

SECTION 5.0 CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS

5.1 City Profile

The City of Desert Hot Springs (City) is located in the northwest portion of the Coachella Valley just east of the San Gorgonio Pass. The incorporated city limits of the City of Palm Springs are located approximately two miles southwest of Desert Hot Springs and the City of Cathedral City is about 3 miles to the southeast. The Mission Creek Indian Reservation lies to the north, Joshua Tree National Park is to the northeast, with unincorporated Riverside County lands comprising the remainder of the area immediately surrounding the City. The current City limits encompass approximately 23 square miles. An additional 32.5 square miles are included in the City’s current Sphere of Influence (see *Figure 5.1, City of Desert Hot Springs*). Past development has focused within the existing urban growth area and in the north-central part of the city. New residential and resort development has been predominantly in the western portion of the city and at the eastern end of Pierson Boulevard.

The City is an important provider of affordable housing within the Coachella Valley. The City also has an emerging retirement and second-home market. In the comments provided for this study, the City noted that it has a critical role in the sub-regional economy in providing housing for the workforce for the Coachella Valley. Housing in Desert Hot Springs is more affordable than many other parts of the Valley and the city has become home for many of the service and labor workers. Future residential growth will continue to provide a portion of the shelter for the Valley’s work force.

Desert Hot Springs provides a full range of municipal services including public safety, public works, cultural and recreational, planning and zoning, building and safety, street maintenance, and general administrative services. The Redevelopment Agency (RDA) of Desert Hot Springs plays an important role in the development and redevelopment of under-utilized land along with the elimination of blight. The RDA provides public improvements, encourages rehabilitation and repair of deteriorating structures, and facilitates land assembly and development.

**Table 5.1
Desert Hot Springs Profile**

General Information	
City Hall Address:	65950 Pierson Boulevard Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240 (760) 329-6411 www.cityofdhs.org
Date of Incorporation:	September 24, 1963
Form of Government/Type of City:	Council-Manager/Charter
Area:	23 square miles

5.0 City of Desert Hot Springs

Population:	21,192 (Year 2005) / 53,394 (Year 2030) Average Annual Growth Rate = 6.1%
Operating Budget (FY 2006-2007): <i>*includes General Fund, Community Development Fund, Public Safety Fund</i>	Revenues: \$13,209,660 Expenditures: \$14,190,600
GANN Appropriations Limitation / Percentage:	<i>(The City notes that prior information may have been inaccurately reported; this information should be obtained from the FY 2006 CAFR when available.)</i>
General Plan Update	2001
Services included in this MSR	
Law Enforcement:	Desert Hot Springs Police Department – 1 station, 25 sworn officers
Fire Protection:	Riverside County Fire Department – 1 station
Solid Waste/Recycling:	Desert Valley Disposal (franchise agreement)
Stormwater/Drainage:	Public Works, Riverside County Flood Control
Roadways/Circulation:	Public Works, 90 paved lane miles
Recreation and Parks:	7 park sites/ 1 senior center, 1 recreation staff
Library Services:	1 branch library, Riverside County Library System
Animal Control Services:	Public Services Division, 2 staff
Code Enforcement:	Public Works, outside contract

