

## **Section Fourteen—Regional Coordination**

**Regional Coordination** - Cooperative and productive interaction with agencies and organizations whose decisions and actions impact the health, safety and welfare of Yuma County residents.

### **14.1 Introduction**

The purpose of the *Regional Coordination Element* is to outline strategies that strengthen county interaction among agencies and organizations. Yuma County's size, strategic location, dynamic regional economy, transportation network, agricultural land base and natural resource systems make coordination essential. These complex regional issues, trends and conditions extend beyond political boundaries.

Defining the county's role in the regional planning process is imperative. A regional perspective helps various agencies and organizations develop problem solving skills and new methods of cooperation to work together effectively. Establishing regional strategies to coordinate planning decisions and provide for the projected needs and stated goals of communities is fundamental to growth management.

#### **Regional Coordination Basics:**

- Determine the role of other organizations and political and administrative agencies in defining and promoting regional coordination.
- Address broad-based land use and transportation issues.
- Recognize the importance of maintaining a high level of interest and involvement by all agencies that have jurisdiction over a particular area in the county.
- Identify means to prioritize, evaluate and address regional issues and problems.

### **14.2 Regulatory Compliance**

*Growing Smarter Plus* legislation provides general requirements for addressing issues of regional importance in comprehensive plans. State statutes mandate a regional approach when planning for the use of state trust lands, water resources, open space, recreational and environmental resources.

#### **Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 11**

Chapter 6 - County Planning and Zoning; Article 1:

§11-806. Powers and duties; comprehensive plan D(2). Consult with, advise and provide an opportunity for official comment by public officials and agencies, municipalities, school districts, associations of governments, public land management agencies, other appropriate government jurisdictions, public utility companies, civic, educational, professional and other organizations, property owners and citizens generally to secure the maximum coordination of plans and to indicate properly located sites for all public purposes on the plan.

Chapter 6 - County Planning and Zoning; Article 2:

§11-821. County plan; definitions

F. The policies and strategies to be developed under these elements shall be designed to have regional applicability.

### **14.3 Promote Regional Coordination**

Programs exist that promote the concept and benefits of regional coordination. However, it is necessary for the county to recognize the need to assess projects on a regional basis. As regional issues are defined, the fundamental components to assess projects are outlined as follows:

#### **Regional Coordination Components:**

- **Identification** - Identify all public agencies and organizations, internal and external to the county, whose plans have bearing on regional and future development or the health, safety and welfare of residents.
- **Communication** - Establish communications with all appropriate agencies and organizations. Communicate the intent of the Yuma County 2020 Comprehensive Plan and Regional Coordination Element.
- **Collaboration** - Recognize specific goals, objectives and policies of mutual interest. Emphasize regional issues with applicability to the various agencies and organizations. Develop consensus with other agencies and organizations relative to a course of action for involvement and accountability.
- **Meetings** - Conduct workshops and/or strategy meetings that allow interested agencies and organizations to convene and discuss regional issues, program goals, responsibilities and level of participation.
- **Implementation** - Determine the specific methods and strategies to support regional coordination. Assign responsibilities to the participating agencies and/or organizations for actual implementation and assessment.

### **14.4 The Regional Community**

The county is comprised of many unique and isolated communities. However, because of continually changing socioeconomic factors, these communities need to share resources and become more integrated in order to sustain livability. Cooperation provides a forum to integrate common goals and establish a responsible regional community. The results of working collaboratively and sharing experiences to common regional challenges allow all concerned to benefit. The key participants and components of this regional coordination effort acting as a network of responsibility are shown in Figure 1 on page 3.

**Figure 1 The Regional Community**

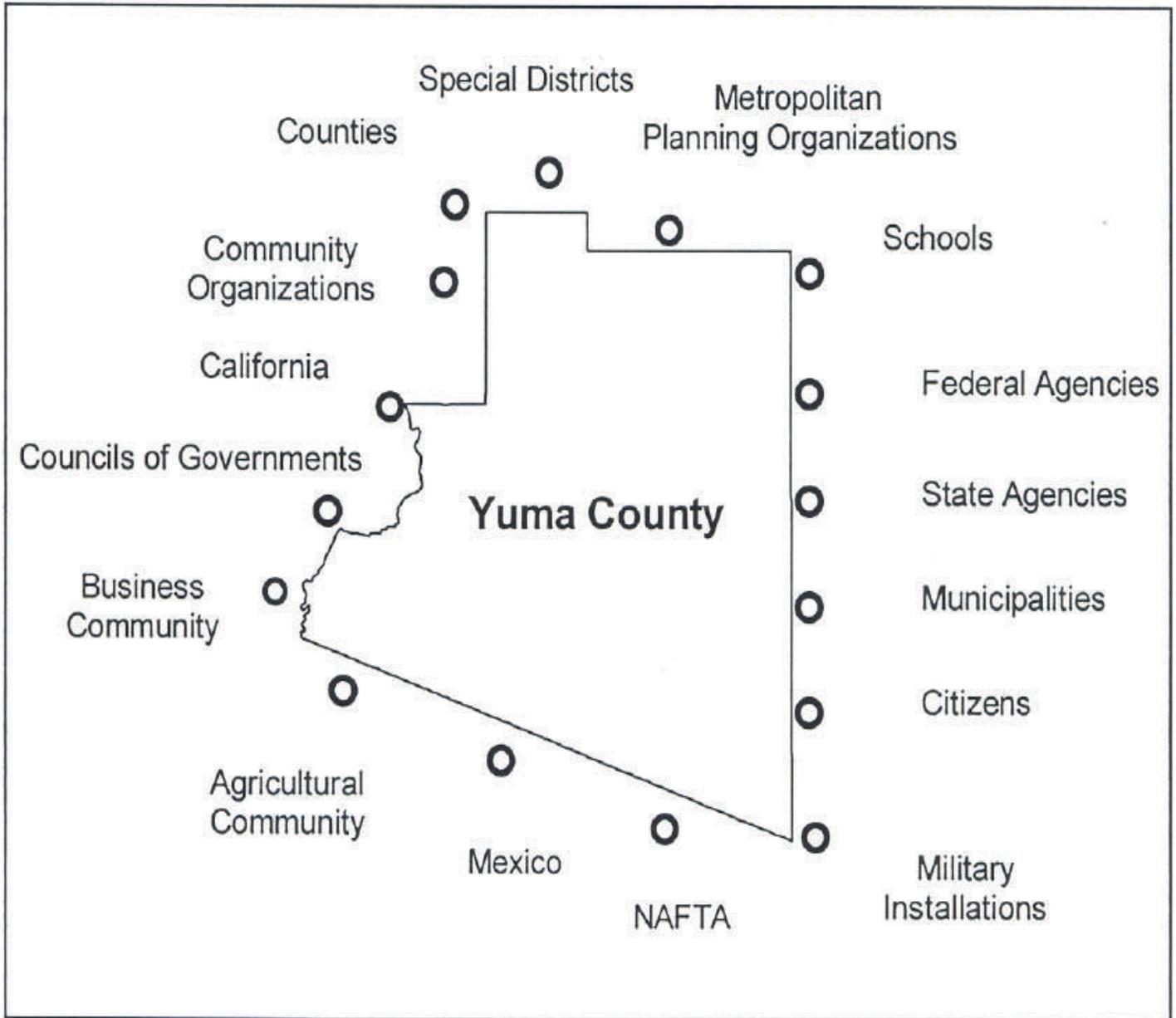


Figure 1 The Regional Community

## **14.5 Yuma Regional Development Plan**

### **Policies to Achieve a Multi-Jurisdictional Vision for 2020**

The Yuma Regional Development Plan (YRDP) represents the combined efforts of the Cities of San Luis, Somerton, Yuma, the Town of Wellton, Yuma County, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), and the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) to achieve the following:

- A common set of land use development policies for the future economic growth and development of lands within the incorporated and unincorporated areas in Yuma County.
- A foundation for the compatibility of land use activities in the vicinity of the following military facilities and ancillary airfields: Marine Corps Air Station–Yuma/Yuma International Airport (MCAS/YIA), the Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR), and U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG).
- A means to promote and preserve the primary economic assets of the area: Agriculture, Military and Tourism.

These entities have committed to work together to achieve the YRDP objectives as the Yuma Regional Development Group.

The YRDP is built on the previous planning efforts of the area agencies, including the Yuma County Comprehensive Plan, the General Plans for Somerton, San Luis, Wellton and Yuma, the City/County Joint Land Use Plan, and the Joint Land Use Study for the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

The YRDP is comprised of a set of goals and objectives to guide elected officials, commissions, boards and staff in their discussions and deliberations on development opportunities and zoning actions. The goals and objectives identify various types of land use activities (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial) and the corresponding general regional development philosophies that preserve the agriculture, military, and tourism industries.

This planning document focuses on six overall policies:

- Coordinated and Compatible Planning
- Concentrated Urban Development
- Military and General Aviation Preservation
- Valley Agricultural Protection
- Industrial and Commercial Development
- Rural Development and Lifestyle Preservation

The incorporated jurisdictions and Yuma County desire to pursue the mutual objectives and goals of the YRDP, committing their resources toward the furthering of their adopted General and Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. Continued cooperation between the jurisdictions will provide the best opportunities to achieve common long-term results.

The participating entities may use different methods and processes to accomplish the objectives, but the overall purpose of the Plan is to have a common means of reaching the shared development visions and objectives represented.

## **Coordinated and Compatible Planning**

**Goal:** The incorporated communities of San Luis, Somerton, Wellton and Yuma and the unincorporated areas of Yuma County have common land use development policies for future economic growth and development.

Objectives. Each Jurisdiction will:

- Recognize the shared boundaries of the General and Comprehensive Plans of the respective cities, towns and county and the Joint Land Use Study of the BMGR.
- Ensure compatible land uses between adjacent entities and along military boundaries.
- Provide notification to all cities, towns and counties, and military installations regarding annexations, plan amendments, rezonings and subdivisions.
- Participate in joint meetings among the entities for the coordination of relevant development issues.
- Continue to adopt similar and comparable building codes.
- Coordinate with other local, state, and federal agencies with natural resource management responsibilities.

## **Concentrated Urban Development**

**Goal:** Urban development is concentrated within areas currently provided or planned to receive all of the following urban services:

- Water and wastewater distribution systems
- Surface transportation and circulation systems
- Schools, parks/open space, and recreation facilities
- Fire and police protection and refuse collection services

Objectives

- Promote the most efficient use of land and reduce the cost of infrastructure, encourage urban development that utilizes in-fill parcels or land that is currently served by water, sewer and improved roadways.
- Consider a variety of regulatory, incentive and program strategies to encourage smart growth development, including amending land use codes.
- Promote urban development that is served by roads, water, sanitary sewer and storm drainage, schools and other urban services.
- Promote urban development that includes sustainable development that takes advantage of energy-saving technologies and construction alternatives.
- Concentrate urban facilities and services within existing urbanized areas to make it a desirable place to live and work, to increase the opportunities for walking and biking within the community, to more efficiently use existing infrastructure capacity and to reduce the long-term costs of infrastructure maintenance.

