

# Lake Pleasant Heights

Specific Area Plan Amendment

# Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan

## **Proposed Major Amendment**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Submittal*  
*November 13, 2012*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan is a master development plan for a mixed-use project on approximately 3,268 acres of land located in north-central Peoria. The intent of the Specific Area Plan is to refine the land uses outlined in the City of Peoria General Plan within the planning area and to provide additional detailed planning intended to set land use, transportation and public facility expectations for the specific area. The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan will provide an enhanced level of land use, transportation and public facilities planning within the planning area in an effort to encourage the development of an efficient, contextually appropriate, and balanced land use program for the planning area

The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan proposes a land use distribution containing a mixture of estate, low, medium, medium high, and mixed use residential land uses as dictated by the sites topography, sub-regional commercial nodes, appropriate supportive public facility land uses such as elementary schools and neighborhood parks in addition to natural area open space. The specific plan proposes land uses that capitalize on the areas proximity to the planned El Mirage Roadway and its planned connection to State Route 74 to the north; the areas proximity to the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal; the areas scenic location; abundant natural desert features of the land and the opportunities to encourage the development of a master planned community in this fast growing area of Peoria. The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan seeks to lay the foundation for the development of a high-quality desert sensitive master planned community that integrates with the surrounding environment and adjacent planned development.

Section 9-461.08 of the Arizona Revised Statutes establishes the authority under which Specific Plans may be prepared within an incorporated city or town. Section 9-461.08 establishes that Specific Plans may be prepared in support of the General Plan and recommended by the planning body to assist in the systematic implementation of General Plan. It is the intent of this Specific Plan to assist in the implementation of the City of Peoria General Plan by providing an enhanced level of land use planning for the subject area and to provide a refined level of analysis in the areas of transportation and public facilities planning.

The plan area contains approximately 3,268 gross acres of land and is located approximately three-quarters of a mile south of State Route 74 in north Peoria. The general boundaries of the planning area are the Joy Ranch Road alignment on the north, the 115th Avenue Road alignment on the east, the Lone Mountain Road alignment on the south and the 123rd and 131st Road alignments on the east. The Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal bisects the southern portion of the site. In addition to providing an enhanced level of planning for the private property located within the planning area, the Plan contains land use planning guidance for three parcels of land held by the general public as State Trust Lands. The plan area is located entirely within the jurisdiction of the City of Peoria.

As indicated above, the primary purpose of the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan is to refine and lend definition to the land use planning for the area contained within the General Plan.

The goal of this planning effort is to recommend a land use plan that will provide adequate opportunities for a diversity of housing types, supportive commercial uses and economic development opportunities, while maintaining sensitivity to the natural environment and capitalizing on the existing natural features at the site. It is envisioned that this Specific Area Plan will be the basis for future rezoning and development of the site. This Plan is divided into seven major sections:

- **Section I - Introduction:** Provides an overview of the proposed plan and outlines the purpose and authority under which it has been prepared;
- **Section II - Site Analysis:** Provides background and support information for the land within the plan area;
- **Section III - Relationship to Existing City Plans:** Provides an outline of the relationship of this plan to existing City of Peoria plans such as the General Plan, the Desert Lands Conservation Master Plan, and the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan;
- **Section IV - Land Use Element:** Provides and sets forth the proposed land use plan, the proposed land use classifications, densities and intensity of use and outlines a conceptual phasing plan for the property;
- **Section V - Transportation Element:** Provides the proposed circulation pattern for the site and discusses vehicular and non-vehicular access within and through the site;
- **Section VI - Public Facilities Element:** Provides the general strategies for the provision of the public facilities necessary to respond to the projected demands of the community based on build-out of the Plan. The Public Facilities Element discusses the provision of such items as water and wastewater service, drainage, schools, fire, police, parks and open space.
- **Section VII - Future Entitlements:** This section of the document discusses future actions on the site necessary to implement the provisions of this Specific Area Plan.

## II. SITE ANALYSIS

### A. Site Characteristics

The Lake Pleasant Heights property is located within the north central portion of the City of Peoria. The entire planning area is located within the corporate boundary of the City and has been included within the City of Peoria General Plan. The planning area is currently undeveloped and is surrounded by additional undeveloped desert lands. The property is located approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile south of State Route 74 and contains no existing developed roadway facilities or developed structures. The location is shown graphically on Figure 1, Regional Vicinity Map.

Lake Pleasant and the Lake Pleasant Regional Park are located approximately 1-  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of the property. The property enjoys substantial views to the south and west. The landforms and vegetation found within the plan area are typical of those found in the upper Sonoran landform. The property contains significant stands of Saguaro cactus, various species of Cholla cactus as well as isolated groupings of mesquite and ironwood trees clustered along the wash corridors. Animal species common to the site include those animals common to the Sonoran and upper Sonoran desert environments and include such mammals as the coyote and jackrabbit, birds (species such as dove and quail), and various reptile species including the rattlesnake. Due to the limited amount of rainfall and the dispersed vegetative pattern on the site, animal densities tend to be low and isolated with few large mammals frequenting the site.

### B. Existing Land Use and Zoning

The area contained within this Plan is composed of generally undisturbed desert lands. Historical uses of the property have included limited cattle grazing and limited mineral exploration activities. Today, the site is vacant, undeveloped desert with no developed structures or features on the site. Numerous un-organized dirt roads exist on and through the property. The only major developed feature is the CAP canal located in the southern portion of the site. The existing land use and zoning is shown graphically on Figure 2, Existing General Plan / Specific Area Plan / Land Use and Zoning.

The site is currently zoned Z03-05 Lake Pleasant Heights PCD.

### C. Site Topography and Slope

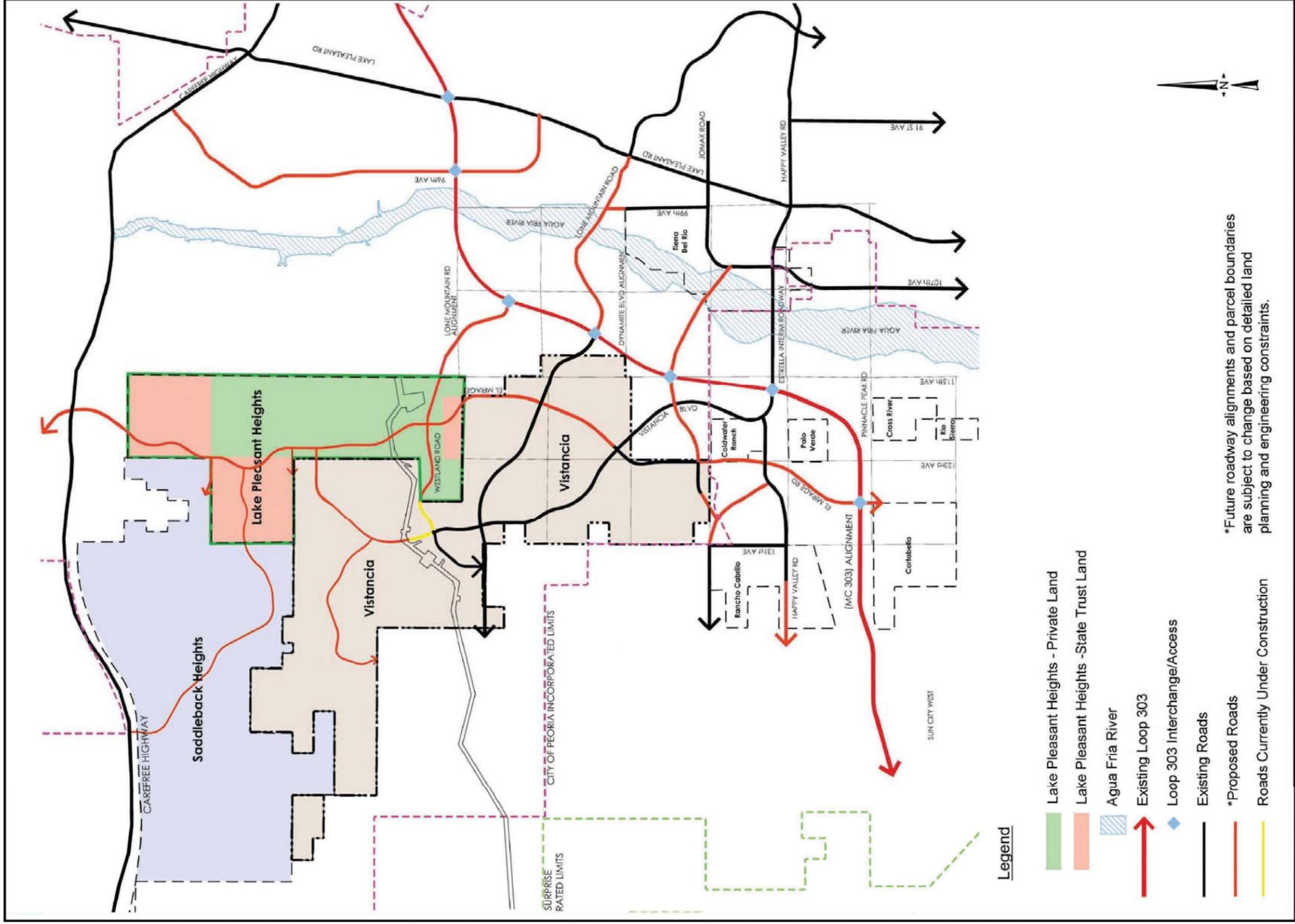
The Lake Pleasant Heights planning area contains some of the most beautiful and significant natural features within the City of Peoria. The topography of the planning area can be characterized as upper Sonoran desert containing numerous valley areas of low slope and low to moderate vegetation densities with defined ridges and landforms containing areas of moderate to high slope with moderate vegetation densities. The site contains numerous rock outcroppings and landform features and numerous wash corridors supporting moderate stands of desert riparian vegetation species. The site contains portions of the southern end of the Hieroglyphic Mountains, the Caterpillar Tank and the natural wetlands area known as Big Springs. Significant peaks within the area include Saddleback Mountain located northwest of the site and Twin Buttes located west of the site. The site does not contain any major mountain peaks but is characterized by multiple ridges within the eastern and northern portions of the site.

