



Solano County General Plan Update

Community Workshops

SOLANO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN FRAMEWORK

Current Solano County General Plan

The Solano County General Plan contains the County's long term vision, goals and policies for the future (physical) development of land and the conservation of open space and natural resources for unincorporated County. The General Plan is comprised of a number of "elements" as required by State law as well as optional elements and area plans. The following is a list of the current elements and area plans that currently comprise the Solano County General Plan along with the date the element was originally adopted.

- Land Use* and Circulation* Element (1980)
 - Housing Element* (2005)
 - Resource Conservation* and Open Space Plan* Element (1973)
 - Health and Safety Element (Seismic Safety, Safety*, and Noise*) (1977)
 - Scenic Roadways Element (1977)
 - Energy Element (1982)
 - Park and Recreation Element (2003)
 - Collinsville-Montezuma Hills Area Plan and Program (1979)
 - Tri-City and County Cooperative Plan (1994)
- * Required Element under State Law*

While there have been minor amendments to these elements over the years, with the exception of the Housing and Park and Recreation Element, there has been no comprehensive review and update of these elements since their original adoption.

Proposed Solano County General Plan

Traditionally, general plans have been organized as a collection of "elements" such as land use, circulation, and open space. However, as noted in the State of California General Plan Guidelines "it is not the number of distinct elements that the general plan contains that is important, but instead the integral nature of the subject matter and the content of the general plan as a whole".

Adoption of individual general plan elements by the County which have been prepared and adopted over many years from 1972 to 2003, have created some practical problems. First, it makes maintaining internal consistency more difficult since a change in policy in one element can affect policies in another. Second, due to the nature of the state's statutory requirements for each element, a number of issues have to be addressed more than once resulting in needless duplication. For example, issues regarding flooding must be addressed in the land use element, safety element and open space element.

To overcome some of these problems, the required elements have been combined into three documents, including the Resource Conservation and Open Space Element (resource conservation, open space), Health and Safety Element (safety, seismic safety, noise) and Land Use and Circulation Element (land use, circulation). However, internal consistency problems can still be encountered.

To further address the issues of internal consistency and needless duplication the State General Plan Guidelines provide for the adoption of a single general plan document arranged by primary issue topics rather than by element. This format allows all the mandatory general plan issues identified in Appendix "A" to be addressed but is organized to eliminate redundancies.

The following is a draft format for the General Plan update. The outline identifies the mandatory issues that must be addressed under each heading. Basic county issues have also been identified in addition to the mandatory issues. Under the subheadings in each chapter, the Goals, Objectives, Existing Conditions, Plan Proposals, Policies and Implementation Measures will be identified as outlined under the General Plan Framework following the Draft Format below.

