

# MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION GUIDE



COUNTYWIDE PLAN

Morongo Valley Community Action Guide



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## Introduction

Morongo Valley is located in the high desert of the Morongo Basin along State Route 62 between Coachella Valley and Yucca Valley. Morongo Valley is the gateway to the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve – a true desert oasis. Residents value the quiet, slow-paced lifestyle found in their rural community and the wide open spaces of the desert. Although diverse, Morongo Valley is a community that works well together on matters of common interest. Morongo Valley endeavors to remain rural and to grow the local economy with independently owned businesses. The community takes pride in operating its own fire department and strives to maintain and improve these emergency services.

In 2016, the community embarked on a planning process to develop a new community plan. Two public workshops were held on September 14 and November 16, 2016. These workshops, open to any Morongo Valley resident, business or property owner, addressed strengths and weaknesses of the community, the community's values, and what Morongo Valley aspires to be in the future. Plan participants brainstormed areas of focus and actions to help the community move forward to achieve its aspirations.

This Community Action Guide is a framework of actions identified by the community and supports implementation of the actions by the community. The goals and policies from the previous Community Plan were used to inform the guide and the Policy Plan portion of the Countywide Plan.

### Strengths and Opportunities

Community workshops were conducted in each community as part of the engagement process. In addition, input was gathered through the Countywide Plan website. As part of the process, participants defined the strengths of and opportunities for their community. The word cloud below was created using the input provided during the Strengths, Opportunities, Values and Aspirations exercises and served as part of the base information utilized to develop the Focus and Action Statements of the Community Action Guide. The word cloud quickly informed participants of key issues and focus areas that could be addressed in the guide. The more a word or phrase was articulated, the larger the word appears in the cloud. The full results of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats gathered as a part of the engagement process is found in the Community Profile located in the Appendix.



The Countywide Plan serves as a guide for County decision-making, financial planning, and communications. Its web-based format provides a wealth of easily accessible data on how the County operates, and allows independent research using County data and information.

The Countywide Plan includes:

- A County Policy Plan, which serves in part as the County’s General Plan for the unincorporated areas and also provides guidance for regional county services. The Policy Plan establishes goals and policies for the entire county as well as specific subregions and communities.
- A County Business Plan, which contains governance policies and operational metrics that outline the County’s approach to providing municipal and regional services.
- A Regional Issues Forum, which is an online resource for sharing information and resources related to issues confronting the entire county.
- A Community Plans Continuum of 35 Community Action Guides, which articulates what is important to each Community; sets out an Action Plan based on community input, and for the most part, would be implemented by the community; and provides a Community Profile. Links will also be provided for maps, goals, and policies in the Countywide Plan.

## The Draft Community Action Guide for Public Review

The final format of the Community Action Guide will be web-based and provided online. This printed version of the Draft Community Action Guide is provided as a courtesy for simplifying community review, but may not be available once the online version of the guide is finalized. A draft version of the web-based Community Action Guide can be found at [www.countywideplan.com/cp](http://www.countywideplan.com/cp). This printed version includes the information provided on the website under each tab except for the information included under the “Maps and Links” tab. A separate Community Profile can be printed from the website.

This Draft Community Action Guide was created by the community members who attended workshops, provided comments online or sent in written comments. It is written in the words of those participating in the public engagement process. Therefore, the Community Action Guide retains the voice and future image of the community presented by the community members participating in the public engagement process. However, the implementation of each Action Statement is an opportunity for additional discussion by community members and modification of the statement and action steps may be made by the community and Action Teams.

## How to Use This Community Action Guide

Overall, the Community Action Guides are a framework for communities to create the future character and independent identity, as identified in the workshops as community values and aspirations, through completion of community actions. As stated at the community workshops, the Community Action Guides replace any 2007/2014 Community Plans, with a greater focus on community self-reliance, grass-roots action, and implementation. Goals, policies, land use, and infrastructure decisions are addressed in the Policy Plan of the Countywide Plan. The County Development Code will still regulate zoning and land development.

The Community Action Guide is strategic in nature and provides clear Focus Statements and Action Statements identified by the community that led to creation of an Action Plan that can be implemented at the grass-roots level within each community. Some actions may require assistance by a County department, but the community will take the lead in moving the action forward, identifying funding or scheduling meetings or requesting information from specific County departments.

A detailed implementation plan and training module will be set up by the County to guide communities in identifying Champions, setting up Action Teams, contacting County departments and answering questions. In addition, the County's role will be clarified. This information will be included on the website for easy reference by communities.

### **The Community Action Guide Is Not Set in Stone**

This is your Community Action Guide to be used to guide community actions and is not "set in stone". Champions, Action Leaders and Action Teams should be identified by your community or created by organizations, community groups or community members who volunteer to champion, lead or participate. The Action Plan Matrix includes a general set of tasks that can be modified by the Champions, Action Leaders and/or Action Teams to best fit your community needs at the time of action implementation. The Action Teams could include people who were not at the workshops and may have additional input to enhance the Action Statement or action steps. The community should feel free to make changes and find alternatives for completing actions. You may decide to expand the action, modify it or only select to complete a few tasks of the Action Plan.

### **Community Action Guide Organization**

The Community Action Guide is organized into three main sections, the community's Values, community's Aspirations, and Action Plans. An appendix has a Community Profile with a summary of the social, cultural, economic and historic dimensions of the community as well as the communities input on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Values – Those shared assets, principles, standards, mores and in the judgement of the community, what is important to the lives of its residents and businesses. (Identified in Workshop #1 and reviewed and finalized in Workshop #2)

Aspirations – A written narrative illustrating the community's desired look and function once the Community Action Guide is fully implemented. This is a long-term view of 10 to 20 years. It is written as if the community's desired changes have already occurred. (Identified in Workshop #1 and reviewed and finalized in Workshop #2)

Action Plans – The Action Plans consist of:

- A Focus Statement, which provides general direction towards realizing the Community's aspirations and help organize the plan. (Identified in Workshop #2 and reviewed and finalized in Workshop #3)
- An Action Statement, which is a measurable statement providing critical information on the program, initiative or project to complete. (Identified in Workshop #2 and reviewed and finalized in Workshop #3)



- Action Plan Matrix, which provides a general set of action steps necessary to implement the Action Statement, identifies those that would initiate and champion the action statement, a general timeline for implementation and identified resources for additional assistance. (Created to support and guide the Community's identified Focus and Action Statements)

The Focus Statements and Action Statements of the guide are not prioritized. It is up to the community to select the three to five priority Action Statements that they wish to begin implementing. The related Action Plans for each Action Statement provide guidance on the actions and timeline that may be necessary to implement the Action Statement. The Champions and Action Teams should review the Action Statement, Benchmark, and Action Steps. They may even hold a public meeting to get additional input before starting implementation of a specific Action Statement. Changes may be made as new input is received.

### **The Community Action Guide as a Living Document**

The Community Action Guide and the Countywide Plan are designed to be web-based and therefore will be easily updated. The Community Action Guide is intended to be championed and implemented by the Community. The Focus Statements and Action Statements within the guide were created through public engagement workshops by community participants.

The guide is meant as a way to organize activities and provide overall direction to move the Community forward. The guide should never be considered to be written in stone, but should be malleable as the needs of the community continue to change. Focus Statements and Action Statements should be changed and amended as Action Statements are completed or new priorities take their place.

The Community should consider reviewing its guide annually to celebrate what was accomplished and make changes to the guide, as necessary, to ensure it is a relevant work plan. Communities should report back to the County as they complete actions to ensure their online guide is updated with success stories included on their website and to ensure their Action Plans are updated reflecting completed actions. As communities complete their Action Plans, the County will determine when to revisit the community to expand or modify their Action Plans.

### **How to Implement the Community Action Guide and the Community Development Toolkit**

The Community Action Guide provides a general organization of the action steps necessary to implement each Action Statement. The Community may want to meet to identify the top three to five priority Action Statements to work on first. Some of these may be those actions that the community believes could be completed quickly and easily. Completion of one Action Statement will provide the community and local groups with the motivation to move forward with another Action Statement.

Once an Action Statement is selected for implementation, the community identifies a Champion for that Action Statement to initiate activities, identify those responsible for carrying out action steps, identify and secure resources that will be required, and develop a timeline. The champion is not responsible for completing the action, but serves to facilitate and guide the Action Team. While suggested action steps are included in the guide, each community should develop more specific assignments based upon available community resources such as volunteers (e.g.,

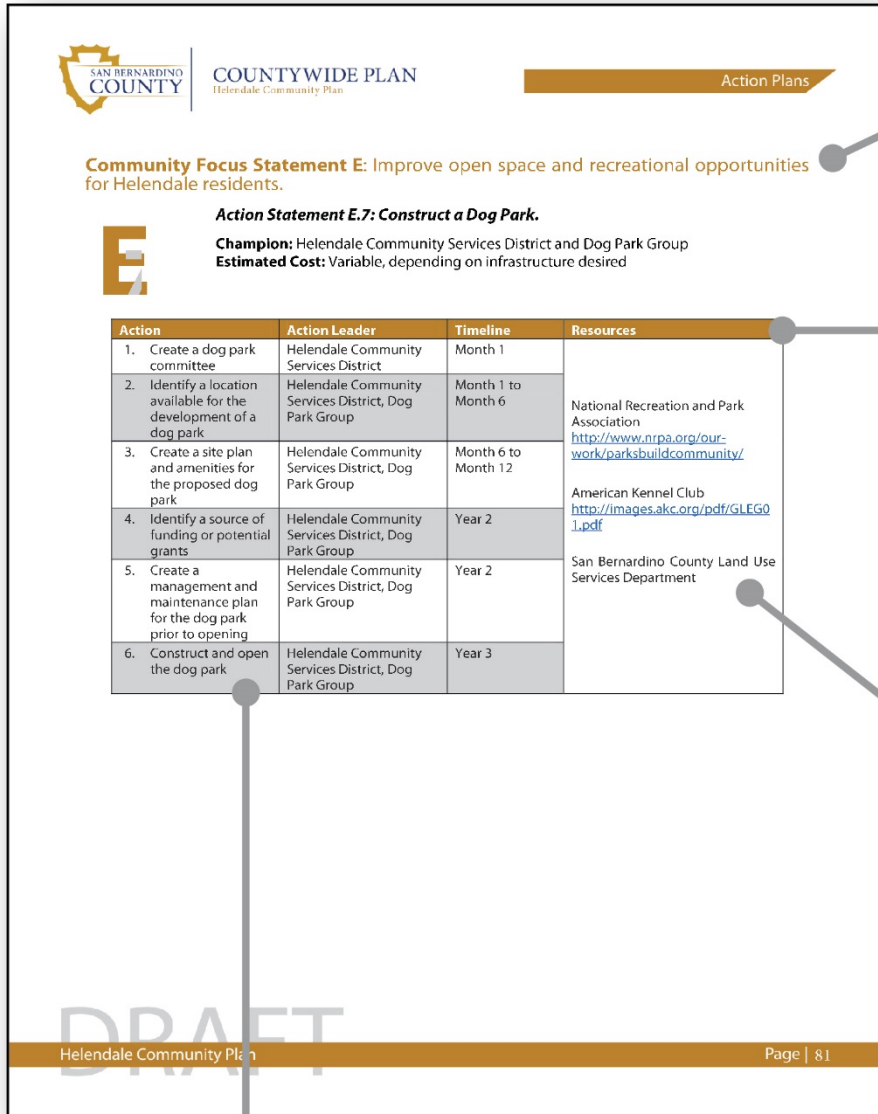


individuals, businesses, property owners, etc.), community groups (e.g., chamber of commerce, non-profits, etc.) and organizations (e.g., scouts, community service districts, churches, schools, etc.). This step of planning for implementation is an important first step necessary to help ensure successful implementation.