**Figure 1 - Regional Vicinity Map**

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DATE: 11/5/12



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**LAKE PLEASANT HEIGHTS  
 SPECIFIC AREA PLAN**  
 PEORIA, ARIZONA

**FIGURE 1  
 REGIONAL VICINITY MAP**

**Figure 2 - Existing General Plan/Specific Area Plan/Land Use and Zoning**

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**LAKE PLEASANT HEIGHTS  
SPECIFIC AREA PLAN**

PEORIA, ARIZONA



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**FIGURE 2  
EXISTING GENERAL PLAN, SPECIFIC  
AREA PLAN AND LAND USE & ZONING**

The topography of the site generally slopes from north to south and is characterized by a series of ridgelines and valleys. The site ranges in elevation from approximately 1,500 feet above sea level in the south to points of elevation approaching 2,150 feet in the northeast portion of the site. The site is dominated by a large ridgeline extension of the Hieroglyphic Mountains running in a north-south direction along the eastern edge of the property. To the east of the ridge, the Agua Fria River runs to the south from its point of outfall from Lake Pleasant to the north. The slope of the site varies from large valley floor areas of 0-10 percent slope to areas along ridgelines with slopes exceeding 40 percent. The southern portion of the site generally contains slope of less than 10 percent with higher slope areas dominating the northern and eastern portion of the site.

### **D. Site Development Opportunities and Constraints**

The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan provides for a refined level of land use and transportation planning for an area approximately 3,268-acres in size. The current Specific Area Plan is shown graphically on Figure 2, Existing General Plan / Specific Area Plan / Land Use and Zoning. The planning area is located south of State Route 74 roughly between the El Mirage Road and 115th Avenue road alignments. Contextually, Lake Pleasant Heights is surrounded by proposed master planned developments and the site offers an opportunity to continue the planned development pattern established by the adjacent Vistancia and Saddleback Heights projects. In addition to continuing the opportunities associated with the preparation and approval of detailed planning for the site and the regional area, this Plan will help to assure the integration of future development on the property with those properties adjacent to this planning area.

The planning area encompassed within this Specific Area Plan contains an abundance of natural and locational attributes that provide significant opportunities for the successful development of the property. Locational attributes of the planning area include the proximity of the site to the planned El Mirage Road alignment, the incredible scenery, and views of nearby landforms such as Saddleback Mountain and the Twin Buttes as well as the proximity of the planning area to Lake Pleasant and the Lake Pleasant Recreation Area. The combination of the existing attributes of the site and the thoughtful planning of land uses within the planning area will combine to offer recreational opportunities and quality of life elements for future community residents within the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan.

The adoption of Specific Area Plans and Planned Community District zoning for sites such as the Lake Pleasant Heights Plan area offers opportunities to preserve natural site features and provides the opportunity for the establishment of public recreational opportunities and access into areas that may currently be private holdings. The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan seeks to advance this opportunity through the establishment of land uses which complement the natural desert environment and through the establishment of policies and guidelines designed to encourage the preservation of drainage corridors, jurisdictional washes, areas of significant slope and various other open space areas. In contrast, to areas not contained within Specific Area Plans or master planned developments, scattered and unplanned development often ignores these physical opportunities thereby limiting the opportunities for public use and enjoyment of the natural landscape and potentially leading to the unmanaged deterioration of natural drainage corridors and other sensitive lands. Through the implementation of focused goals and objectives designed to provide direction for the long term organized management of public, semi-public and private lands, the public can be provided the benefit of enhanced open space, increased public recreational opportunities and reduced impacts to the natural environment. Additional opportunities presented by a planned approach to the development of the Lake Pleasant Heights planning area include the increased opportunity to achieve a balance between land use, transportation and public facilities, the opportunity to respond to land use ratio and standards provided by the Peoria General Plan and the opportunity to respond to design and development guidelines established as part of the Desert Lands Conservation Plan and the City of Peoria Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan.

In addition to enhancing opportunities for the sensitive and appropriate development of the site, the adoption and implementation of a Specific Area Plan for the Lake Pleasant Heights area, increases the opportunities for the planning and development of a logical, cost-effective system of infrastructure based upon a regional approach. Within areas that have been planned as an integrated system through the combined use of master planning, specific area planning, and zoning, infrastructure can be extended and phased in a manner that recognizes economy of scale for the initial installation and ongoing maintenance of the public utility system. The system designer can take advantage of design opportunities to minimize the length of subterranean systems, therefore lessening the public burden for long-term maintenance. At the surface, the extension of the public street system can occur in a planned and logical manner while avoiding development around a system of unpaved streets, which contribute to air quality issues while supporting State and Federal Air Quality goals. To permit unplanned development across the entire planning area, as characterized by the current zoning, would be less advisable, less desirable and may have the potential to increase the cost of maintaining the public infrastructure system.

Possibly the biggest constraint to the development within the Lake Pleasant Heights planning area will be the physical extension and phasing of the public infrastructure system. Due to the isolated nature of the site, roadways and water and wastewater facilities will need to be extended into the area. To address these issues, the Applicant has proposed comprehensive plans for the startup, growth, and long term provision of these services as outlined in greater detail within this plan.

### **E. Development Trends**

Recent development trends within the northern areas of the City of Peoria and the areas surrounding the planning area have been focused on the preparation and adoption of master planned communities and planned community districts with a mixture of residential densities, commercial land use intensities, employment nodes and community facilities. The adoption of this Specific Area Plan Amendment will continue the trend toward the development of balanced master planned communities. There are two master planned communities located adjacent to or in close proximity to the Lake Pleasant Heights planning area. These include the planned Vistancia (previously referred to as Vistancia South and Vistancia North) and Saddleback Heights projects. The re-adoption of this Specific Plan will help to assure that all of the remaining private and semi-public lands within the north-central portion of the City of Peoria will be planned, balanced communities that recognize the planning efforts that are taking place on the adjacent properties.

Other major developments within the City of Peoria have recognized the opportunities presented through the Specific Area Planning process or the planned community zoning process to assure that future development of the specific site is done in such a manner as to benefit the citizens of Peoria. These include the Westwing Mountain and Sonoran Mountain Ranch planned communities, as well as the Camino a Lago Specific Plan area.

In addition to the recent trend toward the planning and development of master planned communities in north Peoria, additional development activities continue to encourage the development in north Peoria. Recent development activities in the area include the following:

- Completion of the Loop 101 high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes;
- Completion of Happy Valley Road from Terramar Blvd. to Lake Pleasant Pkwy.
- Construction of the Lake Pleasant Parkway;
- Construction of the Loop 303 from Grand Avenue to I-17;
- Connection of Lone Mountain Road to the Loop 303; and
- Expansion of the Lake Pleasant Regional Park Boundaries.

These projects have provided new employment and outdoor recreation opportunities in the North Valley and additional pressure in the Lake Pleasant Heights area for a wide variety of housing opportunities and accompanying commercial and recreational activities.

### III. RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING CITY PLANS

#### A. General Plan

The City of Peoria updated the City's General Plan to conform to the requirements of the Growing Smarter and Growing Smarter Plus legislation adopted by the Arizona State Legislature in 1999. As one of the first municipalities to re-adopt their General Plan, the City of Peoria General Plan has set an example for other municipalities within the State of Arizona related to the re-adoption of a municipal General Plan. The General Plan was formally adopted by the Peoria City Council in January of 2001 and was approved by the City of Peoria voters in May of 2001. The General Plan has subsequently been amended several times as provided for in the Arizona State Statutes. The current General Plan is shown graphically on Figure 2, Existing General Plan / Specific Area Plan / Land Use and Zoning.

The City of Peoria General Plan contains numerous Goals, Objectives, and Policies that establish the publicly expressed policy directions of the City related to growth and development. These Goals, Objectives, and Policies were prepared following an extensive public involvement effort and provide a foundation upon which future planning efforts should be based and future land use decision should be measured. The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan has utilized these expressions of public policy in the development of the land use, transportation, and public facility recommendations. This Plan seeks to assist in the implementation of a number of the Goals, Objectives, and Policies outlines in the General Plan and seeks to advance those goals, objectives, and policies through the recommendation of a detailed land use program designed to implement the city's policies. Adoption of the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan will serve as the first step in the implementation of these goals, objectives, and policies.

#### City of Peoria General Plan Land Use Element Goals, Objectives and Policies

##### Objective 1.A:

**Manage and control development to facilitate orderly growth and an efficient urban form.**

##### Policy 1.A.3:

The City shall encourage development to occur as master planned communities with an appropriate mix of land use types in areas where infrastructure is or will be adequate.

*Comment: Through the adoption of detailed planning efforts such as the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan, the City encourages responsible, orderly, and efficient growth predicated on the ideas expressed within the General Plan. Clustering of development within nodes will also provide a more efficient urban form and provide additional open space.*

##### Objective 1.F

**Promote sustainable developments that elevate community identity and convenience, reduce vehicular trips, minimize infrastructure needs, improve air quality and provide a diversity of uses.**

*Comment: The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan Amendment provides for a more sustainable development by clustering complementary land uses in nodes to promote pedestrian-friendly communities.*

**Objective 1.M**

**Provide a diversity of housing types to meet the need of persons of all income levels and ages.**

Policy 1.M.1:

The City shall zone an adequate supply and mix of developable residential land to accommodate future housing needs.

***Comment:** Through the adoption of detailed planning efforts such as the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan, the City of Peoria can tailor growth and manage the use of land to ensure an adequate mix and supply of housing types. The Land Use Plan contained within this Specific Area Plan provides for a range of housing types and products that are responsive to the environment and that facilitate diversity within the community and the project.*

**Objective 1.N:**

**Support healthy residential environments that provide for safe and convenient access, open space and recreational opportunities, access to public schools and services and protection from incompatible land uses.**

Policy 1.N.1:

Require adequate buffering to protect residential neighborhoods from intrusion by incompatible land uses.

***Comment:** The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan Amendment is a master planned development that provides a mixture of complementary land uses.*

Policy 1.N.2:

Ensure that high-density residential developments have direct access to arterial streets without traversing existing or proposed lower density residential areas.

