General Plan Guidelines Update
Office of Planning and Research
October 2015
Healthy by Design: Creating Neighborhoods that Promote Wellness, previously co-hosted outreach

Discussion on topics included:

• Health equity, examples in land use
• Successful community engagement
• Integrating data and sources
• Opportunities and barriers
Overview of Discussion

Review the significance of General Plans
Reason for update of the General Plan Guidelines
Review how the Guidelines have changed
Next steps and feedback
A General Plan is a local governments long term blueprint for the community’s vision of future growth

• Starts with Community Vision, created through public engagement
  • Look back to identify past challenges and accomplishments
  • Examine current data and emerging data trends
  • Consider future issues, challenges, and goals

• Set goals, objectives, and policies in each element or topic area related to future growth
Significance of a General Plan
Significance of a General Plan

Also important to realize limits of a General Plan and it can not solve many of the community challenges:

• Visionary, but need other levers to implement the local general plan (eg zoning, ordinances)
• An update needs to be happening, not all areas are doing an update
• Takes a long time, can be years to do the update
• Can be important to help direct funding (eg for grants) but does not mean funding will follow
• Better for future oriented projects
Requires Consistency with all other Plans

• Area Plans
• Specific plans
• Airport land use plans
• Local coastal plans
• Local hazard mitigation plans
• Climate adaptation plans
Significance of a General Plan

**Required Elements**

- Land use
- Circulation
- Housing
- Conservation
- Open Space
- Noise
- Safety
- Air Quality

**Additional Elements often Included**

- Healthy communities
- Climate Change
- Economic Development
- Water Management
The last update to the General Plan Guidelines was in 2003, and there have been numerous new laws, requirements, resources, and research that affect general planning:

- SB 375- Sustainable communities strategies
- SB 5- Flood management
- SB 743-VMT
- SB 244- Island or fringe communities
- AB 52- Tribal consultation
- AB 2140- Local hazard mitigation plans
- Many more!!

Current draft does not reflect the 2015 legislative cycle, but final will
Incorporate State planning priorities with local needs

• Promote infill
• Protect natural and working lands
• Develop in an efficient matter
As of 2015, more than half of local jurisdictions have general plans that are over 15 years old.

The process of adopting a new general plan can be time consuming and costly.
Review how the Guidelines have changed
Vision for the GPG Update

a suite of tools

1. Policy Document: General Plan Guidelines

2. Online Data Mapping Tool

3. Updated Website
Integrated Suggestions from Initial Outreach

• Vision, how-to-guide, and outreach strategies open the guidelines

• Restructured layout to be user friendly
  – Clear description and examples of multiple ways to structure GP

• Sample policies for various communities, in format that is easily modified for various contexts
The document contains:
• New sections on linkages between elements
• New tables with suggested data to consider (link directly to source where available)
• New tables with example policies from around California (link directly to source where available)
• New compendiums on infill, renewable energy, and agricultural land conservation
• Direct links to sample General Plans, resources, and tools
Chapters 1 & 2: Introduction and Vision

• General Plan Basics
• How to use this document
• State planning priorities

Chapter 3: Public Engagement and Outreach

• Planning effective public participation
• Demographic considerations
• Tools and resources available
Chapter 4: Required Elements

Land Use:
Expanded section on diagrams and maps
Expanded discussion on land use types and placemaking
Additional considerations in land use
• School siting
• Near roadway considerations
• Waste management
• Agricultural land conservation
Chapter 4: Required Elements

Circulation:
Expanded section on LOS vs VMT
Expanded discussion on coordination with land use element
Additional considerations in circulation
  • Broadband and utilities
  • Complete Streets initiatives
  • Parking policies
Chapter 4: Required Elements

**Housing:**
- Direct links to HCD site
- Expanded discussion on displacement and affordable housing
- Expanded discussion on consistency with other elements

**Conservation:**
- Discussion of Health and Environmental impacts
- Incorporation of water and climate
Chapter 4: Required Elements

*Safety:*
Expanded discussion of new requirements for safety element updates
Tools and resources for gathering data on safety concerns
Connection to climate change and further environmental considerations
Chapter 4: Required Elements

Noise:
Interim update to noise guidance
Expanded consideration of construction and other types of noise, in context of infill
Appendix with last noise guidance until further update is possible

Air Quality:
Direct links to San Joaquin Valley Air Quality requirements- addressed since required by statute
Chapter 5: Healthy Communities