Potential resources are identified for each Action Statement. These may be guides on implementation, case studies of how other communities have implemented similar projects, sources of potential external funding, and organizations and agencies that can provide guidance and advice. In addition, San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department is creating an online Community Development Toolkit to be located at [www.countywideplan.com](http://www.countywideplan.com) to expand the action topics and guidance on implementation as well as ideas for future amendments or additions to the Community Action Guide.

A more detailed Implementation Plan will also be included on the website. The Implementation Plan will include information about how to inform the County about changes to your Community Action Guide. In addition, we will want to know when you start working on an Action Statement and when you complete it. It is important for the community to celebrate completion of each action.

Each Action Statement Champion and Action Team should review and refine the Action Statement and Action Steps before moving forward.



**Community Focus Statement E:** Improve open space and recreational opportunities for Helendale residents.

**Action Statement E.7: Construct a Dog Park.**  
**Champion:** Helendale Community Services District and Dog Park Group  
**Estimated Cost:** Variable, depending on infrastructure desired

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a dog park committee	Helendale Community Services District	Month 1	National Recreation and Park Association <a href="http://www.nrpa.org/our-work/parksbuildcommunity/">http://www.nrpa.org/our-work/parksbuildcommunity/</a>  American Kennel Club <a href="http://images.akc.org/pdf/GLEG01.pdf">http://images.akc.org/pdf/GLEG01.pdf</a>  San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department
2. Identify a location available for the development of a dog park	Helendale Community Services District, Dog Park Group	Month 1 to Month 6	
3. Create a site plan and amenities for the proposed dog park	Helendale Community Services District, Dog Park Group	Month 6 to Month 12	
4. Identify a source of funding or potential grants	Helendale Community Services District, Dog Park Group	Year 2	
5. Create a management and maintenance plan for the dog park prior to opening	Helendale Community Services District, Dog Park Group	Year 2	
6. Construct and open the dog park	Helendale Community Services District, Dog Park Group	Year 3	

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*The Action Statement is a measurable component used to accomplish the overall focus statement.*

*The Action Plan should be modified by the community prior to implementation, including the addition of people and organizations involved.*

*Resources including stakeholders, human resources, and capital that may be required or provide assistance to implement the action statement.*

*Steps to implement the Action Statement, along with potential leaders for each step and a timeline of when it should occur in the process.*

## Values Statement

The Values are those shared assets, principles, standards, mores, and in the judgment of the community, what is important in the lives of its residents and businesses. A community's values are an important consideration in shaping its aspirations, focus and actions.

As a community we value;

***Rural Lifestyle.*** Morongo Valley residents value the lifestyle found in their small rural community – one that is safe, quiet, slower paced, and affordable.

***Natural Environment.*** Morongo Valley residents value the natural desert environment and the characteristics that typify the area – wide open spaces, spectacular views, wildlife, dark skies, and cool summer nights. More specifically, residents value the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and the contrasting lush environment that the wetlands canyon provides.

***Community Spirit.*** Morongo Valley residents value the spirit and diversity of the community, in particular, the willingness of residents to be engaged, to volunteer, and to work together on important matters. The residents and businesses of Morongo Valley pride themselves on having their own Fire Department and highly value the emergency services and general support to the community that the Fire Department provides.

## Aspirations Statement

The Aspirations Statement is a written narrative illustrating how the community desired look and function once the Community Focus Statements and Action Statements are accomplished. This is a long term view of 10 to 20 years. The Aspirations Statement serves as a foundation for developing Community Focus Statements and Action Statements.

In the Morongo Valley Community, we aspire to:

### ***Remain a Small Rural Community***

The residents of Morongo Valley know the benefits of rural living and strongly desire to keep things rural. The desert offers wide open spaces, clean air, dark skies, wildlife, and a peaceful, quiet environment. These valued qualities stay unchanged over time and the community remains a safe small town with low density development on spacious lots surrounded by the natural beauty of the desert and mountains.

### ***Maintain Local Control of the Fire Department and Strengthen Emergency Response***

There is a great sense of pride among Morongo Valley residents that the community sustained the Morongo Valley Fire Department (MVFD). The Fire Department has become an integral part of life in the community with firefighters actively participating in local programs and events. Through local fundraising efforts and state and federal grants, the community has succeeded in maintaining local control of the MVFD and in providing it with the tools necessary to protect Morongo Valley homes and businesses.

### ***Encourage Sustainable Growth of the Local Economy***

Local economic development does not have to come at the cost of sacrificing the rural desert lifestyle that the community values. Morongo Valley's approach to responsible growth is primarily focused on providing opportunities for independent businesses that provide goods and services for the local community while supporting tourism, as well as providing local jobs and additional tax revenue. Morongo Valley has leveraged its assets, including the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and the community's location within the Sand to Snow National Monument, to capitalize on sustainable tourism and the revenues generated from visitors to the area.

### ***Provide Improved Services***

The maintenance of infrastructure and the provision of essential services are critical functions to the prosperity of any community, including Morongo Valley. Through the Morongo Valley Community Services District, the community has established a formal way to notify the County of all infrastructure and service issues such as damaged roads, power outages, or trash collection problems, improving service times and helping to make the community function more efficiently.



# Action Plans

## Community Focus Statement A: Preserve and enhance the rural characteristics of Morongo Valley

# A

**Action Statement A.1: Advocate for San Bernardino County to adopt and enforce “Dark Skies” requirements for buildings and outdoor lighting to minimize light pollution.**

**Benchmark:** A local International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) chapter or group is organized that has leadership, meets regularly, and continues to function and promote dark skies protection for a period of at least three years.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$300–\$1,200

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact residents and organize volunteers to establish an IDA chapter or volunteer group.	Champion	Month 1	Resources and the application form to start an IDA chapter can be found at:
2. Select a leader to serve as chair who will provide leadership and champion the chapter/group.	IDA chapter/group	Month 2	<a href="http://darksky.org/about/chapters/">http://darksky.org/about/chapters/</a>
3. Develop a list of community goals and strategies/actions to promote dark skies protection.	IDA chapter/group	Months 2 – 3	Dark skies compliant lighting fixture information can be found at:
4. Organize community-wide communications and outreach events to promote dark skies protection.	IDA chapter/group, with support from Community Services District, Local Organizations	Month 3 – On-going	<a href="http://darksky.org/fsa/fsa-products/">http://darksky.org/fsa/fsa-products/</a>  Dark skies outreach materials and resources can be found at:
5. Work with the Morongo Valley Community Services District to install dark skies compliant public lighting.	IDA chapter/group, with support from Community Services District	Month 4 – On-going	<a href="http://darksky.org/resources/public-outreach-materials/">http://darksky.org/resources/public-outreach-materials/</a>
6. Work with local stores to stock dark sky complaint light fixtures and bulbs	IDA chapter/group, with support from Community Services District	Month 4 – On-going	Morongo Valley Community Services District <a href="http://www.92256.net/csd/">http://www.92256.net/csd/</a>
7. Work with homeowners, homeowners associations, business property owners, and/or business improvement associations to recommend shielded and motion-activated outdoor light fixtures that reduce light pollution.	IDA chapter/group, with support from Community Services District, homeowners associations, business improvement associations, business property owners, homeowners	Month 5 – On-going	San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Home.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Home.aspx</a>

## Community Focus Statement A: Preserve and enhance the rural characteristics of Morongo Valley

# A<sub>2</sub>

**Action Statement A.2:** Collaborate with San Bernardino County Land Use Services to develop and adopt design guidelines that reflect the unique characteristics of the community, and will lead to residential and nonresidential buildings that are compatible to the architectural style within Morongo Valley.

**Benchmark:** Design Committee prepares and submits a set of design guidelines to County for review and potential adoption.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$10,000 – \$75,000

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a community-based design committee with key stakeholders from the community to help guide the process.	Champion	Months 1 – 3	National Endowment for the Arts: ART WORKS Guidelines: Design Grants <a href="https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/art-works/design">https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/art-works/design</a>
2. Establish design guidelines for residential and nonresidential buildings. Consider using any of the following approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local volunteers with design and planning experience;</li> <li>Student project; or</li> <li>Drafting a Project scope and hiring a design consultant.</li> </ul>	Design Committee	Months 1 – 3	Morongo Valley Community Services District <a href="http://www.92256.net/csd/">http://www.92256.net/csd/</a>  San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Home.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Home.aspx</a>
3. If needed, secure funding through grants, sponsorships, and donations.	Design Committee	Months 4 – 6	Crest Forest Sign Program <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/DevelopmentCode.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/DevelopmentCode.aspx</a>
4. Develop an outreach strategy to engage the community.	Design Committee	Months 7 – 8	
5. Engage the community and conduct meetings to gather input on design preferences for residential and commercial buildings.	Design Committee	Months 9 – 12	
6. Submit draft design guidelines to County for review and potential adoption.	Design Committee, San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department	Year 2	



## Community Focus Statement A: Preserve and enhance the rural characteristics of Morongo Valley

### A3

**Action Statement A.3:** *Advocate with San Bernardino County Land User Services to review the Rural Residential zoning in Morongo Valley, and revise the zoning designation as needed to be more responsive to community values and priorities, including preventing utility-scale renewable energy developments.*

**Benchmark:** Community members are knowledgeable of County Development Codes and policies and follow project proposals in Morongo Valley and provide input throughout the process.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** Volunteer Time

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Establish a core of community representatives to monitor land use collaboration/ advocacy efforts, with a focus on retaining rural characteristics.	Champion	Month 1 – 4	Community Tool Box, Organizing for Effective Advocacy <a href="http://ctb.ku.edu/en/organizing-effective-advocacy">http://ctb.ku.edu/en/organizing-effective-advocacy</a>
2. Connect with land use decision-makers including the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and the County Land Use Services Department to establish an ongoing dialogue regarding land use in Morongo Valley.	Land Use Committee	Month 3 – 6	San Bernardino County Land Use Services <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Home.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Home.aspx</a>
3. When land use decisions are discussed, work with the County to provide input, feedback, and suggestions using any available avenue of communication. Include case studies and best practices to support desired rural community characteristics.	Land Use Committee	On-going	San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors <a href="http://www.sbcounty.gov/Main/">http://www.sbcounty.gov/Main/</a>
4. Closely monitor land use policy and decision-making in Morongo Valley through plan and ordinance updates, development proposals, and public permitting procedures.	Land Use Committee	On-going	
5. Work together to determine the best solutions for Morongo Valley, while discouraging utility scale renewable energy developments.	Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce	On-going	

## Community Focus Statement A: Preserve and enhance the rural characteristics of Morongo Valley

**Action Statement A.4.1: Host regular community clean-ups of public land, including public rights-of-way.**

**A4**

**Benchmark:** A community cleanup program, is organized including leadership, holds regular meetings, and two community cleanup days each year.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$1,000 - \$3,000