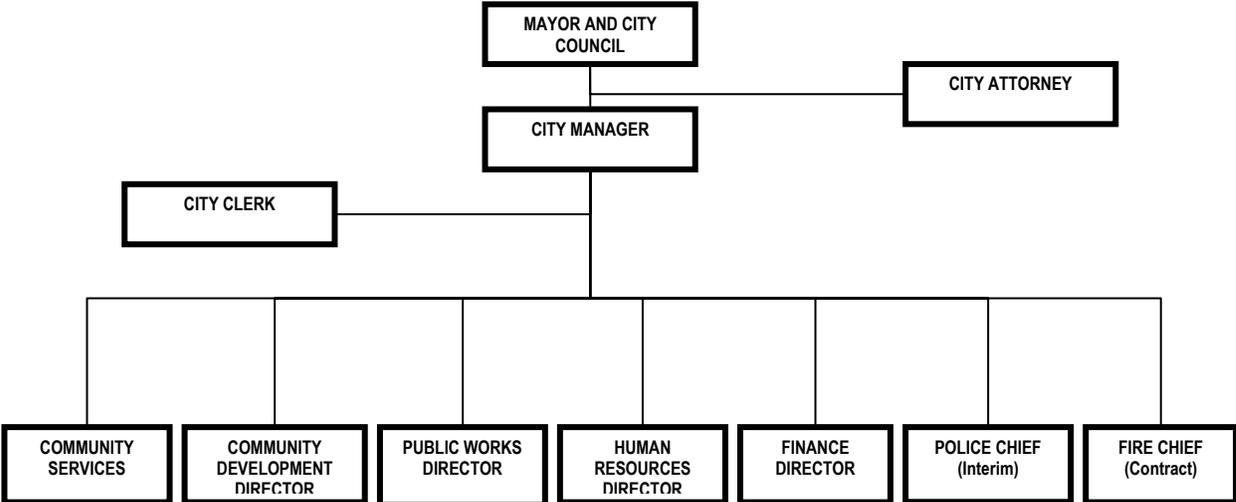
Water and Wastewater Services: The Mission Springs Water District provides water and wastewater services within the city. The Coachella Valley Water District provides services in the City’s SOI to the southeast. These services are addressed in the *Coachella Valley Water and Wastewater Municipal Service Review* (2004).

5.2 Governance

The City was incorporated in 1963 under the General Laws of the State of California and became a charter City in 2003. The City operates under the Council-Manager form of government whereby policy-making and legislative authority are vested in a City Council consisting of the mayor and four council members. The Council is elected on a non-partisan basis. Council members serve four-year staggered terms, with two council members elected every two years. The mayor is elected to serve a two-year term. A measure has been placed on the ballot of the March 2007 Special Election which would change the structure to five elected council members, with the mayor’s position rotating among the five council members. The City Council is responsible, among other things, for passing ordinances, adopting the budget, appointing committees, and hiring both the City Manager and City Attorney. The City Manager is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the City Council, for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the City, and for appointing the heads of the various departments (see *Figure 5.2, City of Desert Hot Springs Organization Chart*). The City Council has regularly scheduled meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Carl May Community Center, 11711 West Drive,

Insert Figure 5.1 – City of Desert Hot Springs

Figure 5.2, City of Desert Hot Springs Organization Chart



Desert Hot Springs. City Council meeting agendas are available on the City's website (www.cityofdhs.org).

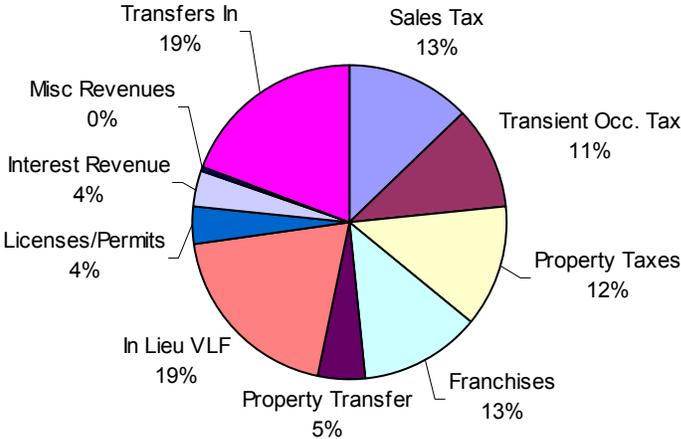
The City has established a Public Safety Commission in order to 1) serve as liaison between the community leaders, citizens and the Police Department, and 2) review budgets and proposal for greater efficiency and effectiveness in the area of public safety. The Commission includes 5 appointed members and an alternate. This Commission serves an important advisory role as the City receives special revenues from several sources that are designated for Public Safety. Other commissions and committees that serve as advisors to the City Council include the following: Community and Cultural Affairs Commission, Planning Commission, Building Appeals/Design Review Board, Housing Committee, and Ad Hoc Annexation Committee.

