



General Plan Guidelines

Office of Planning and Research

October 2015



Agenda

- Introductions
- Background
- OPR update and general questions
- Break
- Targeted discussion
 - Community engagement and visioning
 - Land use, circulation, and housing
 - Open space and conservation
 - Safety and climate change
 - Other topics, elements, or themes
- Close



The significance of General Plans?
Why update guidelines?
How have they changed?
Next steps and feedback



Significance of a General Plan





Significance of a General Plan

A General Plan is a local governments long term blueprint for the community's vision of future growth

- Starts with Community Vision, created through public engagement
 - Look back to identify past challenges and accomplishments
 - Examine current data and emerging data trends
 - Consider future issues, challenges, and goals
- Set goals, objectives, and policies in each element or topic area related to future growth



Significance of a General Plan

Requires all other plans to be consistent with General Plan

- Area Plans
- Specific plans
- Airport land use plans
- Local coastal plans
- Local hazard mitigation plans
- Climate adaptation plans



Significance of a General Plan

Required Elements

Land use

Circulation

Housing

Conservation

Open Space

Noise

Safety

Air Quality

Additional Elements often Included

Healthy communities

Climate Change

Economic Development

Water Management



Significance of a General Plan

Figure 1: Examples of General Plan Layout





Significance of a General Plan

Limits of general plans include:

- Visionary document, implementation accomplished through other levers (eg zoning, ordinances)
- In order to utilize general plan for policy, city or county must be engaged in update
- Long term process, often stretching over many years
- Can be important to help direct funding (eg for grants) but does not guarantee funding



Why Update Guidelines?

The last update to the General Plan Guidelines was in 2003, and there have been numerous new laws, requirements, resources, and research that affect general planning

- SB 375- Sustainable communities strategies
- SB 5- Flood management
- SB 743-VMT
- SB 244- Island or fringe communities
- AB 52- Tribal consultation
- AB 2140- Local hazard mitigation plans
- Many more!!

The current draft does not reflect the 2015 legislative cycle, but the final draft will



Reason for update of the GPG

Notably, SB 379 will require climate change considerations in safety element updates



Why Update Guidelines?

Incorporate State planning priorities with local needs

- Promote infill
- Protect natural and working lands
- Develop in an efficient matter



Why Update Guidelines?

As of 2015, more than half of local jurisdictions have general plans that are over 15 years old

The process of adopting a new general plan can be time consuming and costly



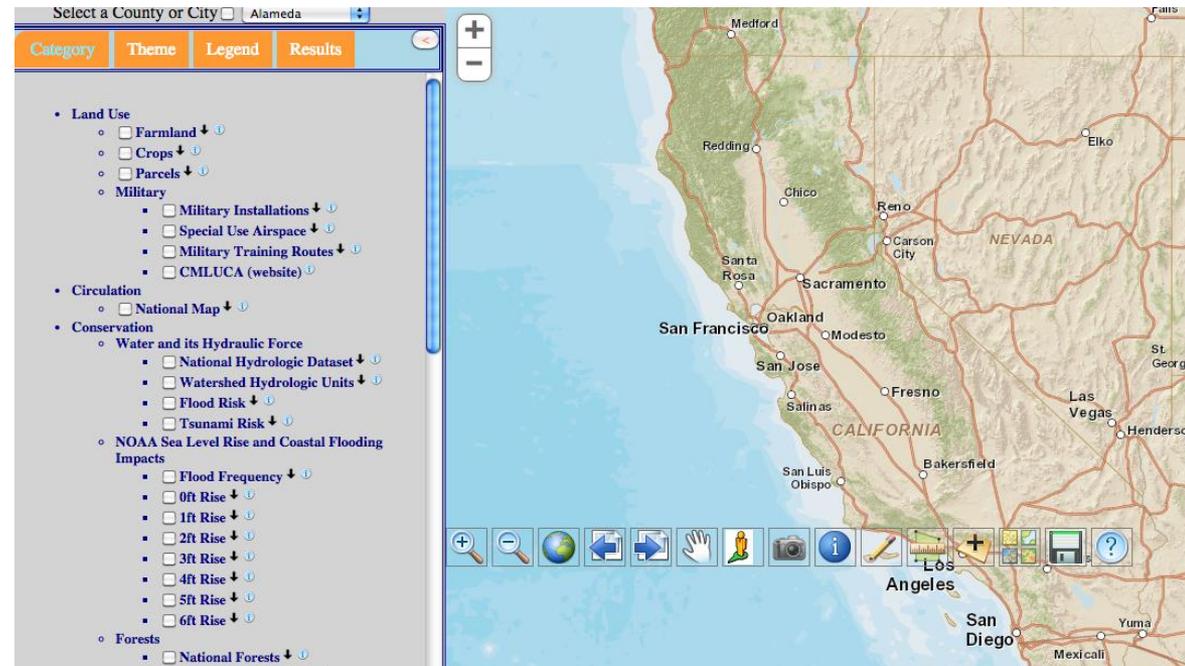
How Have the Guidelines Changed?



