

Kern County General Plan Update



April 2017

Conservation



The conservation element addresses the conservation, development, and use of natural resources, including water, forests, soils, rivers, and mineral deposits.

Conservation, in terms of the General Plan, does not necessarily mean un-improvement, rather the focus is on how to preserve natural resources. The purpose of the conservation element is to layout the foundation by which natural resources are managed to ensure sustainability and compatibility with surrounding uses. Some actions may include preservation of land and un-improvement but others include management that allows utilization of natural resources in a manner that helps sustain long term use.

Water



Water is strongly tied to growth and development and the County's economic and environmental well being. Droughts and the growing population place strain on water needs and availability throughout the county. Policies, management, and implementation measures will insure water needs are met and increase sustainability while protecting water quality and the environment.

Housing



The development and preservation of adequate and affordable housing is important both to the well-being of the residents and economic prosperity of Kern County. To plan for the development of adequate housing for all income segments, the Housing Element is prepared as part of the General Plan.

Although the current Housing Element was adopted in 2016, it may be refined as part of the update process.

Get Involved!

A successful General Plan will reflect the community's priorities and your input is needed to establish the community's values and establish it's vision.

Website

<http://pcd.kerndsa.com/general-plan-update>

Visit the General Plan website for all documents related to the General Plan Update process.

Workshops

Attend Workshops and share your ideas.

Newsletters

A series of newsletters will be prepared to provide information on upcoming workshops and an overview of the elements being discussed.

Mailing List

Add your name by visiting our website or email us:

GeneralPlanUpdate@co.kern.ca.us

Questions

1. Moving forward what do you believe the General Plan needs to focus on?



Our Schedule



General Plan Elements and Workshop Schedule



Conservation Addresses protection and enhancement of natural and cultural resources.



Water Ensures water resources are available, sustained and protected for quality.



Housing Plans for housing to meet the needs of all sections of the county.

Workshop: April 27, 2017



Energy Provides measures that reduce energy use and encourage alternative energy development.



Military Readiness Addresses military needs such as land, restricted air space and housing.

Workshop: May 25, 2017



Safety Addresses hazards such as fires, flooding, geological hazards and hazardous materials.



Noise Addresses noise-generating and noise-sensitive land uses.

Workshop: June 22, 2017



Healthy Communities Ensures walkable, bicycle-friendly communities with access to fresh food, health care and other factors of a healthy place to live and work.



Land Use Establishes land use designations and patterns to support economic stability while protecting our quality of life.



Circulation Guides transportation decisions for automobiles, bicycles, pedestrians and mass transit.



Open Space Provides measures to protect and improve open spaces.

General Plan Update Process

Workshops

General Plan element discussions to develop a potential framework such as plan objectives, goals, policies and implementation measures.

Staff Report to Board Of Supervisors

Plan Development

Finalize a Draft General Plan Document to be circulated for public review and comment.

Environmental Analysis

Analyze the environmental effects of implementing the General Plan through a Program Level Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Project Consideration

Circulate the final proposed General Plan and Program Level EIR for public review and comment.

General Plan Adoption

The Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will consider the General Plan at a series of public hearings.

Contact the General Plan Update Team

GeneralPlanUpdate@co.kern.ca.us

Kern County Planning &
Natural Resources Department
2700 M Street, Suite 100
Ph: (661) 862-8600

General Plan Documents

Throughout this process all documents will be posted on our website:

<http://pcd.kerndsa.com/general-plan-update>

Comments can be submitted through our website at:

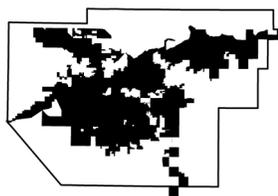
<http://pcd.kerndsa.com/community-input>

These comments are part of the record. If you wish to remain anonymous, please note an email address does not have to be provided.



Water Management

Discussions of water are prepared in coordination with any county wide water agency and with all district and city agencies, including flood management, water conservation, or groundwater agencies that have developed, served, controlled, managed, or conserved water of any type for any purpose in the county and must include any information on water supply and demand. Policies should take into account future development impacts on bodies of water.



Metropolitan Bakersfield Area Plan

Bakersfield is the largest incorporated city in Kern County. It also has a large sphere of influence, meaning the boundary outside it's legal borders where the city believes it will grow, which affects several unincorporated communities. The policies and design standards that govern these communities mimic those of within Bakersfield's legal borders.

The goal of both the city and county planning departments is to create seamless transitions between city and county lands.



Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

The Metropolitan Bakersfield HCP addresses urban development, specifically the effect of urban growth on protected plant and animal species within the Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan area.

The HCP covers endangered species like the kit fox, kangaroo rat, blunt nosed leopard lizard and Bakersfield cactus.

The purpose of an HCP is to provide an effective framework to protect, enhance and when necessary restore natural resources in the general area addressed by the Metropolitan Bakersfield planning area, while streamlining the environmental permitting process for impacts on threatened and endangered species. The existing HCP is set to expire in the coming years and a new plan to replace the existing plan is currently in progress.

The updated Habitat Conservation Plan is being prepared under the combined efforts of the City of Bakersfield, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the County of Kern. The proposed permit area, where all covered activities will take place, encompasses approximately 258,406 acres or 404 square miles.

Planning for the Future

Water management policies and conservation policies will help direct economic growth and stability in the county.

Public comments and continued participation in workshops provides Staff with information to guide conversation and potential policies. Your continued input is encouraged. Please join us!

When Last We Met

On March 23, 2017 Staff met with the public and welcomed all comments shared. This was the third General Plan Update meeting.

Staff gave a presentation about land use designations and the evaluation of specific and rural plans; economic opportunity area plans; and an overview of proposed circulation policies.

The public then addressed Staff and the Commissioners. Comments and requests regarding sidewalks, crosswalks, street lights and better drainage systems were received. Support for Complete Street policies and road design standards was given. Support of policies that promote and support business was also received.

Staff appreciated the public participation in this workshop and feedback from the Commissioners.

What's Next

Energy and Military Readiness Elements

In May, we will discuss Energy and Military Readiness Elements.

The energy element addresses existing and potential energy resources. Kern County has a wealth of oil, natural gas, and electricity producers. The element defines critical energy related issues and sets forth goals, policies and implementation measures to protect resources and encourage development while protecting the public's health, safety and the environment.

The military readiness element is a collaboration between the military and the County to prevent land use conflicts with military installations and training activities.

Community Workshop

The Kern County Community is invited to participate in the County's General Plan Update

Water and Housing Elements

WHEN: Thursday, April 27, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, 1st Floor
1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield

