# Staff Report

Meeting Date: June 18, 2024

To: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

From: Hailey Lang, Planning Director

Subject: Presentation of the draft administrative background report for the 2050 General Plan Update

## Background

The Existing Conditions Background Report provides a clear understanding of current trends and conditions in the County and is the starting point for revising the County’s general plan. The Report provides a detailed description of a range of topics within the county, such as economic and demographic conditions, housing, land use, natural resources, and public facilities, services, and infrastructure. The Existing Conditions Background Report is policy neutral. The Background Report also serves as the “Environmental Setting” section of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the General Plan.

A hearing was held at the Planning Commission meeting on May 14, 2024, to kick-start the process for the publicly available draft of the background report. The consultant team and staff are still working through the comments and edits made during the hearing, so the provided background report is the version that was presented to the Planning Commission, not including any comments or edits derived from that hearing.

### Purpose of the Background Report

The Background Report takes a “snapshot” of current trends and conditions in Siskiyou County. It provides a detailed description of a wide range of topics within the county, such as demographic and economic conditions, land use, public facilities, and environmental resource information to support the preparation of the General Plan Update.

### Format of the Background Report

Each Chapter of the report is organized as follows:

* Introduction to the topic area, its planning implications, and why it is important to Siskiyou County.
* Existing Conditions and Setting information that describes on-the-ground conditions in and around Siskiyou County by topic area.
* Key Terms to be familiar with in the context of planning and the General Plan.
* Regulatory Setting outlining key Federal, State, and local regulations and policies that are pertinent to the topic.
* References for documents, data, and individual sources.

### Organization of the Background Report

The Background Report is organized into 11 chapters:

* **Chapter 1 – Introduction.** This chapter introduces the Background Report and covers the following topics: what the general plan is and how it is used, Siskiyou County’s regional setting and planning boundaries, purpose of the Background Report, format, and organization of the Background Report.
* **Chapter 2 – Land Use.** This chapter describes the individual planning areas of the county, annexation and development trends, General Plan, community plan land use designations, and surrounding county regional plans, existing zoning, development capacity, and disadvantaged unincorporated communities.
* **Chapter 3 – Population, Employment, and Housing.** This chapter describes the demographic characteristics of Siskiyou County, including population, and employment projections, household trends, labor force patterns, and industry trends.
* **Chapter 4 – Economic and Market Analysis**. This chapter provides an economic and market analysis, including regional market trends, business to business transaction patterns, and market demand measures for different land uses.
* **Chapter 5 – Circulation and Transportation.** This chapter describes the transportation resources in Siskiyou County. Included in this chapter is a summary of existing roadway facilities, vehicle miles traveled, transit service, active transportation, rail transportation, movement of goods, aviation transportation facilities, and transportation system management.
* **Chapter 6 – Biological Resources.** This chapter describes the biological resources in Siskiyou County, including agricultural soils, water resources, special status and endangered species, open space, conservation, scenic resources, mineral resources, forestry resources, and recreation.
* **Chapter 7 – Cultural Resources.** This chapter summarizes known cultural resources in Siskiyou County, including the prehistoric setting, ethnographic setting, historic setting, known tribal and cultural resources, and paleontological resources.
* **Chapter 8 – Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure. This** chapter describes public facilities, services, and infrastructure in Siskiyou County, including wastewater collection and treatment, storm drainage and flood protection, solid and hazardous waste disposal and recycling, utilities, law enforcement, fire protection, emergency services, health care, schools and childcare, parks and recreation, and other county services.
* **Chapter 9 – Safety and Hazards.** This chapter describes existing public health and safety issues and concerns relevant to the planning process, such as drought, geologic and seismic hazards, flood hazards, fire hazards, hazardous materials, noise, and air quality.
* **Chapter 10 – Hydrology and Water Quality.** This chapter describes hydrology and water quality in Siskiyou County, including water resources, water reliability, water quality, water supply, water treatment, water delivery, ground water sustainability plans, and water management.
* **Chapter 11 – Glossary.**

## Environmental Review

The action of presenting a report is not defined as a “Project” pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 21065. Therefore, CEQA does not apply. Additionally, no action will be taken. This item is simply a presentation of a report to provide information to the Planning Commission and the public as well as seek input from the Planning Commission and the public.

## Comments

Not including comments from the Planning Commissioners, comments have also been submitted by Anne Marsh. She provided feedback regarding policy issues within the County, such as vacation rentals, homelessness, crime, and drug use.

Generally, the Planning Commissioners provided feedback that helped clean up the document (i.e., updated data figures, clarified locations or names mentioned in the report, removed or omitted incorrect information, and added importation detail to topics).

## Attachments

1. Existing Conditions Background Report: <https://siskiyou2050.com/images/docs/SKYGP_BR_FULL_2024-05-07-RL-Reduced.pdf>