Vision for the GPG Update

a suite of tools

1. Policy Document: General Plan Guidelines
2. Online Data Mapping Tool
3. Updated Website





Policy Document

Integrated Suggestions from Initial Outreach

- Vision, how-to-guide, and outreach strategies open the guidelines
- Restructured layout to be user friendly
 - Clear description and examples of multiple ways to structure GP
- Sample policies for various communities, in format that is easily modified for various contexts



Policy Document

Begins with General Plan basics, emphasis on alignment and consistency

- New chapter on public engagement and visioning process
- Required elements
- Optional elements
- Implementation
- CEQA
- Appendix and resources



Policy Document

- New sections on linkages between elements
- New tables with suggested data to consider (link directly to source where available)
- New tables with example policies from around California (link directly to source where available)
- New compendiums on infill, renewable energy, and agricultural land conservation
- Direct links to sample General Plans, resources, and tools

Correlations among Elements

	Circulation	Housing	Conservation	Open Space	Noise	Safety
Land Use	●	■	●	●	■	■

● Identified in statute

■ Closely related to statutory requirements



Policy Document

Chapters 1 & 2: Introduction and Vision

- General Plan Basics
- How to use this document
- State planning priorities and their relationship to local issues



Policy Document

Chapter 3: Public Engagement and Outreach

- Planning effective public participation
- Demographic considerations
- Tools and resources available



Policy Document

Chapter 4: Required Elements

Land Use:

Expanded section on diagrams and maps

Expanded discussion on land use types and placemaking

Additional considerations in land use

- School siting
- Near roadway considerations
- Waste management
- Agricultural land conservation



Policy Document

Chapter 4: Required Elements

Circulation:

Expanded section on LOS vs VMT

Expanded discussion on coordination with land use element

Additional considerations in circulation

- Broadband and utilities
- Complete Streets initiatives
- Parking policies



Policy Document

Chapter 4: Required Elements

Housing:

Direct links to HCD site

Expanded discussion on displacement and affordable housing

Expanded discussion on consistency with other elements



Policy Document

Chapter 4: Required Elements

Conservation & Open Space:

Discussion of health and environmental impacts
Incorporation of water and climate change in to sections



Policy Document

Chapter 4: Required Elements

Safety:

Expanded discussion of new requirements for safety element updates

Tools and resources for gathering data on safety concerns

Connection to climate change and further environmental considerations



Policy Document

Chapter 4: Required Elements

Noise:

Interim update to noise guidance

Expanded consideration of construction and other types of noise, in context of infill

Appendix with last noise guidance until further update is possible



Policy Document

Chapter 4: Required Elements

Air Quality:

Direct links to San Joaquin Valley Air Quality requirements



Policy Document

Chapter 5: Healthy Communities

Strategies, considerations, and potential partnerships

Expanded discussion on healthy food systems

Relationship to other elements

Clear descriptions and analysis of health and its relationship to planning and equity