***Comment:** The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan Amendment clusters High Density residential uses in nodes, adjacent to El Mirage Road, and surrounding commercial and public uses.*

Policy 1.N.3:

Locate housing developments in areas that can be adequately served by police, fire and ambulance services.

***Comment:** Development within the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan Amendment provides a fire station site that will adequately serve future residents.*

Policy 1.N.4:

Require adequate provision of open space or direct access to open space in housing developments and, in particular, medium- and high-density multiple-family housing developments.

***Comment:** The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan Amendment provides significant areas of open space that will preserve the surrounding hillsides and ridges. Higher density residential uses are clustered near public parks and a trail network is provided to access the outlying open space areas.*

Policy 1.N.6:

Encourage the development of master planned communities where large land holdings can be designed to provide a wealth of amenities to City residents.

***Comment:** The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan Amendment is the first step in the process of planning for the development of a high-quality, master planned development that advances the city's goals of increasing access to open space, planning for the development of an efficient and effective circulation pattern and planning for the development of a community that maintains an adequate balance of infrastructure and community services to support development without becoming a burden to the balance of the city.*

**Objective 1.0:**

**Support well-designed, high-quality multifamily residential development in appropriate areas which maintains compatibility between adjacent**

Policy 1.0.1:

Support alternate forms of housing, such as attached and detached townhouses and condominiums in appropriate locations.

Policy 1.0.3:

Encourage multi-family housing units adjacent to community level parks and public open space areas.

***Comment:** The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan Amendment provides for a wide variety of land uses, including Medium, Medium High, and High Density Residential uses which are designed around public open space areas and trail networks.*

**Objective 3.A:**

**Develop programs that encourage the clustering of development in exchange for preserved natural open space area.**

Policy 3.A.1:

Open space preservation and planning is equally as important to the City as all other components of development review when considering the appropriateness of development proposals.

Policy 3.A.2:

Encourage creative development patterns to ensure preservation of open spaces.

***Comment:** The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan Amendment clusters development in the flatter, more developable areas of the site, preserving natural open space.*

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**City of Peoria General Plan Circulation Element Goals, Objectives and Policies**

**Goal 1:**

**Provide for a multi-modal transportation system that will serve the community and region in a safe, efficient, cost effective and aesthetic manner while minimizing adverse impacts to neighborhoods, businesses and the natural environment.**

**Objective 1.A:**

**Develop a transportation system within Peoria that is compatible with, and designed to complement, the existing and proposed land uses as provided in the Land Use Plan, without diminishing the efficient movement of people, goods and services.**

*Comment: The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan recognizes and accommodates the development of El Mirage Road, one of the only major north-south transportation corridors in North Peoria. El Mirage Road currently exists on the City of Peoria Land Use and Transportation Plan and will accommodate local and regional traffic within the northern portions of the City of Peoria. The adoption of this Specific Area Plan will complement the City's Transportation Plan by identifying and planning for the development of this major roadway.*

**City of Peoria General Plan Growth Areas Element Goals, Objectives and Policies**

**Goal 1:**

**Promote efficient development areas which support a variety of land uses, conserve natural resources, reduce automobile dependency, and exhibit a logical extension of infrastructure and service capacities.**

**Objective 1.A:**

**Direct attractive development into identified growth areas, creating dynamic urban pockets with diverse economic, housing, cultural and entertainment opportunities.**

**Policy 1.A.2:**

Encourage a mix of land uses within each growth area, including varied housing types and densities, employment opportunities and businesses.

*Comment: The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan Amendment provides for a master planned community with a variety of sustainable uses located in a designated City growth area. Development is clustered into three nodes providing diverse employment, shopping, entertainment, and recreation opportunities, while preserving the surrounding areas in natural open space.*

**B. Desert Lands Conservation Master Plan**

The Peoria City Council adopted the City of Peoria Desert Lands Conservation Master Plan in August of 1999. The purpose of the Plan is to provide an inventory of the existing natural conditions in north Peoria and to establish a series of Goals, Objectives and Policies to assist the City in protection of the natural desert environment. The plan outlines a series of policy options and provides a series of guidelines that may be used by the City in the evaluation of developments within the north Peoria area. The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan recognizes and advances the implementation of the Desert Lands Conservation Master Plan through the thoughtful distribution of open space, the

preservation of major drainage corridors, encouraging development in areas containing slopes of less than 25%, and locating land uses and roadway corridors in those areas of least environmental sensitivity. Adoption of the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan will serve as an important step in the implementation of the Desert Lands Conservation Master Plan.

### **Goal A:**

**Maintain the vitality of the unique Sonoran Desert environment by providing high quality passive and active open space areas, while encouraging development that is sustainable and supportive of the environment.**

### **Objective A-3**

**Promote the establishment of large, intact areas of native vegetation by preventing fragmentation of those areas by development.**

### **Objective A-4:**

**Create a meaningful open space network throughout the study area which is connected to existing and future open space systems.**

*Comment: The Land Use Plan contained within this Specific Area Plan Amendment provides for the preservation of the significant drainage corridors identified within the Desert Lands Conservation Master Plan and seeks to promote the establishment of a connected system of open space corridor. The areas designated for open space on the Land Use Plan have been identified based upon such characteristics as slope and wash corridors and have been located to provide the maximum level of preservation and open space continuity. The Land Use Plan identifies the majority of the open space within the planning area in the northern and eastern portions of the site. The location of large corridors and pockets of open space in this area allows for the interconnection of open space with adjacent areas such as Saddleback Mountain, the Hieroglyphic Mountains and the Agua Fria River.*

### **Objective A-6:**

**Protect environmentally sensitive lands.**

### **Objective A-9:**

**Balance the opportunity for recreation by the public with the habitat needs of wildlife.**

### **Objective A-10:**

**Maintain the natural aesthetic qualities of the area which are visually prominent or offer unique settings.**

*Comment: The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan recognizes the existing natural features on the site and has recommended land uses and transportation corridors that are responsive to the environment. Significant areas have been identified and planned as a protected open space area and the areas of highest slope have been identified as open space on the Land Use Plan. Through the use of the Estate land use category, residential densities have been kept low in areas of increased sensitivity and higher intensity land uses have been planned in those areas of lowest sensitivity. The transportation plan has tried to locate major roadways such as El Mirage Road along corridors that minimize the disturbance of the natural landscape to the maximum extent possible.*

### **C. Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan**

The Peoria City Council adopted the City of Peoria Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan (PROST) in 2006. The stated purpose of the Master Plan is to "...provide a balanced system of conveniently located parks, both active and passive, interconnected paths and trails system, open spaces and multipurpose recreational facilities."

The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan supports the goals and objectives outlined in the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan. A variety of trails have been incorporated into the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan. See Figure 5 Transportation Plan. Additional detail will be provided at the Planned Community Development (PCD) level.

### **D. Relationship with the existing Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan and the Annexation and Development Agreement**

Changes in land ownership, new proposed planned developments, and the desire of the Arizona State Land Department to include State Trust land in a specific area plan resulted in revisions to the Lake Pleasant Specific Area Plan that was adopted in March of 1994. These revisions were incorporated into the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan, which was re-adopted by the City Council on May 7, 2002 per Resolution 02-92.

The 1993 Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan was accompanied by an Annexation and Development Agreement that established a set of basic land use rights and entitlements for the property. The 1993 Annexation and Development Agreement provide numerous contractual development provisions related to the development of the Lake Pleasant Heights property. It is contemplated through the preparation of the revised Specific Area Plan that amendments to the existing Annexation and Development Agreement would be considered in support of the revised Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan. Concurrent with the review and final adoption of zoning within the planning area, revisions to the Development Agreement will be proposed to conform to the provisions of the Specific Area Plan.

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**IV. LAND USE ELEMENT****A. Introduction**

Land use planning for the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Plan area has been undertaken with an eye towards the placement of landscape and appropriate land use designations that support the efficient and cost-effective extension of public infrastructure and public facilities. The Land Use Plan recognizes the presence of El Mirage Road, a major regional north-south transportation corridor, and seeks to minimize the impacts of major transportation facilities through recommendations that locate roadways in those areas of lowest environmental sensitivity and recommending the elimination of roadways that would have the potential to disturb substantial natural areas while a reduced level of traffic volume. The Land Use Plan looks to preserve significant on-site natural features such as the Big Spring area while capitalizing on the views of Saddleback Mountain, Twin Buttes, and the White Tank Mountains. The Plan proposes limiting development to those areas having slopes of less than twenty-five (25) percent shown graphically on Figure 3, Slope Analysis, and retaining the major natural drainage ways of the site. The land use plan incorporates a mixture of residential density ranges designed to accommodate a diverse residential community across the site

The Land Use Plan designates land within the Study Area with a set of land use classifications. These classifications are shown graphically on Figure 4, Land Use Plan, on the following page and are as described below.

**B. Proposed Land Use Plan**

The Proposed Land Use Plan for the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Plan represents the assemblage and evaluation of an extensive amount of data affiliated with the Northwest Peoria region as developed over the past few years by LVA Urban Design Studio. The proposed land use plan is shown graphically on Figure 4, Land Use Plan. The Plan builds upon land planning and public facility studies within the region that have been prepared by a team of technical consultants and provided to the City of Peoria. Each of the Peoria city departments have participated in the review and evaluations of multiple master planning studies designed to address transportation, water, wastewater, drainage, parks, schools, and emergency response facilities. The proposed development plan provided by the Specific Area Plan builds upon these studies and recommended systems.

The amended Land Use Plan is designed to provide a balanced and sustainable community with a wide range of housing opportunities. Mixed-use development is clustered in three nodes located along El Mirage Road, the spine of Lake Pleasant Heights. These locations are the flatter and more developable areas of the project. Higher density residential uses surround commercial and public uses to create sustainable and walkable communities. Residents will be within walking/cycling distance of a wide variety of employment, shopping, entertainment, and recreation opportunities.

The southern node, located at the intersection of El Mirage Rd. and Westland Dr. will be the densest within Lake Pleasant Heights with a Mixed Use area including higher density residential, commercial, office, park and school uses. The park provides a central focal point for this town center area.

