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

**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING #2
MAY 13, 2021
7PM**



AGENDA

- » **Summary of Comments To Date on Biological Resources Setting**
- » **Overview of General Plan Update Approach**
- » **Next Steps**



COMMENTS & QUESTIONS SUMMARY (TO DATE)

- » **Organizational comments on graphics**
- » **General context and format comments on Setting Section**
- » **Tree Ordinance (Meeting #1) -allowance for fuel break establishment and maintenance**
- » **Aquatic resources-federally jurisdictional aquatic resources in Town?**
- » **Protections for aquatic resources as they relate to recent changes in the federal Clean Water Act**



REVIEW OF EXISTING GENERAL PLAN

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?



GENERAL PLAN UPDATE APPROACH

» 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.



EXISTING NATURAL RESOURCES 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.



EXISTING BIOTIC RESOURCES 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 CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES 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.**



EXISTING CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES 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 CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES 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 CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES 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 CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES 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.



AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

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/>



NEXT STEPS



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



Submit comments GPUUpdate@loomis.ca.gov



Participate in the Loomis Social Pinpoint Survey site:
<https://loomis.ca.gov/loomis-social-pinpoint-interactive-map/>



Next Biological Resources Committee Meeting: June 10th at 7 PM

