



2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



*Effective March 27, 2023
Includes Amendments through April 9, 2025*

Yuma County Board of Supervisors

Martin Porchas	District 1
Jonathan Lines	District 2
Darren Simmons	District 3
Marco (Tony) Reyes (Chairman)	District 4
Lynne Pancrazi	District 5

Yuma County Planning & Zoning Commission

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Danny Bryant (Chairman)	District 3
Matias Rosales	District 4
Gary Black	District 4
Bobbi McDermott	District 5
A-J Mosqueda	District 5

Prepared by Yuma County Department of Development Services

Craig Sellers, P.E, CPM	Director, Department of Development Services
Maggie Castro, AICP	Director, Planning & Zoning Division
Juan Leal-Rubio	Senior Planner
Javier G. Barraza	Senior Planner
Anson Lihosit, AICP	Senior Planner
Jesus Carrillo	Associate Planner
Jose Guzman	Associate Planner
Amber Kelly	P&Z Administrative Specialist
Isabel Jimenez	GIS Analyst II, Information Technology Services
Diana Veloz	Community Planning Manager, Grants Division
Andrew Zollman	Business Librarian, Library District

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section One—Overview	Section One
1.1 Purpose	1
1.2 Legislative Authority	1
1.3 Scope	1
1.4 Plan Organization	2
1.5 Plan Utilization	2
1.6 Core Concepts	3
Section Two—Introduction	Section Two
2.1 Purpose	4
2.2 Evolution of the Plan	4
2.3 Public Participation Approach	5
2.4 Designated Planning Areas	5
Section Three—Land Use Element	Section Three
3.1 Demographics and Existing Land Use Patterns	8
3.2 Land Use Designations	56
• North Gila Planning Area	
• Yuma Mesa Planning Area	
• Northwest Yuma Planning Area	
• Gila Valley Planning Area	
• Foothills Planning Area	
• Yuma Valley Planning Area	
• Martinez Lake Planning Area	
• Dome Valley/Wellton Planning Area	
• Dateland/East County Planning Area	
3.3 Amendment Process and Criteria	73
Section Four—Open Space Element	Section Four
4.1 Introduction	89
4.2 Open Space Inventory	94
4.3 Areas of Concern	104
4.4 Open Space Policies and Priorities	105
4.5 Open Space Actions	106
Section Five—Recreational Resources Element	Section Five
5.1 Introduction	107
5.2 Delineation of Parks	108
5.3 Trails	113
5.4 Yuma County Parks and Open Space and Trail Master Plan	117
5.5 Analysis of Recreational Needs	118
5.6 Citizen Advisory Group Recommendations	121
5.7 Proximity of Parks to People	122
5.8 Recreational Resources Policies and Priorities	127
5.9 Recreational Resources Actions	130

Section Six—Circulation Element

6.1	Introduction
6.2	Transportation Authority
6.3	Roadway Network
6.4	Non-Motorized Facilities
6.5	Railway Network
6.6	Aviation Network
6.7	Visual Corridors
6.8	Circulation Policies and Priorities
6.9	Circulation Actions

Section Six

132
134
137
147
152
157
166
166
169

Section Seven—Environmental Element

7.1	Legislative Requirement
7.2	Purpose
7.3	Environmental Plan
7.3.a	Water Quality and Conservation
7.3.b	Yuma 208 Plan
7.3.c	Air Quality
7.3.d	Noise Pollution
7.3.e	Light Pollution
7.3.f	Solid Waste Disposal
7.3.g	Hazardous Materials
7.3.h	Resources; Natural and Manmade
7.4	CAG Recommendations
7.5	Environmental Policies and Priorities
7.6	Environmental Actions
7.7	State and Federal Environmental Laws
7.8	Soils Types, Acreage & Shrink-Swell Potential

Section Seven

170
171
171
171
172
175
175
177
177
177
177
179
188
189
190
191
201

Section Eight—Water Resources Element

8.1	Introduction
8.2	Surface Waters
8.3	Groundwater
8.3.a	Depth to Groundwater
8.3.b	Colorado River Aquifer
8.3.c	Minute No. 242
8.4	Community Water Systems
8.5	Water Adequacy
8.6	Water Resources Policies and Priorities
8.7	Water Resources Actions

Section Eight

202
204
209
212
215
218
220
223
225
225

Section Nine—Safety Element

9.1	Introduction
9.2	Flooding
9.3	Earthquakes
9.4	Storms
9.5	Wildfires
9.6	Aviation Safety
9.7	Law Enforcement and Emergency Services
9.8	Safety Policies and Priorities
9.9	Safety Actions

