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**TOWN OF LOOMIS  
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE  
CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES ELEMENT**

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**CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES  
UMBRELLA COMMITTEE  
MEETING #2  
APRIL 28, 2021**



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# AGENDA

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- » **Recap of March Meeting**
- » **Considerations for the General Plan Update**
- » **Next Steps**



# RECAP OF MARCH MEETING



# RECAP OF MARCH MEETING



**Introduction**



**Reviewed Element components & existing goals**



**Highlighted State law changes that will drive new policies**



**Summarized the Setting, as updated in draft format**



**Assigned homework**



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# COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

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- » **Sensitive nature of mapping cultural resources and special-status species**
- » **Financing & other incentives for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy for existing buildings**
- » **Benefits of addressing air quality in the General Plan**
- » **Private open space in low-density designations**
- » **Open space for recreation and habitat preservation**



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# COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

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- » **Maintain and expand tree canopy**
- » **Minimize grading and loss of topography**
- » **Connect trails and open space**
- » **Expand use of existing trails and add new trails**
- » **Promote electric vehicles, solar, and other technologies**
- » **Promote walking & biking to key destinations**
- » **Protect water quality in surface waters for habitat**



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# GENERAL PLAN UPDATE APPROACH

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## » Review existing goals, policies, and implementation measures

- Keep those that are relevant as written
- Modify those that need minor updates
- Delete those that are complete, not relevant, or non-compliant

## » Reorganize the goals, policies, and implementation measures with a numbering system.

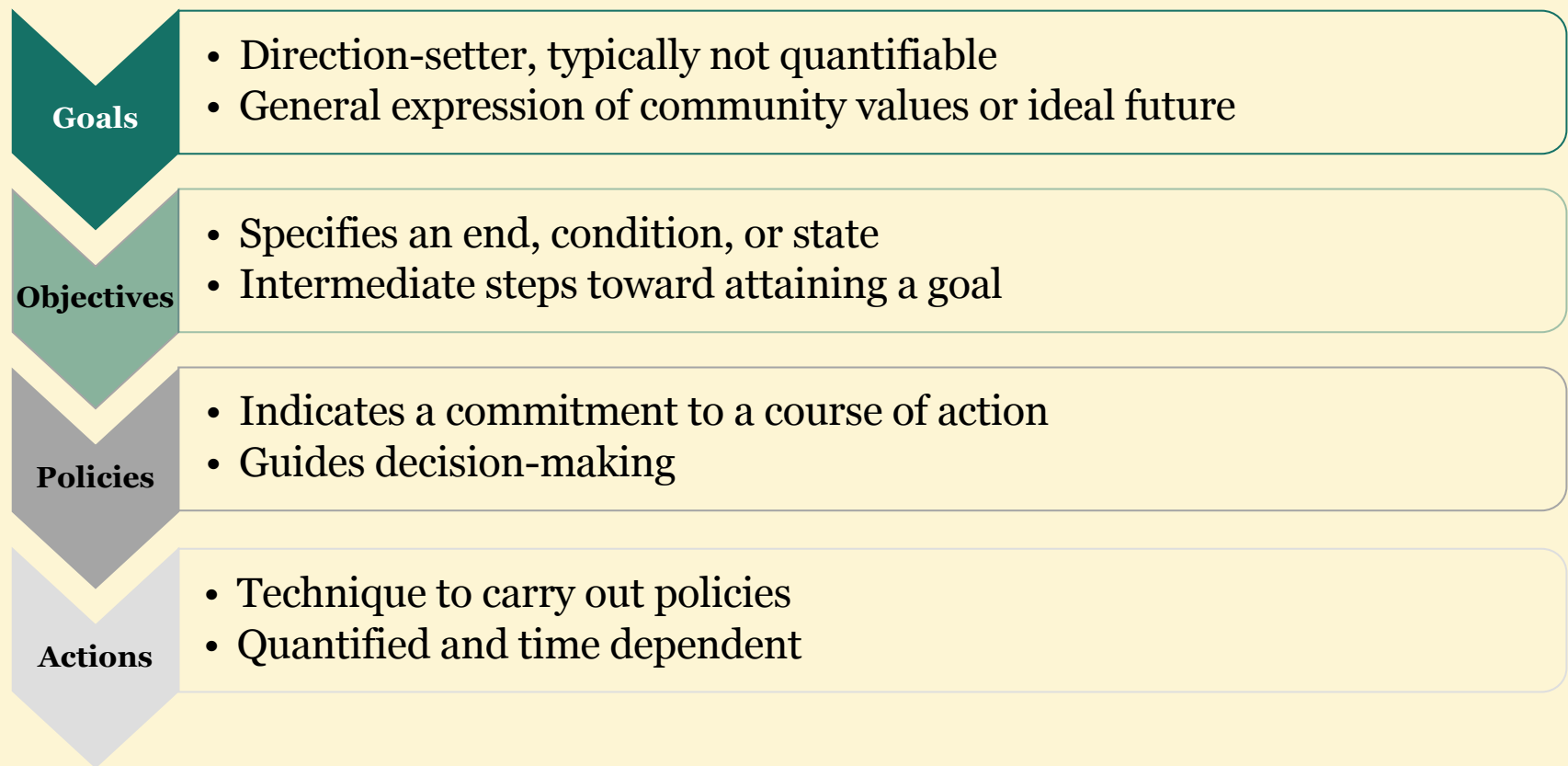
- #Goal
  - #.#Objective
    - #.#.# Policy
      - #.#.#.#Implementation Measure
- Add objectives where they were not included before – these serve as measurable outcomes that allow the Town to track progress toward goals.