## *Regional Coordination*

- Promote development standards for urban areas that emphasize ways to allow maximum permitted densities and uses of urban land.
- Encourage the municipalities and the county to work with neighborhood groups, local business organizations, public service providers and other stakeholders on annexation-related activities to best meet the needs of area residents and land owners.
- Promote local commercial development in unincorporated urban areas to serve the needs of the surrounding population
- Encourage new urban development to locate in areas where services and public facilities exist or can easily be extended thereby resulting in cost effective development and reduced utility costs.
- Encourage urban development that utilizes the following principles:
  - Utilizing a mix of land uses
  - Taking advantage of compact building design
  - Creating a range of housing opportunities and choices
  - Creating walkable neighborhoods
  - Fostering distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
  - Preserving open space, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas
  - Protect valley farmland from encroachment
  - Strengthening and directing development towards existing communities
  - Providing a variety of transportation choices
  - Making development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective
  - Encouraging community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions

## **Military and General Aviation Preservation**

**Goal:** Compatible land use activities are maintained and promoted in the vicinity of the region's military and general aviation facilities.

### Objectives

- Develop and maintain a land use pattern that protects installation operations and minimizes incompatible development in the vicinity of the Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma, Yuma Proving Ground, Barry M. Goldwater Range, and ancillary facilities.
- Promote compatible land use activities in the vicinity of General Aviation facilities of Yuma County including Yuma International Airport, Rolle Airfield, Somerton Airport, and other general aviation facilities developed in the future.
- Recognize the goals and objectives of the master plans for each military and general aviation installation in order to promote preservation and discourage encroachment.
- Encourage compatible redevelopment of conflicting land uses in the vicinity of military and general aviation facilities and ranges.
- Prevent future land use compatibility issues that negatively impact the military or encroach upon the facilities and the ranges.
- Identify potential aviation assets (private airfields) within each entity's respective planning documents.
- Require that applicable military disclosure statements are recorded against properties.

## **Agriculture Protection**

**Goal:** Land uses, policies and implementation measures support and protect agriculture.

### Objectives

- Identify the valley agricultural lands in Yuma County.
- Develop an urban pattern that minimizes encroachment on the valley agricultural lands in Yuma County.
- Establish buffer or transition areas consisting of appropriate land uses between agricultural and urban areas.
- Develop policies to address potential conflicts between residential neighborhoods that adjoin agricultural operations through:
  - Use of design (neighborhood layout, retention basins and/or walls, buffers and landscaping) to minimize conflicts.
  - Disclosure statements recorded against individual properties.
  - Encourage school districts to locate future school sites that do not create conflicts with agricultural operations.
  - Recognize agricultural lands and related food safety issues..

## **Commercial and Industrial Development**

**Goal:** Commercial and Industrial Development locations are promoted through land use plans, policies and implementation measures.

### Objectives

- Propose commercial nodes or centers to minimize congestion along major highways and roads.
- Explore opportunities to incorporate existing strip developments with commercial nodes.
- Encourage the growth and significance of the industrial component of the economy that provides stable, year-round employment through the establishment of individual city or county incentive programs for those industries that demonstrate sustained employment.
- Promote “mixed use” areas between commercial and residential land uses.
- Locate industrial uses in areas where municipal services exist or are planned to be constructed within an approved capital improvement plan and which have convenient access to major transportation systems, such as airports, railway lines, commercial ports of entry, and highways.
- Locate business and industrial activities along major road corridors to act as a buffer for lower intensity land uses.
- Promote the development, reuse, redevelopment, and infill of commercial nodes through incentive programs.
- Promote compatible industrial development within the vicinity of military facilities.
- Support international trade and logistics opportunities in Yuma County.
- Support the development of general aviation and freight services at Rolle Field that are compatible with MCAS operations.

