
SECTION 1.0

Introduction

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

In early 1988, the City of Redondo Beach, in an effort to account for and reflect the changes in its physical, economic, social, and political character, formally initiated the process of updating and revising its adopted 1964 comprehensive General Plan.

The City's goal in this effort was to undertake and successfully carry out an inclusive planning process that would: 1) define and analyze the conditions and issues currently facing the community; 2) integrate these issues with goals, objectives, and concerns expressed by local citizens, business people, and public administrators; and 3) generate a comprehensive new General Plan that could guide local development, policy, and resource management into the twenty-first century.

To assist them in this endeavor, the City of Redondo Beach, through its Community Development (Planning) Department, retained the services of a team of expert urban planning, transportation, economics, and environmental consultants. The consultant team was led and managed by Envicom Corporation, a privately-owned local urban and regional planning and environmental services consulting firm, and included: the Natelson Company, Incorporated, a local economic and financial firm; Kaku Associates, a local transportation planning and engineering firm; Walker, Celano and Associates, a local acoustical engineering firm, and Sage Associates, a local geologic and environmental services firm. The consultant team was charged with the responsibility of: 1) providing technical assistance and guidance to the City of Redondo Beach in the formulation of the plan; 2) facilitating the community participation/input and review process of the project; and 3) preparing the revised General Plan document and accompanying Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The scope of this particular update of the City of Redondo Beach General Plan includes a complete revision of five of the seven required elements of the existing General Plan: Land Use; Circulation; Noise; Housing; and Safety. The two remaining required elements: Conservation; and Open Space, have only been reviewed, updated, and sufficiently revised to ensure that they meet the latest established state guidelines for internal consistency of General Plans.

In addition to the seven aforementioned elements required by state law to be contained in a general plan, a total of four "optional" elements or topics have been newly created for this General Plan Update. The four "elective" elements/topics contained in the Updated General Plan include: 1) Child Care/Senior Care; 2) Solid Waste and Recycling; 3) Utilities; and 4) Toxic Wastes and Materials.

1.2 ROLE AND PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL PLAN

The General Plan is a comprehensive planning document which serves as "the officially adopted statement of local policy regarding each individual community's development." The preparation and adoption of a "comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the county or city" is mandated, by California Government Code, Section 65300, for all cities and counties (including chartered cities) within the State of California.

Formerly a little-used vague and general "wish-list", the "modern" General Plan is now a specific, concrete, and important policy document, providing a basis for rational decision making regarding a city's or county's long-term physical development. The status and function of a city's General Plan (relative to planning and land use matters) has been compared to that of a state constitution by the State of California Attorney General's Office.

State Law (California Government Code Section 65302 [a-g]) stipulates that each General Plan contain a minimum of seven (7) mandatory subject elements. The seven mandatory subject elements include:

- (1) Land Use Element;
- (2) Circulation Element;
- (3) Housing Element;
- (4) Conservation Element;
- (5) Open Space Element;
- (6) Noise Element; and
- (7) Safety Element.

In addition, California Government Code, Section 65303, provides that the General Plan "may include any other elements or address any other subjects which, in the judgment of the legislative body, relate to the physical development of the city or county." These "optional" elements often include: 1) Child Care/Senior Care; 2) Solid Waste and Recycling; 3) Utilities; and 4) Toxic Wastes and Materials.

The State of California, under Government Code, Section 65300.5, now mandates that General Plans be internally "unified" and "consistent" in nature. This concept, in practice, translates to a requirement that none of the policies or components within the General Plan conflict with or contradict each other, either conceptually, textually or diagrammatically.

In addition, the adoption or revision of a General Plan is considered a "project" for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This status triggers the requirement that if the adoption or revision of the General Plan "may cause a significant effect on the environment," the jurisdiction 'must' prepare an environmental impact report (EIR).

The environmental impact report prepared for the updated General Plan met established California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines for the preparation of such reports in defining, quantifying, studying, and proposing mitigation actions for any environmental impacts of the project, prior to the actual adoption of the General Plan.

The updated City of Redondo Beach General Plan will serve to guide those making decisions and participating in the allocation of resources and defining the future shape and character of the City of Redondo Beach. The plan will, as state law stipulates, be the official statement of the City of Redondo Beach regarding the framework of policies, standards, and actions needed to achieve the short and long-term physical, economic, social, and environmental goals of the community.

