



# **Cultural Resources**

## ***ELEMENT E*** **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

***GOAL: Ensure the proper disposition of historical, archaeological, and paleontological resources to minimize adverse impacts, and to develop an increased understanding and appreciation for the community's historic and prehistoric heritage, and that of the region.***

### **Description of Cultural Resources**

This element recognizes the importance of historical, archaeological, and paleontological resources in the City of Irvine and establishes a process for their early identification, consideration, and where appropriate, preservation.

Cultural resources are the physical remains of the City's historic and prehistoric heritage. Historical resources include sites established after 1542 A.D., the date when European contact with California began, which may be significant to history, architecture, or culture. Archaeological resources include any location containing evidence of human activities which took place prior to 1750 A.D. Historical sites established prior to 1750 A.D. are also archaeological sites. Paleontological resources include any location containing a trace of plants or animals from past ages.

Paleontological investigations have shown that the area was previously a marine environment. Archaeological investigations have shown that native Americans arrived within this area about 9,000 years ago. The area's diverse natural resources supported a large population of these native hunters and gatherers. In 1769, the base of the Santiago Hills was first traversed by the Spanish explorer Don Gaspar de Portola. In the 1830s Don Jose Andres Sepulveda began ranching operations. In 1876 James Irvine purchased and consolidated open range land stretching from the Santiago Hills to the Pacific Ocean into the Irvine Ranch. In 1971, the City incorporated, which coincided with the start of urban development of a large portion of the Irvine Ranch.

Because of its past, Irvine has many cultural resources which are protected through the policies established in this Element.

## Existing Conditions

The historic and archaeological sites recorded by previous surveys are illustrated in Figure E-1. There are two sites found in the City of Irvine, Barton's Mound and the Portola Campsite at Tomato Springs, found in the California Inventory. While only two of the historic sites within the City are listed in the California Inventory of Historic Resources, many others qualify. Several of the more important sites may also qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



**Historical Society Museum**

Paleontological investigations of the area have shown that the area (primarily Santiago Hills and San Joaquin Hills) is rich in scientifically important resources including numerous fossil deposits formed in a marine environment. The City is divided into zones according to the likely occurrence of important paleontological resources. These zones are shown on Figure E-2, Paleontological Sensitivity Zones.

## Trends

With large areas of the City and sphere of influence still undeveloped, the opportunity

exists to identify cultural resources of significance and develop programs for their appropriate disposition. The Irvine Company has conducted archaeological surveys covering major portions of its property. While these surveys are continuing, the opportunity exists for the City to ensure that allowances are made within proposed development plans for the proper disposition of the resources discovered.

Future loss of some cultural resources should be anticipated since alternative uses for many of the existing sites have been designated on the General Plan Land Use diagram. In addition, planned urban uses surrounding historical sites may adversely affect its historical value by altering their traditional settings. Urban uses may also raise surrounding land values so that it becomes economically unfeasible or incompatible for historic uses to remain. Widening of existing roads may also have a negative impact on existing cultural resources. The area of Barton's Mound, a state historical landmark, was destroyed as a result of construction of the San Diego Freeway.

With the large number of known archaeological sites existing in the City and sphere of influence, and their sensitivity to urban development, destruction or covering of some of these sites should be expected to occur as well. The greatest impact would be in Upper Newport Bay and the Santiago and San Joaquin Hills where large concentrations of important sites are found.

### *Paleontological Sensitivity Zones*

To develop Figure E-2, known fossil occurrences were identified and plotted. The locality information and past fossil production in adjacent areas was used to develop zones of similar paleontological potential or sensitivity. Four paleontological sensitivity zones were developed to group rocks with similar paleontological potential.