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact residents and organize volunteers for a community cleanup program Committee.	Champion	Month 1	San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/SolidWasteManagement.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/SolidWasteManagement.aspx</a>  Morongo Valley Community Services District <a href="http://www.92256.net/csd/">http://www.92256.net/csd/</a>
2. Select a leader to serve as chair who will provide leadership and champion the program.	Community Cleanup Program Committee	Month 2	
3. Develop key partnerships with local groups in order to assist the two cleanup days.	Community Cleanup Program Committee	Month 3	
4. Secure funding for dumpsters and county staff.	Community Cleanup Program Committee	Month 3	
5. Work with San Bernardino County Solid Waste to provide dumpsters and hauling for the cleanups.	Community Cleanup Program Committee, San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management	Month 3	
6. Schedule cleanup days, identify sponsors and strategize marketing influences to attract attendees.	Community Cleanup Program Committee	Month 4	

## Community Focus Statement A: Preserve and enhance the rural characteristics of Morongo Valley

### A4

**Action Statement A.4.2:** *Conduct a community inventory of properties that may be in need of code enforcement action and meet regularly with County Code Enforcement to help point out issues and to determine if there are community-based solutions, in particular, with regard to enforcement of property maintenance standards and illegal dumping.*

**Benchmark:** Code enforcement materials are accessible to community members and regular meetings are held between the Lucerne Valley community and County Code Enforcement Officers

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** variable depending on projects proposed

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Establish a committee to create code enforcement pamphlets and other education materials.	Champion	Month 1	San Bernardino County, Code Enforcement <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/CodeEnforcement/CodeEnforcementHome.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/CodeEnforcement/CodeEnforcementHome.aspx</a>
2. Coordinate with the County Land Use Services Department to ensure code enforcement materials are consistent with regulations.	Code enforcement committee	Months 2–6	City of Monterey Park: Code Enforcement Volunteer Program <a href="http://www.montereypark.ca.gov/224/Code-Enforcement-Volunteer-Program">http://www.montereypark.ca.gov/224/Code-Enforcement-Volunteer-Program</a>
3. Use online resources, newsletters, and presentations at homeowners association and Chamber of Commerce meetings to distribute educational materials to community members.	Code enforcement committee	Months 6–12	Center for Community Progress: Community Code Enforcement Partnerships <a href="http://www.communityprogress.net/tool-3--community-code-enforcement-partnerships-pages-269.php">http://www.communityprogress.net/tool-3--community-code-enforcement-partnerships-pages-269.php</a>
4. Establish a mechanism to gather ongoing feedback from community members on code enforcement materials.	Code enforcement committee	On-going	
5. Schedule regular meetings with County Code Enforcement to discuss any community-based solutions.	Code enforcement committee	On-going	
6. Revise the code enforcement education materials to ensure that information is current and up to date.	Code enforcement committee	Annually	

## Community Focus Statement A: Preserve and enhance the rural characteristics of Morongo Valley

A5

**Action Statement A.5:** *Preserve the improved dirt roads in Morongo Valley to be consistent with the desert landscape and rural characteristics of the town, while ensuring that the roads are sufficient for traffic volumes and use conditions.*

**Benchmark:** Dirt roads in Morongo Valley are preserved, while providing safe transportation facilities for community members.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** Dependent upon scope of road construction and identified projects.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting to create a Roads Committee.	Champion with Morongo Valley Community Services District and local community leaders	Month 1	San Bernardino County Public Works, County Maintained Road System <a href="http://sbcountypw.maps.arcgis.com">http://sbcountypw.maps.arcgis.com</a>
2. Identify a study area with project boundaries and deficient roadway facilities in the Morongo Valley within the study area.	Committee	Month 2	San Bernardino County Department of Public Works <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/home.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/home.aspx</a>
3. Secure funding to hire a consultant.	Committee	Month 3	Morongo Valley Community Services District <a href="http://www.92256.net/csd/">http://www.92256.net/csd/</a>
4. Hire a consultant to make recommendations for design improvements and construction efforts.	Committee with Morongo Valley Community Services District, local community leaders and consultant	Month 4	
5. When a road is identified as insufficient, encourage improvements consistent with the rural desert landscape.	Committee with Morongo Valley Community Services District	Month 5	

**Community Focus Statement A: Preserve and enhance the rural characteristics of Morongo Valley**

**Action Statement A.6: Maintain and improve existing multi-use trails to be suitable for bicyclists, hikers and runners, and equestrians.**

**A**  
**IN PROCESS**

**Benchmark:** Establishment of a trail management or advocacy group, identify trails needed for improvement, secure funding or trail sponsorships, and create a plan for on-going trail maintenance.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$20,000–\$4 million; variable upon project scope

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting to create a trails management/ advocacy group.	Champion	Month 1	Morongo Basin Active Transportation Plan <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MorongoBasinATP/">https://www.facebook.com/MorongoBasinATP/</a>
2. Inventory and map existing community trails, and identify deficiencies or needed improvements.	Trails Advocacy or Management Group	Month 1	Caltrans Active Transportation Program <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/atp/index.html">http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/atp/index.html</a>
3. Develop a community plan for on-going trail maintenance.	Trails Advocacy or Management Group	Months 2 – 6	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy – How to build a “Friends of the Trail” group and promote community support <a href="http://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/outreach/building-community-support/">http://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/outreach/building-community-support/</a>
4. Identify community members or groups who could assist in maintenance or improvements. For example, a local construction business could repave potholes or a neighborhood youth group could pick up trash quarterly.	Trails Advocacy or Management Group, in coordination with local businesses, nonprofits and organizations	Month 6 – onward	Planning Trails and Greenways <a href="http://www.americantrails.org/resources/land/CarlsonNY04.html">http://www.americantrails.org/resources/land/CarlsonNY04.html</a>
5. Secure grant funding for trail maintenance, or allow local businesses and organizations to sponsor trails.	Trails Advocacy or Management Group	Months 6 – 12	Park, trail, and recreation grant funding <a href="http://www.thegranthelpers.com/municipal-grants/parks---recreation-grants">http://www.thegranthelpers.com/municipal-grants/parks---recreation-grants</a> <a href="http://www.americantrails.org/resources/fedfund/">http://www.americantrails.org/resources/fedfund/</a> <a href="http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/">http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/</a>
6. Revisit the Trail Maintenance Plan annually, to ensure trail maintenance needs are met. Include maintenance plans for any new trails developed in the community.	Trails Advocacy or Management Group	Months 12 – 18	<a href="http://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/acquisition/financing-and-funding/">http://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/acquisition/financing-and-funding/</a> <a href="http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24324">http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24324</a>

## Community Focus Statement A: Preserve and enhance the rural characteristics of Morongo Valley

### Action Statement A.7: Expand the network of multi-use trails around Morongo Valley.\*

**A**  
IN PROCESS

**Benchmark:** Establishment of a trail management or advocacy group to develop additional trails and a plan that outlines future planned trail construction.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** Multi-use trail cost: ADA-compliant asphalt for bicycle and pedestrian facility = \$30 per linear foot; Decomposed granite material suitable for pedestrians/equestrians = \$20 per linear foot.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting to create a trails management and advocacy group.	Champion	Month 1	Morongo Basin Active Transportation Plan <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MorongoBasinATP/">https://www.facebook.com/MorongoBasinATP/</a>
2. Meet with Morongo Valley Community Services District (CSD), County Regional Parks and County Special Districts to identify a potential entity responsible for development and maintenance of future trails.	Trail Advocacy or Management Group	Month 1	Caltrans Active Transportation Program <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/atp/index.html">http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/atp/index.html</a>
3. Identify strategic locations for potential trail development, including those that would connect or expand existing trails.	Trails management or advocacy group with support from responsible entity and community members	Months 2 – 6	Morongo Valley Community Services District <a href="http://www.92256.net/csdl/">http://www.92256.net/csdl/</a>
4. Work with property owners and utility companies to gain public access easements to utility corridors and/or explore donation of trail space.	Trail management or advocacy group, with support from utility providers, property owners and responsible entity	Month 6 – onward	Park, trail, and recreation grant funding <a href="http://www.thegranthelpers.com/municipal-grants/parks---recreation-grants">http://www.thegranthelpers.com/municipal-grants/parks---recreation-grants</a>
5. Draft and adopt a plan that outlines proposed trail projects/networks.	Trail management or advocacy group	Months 6 – 12	<a href="http://www.americantrails.org/resources/fedfund/">http://www.americantrails.org/resources/fedfund/</a>
6. Apply for grant funding for trail construction.	Trail management or advocacy group and responsible entity	Months 12 – 18	<a href="http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/">http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/</a> <a href="http://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/acquisition/financing-and-funding/">http://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/acquisition/financing-and-funding/</a>
7. Incorporate proposed trail projects into the 5-year CIP or budget.	Responsible Entity	Month 18 – Year 5	
8. Start construction on community trails.	Responsible Entity	Month 18 – Year 5	

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
9. Continue ongoing operation and maintenance of community trails.	Responsible entity, Trails management or advisory group, with support from community organizations, schools, churches, volunteers	Years 1 – 5	<a href="http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24324">http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24324</a>  US Bureau of Land Management <a href="https://www.blm.gov/california">https://www.blm.gov/california</a>
10. Market Morongo Valley as bike touring destination	Group with County Tourism	Year 1-5	

\*Morongo Basin Active Transportation Plan was accepted by the Board of Supervisors in 2019. The Plan identifies opportunities for active transportation for the Morongo Basin Region. The plan can be used as a resource for transportation grants for walkways and bike paths

## Community Focus Statement A: Preserve and enhance the rural characteristics of Morongo Valley

**Action Statement A.8: Collaborate with San Bernardino County as it develops a draft ordinance for short-term rentals.**

**A8**

**Benchmark:** Creation of a direct process for the residents in the Morongo Valley communities to give input on a short-term rental ordinance.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** Volunteer time

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Establish a task force (including owners of short term rentals, campsites, and hotel/motel owners) to collaborate with the County on short-term rental regulations.	Champion	Months 1 – 2	Airbnb & Zoning: A Planner & Lawyer’s Guide to Short-Term Rentals [Webinar] <a href="https://www.planning.org/events/eventsingle/9102266/">https://www.planning.org/events/eventsingle/9102266/</a>
2. Coordinate with San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department on the status of the short-term rental ordinance.	Short Term Rental Task Force	Month 3 - 6	How to Effectively Regulate Airbnb-Style Short-Term Rentals [webinar] <a href="http://www.icompasstech.com/webinars">http://www.icompasstech.com/webinars</a>
3. Review the short-term rental ordinance.	Short Term Rental Task Force	Month 6 – 9	The Definitive Guide to Crafting Short-Term Rental Ordinances [webinar] <a href="http://www.icompasstech.com/webinars">http://www.icompasstech.com/webinars</a> .
4. Make recommendations and suggestions for the ordinance, as needed.	Short Term Rental Task Force	Month 9 – 12	
5. Lobby the Board of Supervisors to adopt the short-term rental ordinance.	Short Term Rental Task Force	As needed	San Bernardino County Land Use Services <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Home.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Home.aspx</a>



## Community Focus Statement B: Preserve the natural environment in and around Morongo Valley

# B

**Action Statement B.1:** *Coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management, San Bernardino County, and local community groups to protect the natural resources in the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, and to protect additional resources that support the preserve's ecosystem.*

