

REPORT TO GENERAL PLAN 2040 STEERING COMMITTEE

Subject: Strategy and Schedule for Policy Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the March 13 meeting, staff will present a proposed approach and schedule for reviewing draft policy “audits” and draft policies for General Plan 2040. A summary graphic will be distributed at the meeting communicating the information in this memo in “calendar” format.

REPORT

Background

One of the major functions of the General Plan 2040 Steering Committee is to review and comment on the draft goals, policies, and implementation programs being developed by staff. Another Committee function is to act as a conduit for community organizations seeking to review and comment on the Plan by soliciting input from these organizations and communicating that back to staff.

Methodology for Developing Policies

As the Committee is aware, General Plan policies are being developed on an “element by element” basis. Staff has been following these steps for each element:

1. Review other plans and programs with the potential to inform each General Plan element (completed in 2018)
2. Conduct an “audit” of each General Plan element, including recommendations for each goal, policy and program.
3. Review the “audit” with the Steering Committee, and solicit feedback from Committee members on the policies, including staff’s assessment.
4. Provide Committee members with 3-4 weeks to provide their own comments on the audit
5. Solicit additional input on the audit through focus groups, City Commissions, subject matter experts, and staff in other departments.
6. Consolidate the staff comments, Steering Committee comments, and other comments, and prepare a first draft of goals, policies and programs. Conduct internal review of the draft by staff.
7. Circulate the draft to the Steering Committee for comment and potential edits (as appropriate, this includes review by from the organizations that Steering Committee members represent).

8. Revise the goals, policies, and programs based on the comments received. Include the revised policies in the first draft (Administrative Draft) of each Plan element.

Status of Review

The review status of each element is shown in the table below. A graphic summary of how this will play out on the Steering Committee calendar for 2019 will be provided at the March 13 meeting.

Land Use Element

- The Policy Audit was completed in September 2018. The Steering Committee had a “preview” of the audit at its October 2018 meeting and did a “deep dive” into the audit at its November meeting.
- Comments were solicited from Committee members, with a deadline of December 3, 2018. Late comments were accepted. Eight Steering Committee members provided written comments.
- Committee member comments were used to generate a Draft set of land use goals, policies, and programs. These were presented to the Committee on February 13, 2019.
- Comments on the Draft goals, policies, and programs are now being accepted. When comments have been consolidated, a revised set of policies will be developed.
- Staff is also working on additional land use policies and programs to address sea level rise, climate change, and sustainability.
- Some of the policies and programs that currently appear in the Neighborhoods Element will be moved to the Land Use Element.

Safety Element

- The Policy Audit was completed in November 2018. The Steering Committee was presented with the audit at its December meeting and was asked to provide comments by the end of the year. This was a “soft” deadline – comments are still being accepted.
- Committee member comments will be used to generate a Draft set of safety (resilience) goals, policies, and programs. These will be presented to the Committee on April 10, 2019.
- The revised policies and programs will not only reflect the Committee’s input, but also the merging of key policies and actions from the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Wildfire Action Plan into this Element.
- The Committee will have 4-6 weeks to provide comments on the Draft policies and actions once they are distributed. The policies and actions will then be revised and incorporated in the first draft of the Resilience Element (formerly the Safety Element). As with all work products described in this staff report, any member of the public also may comment on this draft.

Open Space and Conservation Element

- The Policy Audit was completed in December 2018. The Steering Committee was presented with the audit at its February meeting and was asked to provide comments by March 6. This was a “soft” deadline and comments are still being accepted.

- Committee member comments will be used to generate a Draft set of open space and conservation goals, policies, and programs. These will be presented to the Committee on April 10, 2019.
- The Committee will have 4-6 weeks to provide comments on the Draft policies and actions once they are distributed. The policies and actions will then be revised and incorporated in the first draft of the Open Space and Conservation Element (note: these are currently two separate elements, but they are being merged). Any member of the public also may comment on this draft.
- Air and water quality policies will be added to this element (see below).

Sustainability Element

- A policy audit was not done for this element, because the policies and actions are being superseded by a new Climate Action Plan, to be adopted in Spring 2019.
- A presentation on the Climate Action Plan was made to the Steering Committee in November 2018.
- The new General Plan will not contain a Sustainability Element, but sustainability policies will be included in other elements of the Plan.

Circulation Element (Mobility)

- The policy audit for this element is not yet completed and will be calendared for an upcoming Steering Committee meeting (likely May or June). Committee comments will be solicited at that time.
- First draft policies will be developed following Steering Committee comments on the audit. The policies will be presented to the Committee for review and comment.
- Draft policies will be revised during Fall 2019 based on Committee comments.

