to the lake with a mix of residential, commercial, and public facilities. This unit is also the location of historic downtown Lake Elsinore.
7. Mainly within City boundaries, the unit is characterized by varying topography and rural development.

8. Majority of this unit is outside City boundaries, but within the SOI. Area is developed with intermittent residential and commercial uses.

9. Unit is outside of the City, but within SOI. Residential community located along I-15.

10. Located outside the City and on the edge of the SOI. Characterized by rolling hills and limited residential development.

11. Located in the center of the SOI. Mainly developed with residential and commercial uses. Contains a public high school.

12. Location of the future Lake Elsinore Outlet stores. Large portion to the east is vacant for future expansion.


14. This unit includes Lake Elsinore and surrounding floodplain.

15. Characterized by steep slopes and limited development due to small lots and inadequate utilities. Also known as Country Club Heights.

Figure 4.10, Viewshed and Vantage Points, demonstrates the areas within the City of Lake Elsinore, SOI, and outlying areas where views of the lake are visible, and areas where the lake cannot be seen. If an individual is standing in an area that is marked as green on the map, they can see the lake. If they are standing in an area that is red, they cannot see the lake. For example, as a motorist drives on I-15, the map demonstrates that views of the lake will be sporadic, with visibility of the lake better along the southern portion of I-15 and worse in the north.

Vantage Points

The visual character of the City is dominated by Lake Elsinore, which is the largest natural lake in Southern California. Due to the importance of the lake, scenic resources were addressed by identifying key public vantage points of the lake throughout the City. Sites chosen included the view of the lake from I-15, Highway 74, the Lake Elsinore Recreation Area and Campground, the baseball stadium, the boat launch on the eastern edge of the lake and the Aloha Pier lookout. These points were chosen because they are key public vantage points that can be accessed by every viewer group. Figure 4.10 shows where the vantage points are located, and Figure 4.11, Vantage Point Photos, displays photos of each of the locations. The following is a description of each vantage point.
Panoramic Photograph of Lake Elsinore and the Santa Ana Mountains from Country Club Heights

Panoramic Photograph of Open Space and the Cleveland National Forest from South End of Lake
BACKSIDE OF FIGURE
Oblique Aerial View of the Southern End of the Lake, Wildlife Refuge, and Santa Ana Mountains

White Pelicans and Waterfowl on Lake Elsinore with Open Space in the Background
Chapter 4.0

BACKSIDE OF FIGURE
Campground and Beach at North End of Lake Elsinore

View of the Lake, Santa Ana Mountains, and Cleveland National Forest from Whiskers Beach
BACKSIDE OF FIGURE
Rock Outcrop and Lake Elsinore from Lookout Roadhouse

View of Gorgonio Mountain from the Cleveland National Forest (Country Club Heights in Foreground)
Chapter 4.0

BACKSIDE OF FIGURE
Sources: City of Lake Elsinore, County of Riverside

City of Lake Elsinore
Landscape Viewshed Units
Figure 4.9
Chapter 4.0

BACKSIDE OF FIGURE
Figure 4.10

Sources: City of Lake Elsinore, County of Riverside
Chapter 4.0

BACKSIDE OF FIGURE
BACKSIDE OF FIGURE
With the city’s proximity to I-15, the lake can be seen as commuters pass by the city. A full view of the lake appears in the distance, sitting in a valley surrounded by mountains and hills. Most travelers on the I-15 are passing through at high speeds making it difficult to enjoy views of the lake. While the view of the lake is pleasant, travelers are focused on driving and not on the visual quality of the lake and surrounding city. Without pulling off the freeway, the lake is only visible to north and southbound motorists for a short period. From other public vantage points, viewers have prolonged viewing times of the lake, either due to slower speed limits on roadways, or because the viewer is not traveling and has time to stop and look.

From SR 74, there are several vantage points where sightseers and residents can stop and enjoy the view of the lake. Ortega Highway traverses up and over the Santa Ana Mountains. As the highway switchbacks through the mountains, the view of the lake becomes more impressive as travelers enjoy an aerial view of the entire lake and surrounding rugged topography. From the high viewpoint the lake fills the view. As seen from Figure 4.11, the surrounding hills and distant mountains act as a backdrop for displaying the lake.

Looking down from Ortega Highway, a development of newer homes with red roofs stands out on the southeast side of the lake creating a visual distraction. Towards the west, the topography gets steep very quickly. There are very few shrubs and trees on the hillside that obstruct views of the lake from the roadway. Rocky outcroppings at the vantage point provide additional visual interest.

