

General Plan Guidelines Update



» Coming in 2014!

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is preparing to release an update to the General Plan Guidelines (GPGs). The new GPGs represent a change in format and information presentation.

The draft will be released in early 2014 with a voluntary 60 day public review period and outreach meetings across the state.





The GPGs will provide an extensive overview of the required general plan elements, including tips for compliance, best practices, and data resources.

For Example:

General Plan Guidelines*: Conservation Element

Wildlife

California is home to a [diverse array of wildlife](#), and the Conservation Element is the appropriate place to provide plans for the protection and preservation of these populations and their habitats within the local jurisdiction. Planning for wildlife habitats should account for both current habitats, projected changes in habitat due to climate change, and potential threats to habitat from development pressures. The conservation element's focus on wildlife should be consistent with [Habitat Conservation Plans](#) and other management plans, and should include coordination with other [government agencies](#) involved in wildlife preservation.

*This is draft language and is subject to change.

Conservation Element Example

City of Oroville General Plan: Protection of Fisheries

Objective: Protect riparian, riverine and open water habitats.

Policies:

A. Require an appropriately sized buffer or setback, as determined by a qualified biologist, on each side of a riparian corridor, creeks, stream, wetland, or pond. Development shall be prohibited within established setback areas for these riparian corridors, creeks, stream, wetland, ponds, and waterways.

B. Support a multi-use concept for riparian corridors that incorporates open space, aesthetic, habitat and wildlife corridor values, while addressing social, cultural, flood control and recreation needs.



In addition to the mandatory elements, the GPGs will focus on four key areas:

- » Economics
- » Equity
- » Climate change
- » Healthy communities

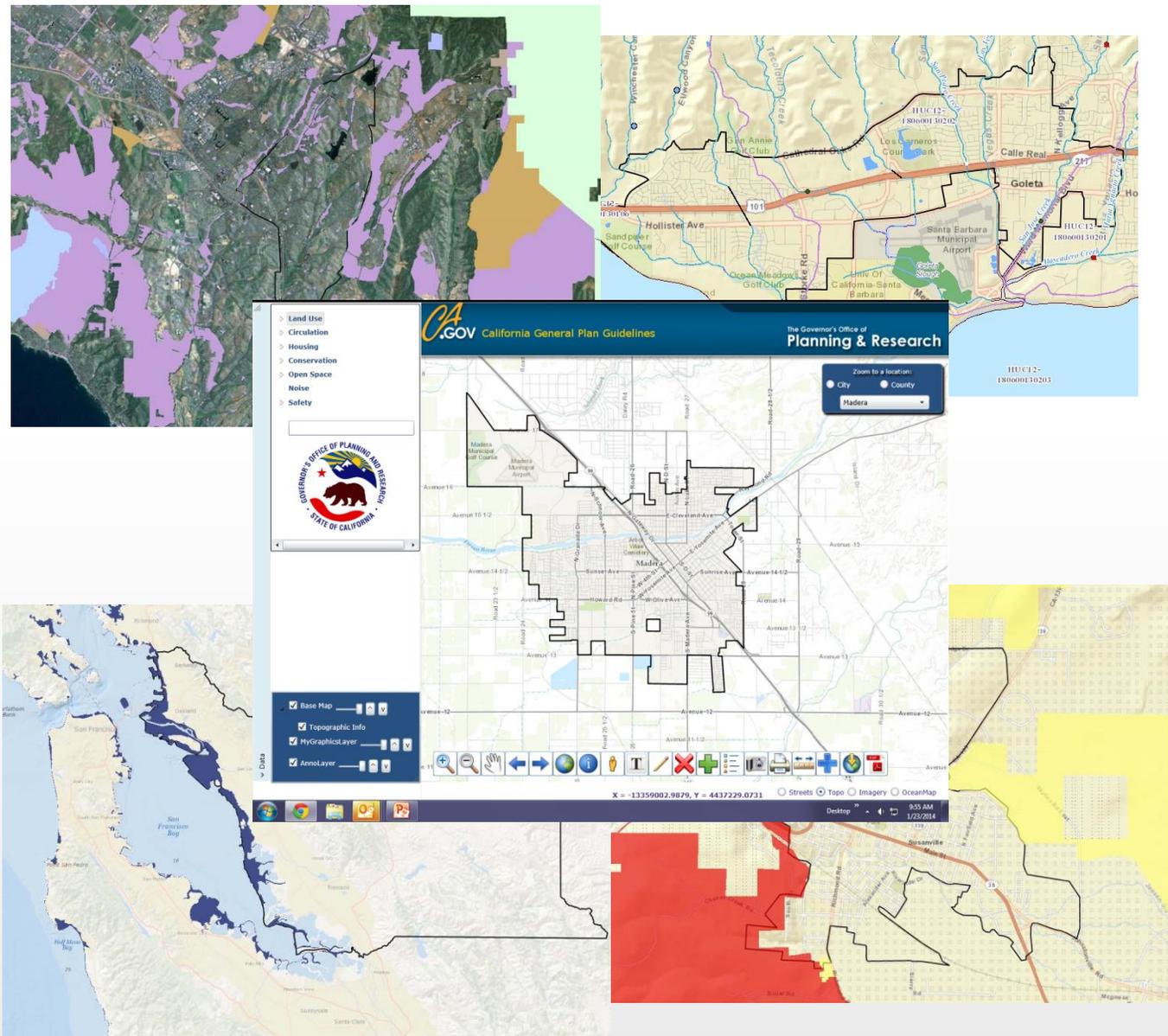


OPR recommended policies will focus on implementing the vision of the State's [Environmental Goals and Policy Report](#).





A new **GPG Online Mapping Tool** will provide planners with customizable city and county maps with access to state Geographic Information System data for each element.



This mapping tool is under development and not yet publically available.



The GPGs should be released soon! For the latest information, visit www.opr.ca.gov.

Or email OPR Project Manager, Seth Litchney, at seth.litchney@opr.ca.gov