## **Rural Development and Lifestyle Preservation**

**Goal:** Rural development occurs in areas with lower levels of infrastructure and public services.

### Objectives

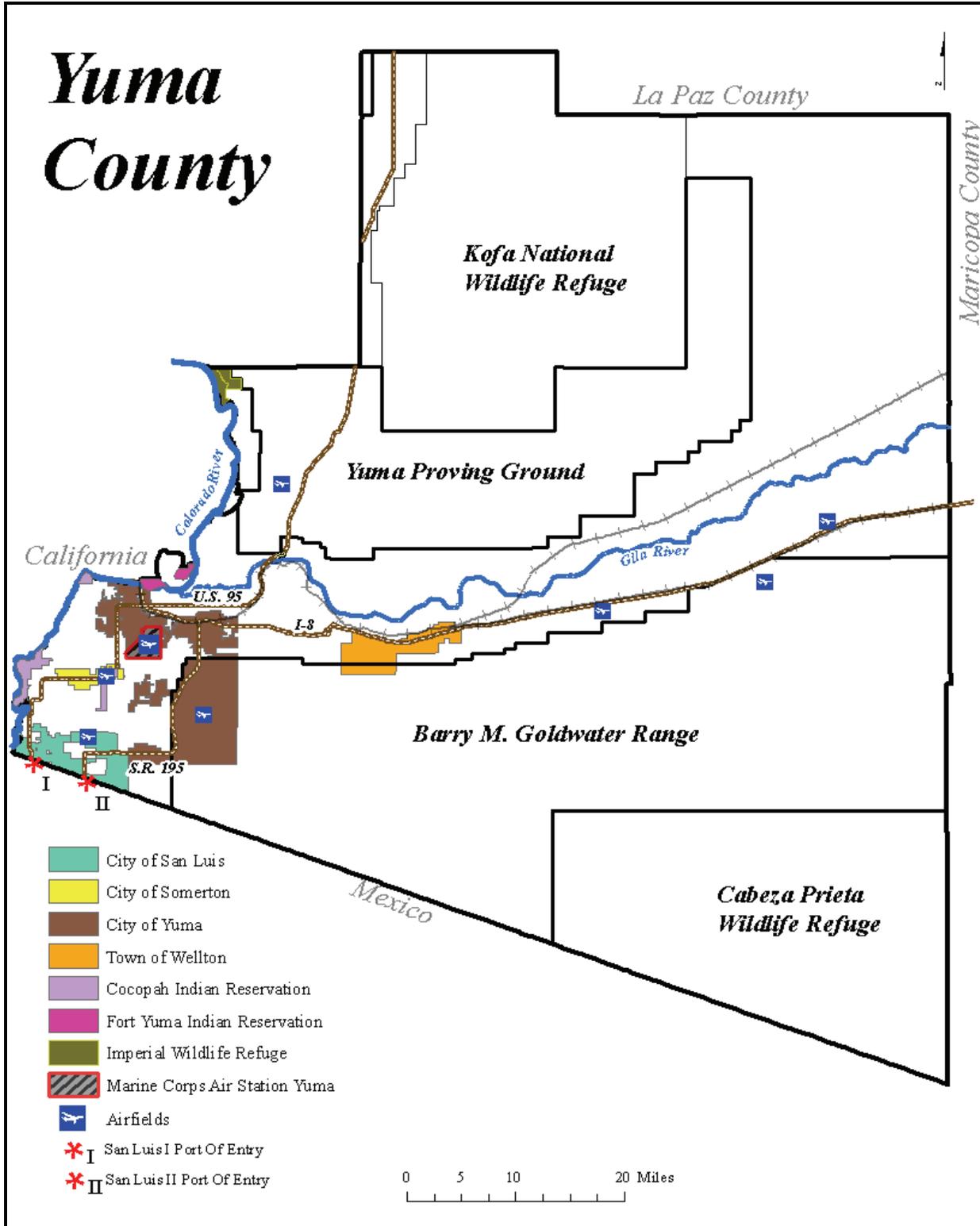
- Rural and semi-rural lifestyles are accommodated through rural density development on lands having lower agricultural productivity than valley agricultural lands.
- Rural residential development is supportable in areas where non-urban densities are planned and urban infrastructure is not planned.
- Industrial development in rural areas shall include the provision of public infrastructure and services.
- Rural development in the vicinity of the military installations will be compatible with operations.