**Benchmark:** Partnerships established between Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, BLM, San Bernardino County, and local environmental groups to organize conservation efforts, improve the understanding of challenges facing the desert ecosystem, and the importance of addressing these issues.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$15,000 - \$100,000; dependent upon consulting resources needed.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Partner with BLM, San Bernardino County, and other community organizations, to develop a conservation plan and identify threats to the desert ecosystem.	Champion with Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, in coordination with BLM	Month 1	Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve <a href="http://www.bigmorongo.org/">http://www.bigmorongo.org/</a>  Mojave Desert Land Trust <a href="https://www.mdlt.org/">https://www.mdlt.org/</a>
2. Identify the desert habitats, wildlife corridors, and native plants and animals within the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and adjacent natural habitats to be included in preservation plans.	Champion with Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, in coordination with BLM	Month 2 – 6	US Bureau of Land Management <a href="https://www.blm.gov/california">https://www.blm.gov/california</a>  EXAMPLE: Yosemite Conservancy <a href="https://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/">https://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/</a>
3. Draft and adopt the desert conservation plan that outlines proposed goals and policies to protect the desert environment.	Champion with Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, in coordination with BLM	Month 6 – 18	
4. Continue partnerships and relationships with organizations, agencies, and community members, and visitors to promote knowledge and awareness on the desert habitat.	Champion with Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve	On-going	

## Community Focus Statement B: Preserve the natural environment in and around Morongo Valley

### B

**Action Statement B.2:** *Protect the wildlife corridors in Morongo Valley from development and other habitat disruptions to preserve the biological integrity of the broader Morongo Basin ecosystem.*

**Benchmark:** A desert conservation plan for the community is prepared with focus on Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, and partnerships between environmental organizations and citizens are created.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$5,000

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Partner with local environmental organizations to establish the Morongo Valley Environmental Coalition, a group focused on developing a desert conservation plan for efforts to protect the desert habitat and its native plants and wildlife.	Community members, Morongo Valley Environmental Organizations to form the Morongo Valley Environmental Coalition	Month 1	Mojave Desert Land Trust <a href="https://www.mdlt.org/">https://www.mdlt.org/</a>  Example: Yosemite Conservancy <a href="https://www.yosemitemconservancy.org/">https://www.yosemitemconservancy.org/</a>
2. Select a member to serve as desert conservation plan lead to provide leadership to the committee and be the point of contact for related topics and issues.	Morongo Valley Environmental Coalition	Month 1	
3. Identify the desert habitats, wildlife corridors, and native plants and animals within the Morongo Valley community to be included in the desert conservation plan.	Morongo Valley Environmental Coalition	Month 2	
4. Develop key partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies as well as desert community members and visitors to promote the desert conservation plan and receive feedback from the community.	Morongo Valley Environmental Coalition	Months 3 – 5	
5. Draft and adopt the desert conservation plan that outlines proposed goals and policies to protect the desert environment.	Morongo Valley Environmental Coalition	Months 3 – 8	
6. Continue partnerships and relationships with organizations, agencies, community members, and visitors to promote knowledge and awareness on the desert habitat.	Morongo Valley Environmental Coalition	On-going	

## Community Focus Statement C: Improve public health and safety in Morongo Valley

**Action Statement C.1: Coordinate local fund raising efforts and seek local, state and federal grants and funding to support the Morongo Valley Fire Department (MVFD) and maintain local control of the MVFD.**

G1

**Benchmark:** Morongo Valley secures ongoing funding for local fire services and collaborates to solve community issues.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** Variable depending on proposed projects.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting to create a committee	Champion	Month 1	U.S. Fire Administration Grants <a href="https://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/">https://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/</a>
2. Determine deficiencies in the current fire service, and identify areas where there is the greatest need for improvements.	Morongo Valley Community Services District	Months 1 – 3	FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grants <a href="https://www.fema.gov/fire-prevention-safety-grants">https://www.fema.gov/fire-prevention-safety-grants</a>
3. Identify potential funding resources for the MVFD, including grant funds, community assessments, and annual fundraising efforts.	Morongo Valley Community Services District	Month 4, ongoing	Fire Corps Grants <a href="http://www.firecorps.org/departments/start-a-program/grants-and-funding">http://www.firecorps.org/departments/start-a-program/grants-and-funding</a>
4. Establish a MVFD funding plan for the next five years, to ensure local control.	Morongo Valley Community Services District	Month 3 – 12	FireRescue1 Firefighting Grants <a href="https://www.firerescue1.com/fire-grants/">https://www.firerescue1.com/fire-grants/</a>

## Community Focus Statement C: Improve public health and safety in Morongo Valley



**Action Statement C.2:** Leverage the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Citizens on Patrol program and promote volunteer recruitment to increase community patrols, monitor vacant properties for any issues and assist at times of disasters and emergencies.

**Benchmark:** In partnership with the County Sheriff's Department and community groups, committee hosts regular meetings and neighborhood walks to discuss safety concerns and training topics to help make the Morongo Valley communities safer.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$1,000–\$2,000

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting with County Sheriff Department to form a committee focused on this effort	Champion with County Sheriff Department	Month 1	San Bernardino County Sheriff Department <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/Divisions/VolunteerForces/CitizensonPatrol.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/Divisions/VolunteerForces/CitizensonPatrol.aspx</a>
2. Publicize the existing Citizens Patrol group to neighborhood groups, such as homeowners associations, neighborhood watch, or faith-based institutions.	Citizens on Patrol Local Committee	Year 1 – 3	
3. Encourage residents of the Morongo Valley communities who meet the requirements to go through Citizens Patrol training and become active volunteers.	Citizens on Patrol Local Committee	Year 1 – 3	
4. Increase visibility of the Citizens Patrol group by holding quarterly workshops, having a presence at community events, and maintaining a Facebook page/email newsletter.	Citizens on Patrol Local Committee with support of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department	Year 1 – 3	
5. Conduct annual recruitment efforts to provide information and get more volunteers involved in the Citizens Patrol group.	Citizens on Patrol Local Committee	Annually	
6. Reach out to Citizens Patrol volunteers to evaluate the program and identify potential improvements.	Citizens on Patrol Local Committee	Annually	

## Community Focus Statement C: Improve public health and safety in Morongo Valley

**Action Statement C.3: Advocate to Caltrans to decrease traffic speeds on State Route 62 to 40 mph through the Morongo Valley business district.**

C3

**Benchmark:** Community group coordinates with Caltrans and California Highway Patrol to manage speeds and implement safety improvements.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$100,000–\$400,000 for safety study, additional costs for improvements dependent upon amount and extent

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting to create a community group to lead the actions.	Champion	Month 1	California Department of Transportation <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/">http://www.dot.ca.gov/</a>
2. Define project study area and the desired project safety goals, with specific focus on Twentynine Palms Highway – State Route 62.	Community group	Months 1–3	California Highway Patrol-Inland Division <a href="https://www.chp.ca.gov/Find-an-Office/Inland-Division">https://www.chp.ca.gov/Find-an-Office/Inland-Division</a>
3. Conduct initial coordination with the Community Services District.	Community group	Months 4–5	Morongo Valley Community Services District <a href="http://www.92256.net/csd">http://www.92256.net/csd</a>
4. Conduct a meeting with the Caltrans to discuss specific safety concerns and locations, as well as opportunities to better allocate law enforcement resources in the area.	Community Group with support from local community leaders and CSD	Months 4–5	California Historic Route 66 Association, Needles to Barstow Corridor Management <a href="http://route66ca.org/corridor-management-plan/">http://route66ca.org/corridor-management-plan/</a>
5. Identify potential corridor study funding options including grants and funding through the Community Services District. Prepare grant applications as needed.	Community Group with support from local community leaders and CSD	Months 6–12	Federal Highway Administration Innovative Intersection Safety Improvement Strategies and Management Practices <a href="http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/other_topics/fhwas-a06016/">http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/other_topics/fhwas-a06016/</a>
6. Have a consultant conduct a corridor study to determine existing conditions, future needs, and potential improvements. The study should include conceptual cost estimates for improvements.	Community Group with consultant	Months 13–24	Caltrans Scenic Highways <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/design/lap/livability/scenic-highways/index.html">http://www.dot.ca.gov/design/lap/livability/scenic-highways/index.html</a>
7. Obtain community and stakeholder input on proposed improvements.	Community Group and CSD	Months 25–36	
8. Coordinate with the Caltrans to implement recommended improvements.	Community Group and CSD	Month 37	
9. Procure final design plans for proposed improvements.	Caltrans	Months 38–60	
10. Construct/implement corridor improvements.	Caltrans	Months 61–78	

## Community Focus Statement C: Improve public health and safety in Morongo Valley

**Action Statement C.4:** *Work with the California Highway Patrol to increase law enforcement activities along State Route 62, including enforcing any reduced traffic speeds.*

C4

**Benchmark:** Speed limits on State Route 62 are reduced and enforced by California Highway Patrol.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$100,000 -- \$400,000 for corridor study, additional costs for improvements are dependent upon amount and extent

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting of interested residents to form a group	Champion	Month -1	Morongo Valley Community Services District <a href="http://www.92256.net/csd/">http://www.92256.net/csd/</a>
2. Define a project study along Route 62 area and the desired project safety goals.	Group with local community leaders, Morongo Valley Community Services District	Month 1 – 3	California Highway Patrol, Inland Division <a href="https://www.chp.ca.gov/find-an-office/inland-division">https://www.chp.ca.gov/find-an-office/inland-division</a>
3. Collaborate with community members to create consensus regarding key safety concerns at specific locations.	Community group	Month 3 – 6	
4. Conduct a meeting with California Highway Patrol to discuss specific safety concerns and locations, as well as opportunities to better allocate law enforcement resources in the area.	Community group with CHP	Month 6 – 9	
5. Implement solutions identified by CHP and community members	Community group	Month 9 – 12	
6. Keep the line of communication open with CHP to identify safety concerns and speed enforcement issues on State Route 62.	Community group	Annually	

## Community Focus Statement C: Improve public health and safety in Morongo Valley

**Action Statement C.5:** *In partnership with surrounding communities and landowners, inventory existing legally established off-highway vehicles (OHVs) areas near Morongo Valley.*

SUCCESSFUL  
COMPLETION  
BY  
COMMUNITY

**Benchmark:** Encourage the community OHV committee to partner with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR Division) and other organizations including the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to apply for funding. Have the community OHV committee identify and map existing legally designated areas for OHV use.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$1,500–\$2,000

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting to create a Community OHV Committee	Champion	Month 1	California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
2. Partner with the California Department of Parks and Recreation OHMVR Division to train volunteers about visitor contact.	Community OHV committee, with support from California Department of Parks and Recreation OHMVR Division	Month 1–2	<a href="http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164">http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164</a>
3. Identify and map existing legally designated areas for OHV use near Morongo Valley and other community areas.	Community OHV committee, with support from California Department of Parks and Recreation OHMVR Division	Month 1–2	San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, <i>WVLY OHV Law Enforcement Application</i> , February 25, 2010 Sharetrails, <i>Wheels of the Forest: The San Bernardino National Forest Service OHV Volunteers</i>
4. Develop and place signs and fences that keep OHV users from riding in prohibited areas and on private roads.	Community OHV committee, community members	Month 2–3	<a href="http://archive.sharetrails.org/node/9066">http://archive.sharetrails.org/node/9066</a>
5. Have trained volunteers provide information and watch for illegal use and report to San Bernardino Sheriff Department.	Community OHV committee	Month 2–4, ongoing	Southern California Mountains Foundation, Off Highway Vehicle Program
6. Advocate to San Bernardino Sheriff Department for enforcement of applicable OHV laws on County maintained roads.	Community OHV committee	Ongoing	<a href="http://mountainsfoundation.org/off-highway-vehicles">http://mountainsfoundation.org/off-highway-vehicles</a>