The City has a history of discordant government leadership, which has impaired its political standing and progress toward creating a solid, diverse economic foundation. Recent Council actions, such as the hiring of an experienced City Manager and appointment of a new City Attorney, indicate that the City is moving in a positive direction; the City's management team has taken decisive steps to address some of these historical issues. The incremental changes being made in city management are providing improved stability and bolstering the City's financial position, such as the recent reduction in force through the elimination of 37 positions. The City Council's support of management in these difficult decisions is positive as well. However, the relationship between the Council members and the Mayor is openly divisive such that over the past several months some City Council meetings have been disruptive to the point that the affairs of the City may not have been adequately addressed. Recently, the City Council has committed to ensuring that Council meetings are a forum for debate of legitimate governance issues, and they are considering opportunities to improve their effectiveness such as working with a group facilitator, training through the League of Cities, and others. Going forward, the City Council has the opportunity to build on the stability being established within city management in order to establish a more solid foundation in governance with which to pursue the City's goals and objectives for financial stability, economic growth, and the provision of municipal services.

5.3 Financial Condition

The primary revenue sources for Desert Hot Springs include sales tax, transient occupancy tax, property tax and franchise fees. Property values within the City and median income are at the lower end of the spectrum for the western Coachella Valley, which limits property and sales tax revenues to some degree. The City benefits economically from its hot springs and related tourism, which is reflected in the transient occupancy tax revenues. The budgeted General Fund revenues for FY 2007 are shown below in *Figure 5.3, City of Desert Hot Springs General Fund Revenues, FY 2007 Budget*:

Figure 5.3 – City of Desert Hot Springs General Fund Revenues, FY 2007 Budget



The City’s Public Safety Fund receives revenues from a parcel tax, ½ percent sales tax, and 5 percent utility users tax, as well as fees and revenues received for police services, fire, code enforcement, and animal control. The monies, along with General Fund revenues, are used to fund all public safety services within the city. The public safety special tax is based on the land use for each parcel and includes provisions for annual increases per the Consumer Price Index. Both the parcel tax and the utility users tax sunset in 2010. The Public Safety Fund revenues budgeted for FY 2007 from the parcel tax, sales tax and utility users tax are approximately \$2.2 million.

Over the past few years, the City has been challenged to operate with a balanced budget. In August 2006, the City Council approved a reduction in force in order to reduce expenditures by approximately \$2.5 million. Even with this change, the FY 2007 General Fund budget is still showing a deficit of approximately \$1.2 million, which will be covered through undesignated reserves.

Table 5.2
Desert Hot Springs Operating Fund Summary

Operating Fund <i>(includes General Fund, Community Development Fund and Public Safety Fund)</i>	2004-2005 <i>(actual)</i>	2005-2006 <i>(projected)</i>	2006-2007 <i>(budgeted)</i>
Revenues	\$12,398,522	\$13,728,330	\$13,209,660
Expenditures	\$8,349,995	\$15,010,010	\$14,190,600
TOTAL Surplus/(Deficit)	\$4,048,527	(\$1,281,680)	(\$980,940)

The Economic Development Element of the City’s General Plan notes that the City “lacks meaningful adjoining or nearby neighboring cities and the economic stimulation they can provide.” It is also noted that there are a wide range of opportunities to build an independent, solid economic foundation, including the hot mineral water resource and related spas and hotels which serve a global market.

In 2004 the City emerged from its Chapter 9 bankruptcy, which was filed in December 2001. The City settled the claim arising from the Silver Sage litigation by negotiating a compromise in the amount of \$8.85 million. With Court approval, on October 14, 2004 the City issued \$9.725 million of Judgment Obligation Bonds and \$3.06 million of Certificates of Participation to pay all claims. The Judgment bonds bear interest ranging from 4.75 to 5.08 percent and mature through May 1, 2044. The Certificates bear interest at rates ranging from 3.0 to 5.75 percent and mature through March 1, 2023. The average annual debt service for these two liabilities is approximately \$743,000 through Year 2010. In December 2005, the City settled a claim of discrimination filed by two employees for \$450,000. Settlement of these issues will eliminate future associated legal costs. With recent changes in city management, it is anticipated that the City will be able to avoid similar claims in the future.