Strategies
Potential partnerships
Relationship to other elements

Correlations among Elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Conservation</th>
<th>Open Space</th>
<th>Noise</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Communities</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ✔ Identified in statute
- ✔ Closely related to statutory requirements
Chapter 5: Healthy Communities

Clear descriptions and analysis of health and its relationship to planning
Links to data sources
Links to model policy
### Chapter 5: Healthy Communities

#### Sampling of OPR Recommended Data for Consideration in Analysis of This Element

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intent of Analysis</th>
<th>Recommended Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy can be a good proxy for general health and well-being in the community. Many low-income areas suffer from early mortality and morbidity.</td>
<td>Life Expectancy at Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma can be worsened by environmental triggers such as poor air quality, poor housing quality, and climate change, examining baseline conditions can help inform siting decisions.</td>
<td>Asthma (Prevalence, ED visits, hospitalizations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity is caused by many factors, but lack of access to healthy foods and physical activity are significant contributors. Examining baseline status can help with policy decisions around active transportation, recreation priorities, and food system policies.</td>
<td>Obesity (child and adult) prevalence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These diseases, also caused by many factors, are often associated with obesity. Examining baseline status can help with policy decisions around active transportation, recreation priorities, and food system policies.</td>
<td>Secondary diseases from obesity (high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, type 2 diabetes prevalence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many accidents involving pedestrians and bicycles could be improved through infrastructure, design, and signage. Examining a baseline can inform policy and planning for transit routes, active transportation, and safety.</td>
<td>Unintentional injury such as pedestrian and bicycle accidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk trips is a behavior that benefits health and is influenced by the environment. Examining a baseline number can help inform active transportation and for</td>
<td>Walk trips per capita</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### OPR Recommended Policies

A full list of recommended policies can be found [here](#).

As is the case throughout the entire general plan, many of the policies have relation to other elements. This is particularly true with the health-related policies, below are some of the top priorities for consideration. A full appendix of example health related policies are in appendix A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Relation to other elements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[city, county] shall prioritize Transit Oriented Development that connects housing to local jobs</td>
<td>Circulation, land use, housing, economic development, social equity, climate change</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>[city, county] shall provide job training opportunities that match resident skill to locally available jobs</td>
<td>Economic development, social equity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>[city, county] shall require employment centers to provide traffic demand management to support alternate commutes to work</td>
<td>Circulation, land use, climate change</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>[city, county] shall site anchor institutions in transit-oriented corridors</td>
<td>Circulation, land use, housing, economic development, social equity, climate change</td>
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</table>
Chapter 6: Social Equity, Environmental Justice, and Community Resilience

- Definitions for equity and environmental justice
- Considerations in planning
- Potential mitigation strategies
Chapter 6: Social Equity, Environmental Justice, and Community Resilience

• Relationship to other elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correlations Between Elements</th>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Conservation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Equity and Environmental</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Identified in statute" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Closely related to statutory requirements" /></td>
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Chapter 6: Social Equity, Environmental Justice, and Community Resilience

• Data Sources for consideration

Data sources specifically help evaluate equity and EJ considerations:

- **Census Data**: The United States Census collects data on a range of factors. The American Community Survey is conducted annually.

- **Regional Opportunity Index, UC Davis Tool**: This tool provides an index based on social, economic, and environmental indicators for review and analysis by local citizens, program managers, and policy makers to inform investment decisions.

- **Local data**: Local data on amenities available.

- **Envirostor**: This program is hosted by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. It is a database that provides data in a GIS form to identify contaminated sites as well as facilities that deal with hazardous waste.

- **CalEnviroScreen**: The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in the California Environmental Protection Agency created this online mapping tool. It is a tool that can help identify communities that are burdened with high levels of pollution.

- **California Environmental Health Tracking Program**: The California Department of Public Health created this online mapping tool. It is a tool that helps identify environmental risks associated with health outcomes such as poor air quality and asthma.
Chapter 7: Economic Development
Partnerships, considerations other elements

Chapter 8: Climate Change
Explanation of benefits of aligning documents
Links to tools and data sources
Considerations for different localities

Chapter 9: Implementation

Chapter 10: CEQA
Updated to reflect current statute and practice
Tool

- Layers of data from state and federal sources

- Local data can be added in
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Colusa County Farmland Designations
Tool
Next Steps

• Public comment and outreach
  – Draft comment closes December 18

• Integration of comments and edits

• Public release and outreach

• Continued improvement of tool and website
Draft comments and Questions

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