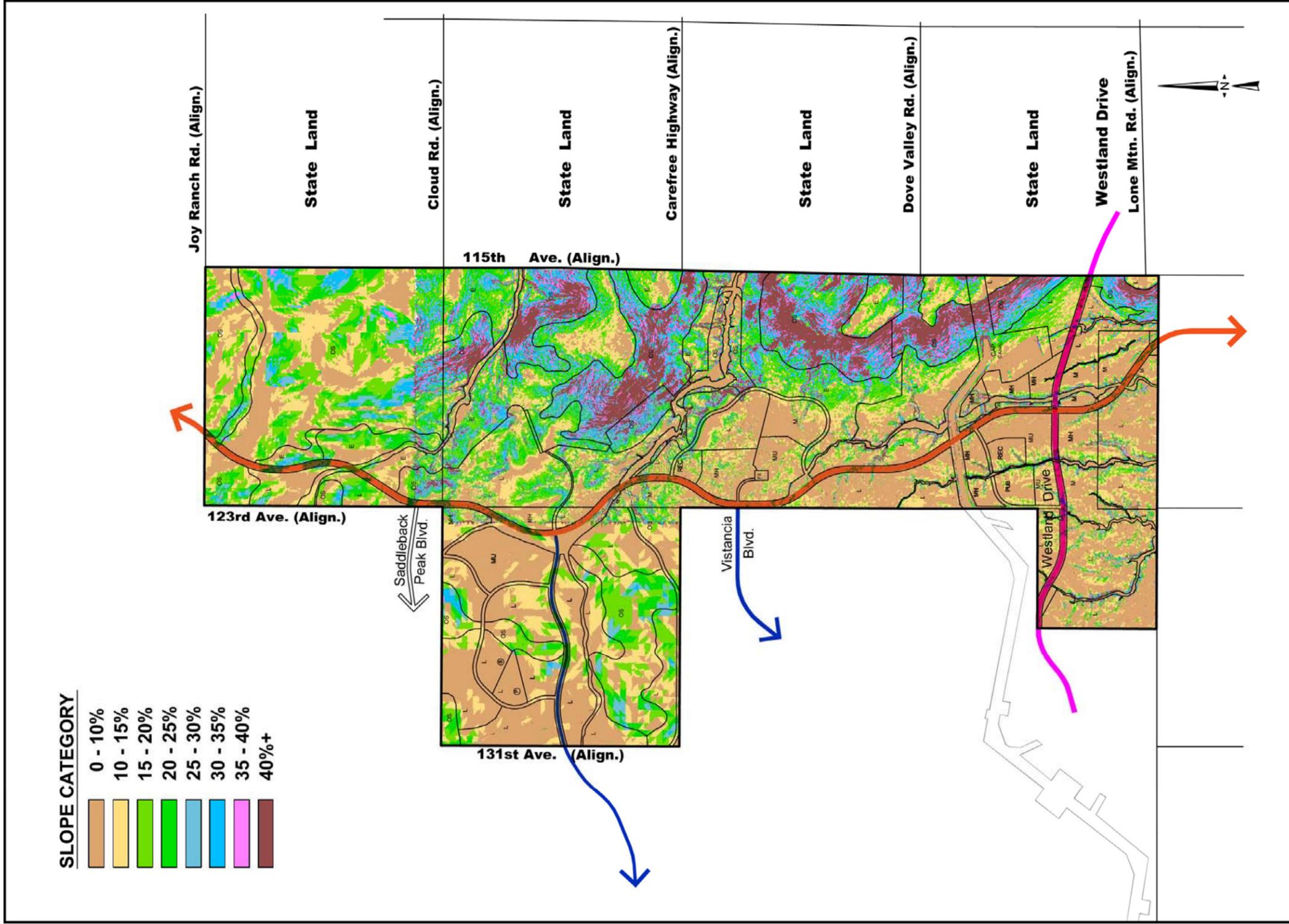
The central node, located at El Mirage Rd. and Vistancia Blvd., includes a smaller mixed use area, Fire Station site, and recreation site, surrounded by Medium, Medium High and High Density Residential Uses.

The northern node, located at El Mirage Rd. and Saddleback Peak Blvd. is the smallest of the three and contains a commercial area and Medium High Residential uses. It is also linked with a proposed trail system located along an existing wash.

Figure 3 – Scope Analysis

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LAKE PLEASANT HEIGHTS  
 SPECIFIC AREA PLAN  
 PEORIA, ARIZONA

FIGURE 3  
 SLOPE ANALYSIS

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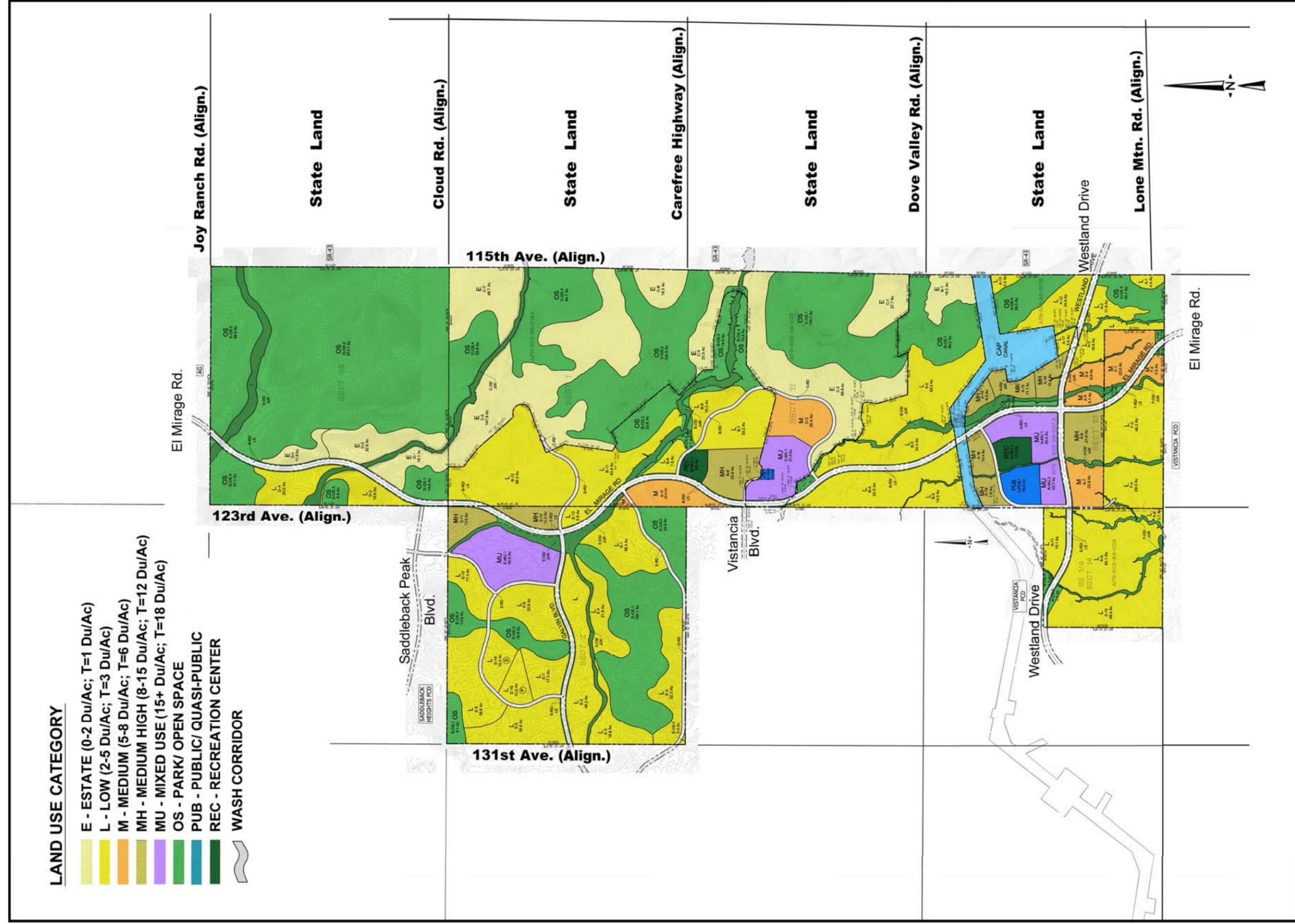
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**Figure 4 - Land Use Plan**

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**LAKE PLEASANT HEIGHTS  
SPECIFIC AREA PLAN**

PEORIA, ARIZONA

**FIGURE 4**

**LAND USE PLAN**

PROPOSED GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



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The clustering of development in these three nodes reduces residential development and preserves open space in the more sensitive hillsides and drainage ways.

The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan, Intensity / Density Analysis provides the intended distribution of residential densities throughout the subject site. The Table provides the analysis and recommendations for land use intensity and density standards for both public and private lands.

A summary of land use intensity and density recommendations are provided in Section IV.D of this Plan. These recommendations are intended to set the appropriate development intensity and density standards for the subject property. Future zoning activity will utilize the defined recommendations to promote a balanced zoning approach to the development of the property.

### **C. Land Use Classifications**

**Estate (0-2.0 du/ac., target density = 1 du/ac.):** Denotes areas where large-lot single-family residential development is desirable. The density range (0-2.0 dwelling units per gross acre) is intended to provide sufficient open space and lots that create an open environment. Building envelopes or cluster grading will be encouraged to minimize the disturbance of significant natural features. This category also denotes where open areas are desirable based on environmental sensitivity or the presence of cultural resources and may serve as a transitional land use buffer between areas of differing single-family densities as stated in the goals, objectives and policies of this Plan and the General Plan.

**Low (2.0-5.0 du/ac., target density = 3.0 du/ac.):** Denotes areas where detached moderate-sized lot, single-family residential development is desirable. The density range (2.0-5.0 dwelling units per gross acre) is intended to provide for areas of increased density while maintaining a detached single family residential character. Suitability is determined on the basis of location, access, availability of existing or proposed public facilities and utilities, existing and future land use patterns and natural or man-made constraints, as stated in the goals, objectives, and policies stated within the General Plan.