Another key public vantage point is from the Lake Elsinore Recreation Area that includes a campground, boat launch and swimming area. It is located adjacent to the water on the northwestern edge of the lake. The view of the lake fills up the southern sightline of the viewer as seen in Figure 4.11. In the summer of 2005, several dozen palm trees were viewed submerged in the water from distances of 15 to 50 feet from the shore, an indicator of the high water level at that time. Mountains to the west can be seen from the recreation area as well as new homes sited along the edge of the mountains. Development around the lake is nearly hidden from view by trees surrounding the water’s edge. Trees also nearly hide the hills to the east, but houses on tops of the hills are partially visible between the foliage. The aesthetic quality of the water in the lake is not inviting from close range due to floating vegetation that contributes to the water’s murky appearance.

The baseball stadium is located close to the water in the southeastern part of the city. From this vantage point, an inlet of the lake created by the levee is visible. A distant view of the lake is available from just outside the stadium, but does not dominate the landscape due to the distance from the lake. Most of the views across from the ballpark are of dry, brown grasses and scattered trees, a portion of which has been set-aside as a wildlife habitat area. From this vantage point, a newer housing development can be seen on the hills located to the west of the freeway. Older homes, small buildings and a newer housing development can be seen immediately across the lake to the north. Trees and heavy vegetation make it difficult to see any development clearly. A wide dirt trail available for pedestrians to walk to the edge of the lake is visible from the stadium.
A second boat launch and day-use public recreation area is located on the eastern edge of the lake. The lake can be seen from north to south with the Santa Ana Mountains forming a backdrop at this vantage point. The lake fills up a large portion of the viewpoint, making it the dominant feature. Residential developments can be seen towards the west of the lake from the boat launch. Unobstructed views of the residential development on the north end of the lake are clearly visible from the boat launch. As of the summer of 2005, the visual character of land that has been recently graded contrasts with the forest green shrubs and trees surrounding the new project. Other development to the east of the boat launch is visible, but partially obscured by trees.

The area immediately surrounding the boat launch is covered by dark sand and a short distance to the north there is a small patch of grass and recreation-oriented facilities. Large shade trees on the grassy patch provide relief from the sun for visitors. The area is characterized by more recreational activities and facilities than other vantage points including a visitor parking lot, boat launch, established swimming area, and restrooms.

From the Country Club Heights subdivision there’s a spectacular view of the lake where the Aloha Pier, Yacht Club and Pavilion once stood. In the late 1920’s it was an obvious gathering place along the shore, and in its heyday orchestras played in the pavilion and dances were held on weekend nights. With boat races on the lake and swings and play equipment for children, it was the spot where the action was.

**Sources of Light and Glare**

Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines contains the Initial Study Environmental Checklist form that includes questions relating to aesthetics. One of the aesthetic issues addresses whether the “project” will create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect the day or nighttime views of the area. Light and glare impacts to the Palomar Mountain Observatory are of concern.

Based on data provided by Palomar Observatory, areas of light pollution impacts have been identified through a “ring analysis” as seen in Figure 4.12, Palomar Lighting Impact Analysis Area. Primary impacts to the observatory’s ability to study in dark sky’s fall within a 30-mile radius, while secondary impacts are up to 45 miles. Mitigation for dark sky within these areas will require the development of light pollution standards for individual projects.
Figure 4.12

Sources: City of Lake Elsinore, ESRI

City of Lake Elsinore
Palomar Lighting Impact Analysis Areas
Figure 4.12
Chapter 4.0

BACKSIDE OF FIGURE
In assessing current conditions, light and glare from existing development is minimal. Light and glare during the day and night is created from various residential, commercial, and industrial uses throughout the city. Examples of these sources include street lamps, accent and security lighting on buildings, parking lot lighting, and vehicle headlights at night. Substantial sources of night lighting include the existing ballpark and public parks. Alliance Skate Park of Lake Elsinore located in McVicker Park is open until 9 pm most evenings and other public parks are open until 10 pm for recreation purposes. Sources of glare during the day result primarily from parked cars located in large parking lots and from sunlight reflected off of window glazing on buildings.

4.8.3 Aesthetics Goals, Policies and Implementation Programs

Goal 11 Provide and maintain a natural and built environment that is visually pleasing to City residents and visitors.

Policies

11.1 For new developments and redevelopment, encourage the maintenance and incorporation of existing mature trees and other substantial vegetation on the site, whether naturally-occurring or planted, into the landscape design.

11.2 Maintain and improve the quality of existing landscaping in parkways, parks, civic facilities, rights-of-ways, and other public open areas.

11.3 Where appropriate, encourage new planting of native and/or non-invasive ornamental plants to enhance the scenic setting of public and private lands.

11.4 Incorporate the City’s identification symbol into street signage, planters, benches, public buildings, City vehicles, streetscape furnishings, and other appropriate applications.

11.5 Support a high level of Code Enforcement to encourage neighborhood beautification and to maintain property values and quality of life.

11.6 Coordinate with agencies to screen, landscape and otherwise obscure or integrate public utility facilities, including electric power substations, domestic water and irrigation wells, switching and control facilities.