## Community Focus Statement C: Improve public health and safety in Morongo Valley

SUCCESSFUL  
COMPLETION  
BY  
COMMUNITY

**Action Statement C.6: Promote and encourage the responsible use of OHVs in legally designated areas through signs, amenities, and educational campaigns and continue to prohibit OHV use that threatens sensitive natural environments or local quality of life.**

**Benchmark:** Development of educational materials and identification of legally designated OHV areas.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$2,500 - \$25,000

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact residents and organize volunteers to assist with identification of illegal OHV areas.	Champion	Month 1	Environmental Defense Fund, Wildlife Protection grant funding <a href="https://www.edf.org/ecosystems/why-we-need-new-way-protect-wildlife">https://www.edf.org/ecosystems/why-we-need-new-way-protect-wildlife</a>  Race-dezert Forum <a href="https://www.race-dezert.com/forum/threads/ohv-area-in-the-cajon-pass-area.95096/">https://www.race-dezert.com/forum/threads/ohv-area-in-the-cajon-pass-area.95096/</a>  Southern California OHV Guide <a href="http://www.ohvguide.com/">http://www.ohvguide.com/</a>
2. Meet with local OHV groups to educate them on legally designated trails.	Community Volunteers	Month 2 - 4	
3. Coordinate with landowners and agencies with right-of-way jurisdiction to earn permission for signage placement.	Community Volunteers	Months 2, on-going	
4. Develop an educational campaign that allows participants to learn more about environmental and wildlife protection and low-impact recreation.	Community Volunteers	Months 2-3	
5. Identify a list of natural resources, habitats, species, and vegetation communities in the Morongo Valley area, and highlight environmental protection of wildlife.	Community Volunteers	Months 2-3, on-going	
6. Develop informational and educational pamphlets (for example, "Frequently Asked Questions" [FAQs] and "Things You Should Know" brochures) that address educational topic areas such as having proper OHV registrations or permits and maps with legally designated OHV routes. Make sure that education materials include detail on signage that incorporates safety information and reminders to maintain trails clear of trash and garbage.	Community members	Months 2-4, on-going	
7. Partner with community businesses and members to display and distribute the informational and educational pamphlets on a regular basis.	Forest Service Adopt-A-Trail, with support from local businesses, community members	On-going	



## Community Focus Statement C: Improve public health and safety in Morongo Valley

**Action Statement C.7:** *Prepare a community earthquake resilience plan to analyze Morongo Valley's specific vulnerabilities to seismic events, and to propose policies to decrease future damage from earthquakes.*



**Benchmark:** Morongo Valley has an adopted resiliency plan, and is well prepared to handle natural disasters and emergency situations.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$100,000 to \$250,000

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Gather a group of community members to champion a Morongo Valley resiliency plan.	Champion	Month 1	Building Community Resilience to Disasters <a href="https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9574/index1.html">https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9574/index1.html</a>
2. Meet with MVCSD to coordinate to create a scope for a community resiliency plan.	Resiliency Committee	Month 2 – 6	U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit Funding Opportunities <a href="https://toolkit.climate.gov/content/funding-opportunities">https://toolkit.climate.gov/content/funding-opportunities</a>
3. Identify and secure grant funding.	Resiliency Committee	Month 6 – Month 18	
4. Hire a consultant to begin the community resiliency planning process, conducting necessary studies and outreach.	Consultant, Resiliency Committee	Year 2	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation <a href="http://www.nfwf.org/resilientcommunities/Pages/2017rfp.aspx">http://www.nfwf.org/resilientcommunities/Pages/2017rfp.aspx</a>
5. Review resiliency plan, and provide comments.	Resiliency Committee, Community	Year 3	California Office of Planning and Research <a href="http://www.opr.ca.gov">http://www.opr.ca.gov</a>
6. Adopt the final Morongo Valley Community Resiliency Plan.	Resiliency Committee, Community, MVCSD	Year 3	
7. Encourage community preparedness for a variety of emergencies.	Resiliency Committee	On-going	
8. Consider plan as a living document, and revise the plan annually as necessary.	Resiliency Committee	On-going	

## Community Focus Statement D: Enhance Communication among community members

**Action Statement D.1: Prepare a welcome packet to distribute to all new community members and businesses with information about Morongo Valley.**

D.1

**Benchmark:** All new residents of Morongo Valley are greeted with information and education regarding the community and introduced to long-term residents who can serve as resources.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$2,000 to \$5,000

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact residents and organize volunteers to serve on a welcome committee.	Champion	Years 1 – 3	Example: Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce, Relocation Packet <a href="http://joshuatreechamber.org/relocate/">http://joshuatreechamber.org/relocate/</a>
2. Select a leader to serve as chair of the welcome committee.	Morongo Valley welcome committee	Years 1 – 3	
3. Develop community core values to convey to new residents.	Morongo Valley welcome committee	Years 1 – 3	
4. Develop a welcome program around the community core values.	Morongo Valley welcome committee	Years 1 – 3	
5. Engage new residents as they move to Morongo Valley in the welcome program, with a focus on communicating the core Morongo Valley values.	Morongo Valley welcome committee	On-going	
6. Seek feedback from new residents on the welcome program.	Morongo Valley welcome committee	Annually	
7. Revisit the welcome program to refresh and update with relevant information and feedback from new residents who participated in the program.	Morongo Valley welcome committee	Annually	

## Community Focus Statement D: Enhance communication among community members

**Action Statement D.2:** *Create an online community portal for residents and local businesses to share news and information, weigh in on policy proposals, and comment on issues to local and regional elected officials.*

D2

**Benchmark:** All online information regarding Morongo Valley is easily accessible in a user friendly interface.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** Volunteer time.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Organize a committee to moderate existing community portals such as the Nextdoor Morongo Valley page, Facebook pages, etc.	Champion	Month 1 – 3	Nextdoor, Morongo Valley <a href="https://nextdoor.com/neighborhood/morongovalleyca--morongo-valley--ca/">https://nextdoor.com/neighborhood/morongovalleyca--morongo-valley--ca/</a>
2. Identify other community webpages that provide helpful information, including Chamber of Commerce and Community Services District.	Morongo Valley Webpage Committee	Month 3 – 6	Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce <a href="http://www.92256.net/chamber/">http://www.92256.net/chamber/</a>
3. Identify ways to combine or link webpages, so all information about Morongo Valley is located in one space. Improve existing webpages to be user friendly.	Morongo Valley Webpage Committee	Month 6 – 9	Morongo Valley Community Services District <a href="http://www.92256.net/csd/">http://www.92256.net/csd/</a>
4. Develop a plan for webpage maintenance, content development and future webpage moderating.	Morongo Valley Webpage Committee	Month 9 – 12	
5. Conduct on-going maintenance to ensure website is up to date.	Morongo Valley Webpage Committee	Monthly	

## Community Focus Statement D: Enhance communication among community members

### D3

**Action Statement D.3:** *Distribute a quarterly newsletter to residents and local businesses with information about upcoming events, issues of importance to Morongo Valley, and other items that relate to the well-being of the community.*

**Benchmark:** A quarterly newsletter is widely accessible to Morongo Valley community members.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$500 - \$5,000

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Organize a committee of residents, local business owners and other stakeholders to form a Morongo Valley marketing committee.	Champion	Month 1	Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce <a href="http://www.92256.net/chamber/">http://www.92256.net/chamber/</a>
2. Gather input from the community on local events, businesses, tourist attractions, and other community highlights. Use this material to develop newsletter content.	Morongo Valley marketing committee	Month 2 – 3	Marketing Strategy Help Sheet <a href="https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/marketing/marketing_article.jsp?articleId=1510">https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/marketing/marketing_article.jsp?articleId=1510</a>
3. Design and distribute a quarterly newsletter to residents and local businesses. Include both paper and electronic newsletters.	Morongo Valley marketing committee	Quarterly	
4. Develop a mechanism for the community to provide input or comments, to be considered during the following newsletter cycle.	Morongo Valley marketing committee	Quarterly	

## Community Focus Statement D: Enhance communication among community members

**Action Statement D.4: Work with community groups and regional social service providers to engage with socially isolated persons, including elderly persons and individuals with limited English comprehension.**

### D4

**Benchmark:** Morongo Valley has community-based social services available and accessible to vulnerable populations.

**Champion:** Morongo Valley Volunteers

**Estimated Cost:** Volunteer time

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact residents (perhaps those with social work experience, or multilingual skills) who would be interested as serving as volunteers.	Champion	Month 1	5 Ways to Grow your Senior Programming <a href="http://www.precor.com/en-us/resources/5-ways-to-grow-your-senior-programming">http://www.precor.com/en-us/resources/5-ways-to-grow-your-senior-programming</a>
2. Coordinate within the community to determine what groups and regional social service providers already engage with socially isolated persons (i.e., Meals on Wheels, in-home support services, handyman program, etc.). Determine how community volunteers could contribute to these programs, or fill needs that these programs do not meet.	Morongo Valley Community Volunteers	Month 2 – 6	San Bernardino County Department of Human Services <a href="https://hss.sbcounty.gov/HSS/default.asp">https://hss.sbcounty.gov/HSS/default.asp</a>  San Bernardino County Department of Public Health <a href="http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/">http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/</a>
3. Connect existing volunteer groups geared toward senior services in Morongo Valley.	Morongo Valley Community Volunteers	Month 6	
4. Identify grant funding sources or other sponsorships to cover transportation costs for program.	Morongo Valley Community Volunteers	Month 6 – 12	
5. Develop a formal curriculum for a volunteer training program.	Morongo Valley Community Volunteers	Month 6 – 12	
6. Revisit with community groups and regional social service providers to evaluate programs and adjust as necessary.	Morongo Valley Community Volunteers	Annually.	

## Community Focus Statement E: Continue to improve access, affordability, and quality of important services for Morongo Valley community members

### E

**Action Statement E.1:** Evaluate the impacts of proposed development activities on water supplies, and encourage decision makers to oppose development activities that may reduce local water resources below sustainable levels.