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# WRITING GOALS AND POLICIES

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# REVIEW OF EXISTING GENERAL PLAN

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Has this policy/program been effective?

Should existing policies/programs be strengthened?

Is the language clear?

Are there issues not addressed that should be?

Is the content no longer relevant?

What policy updates are required as a result of State law?



# EXISTING GOALS

## » **Natural Resources**

- » **To protect areas rich in wildlife of a fragile ecological nature, including areas of rare or endangered species and riparian areas, from land development impacts.**
- » **To preserve, maintain, and enhance creeks and riparian areas for their aesthetic, wildlife habitat, and recreational values.**
- » **To help protect groundwater and air quality within the Sacramento region.**
- » **To protect major open space areas and natural features within the Town, including significant topography and rock outcroppings, oak woodlands and significant specimens of native trees.**

## » **Cultural Resources:**

- » **To preserve and where appropriate replicate historic areas, such as the Downtown district and fruit sheds, that contribute to Loomis' distinct character.**
- » **To encourage cultural facilities and events in Town, such as live theater and music programs.**



# EXISTING POLICIES

- » **Air Quality**
- » **Biotic Resources Evaluation**
- » **Grading**
- » **Hazardous Materials**
- » **Native Tree Protection**
- » **Steam Corridor Protection**
- » **Water Quality**
- » **Wetlands**
- » **Interagency Coordination**
- » **Cultural Resources**



# EXISTING POLICIES

- » ***AIR QUALITY. Loomis will contribute toward the attainment of State and Federal air quality standards in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin through the following, and other feasible measures (paraphrased list):***
  - » **Minimize construction-related dust and exhaust emissions**
  - » **Require project-specific air quality analysis**
  - » **Reduce peak morning and afternoon commute vehicle trips**
  - » **Trees and vegetation to reduce air contaminants**
  - » **Requirements for CO modeling for new development based on resulting traffic levels**
  - » **Coordination with Placer County Air Pollution Control District**
  - » **Pair new residential projects with job-producing development**
  - » **Threshold of 10 pounds per day for project-specific air quality screening**
  - » **Fair-share contribution by new development to alternative transportation systems**
  - » **New development to dedicate land for park-and-ride lots, when appropriate**



# EXISTING POLICIES

## » BIOTIC RESOURCES EVALUATION

» Prior to approval of discretionary development permits involving parcels near significant ecological resource areas, the Town shall require, as part of the environmental review process, a biotic resources evaluation by a qualified biologist. The biologist shall follow accepted protocols for surveys (if needed) and subsequent procedures that may be necessary to complete the evaluation. "Significant Ecological Areas" shall include, but not be limited to:

- » Wetland areas;
- » Stream environment zones;
- » Suitable habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species, and species of concern;
- » Large areas of non-fragmented habitat, including oak woodlands and riparian habitat;
- » Potential wildlife movement corridors; and
- » Important spawning areas for anadromous fish.



# EXISTING POLICIES

## » GRADING

- » **The Town shall discourage grading activities during the rainy season, unless adequately mitigated, to avoid sedimentation of creeks and damage to riparian areas;**
  - » **Prior to approval of discretionary development permits involving parcels near significant ecological resource areas, project applicants shall demonstrate that upland grading activities will not contribute to the direct cumulative degradation of stream quality.**
  - » **The Town will limit development on slopes with a gradient in excess of 30 percent or in areas of sensitive or highly utilized habitat, through appropriate zoning standards and individual development project review.**

## » HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- » **The Town shall require that industrial and commercial uses that store or use hazardous materials provide a buffer zone sufficient to protect public safety, including the safety of nearby wildlife.**



# EXISTING POLICIES

## » NATIVE TREE PROTECTION

- » **Individual heritage trees and significant stands of heritage trees shall be preserved. Healthy heritage trees shall be removed or significantly trimmed only when necessary because of safety concerns, conflicts with utility lines and other infrastructure, the need for thinning to maintain a healthy stand of trees, or where there is no feasible alternative to removal. Proposed development shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to preserve individual heritage trees and significant stands of heritage trees, and provide for the protection of root zones and the continuing health of the trees. When trees are removed, they shall be replaced in sufficient numbers to maintain the volume of the Town's overall tree canopy over a 20-year period. Tree removal within stream corridors is also subject to the above policy on stream corridor protection.**