Although the General Plan itself is composed of individual sections or "elements," each addressing a particular area of planning concern, the plan embodies a comprehensive approach, reflecting the total range of City concerns, and ensuring that the document will be unified, integrated, and consistent in nature.

The updated City of Redondo Beach General Plan will also act to clarify and further articulate the City's intentions with respect to the rights and expectations of the general public, property owners, and prospective investors and business interests. Through the revised General Plan, the City of Redondo Beach will inform these groups of its specific goals, policies, and development standards, thereby effectively and openly communicating what is expected of the private sector to assist the City in meeting the objectives of the General Plan.

1.3 FORMAT OF THE GENERAL PLAN DOCUMENT

In an effort to improve the organizational efficiency of the document and allow for a more effective review and use of the plan, the updated City of Redondo Beach General Plan has been structured as a comprehensive and free-standing report.

In this manner the document internally combines and integrates the relevant background data, goals and objectives, policies, and proposed implementation programs for each of the topic areas. In general, each topic area of the document contains the following chronologically organized sub-sections:

- (a.) Background Data and Analysis;
- (b.) Goals and Objectives;
- (c.) Policies; and
- (d.) Implementation Programs.

The narrative text and associated tables, charts, maps, and illustrations constitute the "introduction" section for each of the General Plan Elements. These portions of the document provide input to the "Existing Setting" section of the relevant subject areas of the General Plan Environmental Impact Report.

In addition, the background data, information, and supporting charts, maps, and illustrations serve as a baseline and resource from which the critical issues facing

the City of Redondo Beach were identified. These constituted the framework for the policies and programs contained in this General Plan.

- (a.) Goals and Objectives: The "goals and objectives" sub-section of the document expresses the primary goal(s) of the topic section, defined as "the ultimate purpose of an effort stated in a way that is general in nature and immeasurable," and the corollary objective(s), defined as a "measurable" goal.
- (b.) Policies: The "policy" sub-section of the document sets forth the policies related to each topic section, defined as "a specific statement guiding action and implying clear commitment." The policies, individually and as a whole, are intended to fulfill the stated goals and objectives of the relevant topic section. One or more policies are defined for every objective and every policy has a corresponding implementation program.
- (c.) Implementation Programs: The implementation programs sub-section of the document indicate the means of effecting the desired results of the goals, objectives, and policies contained within the topic section. They are defined as "actions, procedures, or techniques that carry out the general plan policies through implementing a standard (a specific, often quantified) guideline defining the relationship between two or more variables."

1.4 RELATIONSHIP AMONG GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS/TOPICS

As a comprehensive strategy for the management of the City's diverse physical, economic, and social resources, there is a high level of interrelationship among the various elements and topics of the General Plan. Due to the nature of the subject matter and the plan much of the information and policies contained within the document is highly interrelated and often overlaps.

In an effort to avoid potential redundancy and confusion, provide a cohesive and consistent approach to the issues and policies, and meet the state-mandated requirements for internal general plan "unity" and "consistency" (California Government Code, Section 65300.5), the contents of the updated City of Redondo Beach General Plan have been organized by topic rather than strictly by each of the respective mandated or elective elements.

1.5 MONITORING AND UPDATE OF THE GENERAL PLAN

The State of California General Plan Guidelines recommends that policies related to short-term implementation and actions be reviewed annually and be revised as necessary, to reflect: 1) the availability of new implementation tools; 2) changes in funding sources; and 3) results of and the effectiveness of the policies. As a part of their responsibilities, the City Planning Commission is required to report on an annual basis to the City Council on the status of the General Plan and the progress made through its implementation.

State law requires that the Housing Element be reviewed and updated at least every five years. The General Plan guidelines also recommend that the entire plan be thoroughly reviewed at least every five years, with revisions being made, as necessary, to reflect evolving conditions and situations in the community. State law permits that required elements of the General Plan be amended a maximum of four times during any calendar year.

1.6 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

In order to promote greater community awareness and ensure proper public input during the review and approval of the plan and meet state guidelines for citizen participation in formulating California General Plans, the Redondo Beach City Council appointed a thirty-three (33) member General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC).

This group represented a varied cross section of the business, government, and resident population of the city (a list of the General Plan Advisory Committee members is provided at the front of this document).

