

Kern County General Plan Update



February 2017

Healthy Communities

Homes, schools, and neighborhoods influence community health in fundamental ways. In these places are opportunities to influence and improve health, by ensuring that everyone has access to the ingredients for a healthy life, including nourishing food, safe water, affordable places to live, safe places to walk, bike, and be active, and clean air indoors and out. Kern County Public Health Department uses indicators to gauge the health of our communities. An overview of indicators of a healthy community and recommended concepts and strategies for the general plan will be presented.

A presentation will be given by a local community group.

Land Use

A land use element which designates the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of the land for housing, business, industry, open space, including agriculture, natural resources, recreation, and the enjoyment of scenic beauty, education, public buildings and grounds, solid and liquid waste disposal facilities, and other categories of public and private uses of land. The land use element shall include a statement of standards of population density and building intensity recommended for the various districts and other territory covered by the plan. The land use element shall identify areas covered by the plan which are subject to flooding and shall be reviewed annually with respect to those areas. The land use element shall designate, in a land use category that provides for timber production, those parcels of real property zoned for timberland production pursuant to the California Timberland productivity Act of 1982. (Gov. Code 65302(a))

A presentation will be given by local conservation groups.

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 its 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 at:

GeneralPlanUpdate@co.kern.ca.us

Questions

1. What type of data gathering or analysis do you think should be done by Staff to develop potential healthy community goals and policies for the General Plan Update?
2. What is the best part about living in Kern County?
3. What is the worst part about living in Kern County?
4. What does the term healthy community mean to you?
5. Is your neighborhood a health community? If so, why? If not, why not?
6. What amenities do you look for in a community?

Our Schedule



General Plan Elements and Workshop Schedule



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.

Workshop: **February 23**

Land Use, Continued



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



Open Space Provides measures to protect and improve open spaces.



Conservation Addresses protection and enhancement of natural and cultural resources.

Workshop: **March 23, 2017**



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**

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

What's New

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

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

If you are looking for a Staff Report, Summary of Comments, Agenda, or a presentation summary, look no further than the General Plan Update front page. If you put your email address in the box to the right, you will receive notices when new documents are made available or changes have been made to the site.



Formula for Success

Coach John Wooden, UCLA basketball, said Success = Conditioning + Fundamentals + Unity. This formula helped Coach Wooden lead his team to 10 national championships. It can also be used to create a successful general plan update.

Conditioning in a general plan, is preparation. Preparation is reviewing laws and regulations and general readiness for workshops, i.e. getting the team together.

+Fundamentals (basics) of all planning, especially a general plan, is land use. Land use is the designation of use of sections of land, what can be done where.

+Unity (teamwork) is teamwork. In creating the best possible general plan, it is vital that the community take part. Through comments, suggestions, recommendations and requests, the community helps guide the general plan.

=Success in the general plan lies within its comprehensiveness. This means the plan can be implemented and reflects the goals and policies the community and Staff consider the most important for the continued economic growth and health of the county.

Our focus is teamwork. Through detailed comments, written or spoken, Staff can focus and prioritize. Detailed comments include projects, such as sidewalks in an area, that will improve your community.

Land Use Element

Land Use is the pattern of development; the general distribution, location and extent of public and private uses of land.

Kern County combines Land Use, Open Space and Conservation into one chapter because of the close interrelationship between the elements. This chapter provides for varied land uses for economic growth while preserving/conserving agricultural lands and natural resources.

The General Plan Land Use Element is the equivalent to using a broad paintbrush on a canvas. Its purpose is to layout where the sky, grass, and water are going to be. Other adopted documents, like the Zoning Ordinance and the Land Division Ordinance, implement the General Plan Land Use Element through site specific standards. Examples include setbacks, height limits, and what type of commercial business is permitted. These documents are the thin bush adding details, like sun rays, grass blades and ripples in the water.

Together the Land Use Element and the other adopted documents determine the growth patterns for the county, where projects are built.



Planning for the Future

The healthy community and land use elements are corner stones in building a better, healthier County. Help create these corner stones by sharing your project ideas. Be specific about what you want to see, what you want the County to prioritize. Have an impact on the future by submitting comments and suggestions today, either in person or on the website.

When Last We Met

On January 26, 2017 Staff met with the public and welcomed all the comments shared.

Kern County Public Health discussed the need for long term resolutions to the County's health problems. They recommended safe walking and biking areas and accessible, affordable, nutritious food.

A presentation of Kern County statistics and overview of updated regulations and requirements for the general plan was given. These materials are on the general plan update website.

The Kern Economic Development Corporation shared the economic growth the County experienced in recent years and hopes for continued growth.

After the presentations, the public shared their concerns. Frequent concerns were: better drainage systems, safe parks and recreation areas, bicycle lanes and sidewalks.

Staff greatly appreciates the comments and attendance at this workshop. We hope to continue to hear from you as we continue this process.

What's Next

Land Use, Circulation, Open Space, and Conservation

In March we will continue our Land Use discussion and discuss Circulation, Open Space and Conservation as these elements are interrelated.

The circulation element consists of goals and policies guiding the general location and extent of existing and proposed transportation routes, major thoroughfares and transportation public facilities (terminals)

The open space element addresses land or water which is unimproved and devoted to an open space use. It includes areas for preserving plant and animal life, forest land, groundwater basins and earthquake faults.

The conservation element addresses conservation, development and utilization of natural resources including water, forests, soils, wildlife, minerals, etc.

Community Workshop

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

Healthy Communities, Land Use

WHEN: Thursday, February 23, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

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