In August 2006 the City adopted a fiscal policy (Resolution 2006-81) with stated objectives to maintain financial solvency, improve financial performance, provide for sufficient cash flow, and provide a reserve for emergencies, among others. The policy includes the following provisions for reserves:

- Maintain adequate reserves for all known liabilities and lease purchases
- Maintain an operating reserve equal to 10 percent of the General Fund operating budget
- Maintain a reserve equal to 25 percent of future capital project costs in order to address variances in project revenues and expenditures

Furthermore, the policy calls for the City to revise its revenue forecast semi-annually in order to enhance the budgetary decision-making process and ensure a balanced year-end budget. The annual budget is to include performance standards for each department and/or program fund.

Per the audited financial statement for FY 2005, the City had long-term liabilities of \$21.7 million, including the Judgment Obligation Bonds and Certificates of Appreciation related to the bankruptcy settlement. Unreserved funds were \$7.4 million. In August 2006, an offering was made for RDA bonds. Standard & Poor's assigned a preliminary rating of AAA, as the issue will have an underlying insurance policy for repayment of principal and interest.

The City's important role in providing affordable housing for the Valley's work force was noted in *Section 5.1, City Profile*. The City projects that the funding necessary to provide municipal services to support this residential development will be derived from sales tax revenues generated within the city, particularly from future development adjacent to the I-10 freeway in area that is now within the City's SOI.

5.4 Projected Growth

Desert Hot Springs ranks fourth in population of the six cities within the study area, but has the highest projected growth rate. *Table 5.3, Projected Population Growth* shows a comparison of the growth of population in the City, in the western Coachella Valley incorporated areas¹, the unincorporated Coachella Valley and Coachella Valley as a whole.

Table 5.3
Projected Population Growth

Area	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Avg. Annual Growth Rate
Desert Hot Springs	21,192	27,708	34,400	41,000	47,325	53,394	6.1%
Western Coachella Valley incorporated areas	186,707	211,028	237,540	263,684	288,742	312,772	2.7%
Unincorporated Coachella Vly	90,668	103,079	126,925	149,159	169,437	187,870	4.3%
Coachella Valley	419,338	470,827	540,105	607,149	670,378	730,001	3.0%

Source: SCAG 2004 Growth Forecast; see note below regarding CVAG projections

The California Department of Finance (DOF) estimates the City’s 2006 population to be 22,011 as of January 1, 2006, which is slightly higher than the SCAG projection. The DOF estimates that the City had 9,184 housing units, with 2.855 persons per household.

In 2005 the City began a planning process in relation to its General Plan that involved the preparation of a background assessment. The *Draft Background Assessment* (July 11, 2005) includes a population projection based on the City’s data for certificates of occupancy. Using this data source, the City projects a population of approximately 86,000 residents in Year 2025, 81 percent higher than SCAG projections. The assessment also projects that approximately 20,000 new dwelling units would be built by Year 2020. Growth of this magnitude would have considerable impacts on public facilities, services and the City’s resources.

Table 5.4, Land Use Acreage Summary, summarizes the land uses within the City and the City’s SOI per the Land Use Element of the City’s General Plan:

¹ Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage

Table 5.4
Land Use Acreage Summary

Land Use Types	Developed Acres	Vacant Acres	%
Residential	4,256	17,894	59.7%
Commercial	224	818	2.8%
Industrial	1,053	3,345	11.9%
Public/Quasi- Public	581	428	2.7%
Open Space	345	8,015	22.7%
Total	6,459	30,500	100.0%

As shown in *Table 5.4* above, the land uses within the City boundary and SOI are primarily residential. The significant projected growth rate will result in increased demand for public facilities and services. Although capital needs can be funded through development fees and assessment districts, municipal services such as drainage, roads and recreation/parks are primarily funded through the General Fund. Public safety is funded partly through special revenues and fees (41 percent) with the balance through the General Fund (59 percent).