- Promote the implementation of wildlife-friendly planning where appropriate to help conserve local fish and wildlife populations, habitats, and associated recreational opportunities.
- Preserve open space, valley farmland, natural beauty, and critical environment areas.
- Support renewable energy and other industrial developments that are located and designed to minimize the impact to wildlife populations, their habitats, and associated recreation opportunities.

## **Tourism**

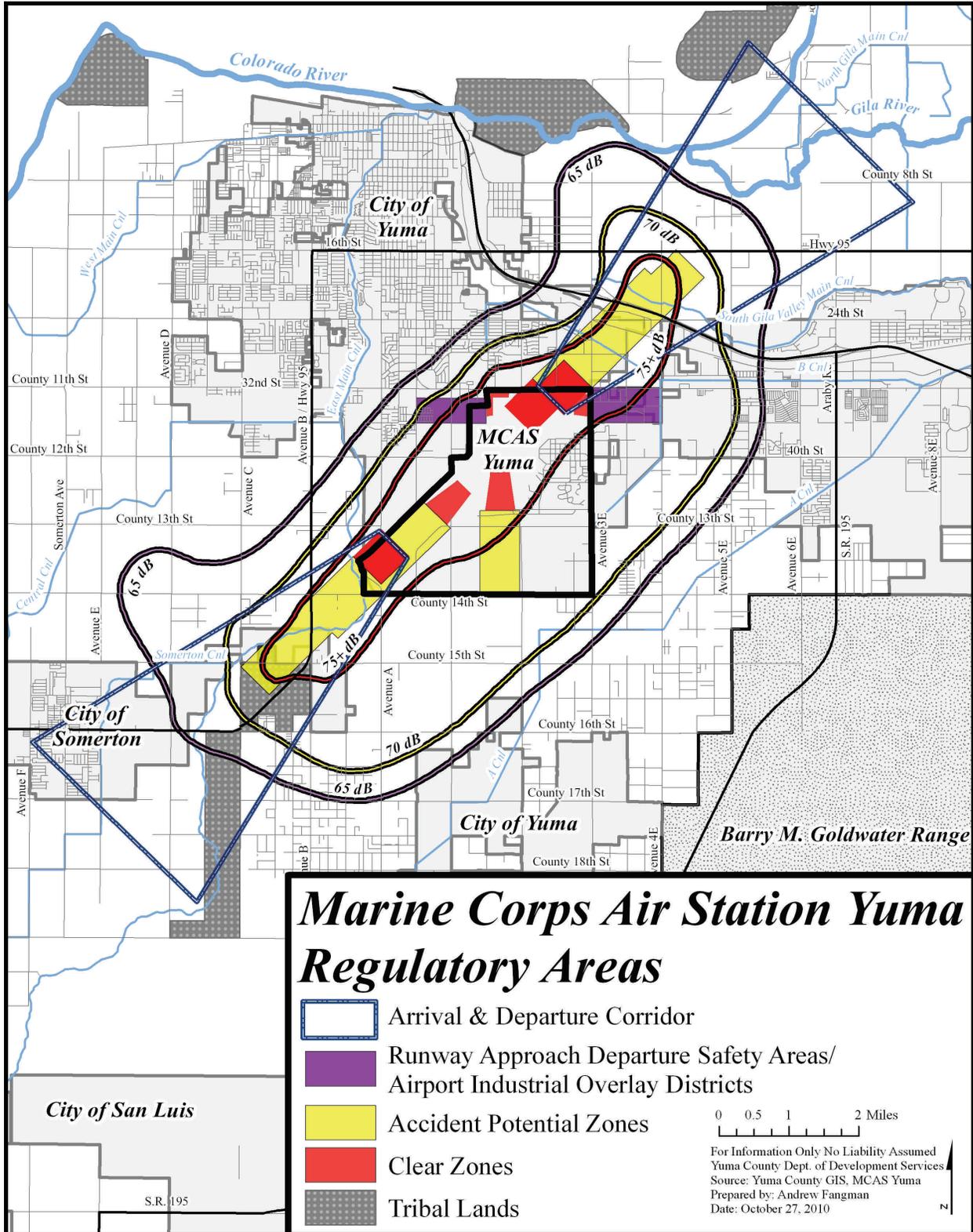
**Goal:** Regional tourism activities are expanded and the relationships among agriculture, tourism, the economy, and natural resources are supported.