This diverse volunteer group of local citizens and civic leaders was asked to convene regular formal public meetings with the consultant team and city planning officials, to discuss and advise them on issues and policies to be addressed in the plan, to assist in formulating and drafting the plan, and to participate actively in the review and eventual adoption of the completed Updated General Plan.

This dedicated volunteer group, with assistance from the consultant team and City of Redondo Beach staff, conducted a series of over fifty (50) public forums during the formulation of the proposed plan, in order to ensure that all aspects of the General Plan Update and its related issues were adequately disclosed to and discussed by the members of the community.

These meetings, generally conducted on alternating Thursday evenings at the City of Redondo Beach Community Resources Center (the former Patterson School), were widely noticed in the local print and television media, and were broadcast (in their entirety) on the local cable television government access channel.

The vast majority of the policies and programs contained in the plan have been endorsed (through formal motions and votes) by the General Plan Advisory Committee. In a number of cases, the policies and programs endorsed by the Committee differed from those proposed by the consultant team.

In addition to the ongoing General Plan Advisory Committee forum of community participation, a range of mechanisms promoting public input into the General Plan Update planning process were provided. These included: 1) a city-wide workshop, held at the commencement of the planning process, in order to elicit suggestions as to the identity and direction of the primary issues and goals/objectives of the

community relative to the General Plan Update; and 2) a series of five (5) separate community workshops (one in each of the five City Council Districts), to elicit suggestions, comments, and discussion relative to the "preferred" land use recommendations and policies proposed by local community members.

This focus on opportunities for the provision of community participation in the General Plan Update planning process was continued and further supplemented throughout the review and approval process of the plan. This "focus" included:

- (1) An additional city-wide public workshop, held to summarize and discuss the various aspects and policies of the proposed plan and answer questions regarding the proposed plan;
- (2) Two final General Plan Advisory Committee sessions, held to summarize and discuss the various aspects and policies of the proposed plan, answer questions regarding the proposed plan, and receive committee and public-at-large testimony on the proposed plan and its potential environmental impacts;
- (3) A workshop/study session, held during a formal meeting of the City Planning Commission, to summarize and discuss the various aspects and policies of the proposed plan and answer questions regarding the proposed plan;
- (4) A workshop/study session, held during a formal meeting of the City Council, to summarize and discuss the various aspects and policies of the proposed plan and answer questions regarding the proposed plan.

These various workshops and study sessions were followed by a series of formal and statutorily-mandated public review and approval hearings, conducted (first) by the City Planning Commission (who suggested modifications to the proposed plan and then recommended it to the City Council), and (second) by the City Council (who recommended further modifications to the proposed plan, and certified the project environmental impact report as adequate and approved/adopted the final version of the Updated General Plan).

This entire process was open to and directed towards eliciting a maximum of testimony and input on the proposed plan and its environmental impact report from all segments of the community (residents, business people, property owners, employees, visitors, etc.).

1.7 PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING

The City of Redondo Beach is a "Charter City" originally incorporated in April of 1892. The City of Redondo Beach is located in the southwestern Los Angeles Basin area of southern California, within Los Angeles County, approximately 21 miles southwest of the City of Los Angeles Civic Center, at the southern edge of Santa Monica Bay.