Note: On January 29, 2007, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments adopted updated population projections for the SCAG Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Those projections are included in Section 2.0, Regional Population and Growth. The City of Desert Hot Springs has requested that the CVAG projections be considered the primary projections in evaluating future growth for the city.

5.5 Law Enforcement

The Desert Hot Springs Police Department was established in 1997 and operates out of its headquarters at City Hall. The Department operates under a problem-oriented policing philosophy with dedicated staff assigned to work with County agencies on mental health, child protective services, adult protective services and Department of Public Social Services homeless services. They are also focused on abating nuisance properties, including criminal nuisances. (As part of the reduction in force, the City is now contracting for code enforcement services.) The current Police Department staff is as follows:

Table 5.5
Law Enforcement Staffing

Personnel	# of Staff
Sworn Personnel	25
Civilian Employees	14
Reserve Officers	10
Non-sworn Volunteers	19
Total	68
Sworn Personnel per 1000 residents	1.2

The Department responded to 1,323 emergency calls in 2005, with an average response time of 4.4 minutes. The target response time is 3 minutes. Of the six cities in the study area, in 2005 Desert Hot Springs had the highest property crime rate (87.8 incidents per 1,000 residents) and the highest violent crime rate (13.2 incidents per 1,000 residents). The Department is aligning their radio communications with other agencies in the Coachella Valley to reduce response times and improve efficiency. The Department is also working towards establishing a more centrally located police and neighborhood services facility that will be adequate to serve existing and new communities at build-out.

The Desert Hot Springs Police Department's *2004 Strategic Plan* indicates that police officers in the City respond to more crimes than officers in neighboring cities. The Plan projects continued growth in crimes within the City at a rate of 3 percent per year. While the Valley average was 55.25 crimes per sworn officer in 2002, the City experienced a rate of 93 crimes per sworn officer. The objectives of the *Strategic Plan* include the following:

- Reduce the incidence of crime
- Reduce the fear of crime
- Increase quality of service and customer satisfaction
- Increase availability of grants and alternative funding sources
- Obtain accreditation recognition
- Comprehensive equipment replacement
- High quality training for personnel
- Increase diversity of agency personnel
- Develop and maintain acceptable workload for officers

As described in *Section 5.2, Governance*, the City's Public Safety Commission provides oversight for law enforcement services and budgeting. Public Safety revenue and expenditures are accounted for in the separate Public Safety Fund. Because law enforcement is not fully funded by these special revenues the Police Department was evaluated in the force reduction and 8 positions were eliminated (5 sworn and 3 civilian). In October 2006 the City replaced its Interim Police Chief with a new Interim Chief.

Funding for police services has declined over the past three years, from 41 percent of the Operating Fund budget in FY 2005 to 33 percent for FY 2007.

5.6 Fire Services

Desert Hot Springs contracts with the Riverside County Fire Department to provide fire protection and emergency medical services. The City has one fire station within its boundaries located immediately adjacent to City Hall at the corner of Pierson Boulevard and West Avenue. The City’s *Fire Protection Master Plan* identifies four additional stations that will be required in order to meet the five minute response time standard in the future (see *Table 5.6, Desert Hot Springs Fire Stations*). The Plan also calls for relocating the existing station as more space is needed to accommodate staffing and equipment.