### Objectives

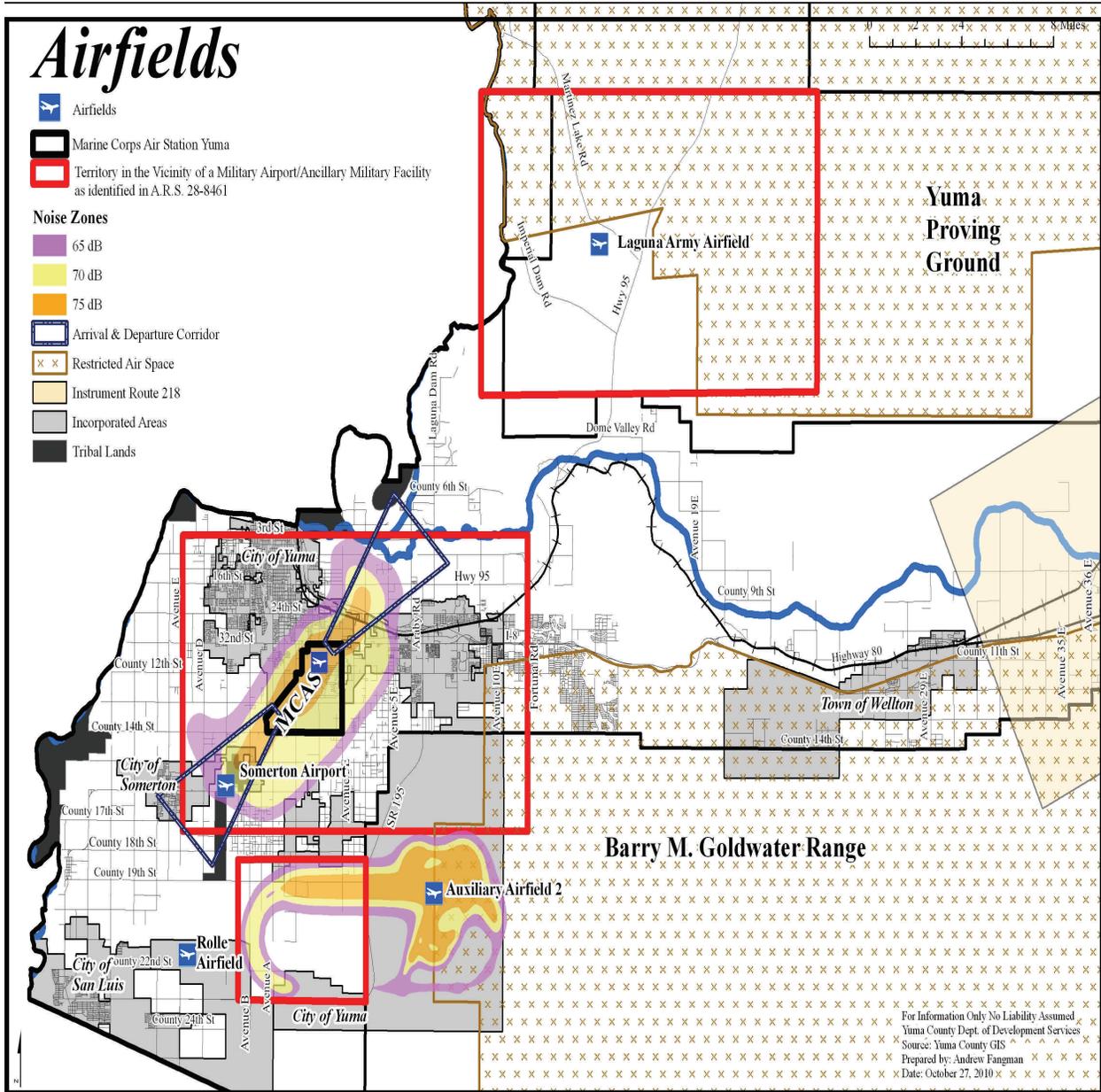
- Promote public and commercial recreational opportunities along and on the Colorado River.
- Promote agricultural tourism opportunities that are compatible with agricultural operations.
- Preserve open spaces and areas where outdoor recreational activities occur.
- Develop connectivity of regional parks and open spaces where practical.
- Support grant applications that seek to improve regional parks or open spaces.
- Ensure that camping/recreational vehicle parks are developed with appropriate infrastructure improvements.
- Promote various special events and festivals that encourage unique interests and tourism opportunities.
- Recognize and support fish and wildlife populations and habitats and associated angling, hunting, and wildlife-watching recreation opportunities.