Focus on data and data mapping

Links to resources and models

SAMPLE OF OPR RECOMMENDED DATA FOR CONSIDERATION IN ANALYSIS OF THIS ELEMENT

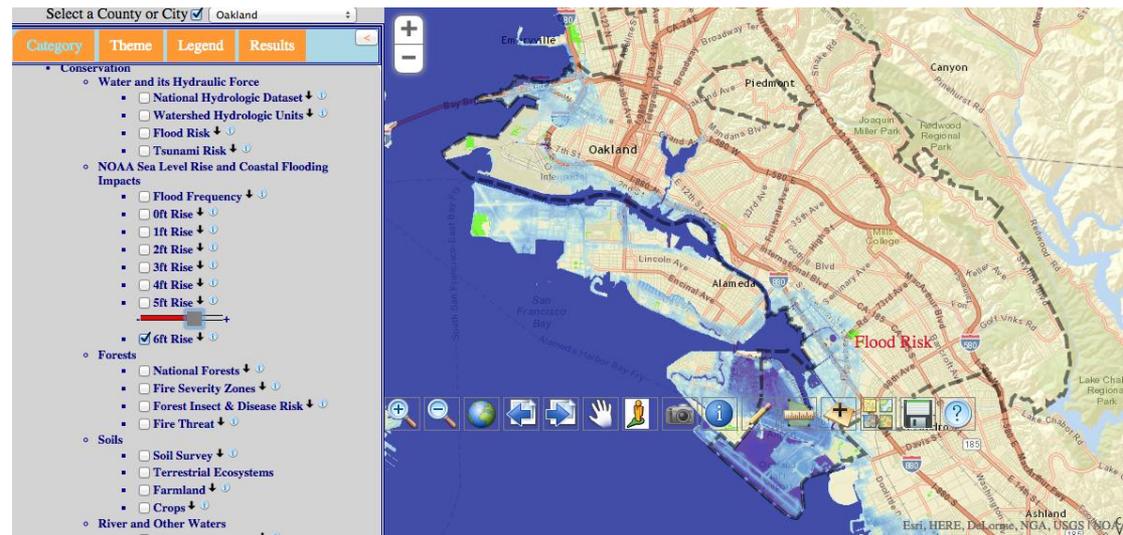
	<i>Intent of Analysis</i>	<i>Recommended Data</i>
<i>Health & Health Behavior Related</i>	Life expectancy can be a good proxy for general health and well-being in the community. Many low-income areas suffer from early mortality and morbidity.	Life Expectancy at Birth
	Asthma can be worsened by environmental triggers, such as poor air quality, poor housing quality, and climate change, examining baseline conditions can help inform siting decisions.	Asthma (Prevalence, ED visits, hospitalizations)
	Obesity is caused by many factors, but lack of access to healthy foods and physical activity are significant contributors. Examining baseline status can help with policy decisions around active transportation, recreation priorities, and food system policies.	Obesity (child and adult) prevalence
	These diseases, also caused by many factors, are often associated with obesity. Examining baseline status can help with policy decisions around active transportation, recreation priorities, and food system policies.	Secondary diseases from obesity (high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, type 2 diabetes prevalence)
	Many accidents involving pedestrians and bicycles could be improved through infrastructure, design, and signage. Examining a baseline can inform policy and planning for transit routes, active transportation, and safety.	Unintentional injury such as pedestrian and bicycle accidents
	Walk trips is a behavior that benefits health and is influenced by the environment. Examining a baseline number can help inform active transportation and for	Walk trips per capita



Policy Document

Chapter 6: Social Equity, Environmental Justice, and Community Resilience

- Definitions for equity and environmental justice
- Considerations in planning
- Potential mitigation strategies
- Breakdown of different forms of inequity