**Medium (5.0-8.0 du/ac., target density = 6.0 du/ac.):** Denotes areas where single-family detached and attached residential homes are desirable. The density range (5.0-8.0 dwelling units per gross acre) is intended to provide areas suitable for single family, town home, patio home, and multi-family type units. Suitability is determined on the basis of location, access, availability of existing or proposed public facilities and utilities, existing land use patterns and natural or man-made constraints, as stated in the goals, objectives and policies of this Plan and the General Plan.

**Medium High (8.0-15 du/ac, target density = 12 du/ac):** Denotes areas where multi-family residential development is appropriate. The density range (8.0-15.0 dwelling units per gross acre) is intended to provide for areas of attached single-family homes, apartments, condominiums and townhouses. Suitability is determined on the basis of location, access and availability of existing or proposed public facilities and utilities and existing and future land use patterns.

**Community Commercial:** Denotes areas where all types and intensities of commercial development and low- impact office uses may take place. Community Commercial areas typically consist of larger shopping centers and districts that have a wider variety of goods and services than the neighborhood shopping areas. Major commercial centers should be located with adequate controlled access to arterial streets.

**Mixed Use (18.0-30.0+du/ac., target density= 24.0 du/ac.):** Mixed Use (MU) denotes areas where developments combining a mix of land use types (residential, commercial, office) integrated with both

active and passive open spaces may take place. Its purpose is to increase the types of spaces available for living, working and the provision of community services and to encourage a mix of compatible uses in certain areas and to encourage the upgrading of certain areas with buildings designed to provide a high-quality pedestrian-oriented street environment.

**Park / Recreation / Open Space:** Denotes areas that are to be precluded from development for open space, recreational and public facilities. Open space areas should remain in a relatively natural state (or be restored to such). State Trust Lands or privately held lands identified as park and open space may be developed at a maximum density of one dwelling unit per acre.

**Public / Quasi-Public:** Denotes a use that is owned or operated by governmental, nonprofit religious or philanthropic institution and provides governmental, educational, cultural, recreation, religious, or similar service. In this case, it denotes a fire station and school sites.

### **D. Land Use Intensity / Density**

The Specific Area Plan proposes land use intensity and density which is responsive to the General Plan, the Desert Lands Conservation Plan, the River and Trails Master Plan, Public Facility Planning ratios as well as the many opportunities and constraints affiliated with the subject site. The proposed plan is designed to respond to all these influencing policies while being responsive to the surrounding planned community development as proposed. The proposed land use type, size, density range and target density is shown on Table 1, Specific Area Plan, Intensity/Density Analysis. The total Target Units for Lake Pleasant Heights is 6,561 units. The following is a breakdown of the proposed land uses and density for the private and State Trust Land:

#### **Private Land:**

- Approximately 4,304 residential units (2.3 du/ac)
- Approximately 3,672 single family residential units (Estate, Low, Medium and Medium High Density) within subdivided properties;
- Approximately 632 multifamily residential units intended as apartments or condominiums and
- Approximately 68 acres of land for Mixed Use (residential, retail and office) space.

#### **State Trust Land:**

- Approximately 2,257 (1.6 du/ac) single family residential units (Estate, Low, and Medium and Medium High Density) within subdivided properties.
- Approximately 373 multifamily residential units intended as apartment or condominiums;
- Approximately 46 acres for Mixed Use (residential, retail and office) space. In addition to meeting all City of Peoria Zoning and Design Review standards, all development within the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan planning area will meet the following land use standards:
- Development will be encouraged to occur below the twenty-five percent (25%) slope line;
- Development will meet or exceed the lighting standards outlined in the City of Peoria, Dark Sky Ordinance and will discourage lighting in areas of slopes above fifteen percent (15%);
- Commercial development will be planned to minimize impacts to existing natural wash and slope areas; and
- Development within the planning area will utilize colors and materials that minimize glare and light reflectivity.

**E. Proposed Phasing Plan**

Due to the large amount of land area within the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Plan planning area, and the inclusion of land currently held in the public trust and managed by the Arizona State Land Department, it is anticipated that development will occur in multiple phases. The initial development strategy of course will primarily be dependent on the start-up of water and wastewater facilities in the region (as provided by area master plans) and the development of El Mirage Road (either from the north or south). The final phasing determinant will depend on the planning and development strategies as developed by the project team in coordination with City staff and other development entities within the region.

It is currently envisioned that the project may develop in response to two possible market groups. The northern portion of the property is expected to develop with low-density, single-family residential development uses being the dominant land use with a public park (on State Trust land in Section 2) and open space. The southern portion of the property is expected to develop with a range of low, medium and high-density residential development around the presence of public facilities, including a public park and a school. Commercial development is expected to be responsive to residential units being developed in the area.

Table 1 - Land Use Intensity/Density Analysis

Specific Area Plan  
Intensity / Density Analysis

Parcel Number	Land Use Category	Land Use	Land Use Density Range (DU/AC)	Approx. Gross Area (AC)	Target Density (DU/AC)	Total Target D.U.'s	Ownership
<b>Area A</b>							
A-1	L	LOW	2-5	4.4	3	13	IP
A-2	L	LOW	2-5	11.9	3	36	IP
A-3	L	LOW	2-5	16.6	3	50	IP
A-4	M	MEDIUM	5-8	9.9	6	59	IP
A-5	M	MEDIUM	5-8	5.1	6	31	IP
A-6	MH	MED HIGH	8-15	21.6	12	259	IP
A-7	M	MEDIUM	5-8	23.9	6	143	IP
A-8	L	LOW	2-5	3.7	3	11	IP
A-9	L	LOW	2-5	65.1	3	195	IP
A-10	L	LOW	2-5	48.4	3	145	IP
A-11	L	LOW	2-5	15.1	3	45	IP
A-12	L	LOW	2-5	24.9	3	75	IP
A-13	L	LOW	2-5	4.2	3	13	IP
A-14	MH	MED HIGH	8-15	6.0	12	72	IP
A-15	MH	MED HIGH	8-15	11.1	12	133	IP
A-16	MH	MED HIGH	8-15	10.4	12	125	IP
A-18	MH	MED HIGH	8-15	10.4	12	125	IP
A-19	MH	MED HIGH	8-15	7.8	12	94	IP
A-MU.1	MU	MIXED USE		25.5		135	IP
A-MU.2	MU	MIXED USE		10.7		193	IP
A-PUB.1	PUB	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		15.0			IP
A-RD		RD R.O.W.		33.4			IP
A-LS		RD LS		9.1			IP
A-REC.1	REC	PARK		12.0			IP
A-OS.1	OS	OPEN SPACE		20.7			IP
A-OS.2	OS	OPEN SPACE		1.7			IP
A-OS.3	OS	OPEN SPACE		1.5			IP
A-OS.4	OS	OPEN SPACE		26.5			IP
A-OS.5	OS	OPEN SPACE		4.0			IP
A-OS/JUR	OS	JURISDICTIONAL FLOW LINE		24.2			IP
<b>Subtotal Area A</b>				<b>484.8</b>		<b>1952</b>	
<b>Area B</b>							
B-1	E	ESTATE	0-2	18.2	1	18	IP
B-2	L	LOW	2-5	63.9	3	192	IP
B-3	L	LOW	2-5	34.4	3	103	IP
B-4	L	LOW	2-5	52.0	3	156	IP
B-5	L	LOW	2-5	14.0	3	42	IP
B-6	MH	MED HIGH	8-15	25.9	12	311	IP
B-7	L	LOW	2-5	33.2	3	100	IP
B-8	L	LOW	2-5	15.3	3	46	IP
B-9	L	LOW	2-5	7.6	3	23	IP
B-10	M	MEDIUM	5-8	22.4	6	134	IP
B-11	L	LOW	2-5	43.6	3	131	IP
B-12	L	LOW	2-5	88.3	3	265	IP
B-REC.1	REC	PARK		8.0			IP
B-RD		RD R.O.W.		29.1			IP
B-LS		RD LS		7.0			IP
B-OS.1	OS	OPEN SPACE		49.2			IP
B-OS.2	OS	OPEN SPACE		23.8			IP
B-OS.3	OS	OPEN SPACE		14.6			IP
B-OS.4	OS	OPEN SPACE		15.4			IP
B-OS.5	OS	OPEN SPACE		4.7			IP
B-OS/JUR	OS	JURISDICTIONAL FLOW LINE		30.6			IP
<b>Subtotal Area B</b>				<b>601.2</b>		<b>1521</b>	

**Specific Area Plan  
Intensity / Density Analysis**

<b>Area C</b>							
C-1	E	ESTATE	0-2	27.7	1	28	G3
C-2	E	ESTATE	0-2	89.9	1	90	G3
C-3	M	MEDIUM	5-8	26.4	6	158	G3
C-4	E	ESTATE	0-2	23.5	1	24	G3
C-5	E	ESTATE	0-2	147.9	1	148	G3
C-6	E	ESTATE	0-2	18.3	1	18	G3
C-7	E	ESTATE	0-2	48.7	1	49	G3
A-17	L	LOW	2-5	3.9	3	12	G3
C-MU.1	MU	MIXED USE		31.5		304	G3
C-PUB.1	FS	FIRE STATION		1.4			G3
C-RD		ROW		9.8			G3
A-RD		RD R.O.W.		1.1			G3
C-LS		RD LS		1.0			G3
C-OS.1	OS	OPEN SPACE		118.7			G3
C-OS.2	OS	OPEN SPACE		124.5			G3
C-OS.3	OS	OPEN SPACE		64.7			G3
C-OS.4	OS	OPEN SPACE		33.8			G3
C-OS/JUR	OS	JURISDICTIONAL FLOW LINE		13.2			G3
<b>Subtotal Area C</b>				<b>786.0</b>		<b>831</b>	
<b>Private Land Subtotal Areas A, B, C</b>				<b>1872.0</b>		<b>4304</b>	