Each zone reflects the potential for the discovery of significant fossil resources during development of a site. The proposed use of the site does not greatly affect paleontologic resources; it is the mass grading of sedimentary rocks associated with development that affects the fossils. The four sensitivity zones are:

**No Sensitivity:** Areas in this zone contain exposed volcanic rocks.

**Low Sensitivity:** Areas in this zone typically have altered or geologically young rocks exposed at the surface.

**Moderate Sensitivity:** Areas within this zone contain sedimentary rocks with limited histories of producing significant fossils. The limited histories may reflect the lack of fossils or lack of systematic exploration of exposures of these rock units.

**High Sensitivity:** This zone contains sedimentary rocks with well established histories of containing significant fossils.

Source: City of Irvine Master Environmental Assessment Appendix D.

### **Identification of Issues**

- 1. What system should be used to identify and determine the significance of historical, archaeological, and paleontological resources?**
- 2. Who should fund the investigations, mitigations, and preservation of cultural resources if little public or private funding is available for preservation, and most existing buildings, sites, or potential sites would find it difficult to qualify for available funding?**

## Response to Issues

The following objectives and policies have been established to guide the identification and preservation of cultural resources.

### **OBJECTIVE E-1: HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, PALEONTOLOGICAL SURVEYS**

***Identify and obtain information on the existence and significance of historical, archaeological, and paleontological sites and encourage land use planning which incorporates this information.***

*The following policies support Objective E-1:*

**Policy (a):** Require appropriate surveys and necessary site investigations in conjunction with the earliest environmental document prepared for a project, in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the City's CEQA procedures.

**Policy (b):** Require surveys, prior to discretionary approval, for areas where the possibility of encountering sites exists. Additional specific site investigations may also be required in order to obtain sufficient information to determine the site's significance. The project sponsor shall fund this level of investigation.

**Policy (c):** Require a written report be submitted to the City following a survey or investigation describing the findings and making recommendations as to the site's significance, future disposition, and the amount of further investigation which should be undertaken. Copies of site survey records and reports shall be filed with the appropriate clearinghouse.

**Policy (d):** Encourage, if appropriate, removal of all materials collected during the survey/investigation to local museums, universities, or other depositories providing access for public review or scientific research.

**Policy (e):** Funding of Archaeological Excavations: Use the following in the case of archaeological salvage excavations: 75 percent project sponsor; 25 percent City or other public or quasi-public agency or organization. The costs of other mitigation measures may also be shared by the landowner or developer, the City, and other agencies or organizations.

**Policy (f):** Maintain information on areas surveyed, numbers of sites located, their status and the names and addresses of individuals or organizations knowledgeable of the sites.

**Policy (g):** Maintain specific locations of unprotected sites as confidential information to avoid vandalism and the resultant irretrievable loss of the historic and prehistoric record of the community.

**Policy (h):** Determine the proper disposition of each historical site prior to approval of zoning or discretionary development applications. Disposition determinations shall be based upon a

detailed historical report, including an inventory form, a written evaluation, and slides documenting the building and its location. This information shall be reviewed by staff and the approval authority for discretionary development cases. Each historical report shall be filed at the Irvine Historical Museum and the City of Irvine Community Development Department.

**Policy (i):** Buffer and protect the integrity of an historic site and/or resources contained therein, if the Planning Commission, during review of a discretionary development case, determines preservation is required.

---

## **OBJECTIVE E-2: HAZARD OCCURRENCE**

***Evaluate surveyed sites for their present and potential cultural, educational, recreational, and scientific value to the community and the region, and determine their proper disposition prior to the approval of any project which could adversely affect them.***

---

*The following policies support Objective E-2:*

**Policy (a):** Ensure that sites determined to be significant are protected through the City's planning policies, ordinances, approval conditions, and mitigation measures.

**Policy (b):** Encourage the nomination of significant historical sites to the National Registry of Historic Places.



**Old Town Irvine**

**Policy (c):** Include sites which are appropriate for educational or recreational purposes as an integral part of either public or community facilities or as part of the Citywide bikeway, pedestrian, and equestrian trail systems. Encourage agencies, organizations, and individuals to develop interpretive and educational programs in order to properly utilize the site for the benefit of the entire community.