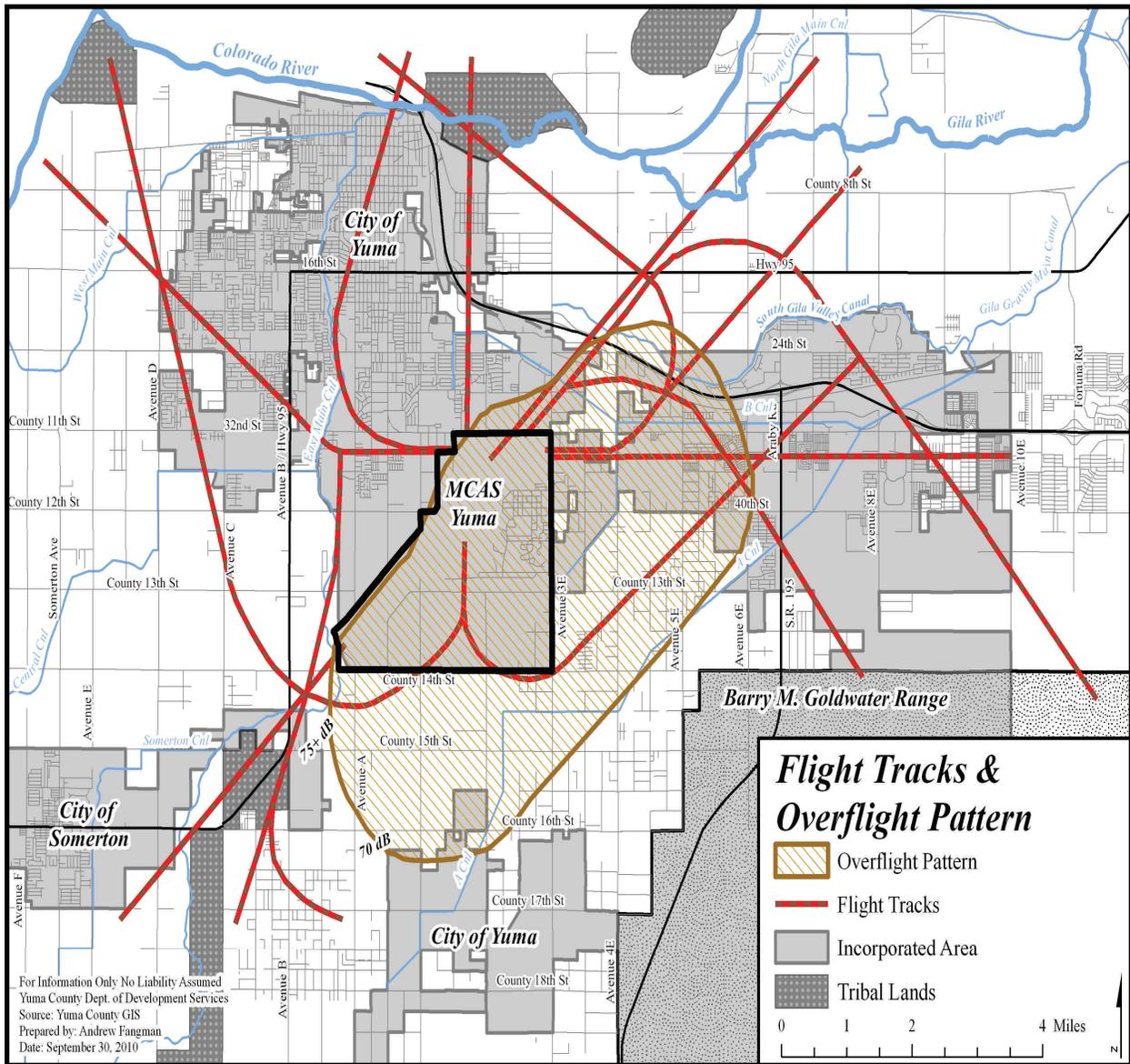
Map 1: Yuma Regional Development Plan



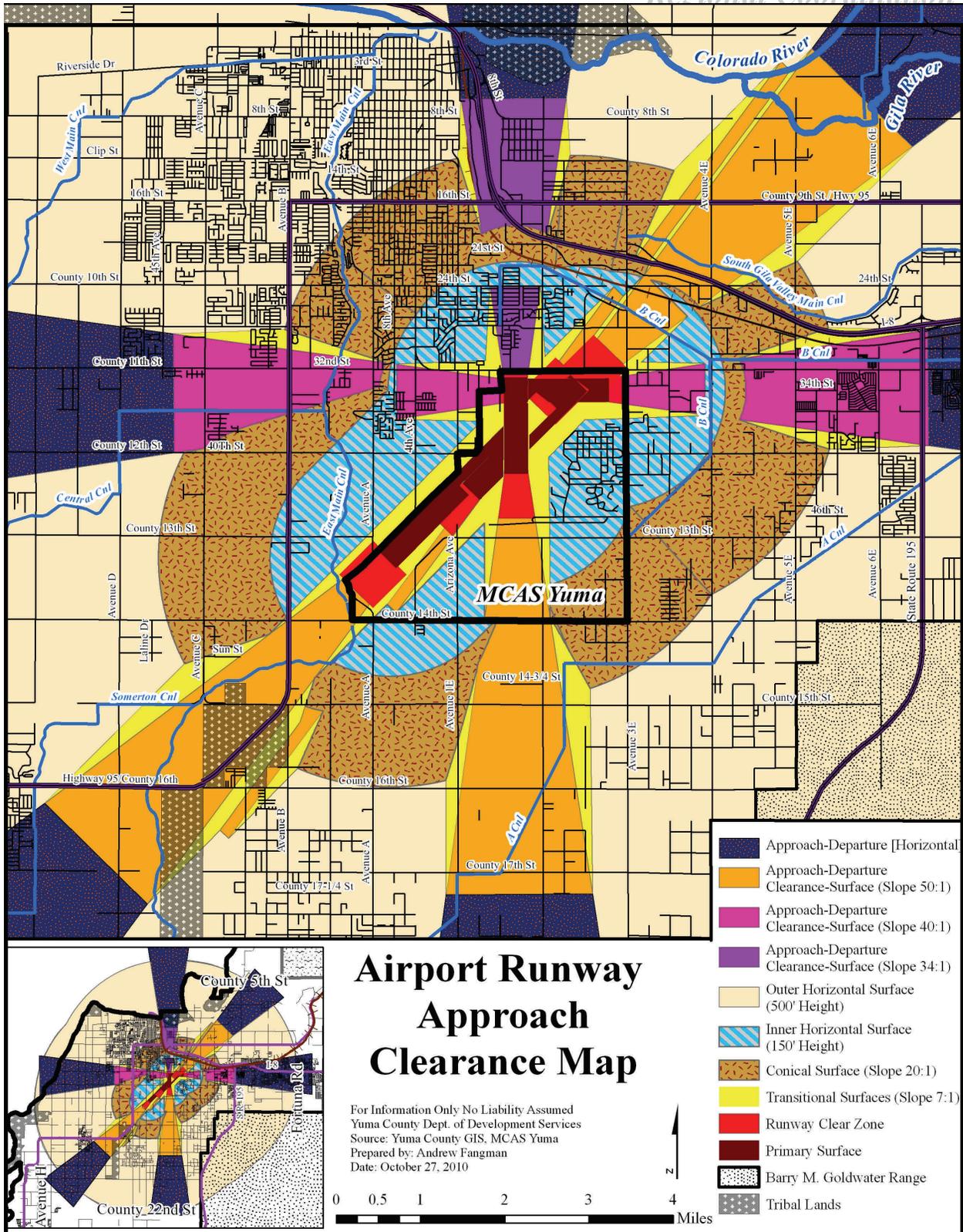
Map 2: Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma Regulatory Areas