<b>Private Land Projections</b>		
Gross Land Area	1,872	AC
Target Project Density	2.30	DU/AC
Projected Population	12,051	People
Projected Households	4,304	Households
Projected Elementary School Children	995	Children
Projected High School Children	468	Children
Commercial/Mixed Use Land Area	67.7	AC
Projected Elementary Schools	1.0	School
Projected High School Demand	0.3	Schools
Improved Neighborhood Parks Demand	21	AC
Improved Community Parks Demand	18	AC
Open Space Demand	121	AC
Total Proposed Private Open Space	609	AC

<b>Area D</b>							
D-1	E	ESTATE	0-2	18.1	1	18	AZ
D-2	E	ESTATE	0-2	32.8	1	33	AZ
D-3	L	LOW	2-5	16.6	3	50	AZ
D-4	L	LOW	2-5	23.0	3	69	AZ
D-5	E	ESTATE	0-2	11.8	1	12	AZ
D-RD		RD R.O.W.		14.9			AZ
D-LS		RD LS		4.8			AZ
D-OS.1	OS	OPEN SPACE		14.6			AZ
D-OS.2	OS	OPEN SPACE		373.7			AZ
D-OS.3	OS	OPEN SPACE		6.8			AZ
D-OS.4	OS	OPEN SPACE		27.1			AZ
D-OS.5	OS	OPEN SPACE		68.5			AZ
D-OS/JUR	OS	JURISDICTIONAL FLOW LINE		26.5			AZ
<b>Subtotal Area D</b>				<b>639.2</b>		<b>182</b>	

Specific Area Plan  
Intensity / Density Analysis

<b>Area E</b>							
E-1	L	LOW	2-5	36.4	3	109	AZ
E-2	L	LOW	2-5	32.3	3	97	AZ
E-3	L	LOW	2-5	18.8	3	56	AZ
E-4	L	LOW	2-5	21.8	3	65	AZ
E-5	L	LOW	2-5	46.2	3	139	AZ
E-6	L	LOW	2-5	32.6	3	98	AZ
E-7	L	LOW	2-5	17.3	3	52	AZ
E-8	L	LOW	2-5	35.6	3	107	AZ
E-9	L	LOW	2-5	38.6	3	116	AZ
E-10	L	LOW	2-5	17.3	3	52	AZ
E-11	MH	MED HIGH	8-15	13.5	12	162	AZ
E-12	MH	MED HIGH	8-15	12.3	12	148	AZ
E-13	L	LOW	2-5	5.8	3	17	AZ
E-14	L-S	LOW-SCHOOL	2-5	15.0	3	45	AZ
E-15	L-P	LOW-PARK	2-5	12.0	3	36	AZ
E-MU.1	MU	MIXED USE		45.5		373	AZ
E-RD		RD R.O.W.		39.0			AZ
E-LS		RD LS		7.1			AZ
E-OS.1	OS	OPEN SPACE		105.1			AZ
E-OS.2	OS	OPEN SPACE		9.1			AZ
E-OS.3	OS	OPEN SPACE		16.8			AZ
E-OS.4	OS	OPEN SPACE		13.6			AZ
E-OS.5	OS	OPEN SPACE		24.9			AZ
E-OS.6	OS	OPEN SPACE		0.4			AZ
E-OS/JUR	OS	JURISDICTIONAL FLOW LINE		20.4			AZ
<b>Subtotal Area E</b>				<b>637.4</b>		<b>1672</b>	
<b>Area F</b>							
F-1	M	MEDIUM	5-8	23.6	6	142	AZ
F-2	M	MEDIUM	5-8	5.5	6	33	AZ
F-3	L	LOW	2-5	46.2	3	139	AZ
F-4	L	LOW	2-5	29.5	3	89	AZ
F-RD		RD R.O.W.		5.1			AZ
F-LS		RD LS		1.8			AZ
F-OS.1	OS	OPEN SPACE		1.0			AZ
F-OS.2	OS	OPEN SPACE		0.5			AZ
F-OS.3	OS	OPEN SPACE		1.3			AZ
F-OS/JUR	OS	JURISDICTIONAL FLOW LINE		4.9			AZ
<b>Subtotal Area F</b>				<b>119.4</b>		<b>403</b>	
<b>State Land Subtotal Areas D, E, F</b>				<b>1396.0</b>		<b>2257</b>	

State Land Projections		
Gross Land Area	1,396	AC
Target Project Density	1.62	DU/AC
Projected Population	6,320	People
Projected Households	2,257	Households
Projected Elementary School Children	620	Children
Projected High School Children	279	Children
Mixed Use Land	45.5	AC
Projected Elementary Schools	0.7	School
Projected High School Demand	0.2	Schools
Improved Neighborhood Parks Demand	11.1	AC
Improved Community Parks Demand	9	AC
Open Space Demand	63	AC
Total Proposed State Open Space	741	AC

**Specific Area Plan  
Intensity / Density Analysis**

<b>Project Total Areas A,B,C, D, E, F</b>	<b>3268.0</b>	<b>6561</b>
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Project Projections (Combined Lands)		
Gross Land Area	3,268	AC
Target Project Density	2.01	DU/AC
Projected Population	18,371	People
Projected Households	6,561	Households
Projected Elementary School Children	1,615	Children
Projected High School Children	747	Children
Commercial/Mixed Use Land Area	113.2	AC
Projected Elementary Schools	1.7	School
Projected High School Demand	0.4	Schools
Improved Neighborhood Parks Demand	32	AC
Improved Community Parks Demand	28	AC
Open Space Demand	184	AC
Total Proposed Open Space	1,350	AC

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**TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT****A. Introduction**

The Transportation Element of the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan establishes the basic planned circulation pattern within the planning area and includes the integration of vehicular and non-vehicular transportation modes. The transportation network is shown graphically on Figure 5, Transportation Plan. The proposed transportation network should provide for the efficient movement of traffic within and through the planning area and should adequately accommodate the projected traffic volumes resulting from the planned land use program. This portion of the Plan describes the location, type, and size of the arterial streets within the planning area and establishes the standards for the use of private streets within the planning area. The Transportation Element also establishes the conceptual locations and widths of paved and non-paved, multi-purpose trails within the planning area. Actual design and construction of all streets and trails will be as specified by the City of Peoria during the site planning / plat review process.

**B. Vehicular Circulation**

Vehicular circulation within the planning area will be accommodated by a network of public and private roadway facilities designed to accommodate the projected traffic volumes generated from on-site and off-site traffic projections. The proposed system of arterial streets will be designed to accommodate the projected traffic volume with the intent of being responsive to the General Plan Transportation Element and proposed land uses within proximity to the Lake Pleasant Heights property. A system of collector and local streets will provide vehicular movement and direct access within the planning area.

***Major Arterial Streets***

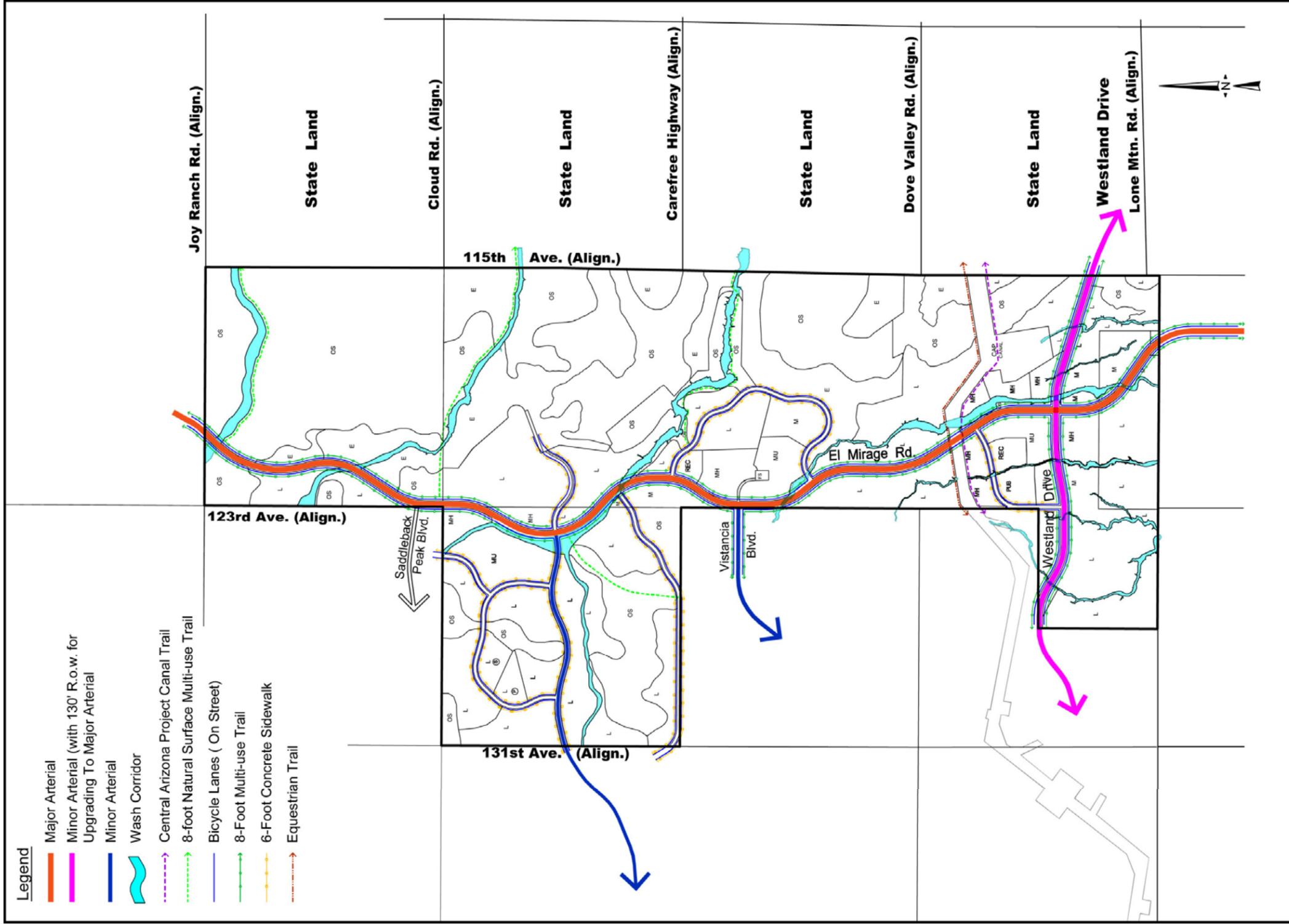
El Mirage Road is planned as the primary transportation corridor within the planning area. This roadway corridor is planned as a Major Arterial Street on the Circulation Plan of the City of Peoria and accommodated as such by the Specific Area Plan. El Mirage Road will provide three travel lanes in each direction with sufficient right of way width to meet current city roadway standards, or as modified based on the Traffic Impact Analysis and recommendation by the Project Traffic Engineer to mitigate traffic impact analysis or topographic conditions. The design intent of El Mirage Road is to provide flexibility in the road alignment and right of way configuration allowing the road to adapt and be responsive to topographical and traffic circulation conditions. This planned arterial roadway will be a major north-south transportation corridor within north Peoria promoting regional access to the Lake Pleasant Recreational Area. The proposed alignment will connect with State Route 74 to the north and extend through the proposed Vistancia Planned Community District project south of the planning area. El Mirage Road will serve both regional and sub-regional traffic. The final road alignment will be determined by the City Engineer based on additional studies completed during the Preliminary Plat process.

