

City of Sonoma

No. 1 The Plaza
Sonoma California 95476-6690
Phone (707) 938-3681 Fax (707) 938-8775
E-Mail: cityhall@sonomacity.org



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CONTACT: Wendy Atkins

PHONE: (707) 933-2204

EMAIL: wendya@sonomacity.org

City Seeks Community Input in Housing Element Update Process

Community members are encouraged to provide input by using web-based "Balancing Act" public engagement tool

SONOMA, CA - The City of Sonoma (City) is pleased to invite the Sonoma Valley community to envision and explore how the City can meet its housing goals using Balancing Act - an easy, simulation-based public engagement tool. The tool can be accessed on the City's Housing Element Update webpage from February 25, 2022 - March 25, 2022, in both English and Spanish.

The Balancing Act simulation is the first of many ways that the City will engage the public while developing the 2023 – 2031 Housing Element Update. The Housing Element is a part of the General Plan for the City that assesses housing needs in the City and lays out policies and programs for addressing those needs. State Law requires Housing Elements to be updated every eight years. The City is currently in the process of updating the 6th Cycle of the Housing Element which must be certified by the State no later than January 2023.

The Balancing Act tool allows participants to create a Housing Plan by exploring how different housing densities can help the City meet its housing goals, envisioning where that housing might go, and providing input on where they want to see new housing built in the City. The Association of Bay Area governments (ABAG) assigns every community regional housing goals to plan for. Responses from this activity will inform the Planning Commission and the City Council about where the community would like to see new housing opportunities planned for and what the maximum number of units should be for these areas.

"Housing issues affect the entire community - residents, employers, and the public and private sectors," says Sonoma Mayor Jack Ding. "Public input is very important for the Housing Element update. I encourage everyone to use the Balancing Act tool and to sign up for Housing Element updates to participate in future outreach."

Create your Housing Plan today:

In English – [City of Sonoma, CA: City of Sonoma Housing Element Public Engagement - Balancing Act \(abalancingact.com\)](https://www.sonomacity.org/housing-element-update/)

In Spanish – [City of Sonoma, CA: Spanish 02/2/22 - Balancing Act \(abalancingact.com\)](https://www.sonomacity.org/housing-element-update/)

Learn more about the City's Housing Element Update and sign up for email updates on the City's website at <https://www.sonomacity.org/housing-element-update/>