**Table 5.6
Desert Hot Springs Fire Stations**

Station	Location	Equipment / Staffing
Station 37	65598 Pierson Blvd.	Two 1,500 gpm Type-1 fire engines, one squad, and one rescue vehicle / 3 on duty
Potential Future Stations		
Stoneridge Station	Pierson Blvd/Worley Road	
Mountain View Station	Mountain View/Far View Roads	
Palm Station	20 th Ave/Palm Drive	
Dillon Station	Dillon Road/Indian Avenue	

The County Fire Department has a target response time of 5 minutes. The 2005 call volume within the City was 3,802, of which 74 percent were for medical aid and 14 percent were for fire suppression. The average response time ranged from 5.6 minutes for fire calls to 6.1 minutes for hazardous materials calls. The highest response times are in the eastern portion of the City.

The current staffing level of Station 37 is three persons on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week with Advanced Life Support or paramedic delivery services. Total staffing includes nine paid personnel; there are also 16 volunteers. The station currently maintains a personnel ratio of approximately 0.42 paid firefighters per 1,000 residents. The *Fire Protection Master Plan* identifies personnel requirements for basic functions carried out by the Department. These requirements include personnel needed to perform plan checks and fire prevention inspections, program management, and clerical support, as well as fire station staffing. The identified staffing level is four firefighters per engine company on duty at all times, four firefighters on duty per truck company, and two firefighters on duty per EMS unit. (It should be noted that few local agencies achieve the 4-on-duty level due to cost.) Equipment includes two engines, a battalion truck, and one squad support vehicle.

To maintain current levels of service through 2025, the Fire Department will need approximately 14 additional fire vehicles and 12,651 square feet of additional building space. Maintaining the existing level of staffing through 2025 will require approximately 22 additional employees. Identified needs over the next five years include:

- additional staffing of the second engine with 3 personnel with paramedic delivery services,
- an additional fire station on the west side of the City to be developer funded (currently in the planning stage),
- an additional station to serve the east side of the city
- the addition of a Fire Safety Specialist position, responsible for assuring adherence to technical fire protection plans, fire defense plans, and supervision of an inspection program.

Development within the City is contributing towards fire service capital needs. The adopted Rancho Royale Specific Plan in the northwestern portion of the City is conditioned to construct a new fire station during the first phase of development. The station will be located west of Highway 62 and north of Pierson Boulevard. The Olympus Specific Plan, located mid-way between existing development and Highway 62, also includes a potential fire station. The FY 2007 budget identifies a \$200,000 development contribution from DR Horton for fire services.

Funding for fire protection services has declined slightly, ranging from 8.7 percent of the Operating Fund budget in FY 2005 to 7.7 percent of the budget for FY 2007.

5.7 Solid Waste

Solid waste collection and disposal is provided by Desert Valley Disposal through a franchise agreement with the City. The contract was renewed in August 2005. Recent rate adjustments were based on the CPI increase and an increase in transfer tip fees. Desert Valley Disposal serves approximately 5,700 residential accounts within the City. All Desert Hot Springs waste is now being transported to the Edom Hill Transfer Station, just east of the City. After arriving at the transfer station, the waste is moved onto larger trucks where it is then moved to the Badlands Landfill, located off the Theodore Road exit on US Highway 60 at 31125 Ironwood Avenue on the east end of Moreno Valley. The Badlands facility is permitted to accept 4,000 tons per day and capacity for waste is projected to last 20 years.

In addition to residential waste, Desert Valley Disposal also provides collection for recyclable materials including aluminum, glass, plastic and paper products, green waste collection which is recycled into a soil amendment which retains moisture, thus reducing water usage, and special waste pickup for items such as e-waste (cell phones, computers, televisions, etc.), tires, universal wastes such as batteries and fluorescent tubes and disposal of large volumes of animal waste.

Per AB 939, the City reported a diversion rate of 11 percent in 2004; the requirement established by the California Integrated Waste Management Board was 50 percent by Year 2000. The City has adopted a Construction/Demolition Ordinance and implemented curbside programs as well as roadside clean-up and community clean-up events. The new management of the City has taken steps to open discussions with the contract hauler to immediately improve the rate of diversion.

