

Newsletter #1: General Plan Overview

In May 2023, the County of Siskiyou (the County) began its approximately three year process to update the General Plan and Zoning Code. Throughout this process, the County is looking to the community to provide input and guide the future of Siskiyou County. This newsletter provides a short summary of the Project and ways residents can participate in the process. To learn more, please visit: siskiyou2050.com

Visit the Project Website to:

- Stay informed on the status of the project
- Find out about upcoming meetings
- Sign up for email updates
- Share your vision of the county's future

siskiyou2050.com



What is a General Plan?

Every city, town, and county in California must have a general plan, which is the local government's long-term framework or "constitution" for future growth and development. The general plan represents the community's view of its future and expresses the community development goals. The general plan contains the goals and policies upon which the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission will base their land use decisions. Typically, a general plan is designed to address the issues facing the County for the next 20 years. The general plan is made up of a collection of "elements," or topic categories. This project will update three General Plan elements: land use, noise, and open space and conservation.

A general plan has three defining features:

General. A general plan provides general policy guidance that will be relied on to guide future land use and resource decisions.

Comprehensive. A general plan is comprehensive in nature, covering a range of topics, such as land use, housing, economic development, infrastructure, public safety, recreation, natural resources, and much more.

Long-Range. A general plan provides guidance on reaching a future envisioned 20 or more years in the future. To achieve the vision, a comprehensive plan includes goals, policies, and actions that address both immediate and long-term needs.



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Why Update the Current General Plan and Zoning Code?

The County adopted its current General Plan starting in 1972. The County has initiated an update to refine the Plan, address emerging trends and recent State laws, consider new issues, and remove completed implementation measures. This effort is intended to update the portions of the Plan that are no longer serving the County. The required General Plan Elements required by State law include Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, and Safety. The General Plan Elements that will be updated during this process are the Land Use, Noise, Open Space, and Conservation Elements. The Open Space and Conservation Elements will be combined into a single element to best fit the County's needs. The County will be adopting the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) as its Safety Element and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as its Circulation Element. The County is currently updating their Housing Element. This planning effort will allow the General Plan Team to implement best practices in planning to ensure that Siskiyou County is resilient to future risks while also improving quality of life.



Project Documents

Existing Conditions Background Report:

The Existing Conditions Background Report will look at the current state of the county, focusing primarily on the following topics: land use, population, employment, housing, economic and market, circulation and transportation, biological resources, cultural resources, public facilities, services, infrastructure, noise, air quality, safety and hazards, and hydrology and water quality.

Vision and Guiding Principles:

Following community workshops, a vision statement and guiding principles will be developed. These are intended to be inspirational and should set the key values and aspirations for the General Plan's guiding principles, goals, policies, and implementation measures.

Draft Zoning Code:

The Draft Zoning Code will define an updated land use policy that better fits the current needs of the County. This Zoning Code will be the basis of the updated General Plan.

Draft General Plan Elements:

The Draft General Plan will be guided by the findings of the Background Report and the community's vision statement. It will contain goals, policies, and implementation measures to guide future land use decisions within the county.

Project Environmental Impact Report (PEIR):

The Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and the public will use the PEIR during their consideration of the Draft General Plan to understand the potential environmental implications associated with the update.

Finalized Documents:

Once complete, the County will publish the adopted General Plan, Zoning Code, and PEIR in both print and online formats.

What are the Steps in Developing the Plan?



How do General Plans differ from Zoning?

A general plan is not to be confused with zoning. Although both the general plan and the zoning ordinance designate how land may be developed, they do so in different ways. A general plan has a broad, long-term outlook. It identifies the types of development that will be allowed, the spatial relationships among land uses, and the general pattern of future development. A zoning ordinance regulates development through specific standards such as lot size, building setbacks, height, and allowable uses. However, the land uses shown on the general plan diagrams will typically be reflected in the local zoning maps as well and changes to the zoning map are required to be consistent with the adopted general plan map. Development must not only meet the specific requirements of the zoning ordinance but also the broader policies set forth in the general plan.



How Can You Make a Difference?

Participate in the Process!

The General Plan Update process is an opportunity for community members to guide the county's future. A successful General Plan will reflect the community vision and priorities, and we need public input to create the vision and priorities! Community members can voice their thoughts on this process at workshop events, meetings, and public hearings.

Visit the Project Website

Check out the project website (siskiyou2050.com) to get frequent updates on the status of each project phase, view drafted documents, and learn about any upcoming workshops, meetings, and other ways to stay involved.

Sign up for Email Updates

You can join our email list by visiting (siskiyou2050.com). When you sign up, you will get notifications of newly released documents and any opportunities to participate in workshops, meetings, and other events.

Attend Meetings and Workshops

Public engagement events are a great opportunity to learn about the General Plan and Zoning Code, connect with other members of the community, and share your ideas about your home county.

Questions?

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