**Benchmark:** A line of communication is established with the Golden State Water Company, to encourage the responsible usage of local water.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** Variable depending on the projects proposed.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Establish a representative to be responsible for communication with Golden State Water Company. This representative can establish point people to serve on a community Water Conservation Committee.	Champion with Morongo Valley Community Services District	Month 1 – 3	Golden State Water Company Morongo Valley Customer Service Area <a href="http://www.gswater.com/morongo-valley/">http://www.gswater.com/morongo-valley/</a>
2. Schedule a meeting with Golden State Water Company to discuss concerns regarding proposed development on water supplies	Water Conservation Committee, Golden State Water Company	Month 3 – 6	Morongo Valley Community Services District <a href="http://www.92256.net/csd/">http://www.92256.net/csd/</a>
3. Schedule a meeting with San Bernardino County Land Use Services to understand the development process and considerations for water resources.	Water Conservation Committee, San Bernardino County Land Use Services	Month 6 – 9	San Bernardino County Land Use Services <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Home.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Home.aspx</a>
4. Evaluate options to transfer community water service to the CSD.	Water Conservation Committee	On-going	
5. Keep lines of communication open between Golden State Water Company.	Water Conservation Committee, Golden State Water Company	On-going	
6. Monitor land development proposals in Morongo Valley, and coordinate with San Bernardino County Land Use Services when applicable.	Water Conservation Committee	On-going	

**Community Focus Statement E: Continue to improve access, affordability, and quality of important services for Morongo Valley community members**

**E2**

**Action Statement E.2: Increase the number of rooftop solar energy installations through incentive programs and financing mechanisms, changes to building and design codes to easily allow these installations, and educational campaigns about the benefits of rooftop solar.**

**Benchmark:** Rooftop solar is easily utilized and proliferating in Morongo Valley.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** Variable depending on size of proposed projects.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Form an advocacy committee.	Champion	Months 1 – 3	San Bernardino County Building and Safety
2. Advocate for the County to adopt building standards to require solar-ready hookups, and remove regulatory barriers to solar installation.	Solar Advisory Committee	Months 1 – 3	<a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/BuildingSafety/SolarPermitting.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/BuildingSafety/SolarPermitting.aspx</a>
3. Ensure building height standards do not hinder rooftop solar.	Solar Advocacy Committee	Months 1 – 3	San Bernardino Adopted Renewable Energy and Conservation Element <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/RenewableEnergy.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/RenewableEnergy.aspx</a>
4. Stay informed on state and federal loan and rebate programs.	Solar Advocacy Committee	Month 1 – On-going	DSIRE Clean Energy Programs <a href="http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program?state=CA">http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program?state=CA</a>
5. Raise awareness and encourage incentives such as PACE programs.	Solar Advocacy Committee	On-going	Go Solar California, the California Solar Initiative <a href="http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/csi/index.php">http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/csi/index.php</a>

## Community Focus Statement F: Grow the local economy in a manner consistent with the rural character of Morongo Valley

**Action Statement F.1: Promote the unique artistic culture of Morongo Valley through marketing efforts and economic development activities.**



**Benchmark:** Creation of a marketing plan to promote the artistic culture of Morongo Valley.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$5,000 - \$50,000; dependent upon project scope

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Appoint a board member to lead a committee of community members interested in promoting the artistic culture of Morongo Valley.	Champion with Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce	Month 1	Grantwatch.com – Art Grants and Culture Grants <a href="https://www.grantwatch.com/cat/2/arts-and-culture-grants.html">https://www.grantwatch.com/cat/2/arts-and-culture-grants.html</a>
2. Form a local action committee in charge of developing a draft marketing and economic development plan.	Morongo Valley Arts Committee	Month 2 – 3	Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce <a href="http://www.92256.net/chamber/">http://www.92256.net/chamber/</a>
3. Conduct a community asset inventory, compiling artistic assets in Morongo Valley, and identify which assets would be best to promote.	Morongo Valley Arts Committee	Month 3 – 9	How to Develop A Community Arts Council <a href="http://www.arts.ok.gov/Arts_in_Communities/Nonprofit_Arts_Development/Chapter_2.html">http://www.arts.ok.gov/Arts_in_Communities/Nonprofit_Arts_Development/Chapter_2.html</a>
4. Engage community stakeholders, local business owners, residents, and community leaders to gather input prior to development of a draft plan.	Morongo Valley Arts Committee	Month 9 – 12	Americans for the Arts <a href="http://www.americansforthearts.org">http://www.americansforthearts.org</a>
5. Create a draft plan for review by the community.	Morongo Valley Arts Committee	Month 12 – 18	
6. Adopt draft plan and revisit it yearly to make adjustments.	Morongo Valley Arts Committee	Month 18 – 24	



## Community Focus Statement F: Grow the local economy in a manner consistent with the rural character of Morongo Valley

# F2

**Action Statement F.2: Advocate to Caltrans for the preparation of a traffic study to assess the impacts of installing traffic signals, or other traffic calming measures, at key intersections in the business district.**

**Benchmark:** Community leaders have collaborated with Caltrans and identified potential funding options and grants.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$20,000–\$5,000,000

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Form a traffic committee.	Champion	Months 1 – 3	US Department of Transportation Livability Grants and Programs <a href="https://www.transportation.gov/livability/grants-programs">https://www.transportation.gov/livability/grants-programs</a>
2. Define a project study area and desired project traffic calming goals.	Committee with Morongo Valley Community Services District	Months 1 – 3	
3. Develop a list of goals and potential project ideas specific to Morongo Valley's business district to demonstrate the practical uses and benefits to the community.	Traffic Committee	Months 4 – 10	FHWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Program <a href="http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/index.cfm">http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/index.cfm</a>
4. Coordinate with Caltrans on State Highway 62 as needed.	Traffic Committee with Caltrans	Month 11	US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Programs & Services <a href="http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services">http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services</a>
5. Approach the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors with the findings and encourage their support of implementation of traffic calming measures on State Highway 62.	Traffic Committee	Month 12	US Department of Housing and Urban Development Recovery Grant Program <a href="http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/recovery">http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/recovery</a>
6. Coordinate with Caltrans and the County Department of Public Works to seek grant funding for studies and design.	Traffic Committee	Years 1 - 3	California Department of Transportation <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/">http://www.dot.ca.gov/</a>

## Community Focus Statement F: Grow the local economy in a manner consistent with the rural character of Morongo Valley

### F3

**Action Statement F.3: Construct a Visitor Information Center in Morongo Valley that provides information about the community and the region, including information on Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, Joshua Tree National Park, and the Sand to Snow National Monument.**

**Benchmark:** The community has a well-maintained and publicized Visitor Information Center, providing helpful information to tourists.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** variable, depending on project size and scope

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Form a taskforce.	Champion	Months 1–6	Corporate sponsorship guidance
2. Engage with the community to understand what types of public amenities are needed at a Visitor Information Center.	Task force with Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, local community groups	Months 1–6	<a href="http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks-and-Recreation-Funding/Corporate-Sponsorship-and-Naming-Policies.aspx">http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks-and-Recreation-Funding/Corporate-Sponsorship-and-Naming-Policies.aspx</a>
3. Draft a comprehensive marketing plan for information that will be provided at the Visitor Information Center.	Visitors Center Taskforce	Months 6–18	
4. Reach out to local businesses and organizations about donating or sponsoring the cost of various Visitor Center amenities (e.g., adopt-a-bench program).	Visitors Center Taskforce	Months 12–18	Federal grant funding resources <a href="http://reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/">http://reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/</a>
5. Apply for grant funding.	Visitors Center Taskforce, Community Services District, Chamber of Commerce	Months 12–18	California grant resources <a href="http://www.hcd.ca.gov/financial-assistance/">http://www.hcd.ca.gov/financial-assistance/</a>
6. Construct Visitor Information Center	Visitors Center Taskforce	Months 18–60	<a href="http://www.ca-ilg.org/funding-opportunities">http://www.ca-ilg.org/funding-opportunities</a>
7. Prepare a plan for ongoing maintenance of the Visitor Center and reach out to organizations such as schools, youth groups, churches, and volunteer teams to help with maintenance.	Visitors Center Taskforce	Months 13–60	San Bernardino County Tourism <a href="http://www.californiaoutdoorplayground.com/home.aspx">http://www.californiaoutdoorplayground.com/home.aspx</a>
8. Refresh and update marketing information at the Visitor Center annually.	Visitors Center Taskforce	Annually	

## Community Focus Statement F: Grow the local economy in a manner consistent with the rural character of Morongo Valley

**Action Statement F.4: Secure funding from local financing mechanisms, state and federal grants to fund non-essential services, events, and programs in Morongo Valley.**

### F4

**Benchmark:** Non-essential services, events, and programs are annually funded through grants and other financing mechanisms.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** Variable depending on the projects proposed

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Reach out to community members with nonprofit or grant writing experience to assist in securing funding for the community.	Champion	Year 1	Grants.gov <a href="https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html">https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html</a>
2. Develop a list of program, events and other non-essential services needing funding in the community.	Morongo Valley, community members	Year 1	Academy for Grassroots Organizations <a href="http://www.academygo.com/">http://www.academygo.com/</a>
3. Prioritize projects to be completed in Morongo Valley.	Grant writing committee	Year 1	
4. Complete research and match projects with applicable grants. Identify government grants and private philanthropic grant sources.	Grant writing committee	Annually	
5. Partner with the Community Service District, County and 501(c)(3) community organizations as fiscal agents for applicable grants.	Grant writing committee	Annually	
6. Apply for applicable grants.	Grant writing committee	Annually	
7. If the grants are received, begin project initiation. If the grant is not awarded, request a debrief meeting with the grant foundation to understand why it was not awarded and what could be improved upon next time.	Grant writing committee, with Community Service District or County support	Annually	

## Community Focus Statement F: Grow the local economy in a manner consistent with the rural character of Morongo Valley

### F5

**Action Statement F.5:** Partner with the San Bernardino County Economic Development Agency to support local business ownership and investment to attract new small businesses and to enable growth of existing small businesses that are consistent with the values of the community.

**Benchmark:** Small businesses in Morongo Valley have adequate resources and support to grow and thrive in the community.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** Volunteer Time.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Appoint a board member to lead a committee of local business leaders, partnered with the San Bernardino County Economic Development Agency.	Champion with Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce	Month 1	Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce <a href="http://www.92256.net/chamber/">http://www.92256.net/chamber/</a>
2. Form a local action committee in charge of developing a draft marketing plan. This could be the same committee that handles tourist attraction.	Chamber of Commerce, Marketing/economic development committee	Months 2–3	San Bernardino County EDA Site Selection Assistance <a href="http://www.sbcountyadvantage.com/For-Site-Selectors/Incentives-Programs.aspx">http://www.sbcountyadvantage.com/For-Site-Selectors/Incentives-Programs.aspx</a>
3. Conduct a market analysis of the existing conditions in the area and share the data with the San Bernardino County Economic Development Agency (EDA).	Marketing/economic development committee	Months 3–12	San Bernardino County EDA Local Business Incentives and Services Programs <a href="http://strategic-advantages/Incentives-Programs.aspx">http://strategic-advantages/Incentives-Programs.aspx</a>
4. Organize community stakeholders, including residents, nonprofit leaders, and decision-makers, to gather resources and lend support to assist new businesses.	Marketing/economic development committee	Months 4–5	
5. Establish a list within the marketing plan of tasks that can be completed by the community to assist in business attraction.	Marketing/economic development committee	Month 12	
6. Accomplish two tasks on the list of projects per year.	Marketing/economic development committee	On-going	

## Community Focus Statement F: Grow the local economy in a manner consistent with the rural character of Morongo Valley

### F6

**Action Statement F.6:** *Work with local businesses and community groups to establish annual festivals in Morongo Valley, and market these festivals to potential visitors through new and existing community marketing efforts.*

**Benchmark:** An annual arts and theatre festival is established in the Morongo Valley that attracts visitors from a wide area.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$25,000 - \$100,000; cost dependent on size and scope

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Establish a community group to develop and market an arts and theatre festival.	Champion	Months 1 – 12	How to host a Community Event <a href="https://represent.us/host-community-forum-event/">https://represent.us/host-community-forum-event/</a>
2. Secure funding through sponsorships and grant funding.	Community Events Committee	Months 1 – 12	Example: Joshua Tree National Park Association Annual Art Festival <a href="http://www.joshuatree.org/art-festival/">http://www.joshuatree.org/art-festival/</a>
3. Evaluate a pilot arts and theatre festival, and consider whether to make the festival an annual event.	Community Events Committee	Months 12 – 13	
4. Continue to plan future events.	Community Events Committee	Month 14 – on-going	San Bernardino County Tourism, Events <a href="http://www.californiaoutdoorplayground.com/Events.aspx">http://www.californiaoutdoorplayground.com/Events.aspx</a>

## Other Potential Actions

The following actions were included in the 2007 Community Plan, but not selected as Focus Statements by attendees during the Community Action Guide public outreach meetings held in 2016 and 2017. At the 2017 and 2018 regional meetings, members of the public indicated a desire to retain some information from the 2007 Community Plan to retain the record of past community recommendations. In response to the requests, the following actions are included in the CAG for future consideration by the community as Focus Statements and Action Plans to be championed by the community. Some actions may require assistance by a County department or other agency, but the community will take the lead in moving the action forward, identifying funding, scheduling meetings and/or requesting information from specific County departments or other agency.