The existing Circulation Plan contained within the General Plan identifies the presence of a planned Arterial Street, Vistancia Boulevard, connecting into the planning area from the south, through the Vistancia Planned Community. Approximately a quarter mile south of the Carefree Highway alignment. Also, the existing Circulation Plan identifies the presence of a second planned arterial street at the Carefree Highway alignment. After coordination efforts and consensus with City staff and adjacent land owners, this Specific Area Plan indicates the arterial connection at Vistancia Blvd., a potential collector connection near the Carefree Highway alignment, an arterial connection through the middle of State land in Section 2 being referred to as Galvin Blvd. and a collector connection at Saddleback Peak Blvd. just north of Section 2.

**Figure 5 - Transportation Plan**

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LAKE PLEASANT HEIGHTS  
SPECIFIC AREA PLAN  
PEORIA, ARIZONA

FIGURE 5  
TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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## ***Minor Arterial Streets:***

Westland Drive is planned as a minor transportation corridor in the southern portion of the planning area. This roadway alignment is designated as a Minor Arterial Street on the Circulation Plan of the City of Peoria. The facility will provide sufficient right-of-way width to support future expansion to a Major Arterial cross section, as required by the City of Peoria.

## ***Collector and Local Streets:***

A network of collector and local streets will enable local traffic to circulate within the planning area. The collector and local street pattern will be established during the detailed site planning / plat review stage of the project. It is currently anticipated that collector streets will provide adequate right-of-way width to meet current city roadway standards, or as modified by the City Engineer due to topographic conditions. Due to the topographic constraints and the property's proximity to the El Mirage Road-alignment, it is not anticipated that the project will promote an extensive collector street network. Local streets will provide adequate right-of-way width to meet current city roadway standards, or as modified by the City Engineer due to topographic conditions. A future PCD or PAD zoning application may refine the necessity and pattern for collector and local streets.

## ***Private Streets:***

Private streets may be used within the Specific Area Plan planning area in response to market demand and in response to topographic constraints. Private streets will meet existing City of Peoria street standards unless otherwise approved by the City Engineer

## **C. Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation**

An integrated system of non-vehicular circulation is planned within the planning area. A detailed system of on-street bicycle lanes and improved and unimproved trails has been planned as indicated on the project Circulation Plan. All bicycle lanes and trails should be developed in a manner consistent with the City's design criteria.

### ***Bicycle Circulation:***

Figure 5, Transportation Plan identifies the locations of planned on-street bicycle lanes. It is anticipated by this Plan that on-street bicycle lanes will be located within the right-of-way of all major and minor arterial streets, as well as, collector streets. On-street bicycle lanes will be a minimum of six (6) feet in width.

### ***Pedestrian Circulation:***

Figure 5, Transportation Plan, identifies the planned pedestrian circulation network within the planning area. It is anticipated by this plan that a network of sidewalks and paths will accommodate pedestrian circulation and will be located within the public rights-of-way or within dedicated pedestrian easements. Sidewalks for public streets are as follows:

- Arterial streets will be designed to accommodate an eight (8) foot sidewalk on opposite sides of the streets. These can be reduced to five (5) feet on one side if a natural surface path is also provided.
- Collector streets will be designed to accommodate six (6) foot sidewalks on opposite sides of the street.

- Local residential streets will be designed to accommodate: five (5) foot sidewalks on opposite sides of the street.

Public paths and public trails located outside of the public right-of-way in land that is dedicated as public open space will conform to the standards outlined in the City of Peoria Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan. Detailed planning establishing the locations of the off-street paths and trails will occur at the time of zoning and detailed site planning / plat review.

**VII PUBLIC Facilities Element**

**A. Introduction**

The public facilities element of the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan outlines the proposed public facilities within the planning area based upon the proposed Land Use Plan. The public facilities proposed as part of this Specific Area Plan are based upon existing City of Peoria and public service provider service ratios. The public facilities locations are shown graphically on Figure 6, Public Facilities. This section of the Plan provides conceptual public facilities planning for six service area categories:

- Water Service
- Wastewater Service
- Drainage
- Fire / Emergency Response
- Parks / Open Space
- Primary Schools

**B. Existing Conditions**

No public service facilities currently exist within the Planning Area. The planning area is currently natural desert containing an un-organized network of unimproved trails and roadways. The site contains a single human-made livestock watering tank, Caterpillar tank, in the southern portion of the site. The only developed infrastructure within the planning area is the CAP canal. The CAP canal enters the planning area in the southern portion of the site and flows in an easterly direction at surface grade for approximately ½ mile. The CAP canal continues across the site with flow being channeled into a tunnel structure running under the eastern portion of the site until it exits the site to the east.

**C. Conceptual Water System**

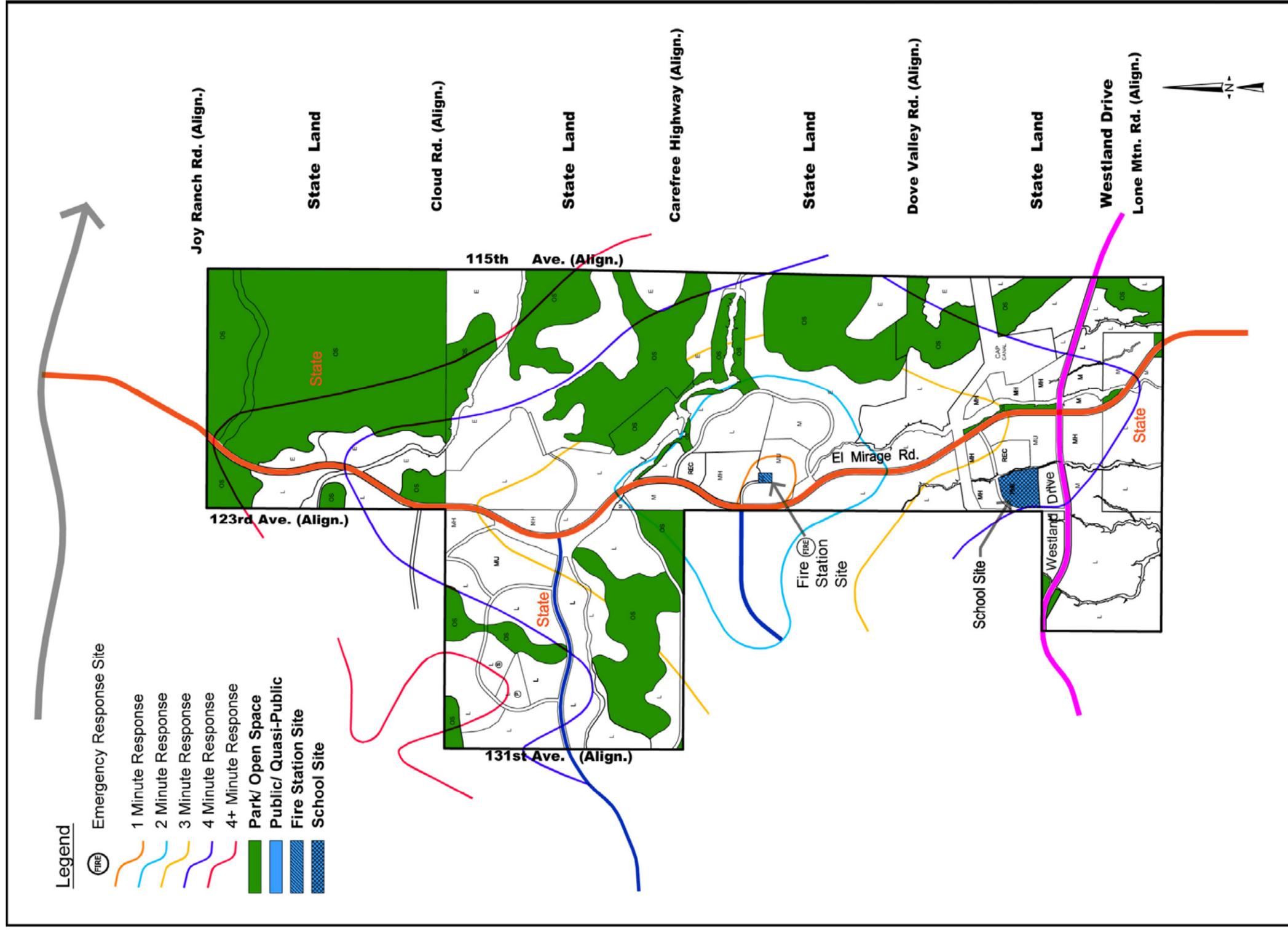
The planning area is located within the City of Peoria water service area. The City of Peoria will provide the rights to potable water supply in conformance with the existing Assured Water Supply Designation as it relates to the subject development. The Vistancia Planned Community District provides an area adjacent to the site in the southwest area to address the demands for regional water conveyance facilities. It is anticipated the required potable water supply for Lake Pleasant Heights will now be made up of the following sources:

- Groundwater Credits - The development will provide the approved 570 AFY water credits, identified as well sources in Section 10 of the Zoning Stipulations. The nearest aquifer providing adequate supply is located on the west side of the Aqua Fria River in Section 31. Development of wells in this area includes use of the 24-inch Lone Mountain Parkway waterline, which is subject to negotiation with the City and Vistancia. It is proposed to utilize this groundwater source as supply for Phase 1 of the project.
- Other City of Peoria Groundwater Sites - Lake Pleasant Heights is investigating other potential sites within the City of Peoria, on both sides of the Aqua Fria, to develop groundwater resources. Either existing and/or new wells could conceivably be developed in locations in the City underlain by a good water bearing aquifer, and the supply wheeled through the City distribution system to the 24-inch Lone Mountain Parkway waterline.