Policy Document

Chapter 7: Economic Development

Partnerships

Considerations related to other elements

Examples of economic engines in planning



Policy Document

Chapter 8: Climate Change

Explanation of benefits of aligning documents

Links to tools and data sources

Considerations for different localities



Policy Document

Chapter 9: Implementation

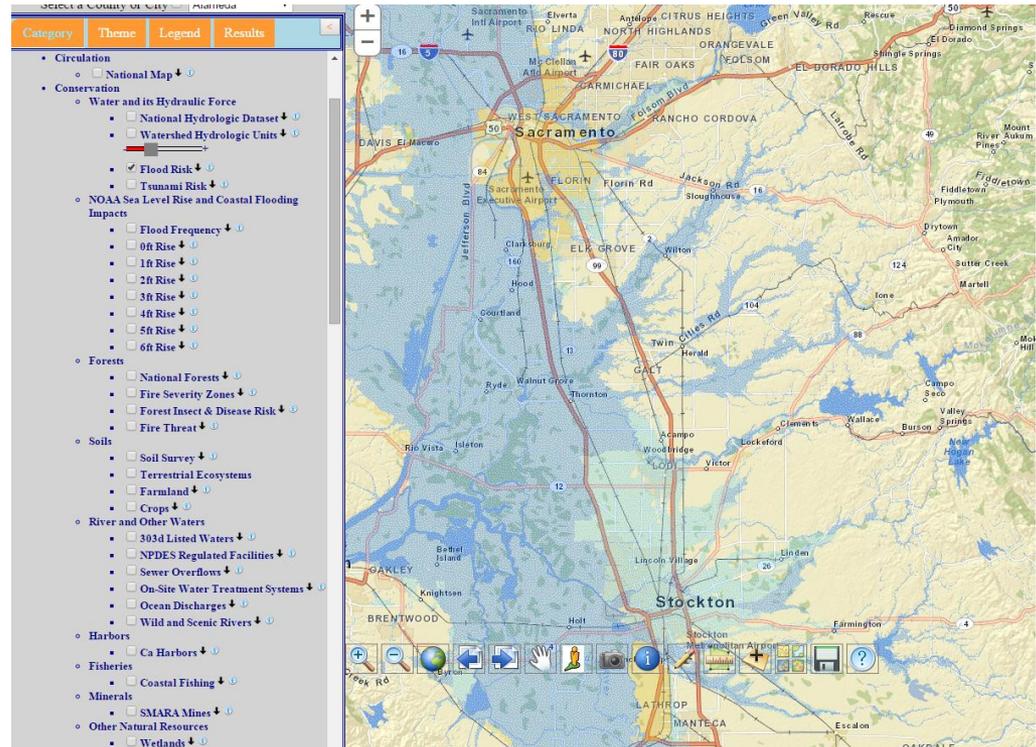
Chapter 10: CEQA

Updated to reflect current statute and practice



Tool

The new mapping tool will have layers of data from state and federal sources, and additional layers of local data can be added in to paint a more complete picture for planning purposes.





Tool

Select a County or City

Category Theme Legend Results

- State Parks
- School Districts
- Legislative Districts
- Special Districts

Land Use

- Farmland
- Crops
- Parcels
- Military
 - Military Installations
 - Special Use Airspace
 - Military Training Routes
 - CMLUCA (website)

Circulation

- National Map
- HOV Lanes
- Express Lanes (Toll)
- Traffic Speeds
- Bottlenecks
- Alternative Fuel Stations

Local Transportation Systems

This product is provided for informational purposes only. Users of this information agree by their use to hold blameless the State of California, and its respective officers, employees, agents, contractors, and subcontractors for any liability associated with its use in any form. Specifically, this work shall not be used to assess actual hazards, insurance requirements, or property values.

