

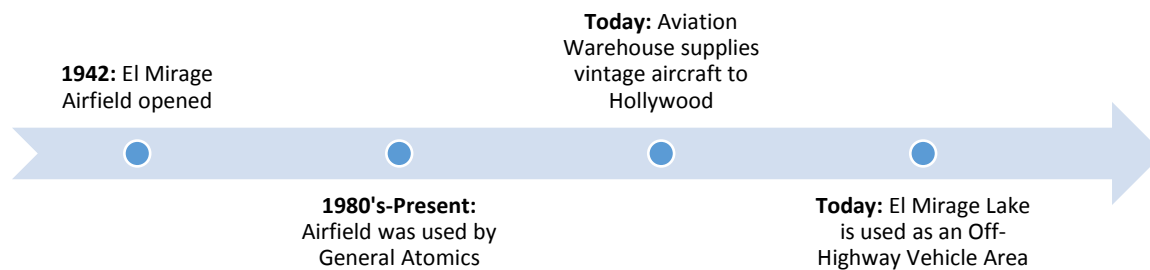
El Mirage, San Bernardino County

Community Profile

Overview

The community profile is a summary of the social, cultural, economic, and historic dimensions of the community. It is a gathering of objective data collected through secondary sources meant to inform and help facilitate discussion during the community meetings. The profile, together with future studies and information gathered from residents through the community meetings, will highlight essential facets and “tell the story” of the El Mirage Community.

History



The El Mirage community is south of the dry El Mirage Lake bed and home to the El Mirage Airport. This airfield opened in 1942 as a satellite field for the Victorville AAF and was used as a training facility during World War II. After WWII, the field was used as a civil airfield. From the 1980’s to the present, the El Mirage Field was used by General Atomics as their unmanned air vehicle flight test center. The Aviation Warehouse is located nearby and sells or leases miscellaneous vintage aircraft equipment and supplies to movie producers. The El Mirage lake area is now known as the El Mirage Dry Lake Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area, managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Access is available by permit.

Source(s): Wikipedia.org, www.airfieldsfreeman.com, Bureau of Land Management

Location & Geography

El Mirage is located in the southwestern portion of the county along the border between San Bernardino County and Los Angeles County. It is directly west of Adelanto and north of Pinon Hills. The community is fairly flat with some smaller hills nearby.

Source(s): ESRI, San Bernardino County LUS, Google Maps



Figure 1: Area Map

Source(s): ESRI, San Bernardino County LUS

Key Census Data

Category	El Mirage		San Bernardino County		California		United States	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Population								
Total Population	516		2,078,586		38,066,920		314,107,084	
2020 Population Forecast	526 (+1.9%)		2,227,066 (+7.1%)		40,619,346 (+6.7%)		334,503,000 (+6.5%)	
Total Households	158		607,604		12,617,280		116,211,092	
Average Household Size	3.2		3.3		3.0		2.6	
Median Age	42.8		32.2		35.6		37.4	
Education								
High School Diploma	N/A	N/A	330,613	26.3%	5,153,257	20.7%	58,440,600	28.0%
Education Past High School	N/A	N/A	417,953	33.3%	7,400,714	29.8%	60,821,634	29.1%
Bachelor Degree or Higher	N/A	N/A	336,315	26.8%	7,708,909	31.0%	61,206,147	29.3%
Housing								
Total Dwelling Units	181	n/a	703,737	n/a	13,781,929	n/a	132,741,033	n/a
Homeowner Occupied Units	91	50.2%	370,032	52.6%	6,908,925	50.1%	74,787,460	56.3%
Renter Occupied Units	67	37.0%	237,572	33.8%	5,708,355	41.4%	41,423,632	32.2%
Vacancy*	23	12.7%	96,133	13.7%	1,164,649	8.5%	16,529,941	12.5%
Median Year Structure Built	N/A	n/a	1976	n/a	1974	n/a	1976	n/a
Income								
Median Household Income	\$36,458	n/a	\$54,100	n/a	\$61,489	n/a	\$53,482	n/a
Persons Below Poverty Level	N/A	N/A	199,451	12.7%	3,354,518	11.2%	26,235,361	10.6%
Employed	N/A	N/A	812,707	86.1%	16,890,442	89.0%	143,435,233	90.2%
Unemployed	N/A	N/A	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

Sources: 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates and ESRI

Community Structure (Physical Characteristics)

Development in El Mirage consists mainly of one-story, single-family dwellings on large lots that can support agriculture. Agricultural uses are predominant in the community and large barns and warehouse are prevalent. Commercial buildings are

limited and generally consist of gas stations or small convenience shops.

The major roads in the community are El Mirage Road and Sheep Creek Road. The local roads are generally unpaved. There are few pedestrian facilities and no bicycle facilities.