11.7 Promote and facilitate the placement of public art that creates a unique setting and enhances a cultural and aesthetic character throughout the City.

Implementation Program The City shall encourage open space buffers and other appropriate transitions between lower density, single family neighborhoods and higher density development, as well as community gathering spaces and pedestrian amenities within private development.
Implementation Program  The City shall work with the County of Riverside to protect surrounding hillside areas from inappropriate grading on the west and south edges of the City.

Implementation Program  The City shall prepare and adopt a Street Tree Master Plan that promotes distinct and identifiable street corridors which reflect cohesive design, functionality and safety.

Implementation Program  The City shall consider the preparation and adoption of a City-Wide Design Guideline for architecture and landscape design, appropriate themes and design features, signage, outdoor furniture, bus shelters, gateway enhancements, and other distinctive improvements.

Agency/Department  Community Development Department

Goal 12  Preserve valued public views throughout the City.

Policies  
12.1 Encourage development designs and concepts that provide public views of Lake Elsinore and local ridgelines through proper siting, building design, and landscape design.

12.2 Encourage the dedication of open space land in hillside development proposals to preserve and enhance view opportunities from transportation corridors and surrounding development.

12.3 Encourage new development and redevelopment to incorporate views of Lake Elsinore from roadways and other public spaces that provide residents and tourists with scenic vistas to the water, marinas, and lakeshore activities.

12.4 Establish a series of City and community gateways and entry statements to promote the visual character of the Districts.

12.5 Consider petitioning Caltrans to take control of portions of the SR-74 corridor, in order to promote signage and landscaping that enhance and preserve the corridor’s aesthetic setting.

Implementation Program  Through the project review and CEQA processes the City shall preserve public views throughout the City using effective siting and design concepts and the establishment of City and District gateways.

Agency/Department  Community Development Department
Goal 13  Minimize activities, development, and landform modification that could distract viewers from the City’s visual character.

Policies
13.1 Discourage extractive activity from being conducted in highly visible areas and require reclamation of these mining areas. If such uses must occur in visible areas, the City shall require extensive visual screening with landscaping and/or fencing.

13.2 Discourage extractive uses or development that entails excessive light and glare visible from private and public viewpoints.

13.3 Require grading plans for any hillside development to include specifications for revegetation and new planting to minimize hillside scarring.

Implementation Program  Through the CEQA process, the City shall minimize significant landform alterations that could detract from the visual character of the City. Key areas of visual character include surrounding hillsides, lake views, and the Historic District.

Agency/Department  Community Development Department

4.9  Sustainable Environment

4.9.1  Introduction
As Lake Elsinore grows, so does the need to create and utilize additional strategies to counter the adverse impacts of global warming and climate change. The built environment represents a major opportunity for the City, along with local designers, engineers, developers, builders, lenders, appraisers, and other sectors of the building trades, to address local and global environmental adverse effects. Promoting “green building” and energy and resource efficient building practices is one such strategy.

Green building practices provide the framework and tools to build in an efficient, healthy, and ecologically responsible manner. Encouraging green building practices is in the public’s interest because these techniques:

- Promote Lake Elsinore’s energy, land use, environmental, and growth-management policies.
- Conserve energy, water, and other natural resources.
- Strengthen established goals related to increased density, mixed-use, and transit-oriented development, storm water and erosion control, and increased bicycle and pedestrian access.
- Save building owners and tenants money through increased operation and maintenance efficiencies.
- Improve indoor air quality and the health, well being, and productivity of occupants.
- Help reduce public infrastructure costs related to development.
- Minimize significant local ecological effects on habitat, air, soil, and water through efficient site and building design, sustainable construction practices, and low impact building materials and operational practices.
- Keep money in the local economy and create new local industries and jobs thereby reducing the dependence on automobiles and fossil fuels.

4.9.2 Sustainable Environment Goal, Policies and Implementation Program

**Goal 14** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all activities within the City boundaries to support the State’s efforts under AB-32 and to mitigate the impact of climate change on the City, State and world.

**Policies**

14.1 By 2020, the City will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from within its boundaries to 1990 levels consistent with AB 32.

14.2 Measures shall be established that aim to reduce emissions generated from City uses, community uses (community actions) and new development (City discretionary actions).

14.3 The City shall strive to increase public awareness of climate change and climate protection challenges.

14.4 The City will participate in the Sustainable Communities Strategy/Regional Blueprint Planning effort to ensure that local plans are consistent with the Regional Plan.

**Implementation Program**
The City shall prepare, adopt and implement a Climate Action Plan that provides a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory for municipal facilities and operations and community-wide activities, analyzes the cost and benefits of methodologies for reduction, and establishes measures to meet State-wide reduction goals.

**Agency/Department** Community Development Department