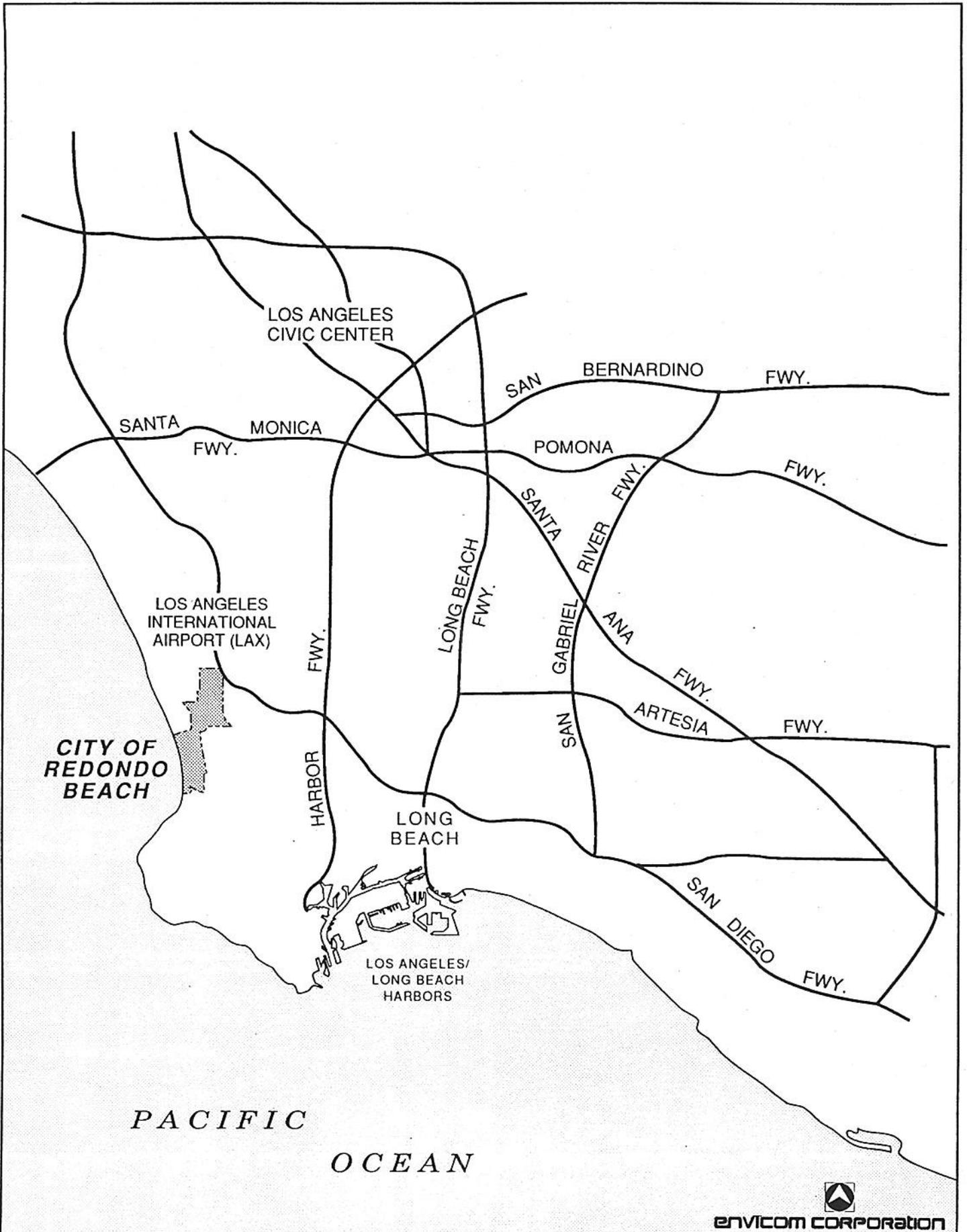
The City is situated approximately seven miles due south of the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), and is bounded by and shares common borders with five separate municipalities/communities.

The five abutting communities/municipalities to the City of Redondo Beach include: the City of Hawthorne to the north, the Cities of Lawndale and Torrance to the east, the City of Torrance to the south, and the Cities of Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach and the Pacific Ocean (Santa Monica Bay) to the west (see **Figure 1**).

The City of Redondo Beach has an irregular, offset, elongated rectangular shape (approximately 5.25 miles long running north-to-south by approximately 1.5 miles wide running east-to-west) configured into two distinctly definable areas (North Redondo and South Redondo) which are bisected by Anita Street/190th Street running east and west through the City (see **Figure 2**).

For the purposes of the General Plan Update, the project planning area includes the entire geographic area City of Redondo Beach, which has a total land area of approximately 3,970 acres (6.2 square miles).