5.8 Stormwater Drainage

The Environmental Hazards Element in the City's 2001 General Plan Update states that Desert Hot Springs is profoundly affected by occasionally severe flooding, which has isolated and cut off much of the City from surrounding communities. The Riverside County Flood Control District (District) is responsible for the management of regional drainage within and in the vicinity of Desert Hot Springs, including rivers, major streams and their tributaries, and areas of significant sheet flooding. The District has primary responsibility, in close cooperation and coordination with the City, for managing regional drainage in and around the community, and has also played a key role in the management of local drainage. The City is responsible for small flood control devices, channels, storm drains, culverts and open washes. Maintenance and upgrades to these systems are financed through storm drain fees and drainage assessment districts.

The Mission Creek, Big and Little Morongo Creeks, Blind Creek, and Long Creek are the main drainages in the City planning area. These drainages are substantial in area and are discharged onto relatively steep alluvial fans, generating high velocities. Improvements to these channels was proposed in the *1982 Master Drainage Plan for the Desert Hot Springs Area* with funding provide through local, regional and federal sources including FEMA funds. Some of these improvements were partially completed as of the General Plan Update. In 2005, the City completed 9 repair projects with FEMA funding, primarily to roadways.

A *Storm Drain Master Plan* is currently being updated for the City which will address future needs and deficiencies to reduce the risk of flooding. In 2005, two major flood control levees and one major culvert were constructed. However, a number of needs remain to be implemented including storm drain structures for major thoroughfares and curb and gutter construction for developed older areas of the City. The FY 2006 CIP includes \$751,000 in funding for storm drainage improvements.

5.9 Roads and Circulation

The City is responsible for maintenance of approximately 90 paved lane miles of city streets. In May 2005 the City adopted a Pavement Management Program that includes a current inventory, with street segment conditions, preservation requirements, and budget forecasting. The City's roadways have an average Pavement Condition Index of 53.9 (100 being a brand new street and 0 being a badly deteriorated

street with no remaining life). Preservation strategies include slurry seal and pavement resurfacing. These strategies are intended to halt the deterioration of existing pavement, reduce the backlog of street maintenance work, and improve the overall condition of the roadway network. The City has upgraded the CIP program and CIP Maintenance Program and adopted new practices for ongoing maintenance and road service. The City notes that the Capital Maintenance Budget has been reduced; with the increasing inventory and infrastructure for public streets it will be a challenge to maintain existing roads as well as new roads and infrastructure. Street maintenance is funded with state gas tax monies; for FY 2006 approximately \$458,000 was budgeted. Capital improvements are funded through development impact fees, Measure A revenue and other sources.

The channels and washes which drain stormwater from the local mountains require the construction of all-weather crossings to maintain accessibility during major flooding. Currently, only Pierson Boulevard has a bridge providing all-weather crossing over Mission Creek. Highway 62 has low-flow facilities where it crosses numerous washes, but these are not adequate for flooding associated with major storm events. The Circulation Element of the City's General Plan notes that this is an issue of concern, and it may be necessary to construct all-weather bridges at these crossings.

Other issues related to roads and circulation include preservation of capacity, securing right of way, and pedestrian access. The past design and construction of sidewalk facilities has been "inconsistent, disjointed and unconnected". The City is planning to construct missing sidewalk segments and will place an emphasis on pedestrian safety and accommodation for future projects.

The City has funded an effort to address the full range of circulation issues. As the City expands its overall ability to fund circulation improvements through developer agreements, grants and fees, circulation improvements addressing both convenience and safety will be prioritized.

Public Transportation. Created in 1977, the SunLine Transit Agency provides public transit service within the City. One route currently services the City. Funding for SunLine Transit comes from a variety of sources, including sales tax revenue from the Transportation Development Act, passenger fares, advertising on buses and bus shelters, and Federal funding through the Federal Transit Administration.

