# Eight Questions About the Future of San Rafael

GENERAL PLAN 2040 STEERING COMMITTEE

MARCH 14, 2018

What is precious here that we don't want to lose? Community Beautiful Professional environment Inclusive small-town open-space authentic Canal Culture Walkable arts Civic-engagement technology Quality place wetlands Parks dedication physical dedication physical physical Parks dedication physical physical Parks dedication physical physical physical Parks dedication physical physica

#### Strengths (things to preserve)

- Open Space and access to nature
- Aesthetics
- Balance (urban life, neighborhoods, open space)
- Walkable, historic, authentic downtown
- Small town/Small city character
- Diversity and inclusion; welcoming persons of all backgrounds

- Accessible leadership, culture of civic engagement
- Neighborhoods and strong sense of identity– a "community of communities"
- Creative and innovative spirit
- Excellent schools, parks, and services



### **Opportunities** (things to make better)

- Pedestrian and bicycle safety walkability
- Congested streets
- Aging parks and community facilities
- Our waterfront /shoreline
- Housing opportunities

- The arts, culture, entertainment, shopping, and dining scene
- Architectural quality
- Anti-immigrant sentiment
- Public Transit
- Downtown



## Weaknesses (things to fix)

- Intolerable traffic congestion
- Not enough affordable/ workforce housing
- Inequities and limited opportunities for lower income and immigrant households
- Lack of parking in specific locations
- Climate-related hazards, particularly flooding and sea level rise

- Homelessness
- Trash and litter
- Condition of our creeks
- Fiscal constraints and responsibilities
- More visionary, thoughtful, and environmentally aware planning

#### Gaps (What's missing)

- Community gathering places and events
- More sensitive treatment of creeks
- Better waterfront access
- More housing options
- Better commercial services
- More economic equality and access to education

- More focus on North San Rafael / Terra Linda
- More walkable neighborhoods and viable commercial centers
- Higher-quality architecture
- Emergency preparedness
- Partnerships

# **External Opportunities**

- Learn from the 2017 wildfires be prepared
- Leverage our role as a hub and destination
- Encourage more environmentally responsible planning
- Follow best practices in GHG reduction and climate resilience
- Improve walkability
- Address equity
- Improve public transit connections to the rest of the Bay Area
- Be a vanguard and regional leader

## **External Threats**

- Traffic congestion
- Lack of housing supply (relative to job creation)
- Homelessness
- Climate-related natural disasters
- Diminished environmental quality/ lack of water
- Culture of fear in the immigrant community
- Intrusive state laws that take away local control
- Loss of the middle class
- Unfunded pension liabilities
- Silver "tsunami"

## Your Vision

"The most diverse and inclusive city in the Bay Area. A friendly city that focuses its economy on innovation, arts, and tourism."

"The first town in Marin to reach zero net GHG emissions—demonstrating how to remedy climate change wile readying our community for its impacts"

"A hip city of art and innovation"

"The city in Marin that has a little bit of everything"

"Let's be known for our willingness to change and embrace the future—solve the solvable problems" "On the forefront of innovation for transportation, self-driving cars, zero emission efforts, energized youth"

> "A complete community, well integrated across income levels and cultures, and with the natural environment"

"The largest, most inviting, most fun place in Marin—a welcoming community to all."

"A great fiscally sound small city with a wonderful and walkable downtown, highly diverse population, a strong economy, a great quality of life for our residents"

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