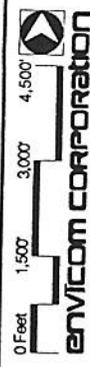
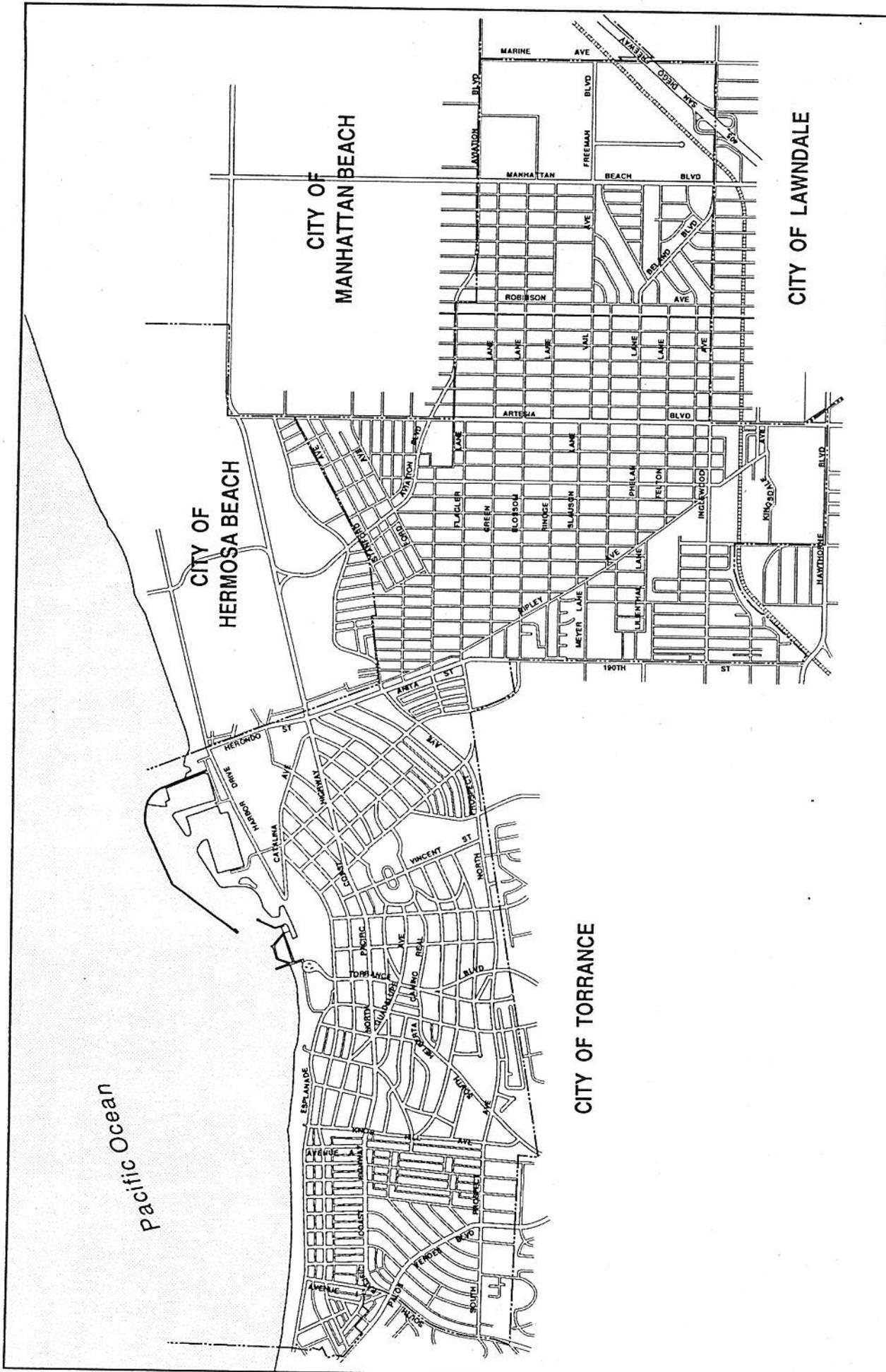
In addition to the General Plan Update, a concurrent and free-standing specific plan planning process and document has been completed, to create and set forth more detailed land use and urban design guidelines/requirements for the Harbor/Civic Center area. The Harbor/Civic Center Specific Plan project planning area includes approximately 355.4 acres of land area (representing approximately nine percent of the total land area of the City as a whole). This Specific Plan project planning area is located at the northern center of South Redondo Beach, roughly bounded by Herondo Street (to the north), Pacific Coast Highway (to the east), Pearl Street (to the south), and the breakwater structure extending out into Santa Monica Bay and the Pacific Ocean to the west (**Figure 3**).