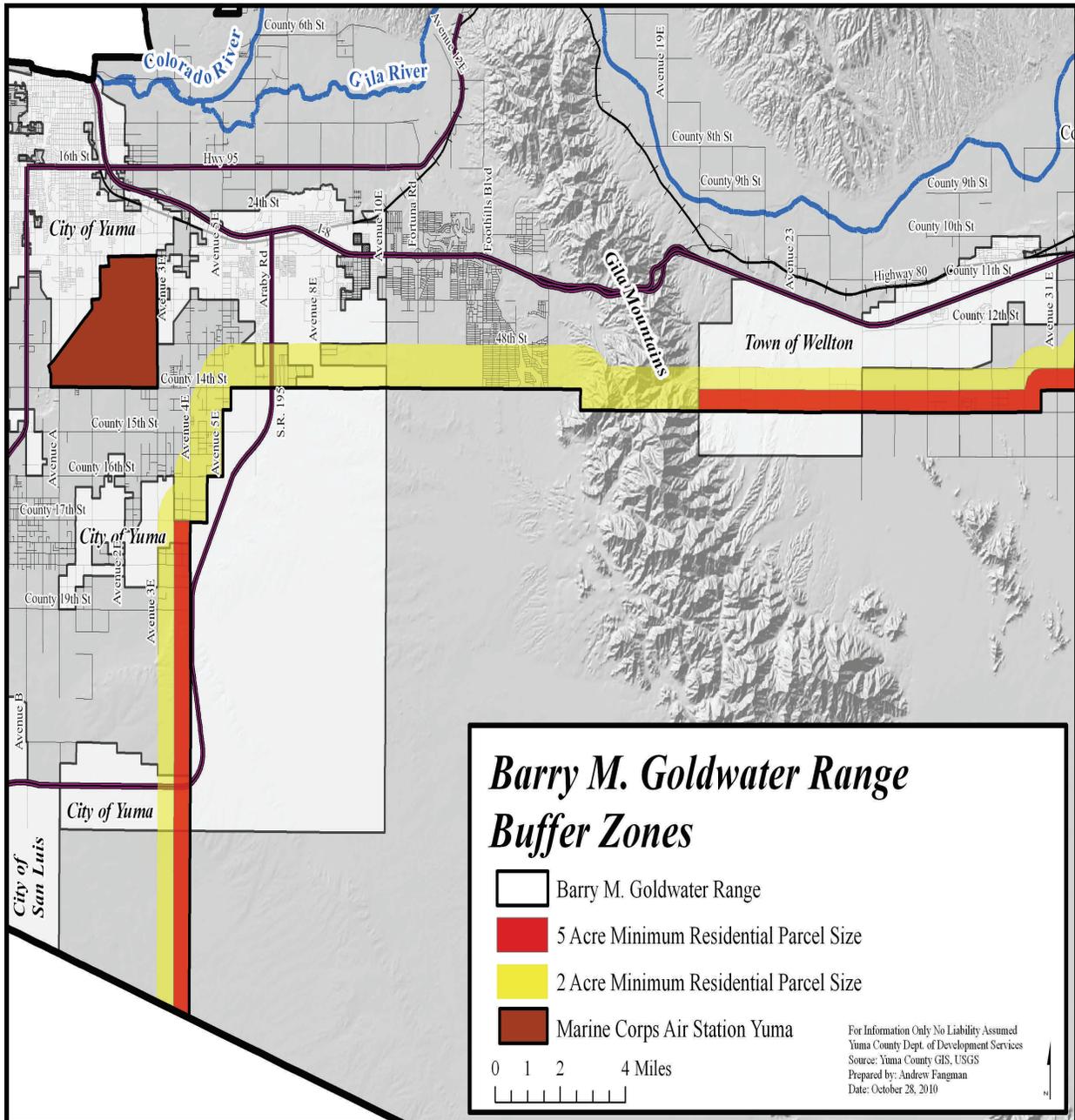
Map 3: Airfields



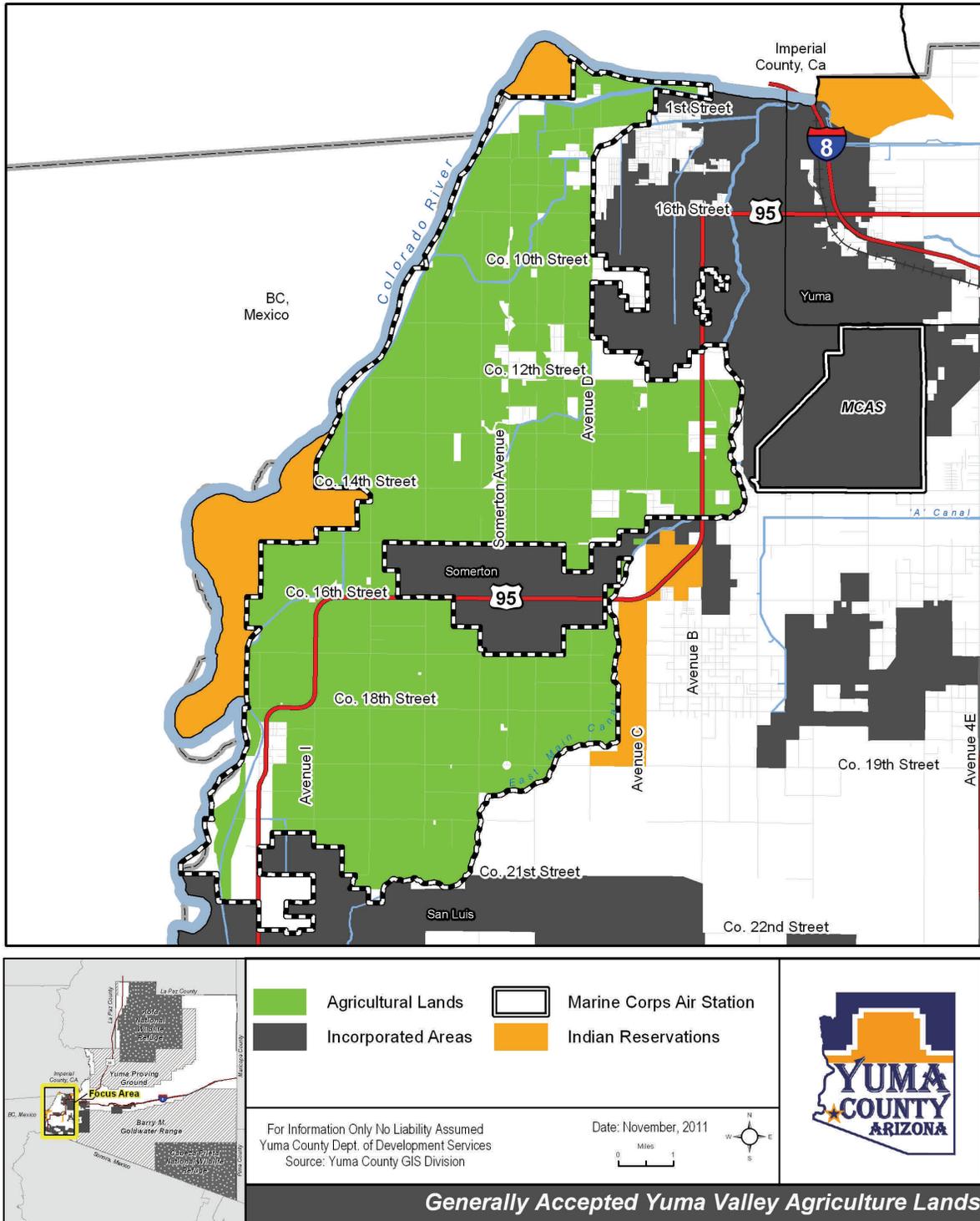
Map 4: Flight Tracks & Overflight Pattern



Map 5: Airport Runway Approach Clearance Map



Map 6: Barry M. Goldwater Range Buffer Zones



Map 7: Yuma Valley Agriculture Lands