**Policy (d):** Ensure that appropriate staff is available to act in matters relating to the implementation of this element to include identification of costs, and to coordinate the investigation and disposition of sites between City departments and Commissions, The Irvine Company, and other agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals.

**Policy (e):** Determine the methods and means of preservation on a case-by-case basis according to a site's importance

and disposition methods available. These may include public or private acquisition or one of the following, provided extreme care is exercised not to adversely affect the site:

- Including the site within greenbelts, parks, open space spines, preservation areas or other open space.
- Covering surface or sub-surface sites by adequate fill, pavement, or buildings.
- Using the site for nondestructive public interest or educational purposes, such as museums, interpretive centers, or outdoor classrooms.



**Farm House – Old Town Irvine**

- Moving buildings for preservation as part of a consolidated historic site.
- Using significant historic buildings in a preserved state as a part of their functional capacity (e.g., a building preserved and used as an office, restaurant, or home).

**Policy (f):** Encourage site preservation through economic incentives such as increased building densities, reduced taxes, credit toward park dedication, or reduction of other amenity requirements.

Where incentives are not sufficient, the land owner shall be directly compensated by the City or other public or quasi-public agencies or organizations for land preserved as an archaeological, paleontological, or historical site. The costs of site preservation may be the principal responsibility of the City, other public, or quasi-public agencies, or other organizations.

**Policy (g):** Ensure that adverse impacts of a proposed project on cultural resources are mitigated in accordance with CEQA, as well as other appropriate City policies and procedures, where preservation of a significant site is not practical.

**Policy (h):** Assign the Community Services Commission the responsibility to oversee implementation programs for sites or buildings which have been acquired by the City.

**Policy (i):** Identify and implement revenue sources which can be expended in support of this objective.

**Policy (j):** Undertake a comprehensive survey to inventory the remaining historical resources within the City of Irvine incorporated territory and adopted Sphere of Influence, including the location and significance of all remaining tenant farm homes over 50 years of age. This survey shall be used to determine the appropriate disposition of the resources located within any area not designated for preservation as a historical resource.

### **RELATED OBJECTIVE NUMBERS**

The following objectives are related to the Cultural Resources Element:

Land Use Element - A-6

Public Facilities and Services Element - G-1

Conservation and Open Space Element -L-5,  
L-7



Figure E-1

# HISTORICAL/ ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDMARKS

## LEGEND

- City Sphere of Influence
- ◆ Existing Sites
- Formerly Existing Sites
- ▼ Landform Site

1. LAMBERT RESERVOIR
2. FIRST IRVINE OFFICE/  
RANCH HEADQUARTERS
3. IRVINE FAMILY HOME  
SITE AND GARDENS
4. C.F. KRAUS RESIDENCE
5. IRVINE EMPLOYEE  
HOUSING
6. IRVINE COMMUNITY  
CENTER/PUBLIC SCHOOL
7. IRVINE BEAN WAREHOUSE
8. EAST IRVINE GARAGE AND  
SERVICE STATION
9. A.T.S.F. STATION,  
EAST IRVINE

10. EAST IRVINE POST OFFICE/  
GENERAL STORE/BLACKSMITH SHOP
11. DIRIGIBLE HANGARS  
"LIGHTER THAN AIR" BASE
12. LIVE OAKS, LAGUNA CANYON ROAD
13. SITE OF MICHELSON VACCUM TUBE  
(SPEED OF LIGHT EXPERIMENTS)
14. FIRST HOME IN UNIVERSITY PARK
15. FRENCH HILL
16. MARTIN AIRPORT (ORIGINAL SITE  
OF ORANGE COUNTY AIRPORT)
17. SAN JOAQUIN MARSH/PEAT BOGS
18. BOMMER CANYON CATTLE CAMP
19. URBANUS SQUARE  
(OLD BUFFALO RANCH)