ENVICOM CORPORATION

CITY OF REDONDO BEACH REGIONAL LOCATION

FIGURE 1



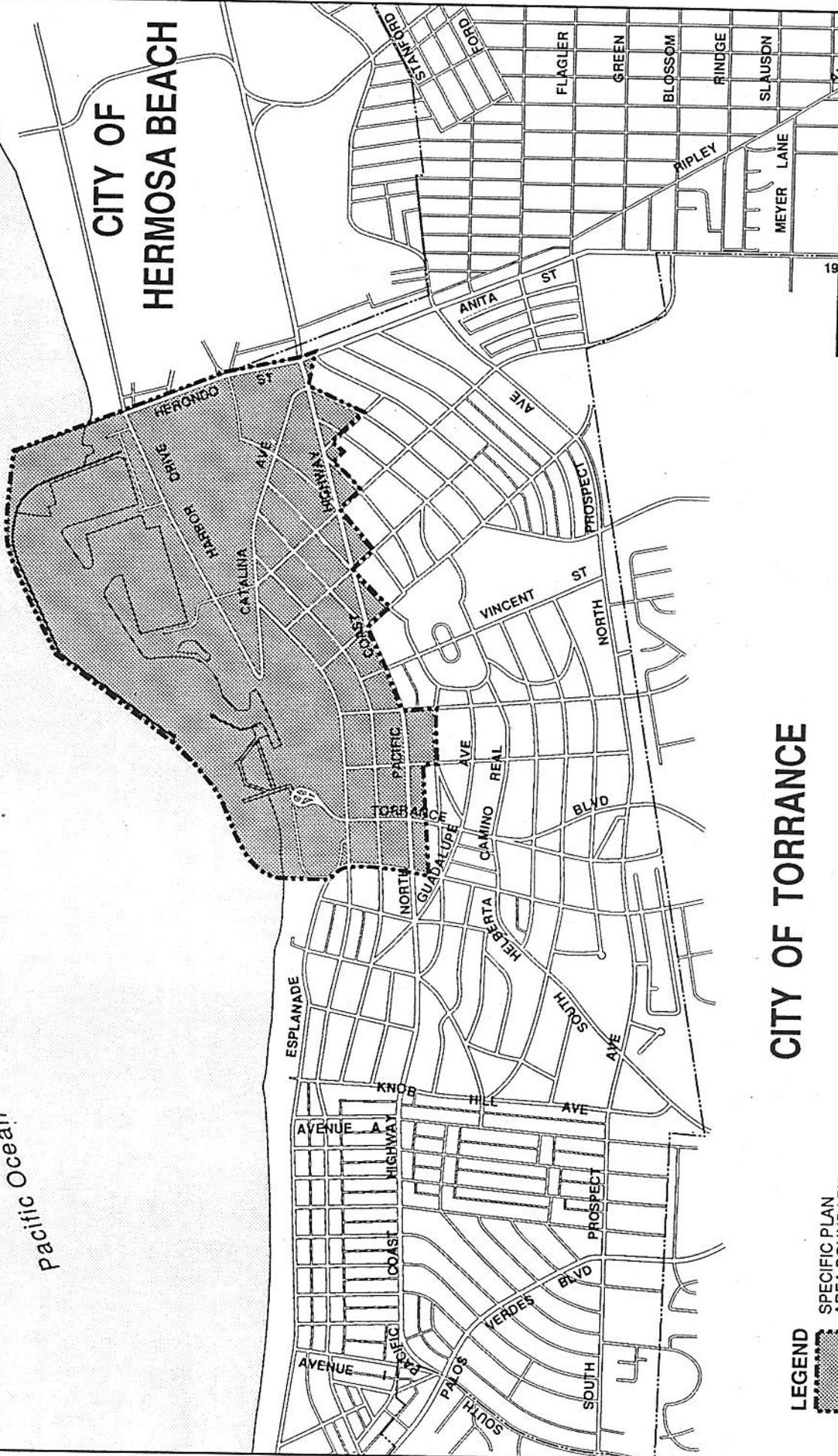
CITY OF REDONDO BEACH GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES

FIGURE 2

Pacific Ocean

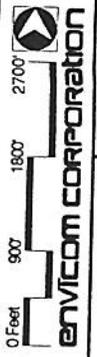
CITY OF
HERMOSA BEACH

CITY OF TORRANCE



LEGEND

 SPECIFIC PLAN AREA BOUNDARY



HARBOR / CIVIC CENTER SPECIFIC PLAN AREA