Sources: Google Earth, County of San Bernardino

Community Amenities

Community amenities in or near El Mirage include outdoor recreational areas, local schools, and police and fire stations that serve the needs of the community.

Parks and Trails

- El Mirage Dry Lake Off-Highway Recreation Area

Schools

- El Mirage School

Fire Protection

- San Bernardino County Fire Station 322 (Response Time: 19 minutes)

Police

- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

Source(s): San Bernardino County Fire Survey, San Bernardino County Sheriff, Google Maps

Community Groups

Friends of El Mirage (760) 388-4411 www.elmirage.org/foem	Wind Wizards Landsailing Club www.windwizards.org
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Source(s): www.elmirage.org/foem, www.windwizards.org

Quality of Life Concerns

Commonly submitted code enforcement requests include the following concerns:

- Junk and trash
- Occupied Trailers and Mobile Homes
- Illegal Structures

Source(s): San Bernardino County Code Enforcement

Retail Services

The 2016 ESRI Community Analyst Report showed that El Mirage has approximately 9 businesses, in 8 categories. The majority of the businesses fall into services (22 percent), construction (11 percent), manufacturing (11 percent), and other (56 percent).

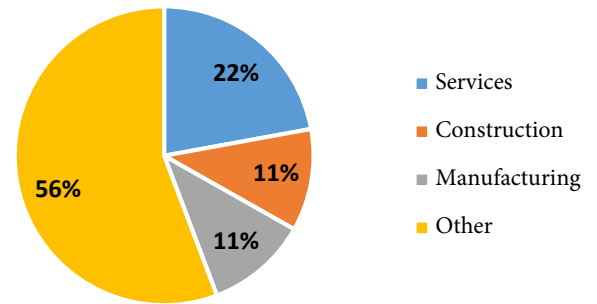


Figure 2: Retail Services in El Mirage

Source(s): ESRI Community Analyst

Community Events

- **14th Annual Dumont Dunes Cleanup:** March 12, 8am to 2pm (Friends of El Mirage)
- **SCTA Racing:** June and July (El Mirage Dry Lake)
- **Wind Wizards:** April (El Mirage Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Area)
- **Southern California Timing Association Event:** May (El Mirage)
- **Friends of El Mirage Monthly Meeting:** 2nd Wednesday of every month, 9am (BLM El Mirage Visitor Center)

Source(s): Southern California Timing Association, Friends of El Mirage, guidestar.org

Public Health Indicators

Chronic Disease: The predominant health concerns for El Mirage include heart disease and respiratory disorders. El Mirage experiences higher rates of hospitalization for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma in comparison to San Bernardino County. The leading causes of death in 2012 were heart disease and cancer.

	COPD <i>Hosp./E.R.</i>	Asthma <i>Hosp./E.R.</i>
El Mirage	36.0/25.3	20.7/74.9
San Bernardino County	16.0/19.9	9.6/52.6

Table 3: Rate of Hospitalization/Emergency Room Visits per 10,000 People

Source(s): Healthy San Bernardino

Air Quality: El Mirage generally experiences improved air quality (as measured at the Phelan – Beekley Road and Phelan Road Monitoring Site) in comparison to the rest of the Mojave Air Basin.

Source(s): California Air Resources Board

Community Engagement Summary

As a part of the Community Plans Continuum process, community members from El Mirage were invited to participate in two community workshops. The first workshop, titled “What We Value”, took place on November 30th, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:30pm at the El Mirage Community Center & Park. This workshop was attended by 9 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 January 25th, 2017 from 6:00 – 8:30pm at the El Mirage Community Center & Park. This workshop was attended by 11 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

- Community center, events, activities
- Historic values
- Ruralness
- Space
- Sense of community
- School

Weaknesses

- Transportation issues
- Spirit of community gone down
- Costs prohibiting new business
- Off-road vehicles (not following designated areas)
- Lack of facilities and services (fire, internet)
- Jobs
- No bus
- Community center and park need more attention
- Sidewalks
- Fire department needs firemen
- Newsletter
- Not enough parent involvement
- Activities for kids
- Cell service

Opportunities

- Grants and partnerships
- High desert corridor

- Parks
- Improve water
- Managed growth
- Help people with addiction problems
- Library
- Restaurants
- Mall
- More jobs
- County involvement
- More police activity
- Resources
- More activities at community center
- Build up identity
- 4H
- Senior center
- Sport events

Threats

- Environmental issues (toxic spill, solar fields, dust storms, drones)
- Criminal activities (gangs, graffiti)
- County (lack of support, distrust)
- County doesn't consult community
- Felons
- Water and water rights
- Illegal dumping
- Community not being El Mirage anymore
- Losing identity