### Topic: Land Use

#### Old Town area.

Encourage and support the creation of a master or specific plan for the Old Town area that defines the area's functional role and theme, provides appropriate site design standards, and integrates a program for infrastructure

### Topic: Public Facilities

#### Park and recreation facilities.

Establish priorities and identify opportunities for park development and establish a park and recreation plan for the Morongo Valley community.



# APPENDIX A

## Morongo Valley Community Profile

Morongo Valley Community, San Bernardino County

# Community Profile

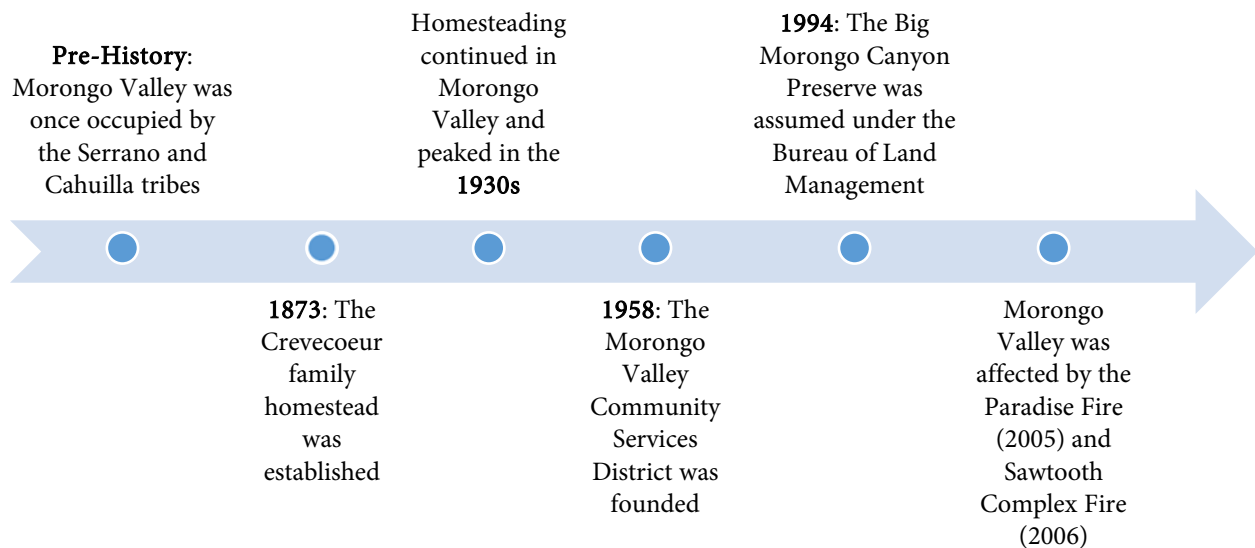
## Purpose

The community profile is a summary of the social, cultural, economic, and historic dimensions of Morongo Valley. It presents data collected through secondary sources to inform future actions. The profile, together with future studies and information gathered from residents, highlights essential facets and “tells the story” of the Morongo Valley Community.

The initial objective research prepared for the community profile was provided to participants as a handout at each community workshop to provide a basis for discussion during the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats), values, and aspirations exercises. Workshop participants were asked to review the information and provide comments as a way to infuse local knowledge into the community plans process. Their feedback was used to finalize the community profile, which includes objective research and issue identification by community workshop participants.

The objective information, community stories, and public’s participation in the community profile, SWOT, values, and aspirations exercises were all used when developing the framework for the focus and action statements that make up the community plan.

## History



The Serrano and Cahuilla tribes from the Shoshonean division (Takic) occupied the Morongo Basin until the small pox epidemic decimated the majority of their society in the 1880’s. The Crevecoeur family homestead was established in 1873, when Hans Frederick Briand de Crevecoeur moved into the Morongo Valley with his wife and their livestock. The valley area was sparsely settled by cattle and sheep ranchers due to adequate natural vegetation for grazing. Homesteading continued in the valley for a number of years, and peaked in the 1930’s.



In the last 50 years, the community has been primarily residential in nature, attracting a number of retirement-aged residents. In 1958, the Morongo Valley Community Services District was founded to oversee the fire department, parks, libraries and street lighting. In 1994, the nearby Big Morongo Canyon Preserve was assumed under the Bureau of Land Management, and is currently managed in coordination with the County Regional Parks Department. Morongo Valley was affected by the Paradise Fire in 2005 and the Sawtooth Complex Fire in 2006.

*Source(s) 2007 Morongo Valley Community Plan, Morongo Valley Community Services District, Wikipedia.*

## Location & Geography

Morongo Valley is located along the southern border of San Bernardino County with Riverside County. It is located north of Palm Springs, west of Yucca Valley, south of Pioneertown and is a fairly mountainous area at the edge of the San Bernardino National Forest. According to the US Census Bureau, Morongo Valley Community Plan area encompasses a total land area of 25.2 square miles.

*Source(s): US Census Bureau, Wikipedia, ESRI*



*Figure 1: Morongo Valley Location*

*Source(s): ESRI, San Bernardino County LUS*



Key Census Data

Category	Morongo Valley		San Bernardino County		California		United States	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
<b>Population</b>								
Total Population	3,639		2,078,586		38,066,920		314,107,084	
2020 Population Forecast	3,723 (+1.0%)		2,227,066 (+7.1%)		40,619,346 (+6.7%)		334,503,000 (+6.5%)	
Total Households	1,645		607,604		12,617,280		116,211,092	
Average Household Size	2.21		3.34		2.95		2.63	
Median Age	49.0		32.2		35.6		37.4	
<b>Education</b>								
High School Diploma	679	24.7%	330,613	26.3%	5,153,257	20.7%	58,440,600	27.95%
Education Past High School	1,003	36.5%	417,953	33.3%	7,400,714	29.8%	60,821,634	29.1%
Bachelor Degree or Higher	471	17.1%	336,315	26.8%	7,708,909	31.0%	61,206,147	29.3%
<b>Housing</b>								
Total Dwelling Units	2,079	n/a	703,737	n/a	13,781,929	n/a	132,741,033	n/a
Homeowner Occupied Units	1,154	55.5%	370,032	52.58%	6,908,925	50.1%	74,787,460	56.3%
Renter Occupied Units	491	23.6%	237,572	33.76%	5,708,355	41.4%	41,423,632	32.2%
Vacancy*	434	20.9%	96,133	13.7%	1,164,649	8.5%	16,529,941	12.5%
Median Year Structure Built	1973	n/a	1976	n/a	1974	n/a	1976	n/a
<b>Income</b>								
Median Household Income	\$41,998	n/a	\$54,100	n/a	\$61,489	n/a	\$53,482	n/a
Persons Below Poverty Level	498	18.1%	199,451	12.7%	3,354,518	11.2%	26,235,361	10.6%
Employed	1,322	76.5%	812,707	86.1%	16,890,442	89.0%	143,435,233	90.2%
Unemployed	405	23.5%	131,293	13.9%	2,084,564	12.3%	14,504,781	9.2%
Note: N/A indicates that the data is not available; n/a indicates that the category is not applicable								
*This figure may include seasonal households								

Table 1: Key Census Data

Source(s): 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates and ESRI

Community Structure (Physical Characteristics)

The Morongo Valley Community consists primarily of single-family dwellings on large lots ranging from 10,000 square feet to 5 acres. The majority of the homes in this area are one-story, set back from the street. There is a small multiple-family residential district near the commercial district in the community, which consists of similar homes to the single-family districts and a small trailer park. There are two small commercial areas both along Twenty-nine Palms Highway (SR-62). The shops in these

areas are single one-story buildings, some with road frontage, and off-street parking.

The major roadway in this community is SR-62, which is a two-lane major State Highway. This road has pedestrian facilities including signalized crosswalks and sidewalks. A large portion of local roads are paved, but lack pedestrian facilities. Only a few of the roads in the southern section of the community are county maintained. The rest are privately or otherwise maintained. There is a truck route that runs through the community along SR-62.

The Walk Score rating for the community ranges from 1 to 31 out of 100, indicating that most errands need to be completed with a vehicle. Public transportation is provided through the Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA) Routes 12 and 15, which runs through the community area and connects with Yucca Valley and Palm Springs. The MBTA also offers a Ready Ride service that provides origin to destination rides with an advanced 24 hour reservation.

*Source(s): Google Earth, County of San Bernardino Zoning Map, Walkscore.com, Morongo Basin Transit Authority, County of San Bernardino Existing Conditions Report, January 2016, 2007 Morongo Valley Community Plan.*

### Topics Important to Quality of Life

Common issues noted in the community include:

- **Land Use Issues:** animal density issues
- **Housing Issues:** junk/trash issues
- **Public Nuisances:** illegal dumping, inoperable vehicles

*Source(s): San Bernardino County Code Enforcement*

### Community Amenities

Recreation opportunities within Morongo Valley include the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, which offers hiking trails, ecology trails, nature study, bird watching, and educational tours; Covington Park; and

### Community Groups

<b>Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve</b> <a href="http://www.bigmorongo.org/a6JoinFriends.htm">http://www.bigmorongo.org/a6JoinFriends.htm</a>	<b>Morongo Valley Clean Team</b> (760) 363-6004 <a href="http://www.92256.net/clean/clean/team.asp">http://www.92256.net/clean/clean/team.asp</a>	<b>Morongo Valley Social Club</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Morongo-Valley-Social-Club/147779865312462">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Morongo-Valley-Social-Club/147779865312462</a>	<b>Morongo Basin Historical Society</b> <a href="http://www.mbhs.net/index.html">http://www.mbhs.net/index.html</a>
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*Table 3: Community Groups*

*Source(s): Listed in Table*

### Business Services

A 2016 ESRI Community Analyst report showed that Morongo Valley has approximately 404 jobs and 121 businesses. The majority of businesses fall into four categories: services (37 percent), retail trade (21 percent), construction (18 percent), and finance,

Bureau of Land Management multi-purpose trails for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrian users. The closest hospital is Desert Regional Medical Center located in Palm Springs while the closest police station is the Morongo Basin Station located in Joshua Tree. Other services in Morongo Valley include:

<b>Hospitals/ Medical Centers</b>	Desert Regional Medical Center Morongo Basin Healthcare District
<b>Fire Protection</b>	San Bernardino County Fire Station #4, response time of 16 to 18 minutes. Morongo Valley Fire Department and Emergency Services is located at 11207 Octoillo and staffed daily with a duty officer (typically the fire captain), a paramedic firefighter, a firefighter apparatus, and a reserve firefighter.
<b>Police</b>	San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Morongo Basin Station
<b>Schools</b>	Morongo Valley Elementary School

*Table 2: Community Services*

*Source(s): Google Maps, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, San Bernardino County Fire & Rescue Station Map, 2007 Morongo Valley Community Plan, Morongo Valley Fire Department and Emergency Services.*

insurance and real estate (11 percent). Approximately 35% of the Morongo Valley labor force is employed within Morongo Valley.