Section Nine

226
228
232
237
241
244
247
252
253

Section Ten—Energy Element	Section Ten
10.1 Introduction	255
10.2 Existing Conditions	256
10.3 Energy Conservation and Efficiency	261
10.4 Alternative Renewable Energy Sources	262
10.5 Energy Policies and Priorities	263
10.6 Energy Actions	263
Section Eleven—Housing Element	Section Eleven
	264
Section Twelve—Cost of Development Element	Section Twelve
12.1 Introduction	265
12.2 Overview	265
12.3 Growing Smarter and Growing Smarter Plus	266
12.4 Assumptions	266
12.5 Infrastructure Financing Mechanisms	267
12.6 Implementation	268
12.7 Into the Future	269
Section Thirteen—Public Participation Element	Section Thirteen
13.1 Introduction	270
13.2 Regulatory Compliance	270
13.3 Public Information/Public Participation (PI/PP)	271
13.4 Strategies to Strengthen the PI/PP	273
13.5 Amendment Process	274
Section Fourteen—Regional Coordination Element	Section Fourteen
14.1 Introduction	276
14.2 Regulatory Compliance	276
14.3 Promote Regional Coordination	277
14.4 The Regional Community	277
14.5 Yuma Regional Development Plan	279
Section Fifteen—Appendix	Section Fifteen
15.1 Development Evaluation Checklist	294
15.2 Core Contact List	298
15.3 Land Use Conformity Matrix	301
15.4 Glossary	302
15.5 Zoning Comparison Table	314

Section One—Overview

1.1 Purpose

The Yuma County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, herein after referred to as the “Plan”, is intended to accomplish coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the unincorporated area of Yuma County. In accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes Title 11, Chapter 6, Article 1, the Plan was developed guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the area of jurisdiction pursuant to the present and future needs of the county. The Plan was developed to promote conserve the natural resources of the county, to ensure efficient expenditure of public monies and to promote the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the public. The Plan is the official guide for the development of the unincorporated area of Yuma County. The purpose of the plan is primarily as an aid to the county planning and zoning commission and to the board of supervisors in the performance of their duties.

1.2 Legislative Authority

The *Growing Smarter Act* was Arizona’s first growth management legislation and became effective August 21, 1998. In February 2000, part two of the Growing Smarter Act, *Growing Smarter Plus*, was passed and became effective May 18, 2000. Together, these laws form the basis of planned growth management legislation in the State.

Growing Smarter Plus attempts to address problems associated with growth. The legislation strengthened requirements for county planning. Under Growing Smarter Plus, each Arizona county is required to prepare and adopt a new ten-year comprehensive plan. Consequently, the legislation ensures regulated growth.

1.3 Scope

The Plan addresses a wide variety of countywide characteristics, concerns and issues that the impacts of growth will generate. Central to developing the components of the Plan are the core concepts set forth by the *Growing Smarter* legislation and recommended by the *Growing Smarter* Commission.

Yuma County Context:

- Yuma County covers 5,500 square miles
- From 2010 to 2020, Yuma County has experienced a 4% increase in population
- Continued average growth rates would result in county population increasing from 203,881 residents to a projected 212,509 residents by 2030.

1.6 Core Concepts

Yuma County Character—A primary intent of the Plan is to reflect the unique characteristics of the county and to enhance and preserve those qualities. These characteristics include its rural heritage, strategic location, river corridor and a diverse economy supported by bi-national activities including retirement communities, military facilities, government employment and tourism.

Public Participation—In updating the Plan, it was understood that uncoordinated and unplanned growth, combined with a lack of common goals, posed a threat to the future quality of life enjoyed by Yuma County residents. Hence, in adopting *Growing Smarter Plus*, broad-based citizen participation was required to ensure the public's interest was incorporated throughout the process. The Plan includes policies, priorities and actions proposed through extensive citizen participation and designed to be representative of county residents.

Important concepts and high priority items suggested by county residents to provide a framework for the Plan are as follows:

- **Agricultural Lands**—Preserve rural character, encourage the conservation of agricultural lands, and discourage uses that conflict.
- **Transportation**—Encourage efficient and effective transportation systems based on regional priorities and coordinated with county, municipal, State, military and Federal management agencies.
- **Growth Management**—Promote development in areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or could be provided in an efficient manner.
- **Open Space**—Encourage conservation of open space, retention of open space sites and expansion of recreational resources.
- **Property Rights**—Ensure the property rights of landowners are protected.
- **Environmental Resources**—Protect, conserve and enhance environmental resources, access to natural resource lands, air and water quality and availability of water.
- **Economic Development**—Encourage a stable and enduring economic base by planning for adequate land use development.
- **Financial Resources**—Ensure the efficient spending of public funds by analyzing the fiscal impacts of land use decisions.