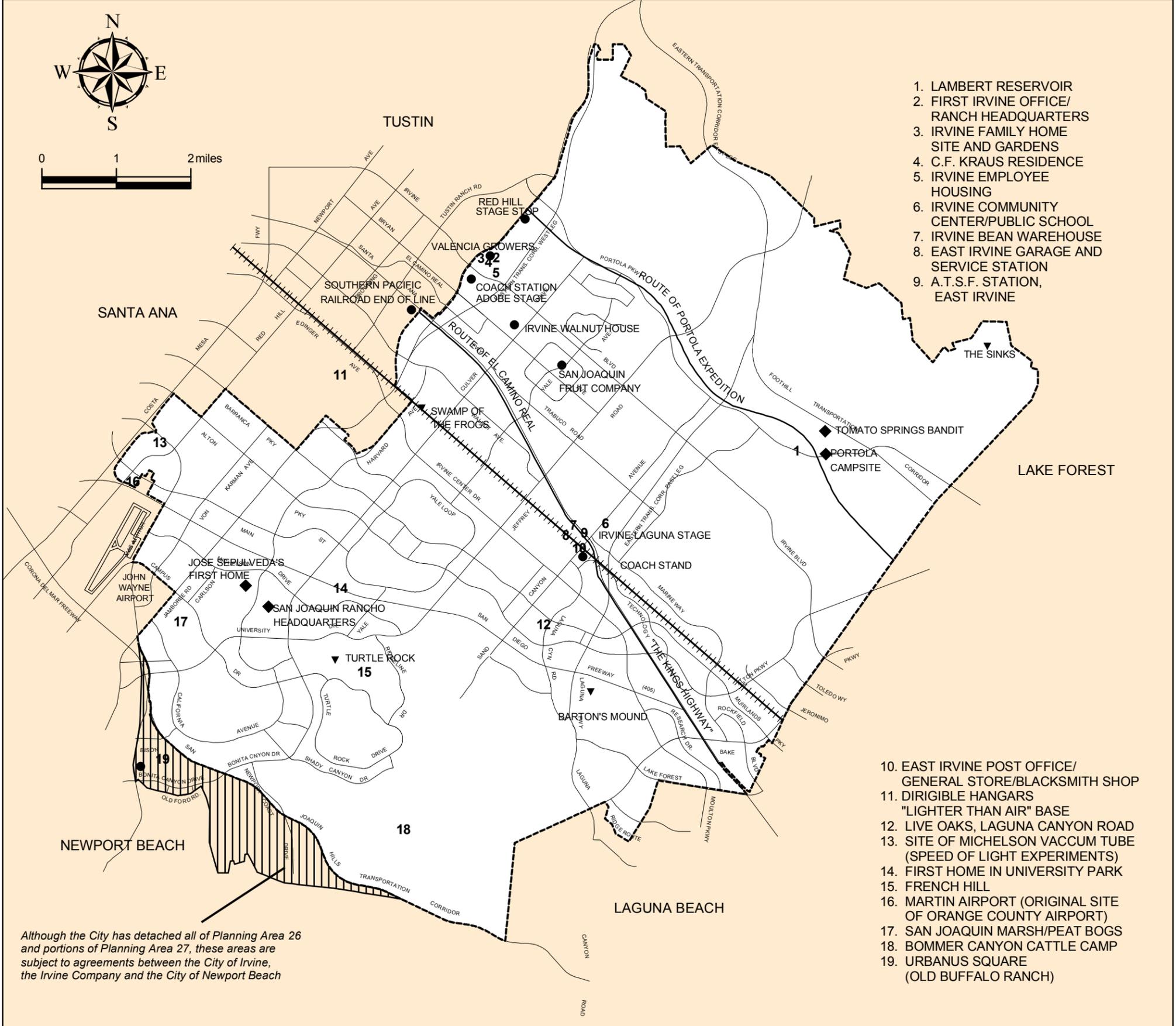


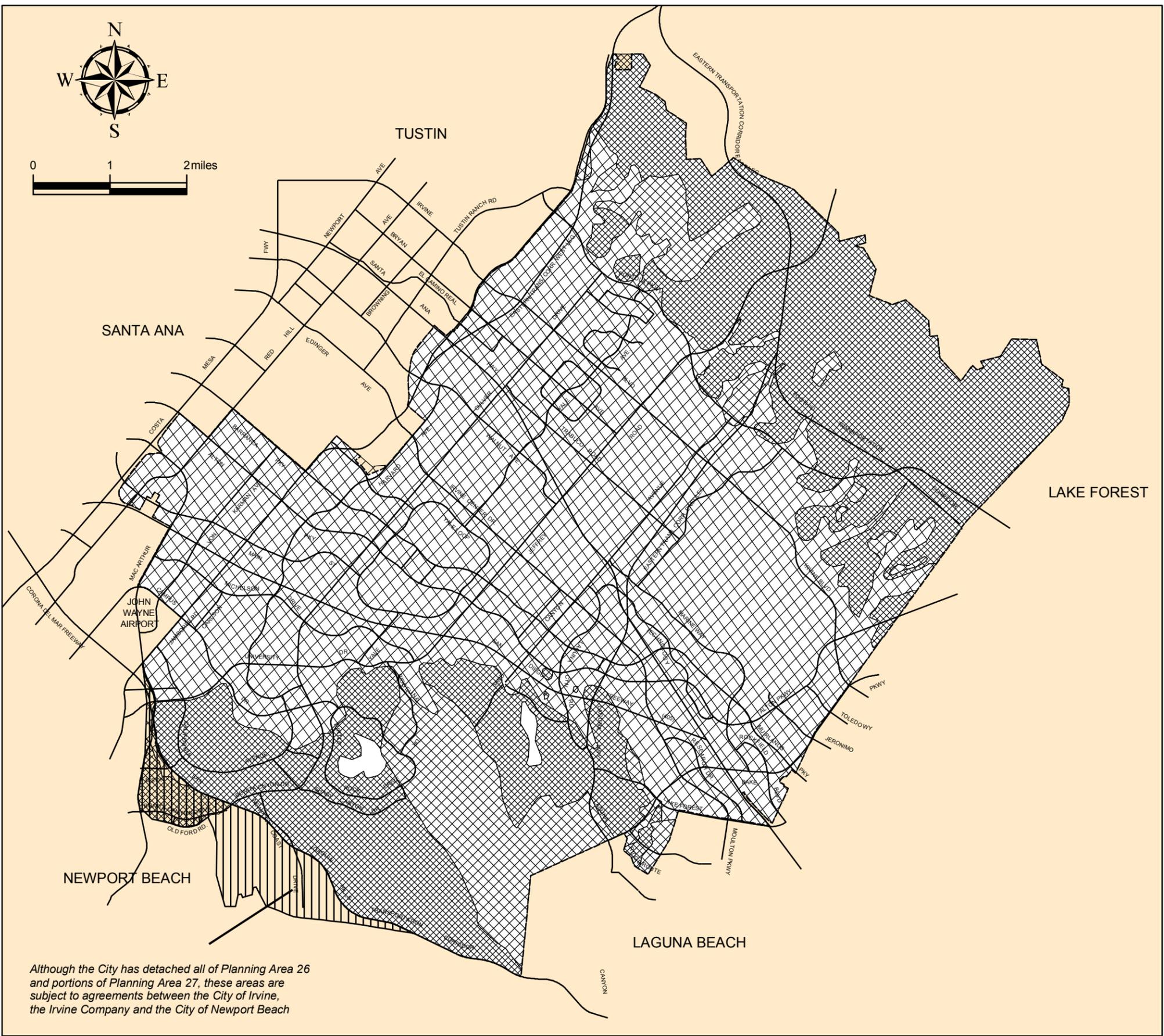


Figure E-2

# PALEONTOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY ZONES

## LEGEND

-  None
-  Low
-  Moderate
-  High



Although the City has detached all of Planning Area 26 and portions of Planning Area 27, these areas are subject to agreements between the City of Irvine, the Irvine Company and the City of Newport Beach