# EXISTING POLICIES

## » **STREAM CORRIDOR PROTECTION**

- » **The streams of Loomis are among the most significant and valuable of the Town's natural resources. Development adjacent to streams shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to avoid adverse impacts on riparian vegetation, stream bank stability, and stream water quality to the maximum extent feasible. These policies shall apply to all watercourses shown as blue lines on the most recent United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps applicable to the Town. See also the policies for wetland protection below (paraphrased list).**
  - » **Setbacks between development and stream habitat and wetlands**
  - » **Limitation to development within setback areas**
  - » **Limiting activities within setback areas**
  - » **Requirements for proposed development encroaching into a creek corridor or creek/wetland setback (e.g., avoidance, on-site and off-site restoration, and mitigation fees)**
  - » **Surface water drainage requirements for new development to avoid erosion of streambanks or introduction of pollutants into watercourses**
  - » **Promotion of the use of natural stormwater drainage systems to preserve and enhance existing natural features**





# EXISTING POLICIES

## » WATER QUALITY

- » **The Town will contribute toward the maintenance of high quality in the local surface and groundwater resources through the following, and other feasible measures.**
  - » **Proposed development shall incorporate measures to minimize soil erosion, and stream and drainage way sedimentation during construction, and over the life of each project.**
  - » **The Town will periodically review its ordinances requiring erosion and sediment control, and will update them when necessary to ensure their continuing effectiveness.**
  - » **Proposed development shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to prevent the discharge of untreated effluent into local streams to the maximum extent feasible, including the introduction of contaminants such as pesticides, fertilizers, and petroleum products and other contaminants carried by urban runoff.**



# EXISTING POLICIES

## » WETLANDS

- » **The following policies apply to properties with wetland areas (paraphrased list). Additional applicable policies may be found under "stream corridor protection," above.**
  - » **Requirement for wetland delineation for development on sites with wetlands.**
  - » **No net loss policy and requirements for mitigation, consistent with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Game [Wildlife].**
  - » **Require mitigation by new development for loss of both regulated and non-regulated wetlands to achieve 'no net loss.' (e.g., avoidance, minimization of impacts, compensation, replacement at a determined ratio)**
  - » **Cooperate with regulating agencies.**
  - » **For development at sites where vernal pools exist, require project-review for threatened and endangered species and appropriate mitigation.**
  - » **Require preservation of native riparian and wetland areas as open space to the maximum extent feasible.**



# EXISTING POLICIES

## » CULTURAL RESOURCES

- » Loomis shall encourage the reuse and revitalization of historic buildings. Whenever possible, flexibility in development standards allowed by the Historic Building Code shall be offered to developers working with historic properties.
- » The demolition of buildings deemed by the Town to be historically or aesthetically valuable shall be prohibited in cases where alternatives for reuse are found to be feasible.
- » Loomis shall support the expansion and development of cultural facilities and programs, as a draw for visitors and residents to the downtown core.
- » When feasible, and on public property, Loomis shall prohibit recreational activities that could damage or destroy archaeological sites in areas where archaeological sites have been identified.
- » As part of the environmental review process, the Town shall review all development proposals for their potential to disturb cultural resources. In areas where cultural resources are known to occur, give special consideration to development of facilities that enhance the operation, enjoyment, and maintenance of these areas.



# GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- » **Address Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Energy**
- » **Additional protection of natural resources needed?**
- » **Opportunities to integrate protection of biological resources with co-benefits for air quality, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and energy?**
- » **Opportunities to integrate land use and transportation planning and air quality?**
- » **Ways to incentivize improvements to existing buildings to reduce energy requirements?**
- » **Integration with regional planning to promote alternative-fueled vehicles and transit?**
- » **Land use planning and proximity to air pollutant sources (e.g., rail)?**
- » **Utilize natural resources as an opportunity to draw in tourism?**
- » **Increased emphasis of visual resources (touched upon in goals but not in policy)?**
- » **Expand resource protection language to include all aquatic resource types**
- » **Gaps and Opportunities related to Cultural Resources?**



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# NEXT STEPS

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**Review the Existing Element and Draft Setting Update**  
<https://loomis.ca.gov/2020-general-plan-update/>



**Submit comments** [GPUpdate@loomis.ca.gov](mailto:GPUpdate@loomis.ca.gov)



**Next Conservation or Resources Umbrella Committee Meeting: May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**



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# AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

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Existing General Plan (2001): <https://loomis.ca.gov/general-plan/>

Existing Conservation of Resources Element (2001):  
<https://loomis.ca.gov/documents/element-vii-conservation-of-resources/>

General Plan Update: <https://loomis.ca.gov/2020-general-plan-update/>

Natural Resources Setting: <https://loomis.ca.gov/documents/natural-resources-setting/>

Cultural and Historical Resources: <https://loomis.ca.gov/documents/cultural-and-historical-resources-setting/>

Energy Resources Setting: <https://loomis.ca.gov/documents/energy-resources/>

Greenhouse Gases Setting: <https://loomis.ca.gov/documents/greenhouse-gas-emissions/>

Air Quality Setting: <https://loomis.ca.gov/documents/air-quality/>



# DISCUSSION

[GPUpdate@loomis.ca.gov](mailto:GPUpdate@loomis.ca.gov)

