

Utilities, Facilities & Services

Aspiration

Foster equitable, efficient, accessible and resilient utilities, facilities and services networks that protect public health, sustain environmental quality, support economic development and facilitate new housing.

Goals

- Goal 1. Evolve coordinated planning, investment and operations across all utility, facility and service systems.
- Goal 2. Increase the efficiency and reliability of utilities, facilities and services.
- Goal 3. Maintain and enhance the sustainability and resilience of utility and service systems.
- Goal 4. Diversify and incentivize the efficient, affordable and equitable delivery of utilities, facilities and services.
- Goal 5. Expand utilities, facilities and services in planned growth areas and existing settlements.
- Goal 6. Limit adverse visual, cultural and environmental impacts from utilities, facilities and services.

Intent Summaries

Goal 1. Evolve coordinated planning, investment and operations across all utility, facility and service systems.

Intent Summary: Coordinated planning and investment across utilities, facilities and services improves efficiency, reduces long-term costs and strengthens system performance. This goal emphasizes alignment among municipal, regional and state partners to ensure infrastructure decisions are made with full awareness of shared needs and impacts. By promoting collaboration, data consistency and joint operations, the region can avoid duplication, better target investments and deliver more reliable services across jurisdictions.

Goal 2. Increase the efficiency and reliability of utilities, facilities and services.

Intent Summary: Reliable and well-functioning infrastructure is essential to public health and safety, economic stability and community well-being. This goal focuses on improving system performance through proactive maintenance, modernization and operational efficiency. By strengthening reliability and reducing service disruptions, the region can lower long-term costs, extend infrastructure lifespan and ensure essential services remain dependable the region.

Goal 3. Maintain and enhance the sustainability and resilience of utility and service systems.

Intent Summary: Utilities and service systems must be designed to withstand changing environmental conditions and long-term risks. This goal prioritizes resilience to climate impacts, natural hazards and resource constraints while promoting environmentally responsible system design and operation. By integrating sustainability and hazard resilience into planning and investment decisions, the region can protect critical infrastructure, reduce vulnerability and ensure continued service under future conditions.

Goal 4. Diversify and incentivize the efficient, affordable and equitable delivery of utilities, facilities and services.

Intent Summary: Equitable access to affordable and efficient services is critical to community stability and quality of life. This goal emphasizes service-delivery models and investment approaches that reduce cost burdens, expand access and address disparities among communities. By supporting innovative, coordinated and cost-effective service strategies, the region can improve affordability while ensuring that all residents benefit from reliable infrastructure and services.

Goal 5. Expand utilities, facilities and services in planned growth areas and existing settlements.

Intent Summary: Directing infrastructure investment to planned growth areas and existing settlements supports compact development, housing

affordability and efficient service delivery while protecting rural landscapes and reducing infrastructure costs. This goal focuses on aligning infrastructure expansion with regional and municipal land use plans to reinforce established communities and minimize the costs of new development. By concentrating investment where capacity already exists or is strategically planned, the region can support growth while limiting sprawl and infrastructure inefficiencies.

Goal 6. Limit adverse visual, cultural and environmental impacts from utilities, facilities and services.

Intent Summary: Thoughtful placement and design of utilities and public facilities can protect community character, natural resources and cultural landmarks. This goal prioritizes siting, design and mitigation practices that balance service needs with protection of valued resources. By minimizing visual, cultural and environmental impacts, the region can meet infrastructure needs while preserving community character, natural systems and historically significant places.