Noise Element

- The Noise Element Audit was completed in February 2019. The Steering Committee will be discussing the audit at its meeting on March 6. Comments will be due by March 31.
- Committee member comments will be used to generate a Draft set of noise goals, policies, and programs. These will be presented to the Committee later this Spring.
- Draft policies will be revised over Summer 2019 based on Committee comments.

Air and Water Quality Element

- The Air and Water Quality Element Audit was completed in February 2019. The Steering Committee will be discussing the audit at its meeting on March 6. Comments will be due by March 31.
- Committee member comments will be used to generate a Draft set of air and water quality goals, policies, and programs. These will be presented to the Committee in April, as part of the expanded Open Space and Conservation Element.
- The Committee will have an opportunity to comment on the policies and actions once they are available—they will be revised again before they appear in the Administrative Draft Plan.

Culture and Arts Element

- The Culture and Arts Element Audit was completed in February 2019. The Steering Committee will be discussing the audit at its meeting on March 6. Comments will be due by April 30.
- The City will be convening a focus group of local arts advocates and organizational representative to discuss how to strengthen arts and culture policies in the General Plan. This is likely to occur in May-June.
- Committee member comments will be combined with focus group comments to generate a Draft set of arts and culture goals, policies, and programs. These will be presented to the Committee during Summer 2019.
- Draft policies will be revised again after they are presented, and before the Administrative Draft Element is published.

Parks and Recreation Element

- The Parks and Recreation Element Audit was completed in February 2019. It is now being reviewed by staff. The Steering Committee will be discussing the audit at its April 10 meeting. Comments will be due by April 30.
- The City will be conducting a study session with the Parks and Rec Commission to review the audit and draft policies. This is likely to occur in April-May.
- Committee member comments will be combined with Commissioner comments to generate a Draft set of parks and rec goals, policies, and programs. These will be presented to the Committee during Summer 2019.
- Draft policies will be revised again after they are presented, and before the Administrative Draft Element is published.

Community Design Element

- The policy audit for this element has not yet been completed. The audit will be presented to the Steering Committee in June or July as part of a Committee discussion of citywide design issues.
- A month will be provided for Committee comments. Following the close of that period, draft policies will be developed. These will be brought to the Committee for discussion in Fall 2019.
- Policies will be revised based on Committee comments, and then incorporated into the Draft Community Design Element at the end of 2019.

Economic Vitality Element

- The policy audit for this element is underway, as is an extensive data collection effort by BAE Urban Economics.
- Staff is planning to meet with the CAC to discuss the findings before it meets with the Steering Committee.
- Steering Committee discussion will likely occur around July 2019, along with a data presentation by BAE.

- Policy development will occur in August and will be presented to the Steering Committee in September.
- Policies will be revised based on Steering Committee input before they are included in the Admin Draft.

Infrastructure Element

- The policy audit for this element is underway, as is an extensive data collection effort by Placeworks.
- Steering Committee discussion of the audit will occur later this Spring.
- Policy development will occur in July, and will be presented to the Steering Committee in August-September.
- Policies will be revised based on Steering Committee input before they are included in the Admin Draft.

Governance Element

- The audit of this element is being done now, although the Governance Element will not appear in the 2040 Plan. Many of the policies are being moved to Health, Wellness, and Environmental Justice—some are moving to the Community Services and Infrastructure Element. Findings of the audit will be presented to the Steering Committee at an upcoming meeting (date TBD).

Health, Wellness, and Environmental Justice Element

- There is no “audit” of these policies because they do not currently exist.
- The City will convene a focus group of social advocacy groups to address this topic. This will take place later this spring. Other outreach efforts on this topic are planned (in English and Spanish).
- Policies will be drafted and brought to the Steering Committee in Fall 2019.
- At least one review cycle will be provided before the Draft Element is published.

Neighborhoods Element

- The Neighborhoods Element policies that apply citywide (e.g., NH-1 through NH-14) have already been “audited”—these will be part of the next draft of the Land Use Element policies.
- Downtown policies will be superseded by the Precise Plan.
- The remaining Neighborhoods Element policies (e.g., those that apply to specific geographic areas) will be updated following a series of “pop-up” workshops on neighborhood-level planning issues. The pop-ups will take place in late May and June.
- Draft policies will be presented to the Steering Committee in Fall 2019.