- Groundwater Recharge - Groundwater sources will be utilized on a "no net reduction" of groundwater basis to comply with "safe-yield" criteria as established by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) for groundwater within the Phoenix Active Management Area. This requirement is part of the Groundwater Code and the Assured Water Supply rules, and is embedded in the City's Designation of Assured Water Supply. The City is no longer a member service area of the Central Arizona Groundwater replenishment District, and this option is therefore not available. The development will acquire and pay for additional recharge capacity in underground storage facilities such that the City can store sufficient water from other sources to offset potential withdrawals of groundwater for the plan area.
- City of Peoria CAP M&I Capacity - Water from the Colorado River delivered by the CAP canal operated by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District is considered a replenishable supply and thus suitable for the plan area. CAP canal water must be treated and transported to the plan area before it can be considered a reliable supply. The development will contribute to the City's ability to purchase or build CAP water treatment capacity. The amount of payments and due dates are to be determined. Two potential alternatives are identified for LPH use of CAP water:
  - ▶ The Aqua Fria East service area is supplied by Pyramid Peak Water Treatment Plant (WTP), which was expanded in 1999. Vistancia's redundancy requirements of 5.17 MGD are being met with the Aqua Fria East capacity, including upgrades to the distribution system at the Westwing and Pleasant Valley Zone 5 BPS and storage facilities. The LPH demand of 2.92 MGD would similarly be met by participation in the upgrade of the water conveyance infrastructure located on the east side of the Aqua Fria River.
  - ▶ The City is not now planning for the previously proposed 25 MGD Twin Buttes WTP in their 10-year CIP, which would have served Lake Pleasant Heights as well as surrounding communities. Current development plans in the adjoining area, including LPH, may include sufficient growth and water supply demands to warrant reconsideration of the Twin Buttes facility.
- City Water Settlements: This 630 AFY source is comprised of a share of the City's Gila River Indian Settlement, or other water settlements.
- Redundant Water Supplies – The City requires redundant water supplies (City Code Section 25-20) to ensure the reliable delivery of water to the development. Lake Pleasant Heights proposes to achieve the required redundancy by providing backup water conveyance infrastructure from the Aqua Fria well field. In addition to a new well, the development will contribute funds to construct a new booster station on the east side of the Agua Fria to ensure a reliable redundant source.
- Reclaimed water use sites within the development include a City park and school site, both located in Phase 1 south of the CAP canal. The adjoining Vistancia development has constructed a reclaimed water system, and Lake Pleasant Heights proposes to perform necessary upgrades to extend the reclaimed water to the two use sites. However, the reclaimed system constructed by Vistancia cannot yet supply sufficient amounts of reclaimed water to address the needs of the Vistancia community, and must supplement the reclaimed supply with CAP Excess water purchased annually. This situation is anticipated to continue for several years. Therefore the development will need to purchase sufficient CAP excess water annually to address the additional demand on the reclaimed system until such time as supplies of reclaimed water grow to meet the demand of both the development and Vistancia. The development will pay for the transportation of any such CAP water purchased on an annual basis.

**Figure 6 – Public Facilities**

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LAKE PLEASANT HEIGHTS  
SPECIFIC AREA PLAN

PEORIA, ARIZONA

FIGURE 6  
PUBLIC FACILITIES



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### **D. Wastewater System**

The planning area is located within the City of Peoria Northwest Service Area for wastewater. It is currently anticipated that the wastewater generated within the planning area will be served by the Jomax Water Reclamation Facility ("WRF") located in to the south portion of Vistancia. Lake Pleasant Heights will provide applicable impact fees to purchase, or expand, capacity within this plant, as well as in the trunk sewers downstream of the development, consistent with the wastewater generated by the project. As defined in the Annexation and Development Agreement supporting the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan, the development will have rights to the proportionate share of reclaimed water generated by the plant.

### **E. Drainage System**

The drainage system proposed within the Planning Area is based upon the Desert Lands Conservation Ordinance and the North Peoria Drainage Master Plan and will incorporate the use and preservation of the existing Jurisdictional (The US Army Corps of Engineers) washes within the Planning Area. Development within the planning area is envisioned as being environmentally sensitive with the proposed drainage concept is based upon the maintenance of the natural environment. Development within the planning area will integrate ecological resources with transportation and open space. The following general drainage concepts will be carried forward within the planning area:

- Off-site drainage flows will enter and depart the Planning Area in substantially the same manner as under pre-development conditions;
- Onsite detention facilities should be designed to be as unobtrusive as possible and the use of large detention basins shall be limited to the use of basins only to reduce the post-development peak flow to a level equal to or below the existing peak flow rate;
- The use of conventional 100 year, 2 hour, storm water retention standards may be modified only if approved by the City Engineer due to terrain; however, modifications to the storm water standards shall not exceed the minimum standards of pre versus post for both volume and peak flow. Additionally, there should be no direct discharge to any wash without a first flush treatment (defined as the first one inch of rainfall).
- Where the use of detention and retention basin facilities are required, they should be designed as flow through systems to sustain existing habitat areas and channel flow and sedimentation characteristics;
- Drainage channels should utilize existing natural wash alignments where possible and natural channel flow should be maintained;
- All National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) standards will be adhered to and all applicable City of Peoria drainage requirements should be followed.
- Prior to the development of individual parcels within the Planning Area, a detailed drainage master plan shall be prepared and approved by the City of Peoria.

## **F. Fire / Emergency Response**

The Land Use Plan for the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan identifies the need for one (1) fire station within the Planning Area based upon a standard response time analysis. Based upon the results of the response time analysis, a fire station site has been identified in the central portion of the site. It is estimated that based upon the selected location, the majority of the Planning Area would be within the desired four minute response time coverage area. It is estimated, based upon the results of the standard response time analysis that the outer-edges of the community would fall with a five to six minute response time zone based upon the siting of a single station within the planning area (see Figure 6, Public Facilities). It should be noted that if future fire station locations are provided by surrounding projects or established by the City of Peoria, portions of the site not currently within the four minute response time radius may be accessible from other stations within the City within a four minute timeframe.

## **G. Police / Emergency Response**

Police and law enforcement service facilities will likely be based out of the planned fire station site located within the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan planning area. The police will share the fire station building. Support for police and fire facilities will be provided through participation in the Impact Fee Program.

## **H. Parks/Recreation and Open Space**

The Land Use Plan for the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan provides locations for the establishment of three park sites. The size of the recreation areas are listed as land use type REC on Table 1, Specific Area Plan, Intensity/Density Analysis.

One proposed recreation site has been located in the southern node of the site adjacent to the planned elementary school site to maximize the opportunities of a shared facility use. This neighborhood park site is located within that portion of the land use plan containing the highest concentration of population within the planning area.

The second recreation site has been located in the central node along El Mirage Road. This park has been located in a higher density area to provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities to future residents. The site is also located near a major wash, allowing for regional trail connections.

In addition, a Neighborhood Park is proposed in Section 2 of the State lands area. The exact location of this park will be determined at a later date and is currently identified on the land use plan as a symbol in a potential approximate target location. In addition to the three neighborhood parks, Lake Pleasant Heights provides large areas of natural open space and implementation of the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, & Trails Master Plan for additional recreational opportunities throughout the master planned development.

All park improvements shall be approved by the City's Community Services staff, which includes playground equipment, amenities, hard surface courts, the type of irrigation system, restroom fixtures, plant materials, etc. The City of Peoria Community Services staff will be actively involved in the planning, design and construction of the neighborhood parks.

The dedication, reservation, or sale of parks and open space areas will be established during the zoning and site planning plat review phase and will be addressed within the revised Annexation and Development Agreement. If open space is dedicated to the City as public open space the developer must develop a trail system and trail heads to connect the open space areas. The general public shall

be allowed to access the dedicated open space. The final location of the park sites will be determined by the City Parks Department. If a park site is moved, the vacated area can be developed with residential uses provided the total approved density for the entire Lake Pleasant Heights project is not exceeded.

### **I. Primary Schools**

The Land Use Plan for the Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan has identified a location for a primary school to address the creation of educational demand within the planning area. The elementary school site has been located within the southern portion for the planning area and has been located adjacent to the proposed neighborhood park to maximize the opportunity to share facilities. The elementary school site has been located in that portion of the site containing the highest density of residential land use and geographically located to be responsive to the anticipated population therefore promoting pedestrian accessibility to the planned facilities. An additional school site may be located within the Specific Area Plan to the north based on future need and discussions with the Peoria Unified School District and the developer. If a school site is relocated, the vacated area can be developed with residential uses provided the total approved density for the entire Lake Pleasant Heights project is not exceeded.

**V. FUTURE ENTITLEMENTS**

**A. Zoning**

The Lake Pleasant Heights Specific Area Plan has been designed to set land use, transportation and public facility policy direction for the subject property. The Applicant will soon submit a Planned Community District amendment to implement the policy set by the review and approval of the Specific Area Plan. The zoning application will set a greater level of property development entitlements on the property which will be supplemented by a redraft of the 2005 Development Agreement. Applicability of a future development agreement to the inclusive acres of public lands will be determined at a later date.

**B. Site Plan / Plat Approval**

In support of the Specific Area Plan and future zoning request(s), this property will be developed under the guidance of the Site Plan and Subdivision Plat processes. However, to a certain extent, some "large-lot" platting could occur under the existing approved zoning on the site should the Applicant want to respond to the understanding or perception of a captive market.