Esri, HERE, DeLorme, NGA, USGS | Source: U.S. Census Bureau | US



Tool

DLRP_statewide_landuse

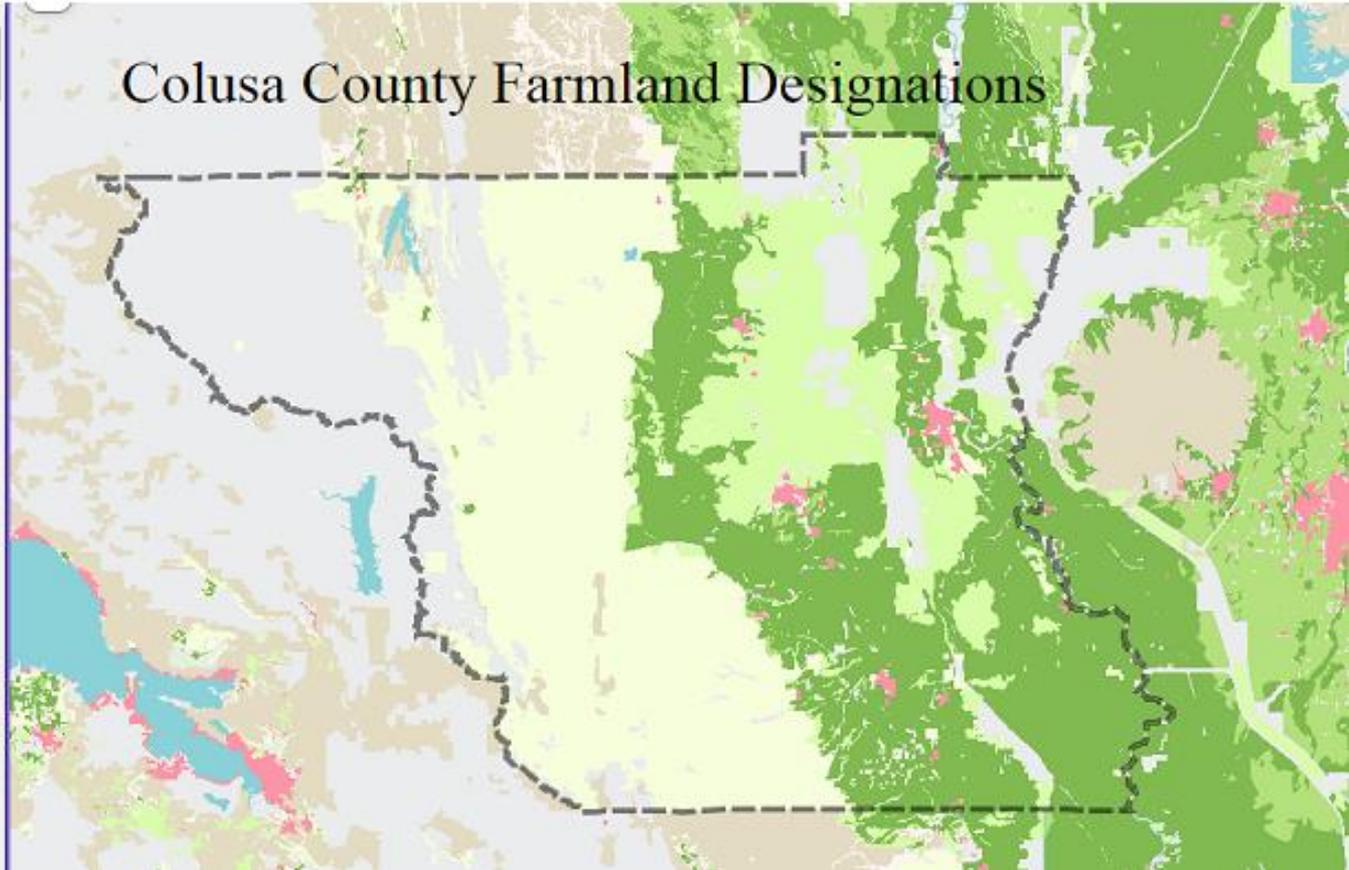
statewide2008

- Prime Farmland
- Farmland of Statewide Importance
- Unique Farmland
- Grazing Land
- Farmland of Local Importance
- Farmland of Local Potential
- Other Land
- Confined Animal Agriculture
- Nonagricultural or Natural Vegetation
- Vacant or Disturbed Land
- Rural Residential Land
- Semi-agricultural and Rural Commercial Land
- Urban and Built-Up Land
- Water Area
- Irrigated Farmland
- Nonirrigated Farmland
- Out of Survey Area

World_Street_Map

World Street Map

Colusa County Farmland Designations





Tool

Flood_Risk_State

- 100-Year Floodplains
 - FEMA DWR Awareness Regional Studies /USACE Comprehensive Study
- 200-Year Floodplains
 - USACE Comprehensive Study
- 500-Year Floodplains
 - FEMA Regional Studies/USACE Comprehensive Study

21188 Lochlea Ln - Google

<https://www.google.com/maps/@33.6546972,-117.9818539,3a,75y,353.35h,94.52t/data=!3m1!1e3>

21188 Lochlea Ln
Huntington Beach, California

Street View - May 2011

Neighborhood within 100yr Floodplain, Huntington Beach



General Plan Guidance

Next Steps



Next Steps

- Public comment and outreach
 - Draft comment closes December 18
- Integration of comments and edits
- Public release and outreach
- Continued improvement of tool and website



Draft comments and Questions

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Draft comments and Questions

Questions to consider

From a planner or community perspective,

- What is an issue that has come up in general planning updates or specific element updates?
- What guidance or tools from the state level would have helped address this issue
- What data would be useful in resolving this issue