

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

The Livermore Design Standards and Guidelines are a policy document and an implementation tool developed to preserve, protect and promote the public health, safety and general welfare, as allowed by State law. These Design Standards and Guidelines have been prepared for the City of Livermore and update the guidelines contained in the 1988 *Livermore Urban Design Implementation Program*. The guidelines reflect changes that have taken place in Livermore since 1988 and follow on the work completed for the update to the City's General Plan. This document has been developed with input from members of the Design Review Committee and Planning staff.

The purpose of this document is to provide design guidance for private and public projects undertaken in the City. The ultimate goal for this document is to promote the improved aesthetic and functional quality of the community as a whole. The document includes separate guidelines for each land use category and applies to all areas of the City except those areas that are within the boundaries of the 2003 *Downtown Specific Plan* and the 1997 *South Livermore Valley Specific Plan*.

The standards and guidelines are statements of policy for the implementation of community-wide goals, which are described in Chapter 2. Graphics are included to illustrate guideline intent. They are not intended to depict the only design solution to a specific standard or guideline. The Design Standards and Guidelines contain three preliminary chapters:

- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Goals
- ◆ Basic Principles

Following the preliminary chapters are several chapters that include standards and guidelines to achieve the goals outlined in Chapter 2. The standards and guidelines are organized by development type, including:

- ◆ Industrial and Office
- ◆ Commercial
- ◆ Residential
- ◆ Mixed-Use
- ◆ Historic Districts
- ◆ Streets
- ◆ Gateways
- ◆ Arroyos and Floodplains
- ◆ Public Buildings
- ◆ Lawrence Livermore and Sandia Labs

The design guidelines contain language that reflects the following principles:

“Shall” or **“Must”** indicates a design standard and means that conformance is mandatory.

“Should” or **“Strongly Encouraged”** means the guideline is intended to be a recommendation about how to implement the goals of the Design Standards and Guidelines. Projects must be consistent with the guidelines in order to be recommended for project approval. However, alternative design approaches which achieve the goal of the Design Guidelines may also be considered by the decision making body.

The standards and guidelines contained in this document are focused on design. This document is not intended to provide a listing of all City standards or requirements. Applicants should also refer to the City of Livermore General Plan, the Livermore Planning and Zoning Code, City of Livermore Standard Details, City of Livermore Standard Specifications, the City of Livermore Municipal Code, the Plan Check and Procedures Manual, the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and related documents. Where any conflict arises, the City codes and standards listed above will supercede these Design Guidelines.