5.10 Parks and Recreation

The City provides parks and recreation services through the Community Services Department. *Table 5.7* summarizes park facilities within the City:

**Table 5.7
Desert Hot Springs Park Facilities**

Park Name	Acreage	Amenities
Wardman Park	6.6	Recreation bldg, ball field, playground, tot lot, youth center, swimming pool, tennis courts, volleyball
Mission Springs Park	12.0	Lighted ball field, soccer field, multi-use field w/baseball backstops, room for 2 add'l soccer fields
People's Park	0.5	Grass, picnic tables
Corsini-Eastside Park	21.02	Picnic tables, mature trees, turf, nature trails
Hot Springs Park	3.0	2 sets of hot springs, information, plaza, participatory fountain, turf area
Constitution Park	.025	Trees/turf, outdoor chess tables
Arroyo Park	3.97	2 tennis courts, basketball court, roller hockey area, tot lot, picnic areas
Total	47.1	

The City has reciprocal privileges with the Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) for recreational use of the high school site. The Desert Hot Springs Boys and Girls Club also has a facilities use agreement with PSUSD to use district facilities for youth programs.

The eight city parks currently total 47.1 acres. The current level of service for parkland is 2.22 acres per 1,000 residents. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommends 3.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Bringing the City's parks inventory up to the NRPA recommended level of service would require the addition of 16.3 acres of parkland. Parkland can be funded in part through the Quimby Act, which was established by state law in 1965 to allow cities to require new residential development to provide park land or to pay in-lieu fees for purchase of parkland. Residential subdivisions must dedicate park land or pay an in-lieu fee to enable the City to acquire park land on a ratio of three (3) acres of parklands and facilities per 1,000 residents. The number of residents projected for new residential uses is generally based on the most recent 2000 Census data for average household size. The City is preparing a Quimby Ordinance to improve the ratio of parkland per resident and is committed to increasing the amount of parkland in the City. The FY 2006 CIP included \$825,000 for park development (improvements to Coyote, Wardman and Arroyo Parks), and \$674,000 for land acquisition and design for an aquatic center.

The City notes that park facilities and acreage are inadequate for the population. Challenges identified include having enough equipment and land for future park space and budget constraints on future recreational facilities where programs could be held. As part of the reduction in force, the City eliminated four recreation positions that were vacant, with one remaining staff to manage all recreation programs. The City contracts for personnel to operate special events, athletic programs, and a summer swim

program at the Boys and Girls Club. The City has a Senior Services Center Coordinator staff position as well as related expenses to operate the Senior Center.

5.11 Library Facilities

The Desert Hot Springs Library is a branch of the Riverside County Library System. The library is located within a 3,500 square foot county-owned complex adjoining the Carl May Center. As of June 2004, the library at Desert Hot Springs had 32,985 volumes. In addition, the library offers seven computers for use by patrons. The library experiences very high usage and is considered undersized for the needs of Desert Hot Springs. However, there are no current expansion plans. Staff allocation for the library is one full-time employee and four part-time employees in addition to volunteers.

While Riverside County does not mandate a set level of service for library services, the Schools and Libraries Element of the City's General Plan cites an unadopted standard of 2 volumes and 0.5 square feet of library space per resident. Current library facilities fall well under that desired level of service, providing 1.5 volumes per resident and 0.16 square feet of library space per resident. The City would like to incorporate a new library as part of the proposed future Civic Center.

5.12 Animal Control

The City of Desert Hot Springs provides its own animal control services. Services include assistance with nuisance animal problems, pickup of dead animals, pick-up and veterinary service for injured pets, if the owner can't be located, bite reports, enforcement of animal laws and ordinances, and transportation of stray or abandoned animals to the animal shelter. The City currently staffs animal control with 2 full-time staff and has a single animal transport vehicle (2005 Ford F-250 with box). The City has a privately operated "no-kill" animal shelter called Save a Pet, Inc., located at 37-600 18th Avenue. The nearest animal shelter operated by a public agency is the Riverside County Animal Shelter located at 72-050 Pet Land Place in Thousand Palms, approximately 14 miles southeast of Desert Hot Springs. The City notes that staffing and equipment levels will need to increase commensurate with the growth in population in order to maintain adequate animal control service levels.