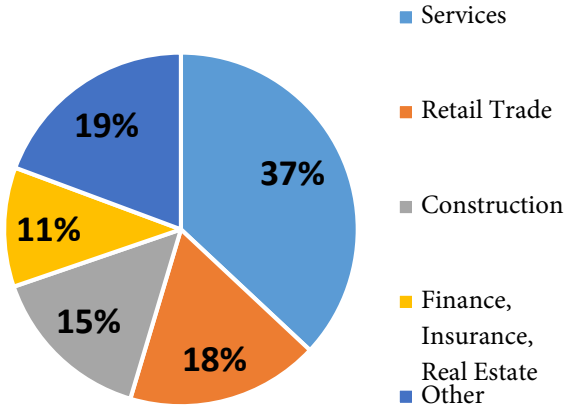


Figure 2: Retail Services in Morongo Valley  
Source(s): 2016 ESRI Community Analyst

### Community Events

Many of the recreational events are located in the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. Other community events are listed below and offer entertainment opportunities:

#### Recreational:

- Big Morongo Canyon Preserve Bird Walks
- Whitewater Preserve Bird Walks
- Group Hikes
- Education Tours, Field Studies, and Outreach Programs

#### Entertainment:

- St. Patrick’s Day Mixer
- Morongo Valley Firefighters’ Auxiliary Yard and Bake Sale
- Morongo Basin Historical Society Programs and Lectures

Source(s): Big Morongo Canyon Reserve, Morongo Valley News, The Smoke Signal, The Newsletter of the Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce

### Public Health

**Chronic Disease:** Morongo Valley experiences lower rates of hospitalization for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease COPD and heart failure in comparison to San Bernardino County. Additionally, Morongo Valley also experiences lower rates of E.R. visits for heart failure in comparison to San Bernardino County, but higher rates of E.R. visits for COPD.

Source(s): 2016 Healthy San Bernardino County Report

	Diabetes Hosp./E.R.	COPD Hosp./E.R.	Asthma Hosp./E.R.	Heart Failure Hosp./E.R.	Hypertension Hosp./E.R.
<b>Morongo Valley</b>	* / *	14.1/26/6	* / *	29.3/8.5	* / *
<b>San Bernardino County</b>	23.3/42.4	16.0/19.9	9.6/52.6	32.3/10.6	5.6/46.9

Table 4: Rate of Hospitalization/Emergency Room Visits per 10,000 People

Source(s): Healthy San Bernardino

\* Indicates insufficient data

**Air Quality:** Table 5 below shows the air quality near Morongo Valley, measured at the Joshua Tree – National Monument monitoring site, in terms of the number of days that area exceeded the federal standards for pollutants (exceedance days). The table shows that the monitoring site near Morongo Valley had fewer exceedance days for each pollutant than that of the overall Mojave Air Basin, in which Morongo Valley is located.

Air pollution is one of the contributing factors linked to the development of chronic diseases such as stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and respiratory diseases. By reducing levels of ambient pollution (outdoor air pollution), communities can lessen the impact that it has on resident’s health.

	Joshua Tree – National Monument Monitoring Site			Mojave Air Basin		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Ozone Federal 8-hour standard	48	26	37	81	66	86
Course Particulate Matter (PM <sub>10</sub> ) Federal 24-hour standard	*	*	*	1	1	1
Fine Particulate Matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) Federal 24-hour standard	*	*	*	2	6	2

Table 5: Air Quality Exceedance Days

Source: California Air Resources Board

\* Indicates insufficient data

**Modified Food Index:** The Modified Food Index maps the availability of healthy food in a census tract. The lower the score, the less available healthy options are in the area.

The entire community area of Morongo Valley ranks within the three lowest categories for food access, meaning that there are access to 30 or less healthy food outlets within that area. Lower scores indicate that these areas contain many convenience stores and fast food restaurants compared to the number of healthy food markets.

Source(s): Modified Retail Food Environment Index Score Map

### Community Engagement Summary

As a part of the Community Plans Continuum process, community members from Morongo Valley were invited to participate in two community workshops. The first workshop, titled “What We Value”, took place on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:30pm at the Morongo Valley Community Services District – Senior Nutrition Room. This workshop was attended by 18 community members. Workshop participants performed a SWOT analysis to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats within the community. Following that exercise, participants used that information to share what they valued about the community (Values) and what they want to see the community become in the future (Aspirations). Lastly, workshop participants worked on forming the draft focus and action statements that form the backbone of the community plan.

The second workshop, titled “Our Roadmap to Making it Happen”, took place on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:30pm at the Morongo Valley Community Services District – Senior Nutrition Room. This workshop was attended by 10 community members. The purpose of this workshop was to continue to develop the draft focus and action statements created in workshop #1. The project team provided word for word summaries of the SWOT and Values and Aspirations exercises to use during the goal setting process. The workshop was primarily used to help prioritize the focus statements developed in the previous workshop while also identifying possible champions for each effort.

Information was also made available on project websites made specifically for each community. This information included:

- Background materials on the project
- Materials developed for each workshop
- Summaries of the information collected from past workshops
- Surveys developed to follow the process of each meeting and allow for further input

## Community Identified Issues

### SWOT Analysis

This section contains the results of the SWOT analysis conducted during the first workshop. A SWOT exercise stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and is used to help gain insight into the community through local knowledge. In the first part, participants identify their communities' biggest strengths, such as community assets like a library or community center, along with their biggest weaknesses, which could be a lack of open space or high rates of internal crime. Next, workshop participants looked at opportunities that the community could take advantage of as part of the community plans process. This builds off of what was identified in the strengths and weaknesses portion. Lastly, participants identify external threats to the community. These are generally concerns that are outside of the control of community members, such as natural disasters or changes in economic conditions. This information was then compiled and used throughout the rest of the community plans process to inform the values and aspirations exercises conducted at workshop #1, as well as the focus and actions statements.

#### Strengths

- Rural Feeling
- Wildlife
- Park
- BMC Preserve
- Dark night
- Night skies
- No light pollution
- Low light
- Very few street lights
- One signal
- Community involvement
- Mountain Views
- Dirt roads
- Protected Lands, BLM wilderness
- Clean air
- Morongo Canyon
- Eclectic Housing Mix
- Skate park
- Minimal noise
- Flora and fauna
- Family values
- A lot of nice people moving in
- Friendly, helpful people
- Morongo Elementary School

- No big box stores
- Rural, no chain stores
- Current businesses
- Store fronts
- Festivals, rent out to others
- No windmills
- Sand to snow
- Softball park
- Kids play area in park
- Maintain park and baseball field
- Dump is very well run
- Covington Park
- Art colony

#### Strengths(continued)

- Views
- Dark night skies
- Clearer air
- Rural setting
- Moderate weather
- Sand to snow
- Environment
- Low impact from bright lights preserving night skies

- Proximity to larger communities with services (i.e. Palm Springs)
- No high rises
- Large lots
- Welcoming to horse owners and other farm animals
- Horse property
- Rural community
- Peace and quiet
- Friendly community
- Space
- Nature preserve
- CSD Manager
- Animal husbandry
- Agriculture
- We're spread out
- Large lots
- Wild lands
- Strong volunteer groups
- Beautiful park
- Transfer station
- Local business invested in community
- Art community
- Strong water table
- Beautiful scenery
- Gateway to hi-desert
- TV repeater
- Good local food
- Preserve
- Great star gazing at night
- Great Fire Department
- Fire Department
- Hunting – we haven't recovered from fire, the animals are sitting ducks
- Trash (illegal dumping)
- Code compliance, trash, non-running vehicles, illegal dumping
- Off-road riding
- Co-existing with wildlife especially around park and preserve
- Off road riders threat to cause
- Water
- Lack of services: doctor, dental, chiropractic, etc.
- Limited water from Big Bear runoff, not in Mojave Water Agency
- Local Community Control (CSD Fire)
- Local Fire and Paramedic service
- Extreme lack of funding availability for community services (i.e. fire, paramedic, park)
- Poor internet connectivity
- Cell phone service
- Infrastructure
- Terrible neighborhood roads
- Many isolated and/or poor residents
- Lack of communication with all residents
- Highway 62 dangerous speeds and no lights
- Highway safety
- Shabby mobile home parks
- Roads
- Dangerous Highway 61!!!!
- Community apathy
- High mineral content
- Water quality
- Lack of kids activities

*Weaknesses*

- Delineators
- Divided Highway
- Slow Police Response
- Need help with police time response
- Law enforcement presence for patrol/prevention
- Community budget
- Budget deficits
- Low tax base
- Need more community activities

*Weaknesses (continued)*

- Lack of resources
- Fees to do events
- Infrastructure
- Highway divides town
- Lack of family entertainment
- Financially challenged community
- Lack of Police service
- Reserved community

### Opportunities

- Provide horse trails
- Equestrian (capitalize)
- Need restaurants
- Capitalize on sand to snow
- Renewable Energy
- Encourage reduce, reuse, and recycle
- Provide recreational activities for children
- Kids programs softball and soccer
- Festivals
- Small family owned business
- 3,000 sq. ft. lots for commercial on highway
- To raise a family
- Nature living
- Expanding enjoyment of B.M. Preserve
- Education for youth – nature – birdwatching
- Growing gardens
- Sand to snow
- Vacation rentals
- Park to be used for increased revenue
- Controlled growth
- Organic farming
- Increase local business involvement in the Community
- Gateway to high desert
- More locally owned business
- Growing local small business
- Windmills
- Windmills coming in
- Air pollution crawling in
- Big box development
- Large business
- Development threatening rural life style
- Vacation rentals = threat
- Divided town with delineators
- Localized Radon in water
- Water
- Limited water
- Uranium in County water districts
- Pino & San Andreas faults
- Crime
- Confiscation of land ROW easements
- Light pollution
- High intensity lights from business and homes
- One way in, one way out
- Off road vehicle not zoned for it
- Development near Big Morongo Canyon Preserve Unregulated vacation rentals
- Dense housing developments
- Unregulated vacation rentals
- Mojave Water Agency intrusion into east Mojave Valley. Will not get water

### Threats

- Off-road vehicles
- Road ways in and out of Community
- Earthquakes
- Lack of law enforcement presence and patrol
- Response time of Sheriff
- Highway 62!!
- Yucca Valley growth
- Big business moving in
- Subdivisions
- Light pollution
- Lack of local control
- High speed limit