Sharon Allen

From: Perry Brown
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2023 4:10 PM
To: Sharon Allen; Dave Robinson; Pam Gardiol; Doug Clifford; Derek Larsen; Dale Coulam; Michael Haycock
Cc: Perry Brown
Subject: Draft Rewrite of Old Chapter 4 for insert into new Chapter 2
Attachments: Ivins Plan Natural and Cultural Resources .docx

HI—
I made a draft of the old Chapter 4 for inclusion in our new Chapter 2 (per Doug's outline). I rewrote several sentences, added a new section on Dark Sky, and eliminated the policies that now will be melded with our earlier work in a different location. The new Chapter 2 is basic information on population, land use, and now natural and cultural resources.

Feel free to add, subtract ,modify, and edit as necessary as we talk through Chapter 2 of the GP. Hopefully this moves us along a little more.
Perry

Sent from Mail for Windows

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Understanding the natural and cultural resources of Ivins City and its surroundings is important to development of the City's General Plan goals, objectives, policies and actions. These resources offer opportunities and constraints for development and change.

Climate

Ivins is located within the northern extension of the Mojave Desert. Its southwestern setting and modest elevation above sea level give Ivins a desert climate characterized by low humidity, generally clear skies, relatively mild winters, and hot summers. The average annual temperature is 77 degrees Fahrenheit.

Average precipitation is approximately eight inches per year. The City's dry climate attracts many people who experience physical discomfort due to humidity. At the same time, this arid condition places high importance on the availability of water. Because of the relative scarcity of water in the western United States and the cost of its delivery, water has been and will continue to be a key factor in the City's future.

Scenic National and Regional Resources

Ivins region includes the largest concentration of natural recreational and scenic areas in the 48 contiguous states. Within the region are five national parks, five national monuments, two national recreation areas, five state parks, four national forests and four designated wildernesses. Snow Canyon, Gunlock, Sand Hallow, and Quail Creek State Parks are very close to Ivins. The following national parks and national recreation areas are a relatively short driving distance from Ivins: Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, North Rim of Grand Canyon, and Great Basin national parks and Lake Powell and Lake Mead national recreation areas. The Beaver Dam and Red Cliffs National Conservation areas and extensive other Bureau of Land Management administered lands of scenic and recreational value are adjacent to or close to Ivins.

Visually striking red sandstone cliffs, plateaus, and mountains provide a scenic backdrop to the community. The natural beauty of the geological features and vegetation give Ivins a unique character.

Cultural, Religious, and Historic Resources

Ivins is dedicated to supporting a broad understanding of and appreciation for the cultural arts and recognizes the positive impact the arts play in enriching cultural, economic, social, and intellectual life in the community and local schools. Home to a diverse and growing cultural arts community, Ivins recognizes, encourages, and supports the growth of artistic diversity. Additionally, art and cultural events and businesses contribute to the wellbeing of the tourism industry, making them an invaluable partner. Currently, Ivins is home to several festivals and celebrations.

Mormon settlers originally settled the area, and thus The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has been the area's predominant religious organization. The area's growth, however, has brought residents of many faiths, creating a blended culture fostering cooperation and united community support.

Of all people living in Washington County, no others have been here as long as the Shivwits Band of Paiutes. Their ancestors likely entered Utah about 1100 AD. Larger groups settled along rivers and

smaller groups settled near springs. The early Paiutes were primarily hunters and gathers, but some also irrigated fields along the Santa Clara, Virgin and Muddy rivers.

The first Paiute reservation was established in 1891 on 100 acres of land along the Santa Clara River at Shivwits. In the 1950's the Utah Paiutes' tribal status was terminated, causing many problems for the people. During the 1970's payment, at 27 cents per acre, was made to the people for land that was taken away from them years earlier. On April 3, 1980, President Carter signed legislation that restored federal recognition to the Paiutes. This made it possible for the people to again have a tribal council and to receive assistance through federal social programs.

The Shivwits settlement has changed over the years and most of the early homes are gone, and new homes have been built on the east side of the old site. The historical cemetery is still in use. The Shivwits Band and the other southern Paiute remain close-knit, and their culture is important in their being a unique people.

On the south side of Ivins is a significant collection of Native American petroglyphs that likely date from about 800 AD. These petroglyphs and archeologic sites have been preserved by the establishment of the Santa Clara River Reserve, an interlocal agreement between the US Bureau of Land Management, Santa Clara City, and Ivins City.

Hillsides and Geological Hazard Areas

Many of the hillsides that frame the north and south sides of Ivins contain steep slopes which present several particularly difficult problems when subject to disturbance: rock fall, scaring, slope failure, erosion, storm water control, and vehicular access. Geological conditions of the greatest significance include the following:

- Unstable slopes on steep hillsides.
- Moderate earthquake hazard.
- High groundwater in low-lying areas resulting in instability and possible alkali staining.
- Collapsible and expansive soils that may pose a hazard to building structures.

Storm Watercourses

A system of dams was constructed at the base of Red Mountain beginning in the late 1970"s to convey floodwaters around Ivins to Dry Wash and Padre Canyon Wash, with floodwater ultimately entering the Santa Clara River. Storm watercourse areas subject to a 100-year flood (statistically one such flood every 100 years) are mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Dry Washes

Throughout Ivins, dry washes provide a natural storm drainage system carrying storm water to the Santa Clara River. This natural drainage system is also important as visual open spaces, wildlife habitats, and recreation corridors. The largest drainage washes are Dry Wash and Padre Canyon Wash. Smaller washes also should be maintained in a natural state whenever possible.

When natural conditions of a dry wash are disturbed, the wash often is invaded by Tamarisk, a plant that chokes out other vegetation and impedes drainage flows, at times causing flooding. Tamarisk management is necessary to restore dry washes to a healthy state.

Red Cliffs Desert Reserve

Ivins is the only city in Washington County that co-signed, as a management agency, the Habitat Conservation Plan (HPC) for the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. The Habitat Conservation Plan was developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Utah, Washington County, and the municipalities affected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The HPC created a Desert Tortoise Preserve of 61,000 acres, including the northern edge of Ivins. The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve offers many opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of the diverse and fragile environment of Washington County.

Air Quality

The relatively pristine air of Ivins is another of the community's great natural resources and attractiveness. Local air quality usually is excellent. The principal source of air pollution in Ivins is air blown dust, common to many desert environments, but exacerbated by active land disturbance. In the future, automobile emissions might become an increasing problem.

Dark Sky

Due to natural desert conditions, topographic barriers, and Ivin's efforts to manage light pollution, some parts of Ivins have exceptional dark sky characteristics. Dark Sky is becoming recognized world-wide as a valuable natural resource and Ivins has opportunities to maintain conditions in selected areas of the City to benefit from this resource.