



REPORT TO PLANNING COMMISSION City of Sacramento

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STAFF REPORT
May 14, 2009

Members of the Planning Commission

Subject: 2030 General Plan – Annual Reporting

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and Comment

Contact: Teresa Haenggi, Associate Planner, Community Development Department

Summary:

The 2030 General Plan was approved by Council on March 3, 2009. The new General Plan calls for an annual report to the Council and Planning Commission on the progress made towards achieving its vision and goals. In assessing this progress, staff and city leaders can highlight accomplishments, identify areas of underperformance, and develop an action plan for the upcoming year. The annual reports will ensure the General Plan continues to be a living document that is responsive to the City's short-term interests and needs while addressing its long term priorities and values.

Staff has drafted an outline for the preparation of the annual report, and requests input from the Commission on this proposed annual reporting procedure.

2030 General Plan Annual Report Schedule

The General Plan annual report is important in informing policy decisions and the development of the City's capital improvement program (CIP) and budget. Policy decisions are made throughout the year, but the CIP and budget are adopted once a year, in June, for the following fiscal year. Staff is proposing the annual report be shared with the Commission, Council, and community in October so that it can guide CIP projects and the budget early in their development.

Sources of Information for the Annual Report

There are four sources of information that will provide a comprehensive assessment of the General Plan progress:

- Growth activity (Development)
- Progress on the General Plan's implementation program
- Cumulative effects of amendments
- Data from the Livability Index

More Information on how these sources will be used is provided in Attachment 1.

Desired Outcomes of Annual Report

Assessment of the data generated from the four sources of information will be the basis of discussion on how to proceed in implementing the General Plan. Potential outcomes include identifying action items, modifying the Plan's implementation plan, making policy decisions, amending the Plan, and identifying priorities for the upcoming year. Another important component to formulating an action plan is to determine how the community can be engaged in the implementation of the General Plan. This includes sharing the annual report with the public, announcing upcoming implementation efforts such as community plan updates, zoning code changes, and strategic neighborhood action plans (SNAPS).

5-Year Updates

The 2030 General Plan also calls for a comprehensive update every five years. This encompasses a thorough review of all goals, policies, and implementation programs. Information collected in prior years for the annual reports can be used for this substantial effort.


Conclusion

Staff is in the early stages of formulating a process and format for the 2030 General Plan annual report and is seeking feedback from the Commissioners on the following questions:

- Will the proposed timing of Council and Commission review of the annual report be effective in informing policy and budget decisions?
- Will the suggested information sources provide a clear picture on the progress towards reaching the General Plan's vision?
- Are the desired outcomes for the annual report appropriate?

Next Steps

Staff will use the Commission’s feedback to continue refining the proposed process for preparing the annual plan. Staff will also seek Council feedback in July of 2009. Meanwhile, data on development will be collected, progress on the implementation program monitored, and amendments to the General Plan tracked. Desired trends and benchmarks will be identified for the Livability Index indicators and data points. Staff will also develop a strategy for community outreach and create a format for the annual report that is easily accessible to the public.

Respectfully submitted by: 
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Associate Planner

Recommendation Approved:


Thomas S. Pace
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**Information Sources
2030 General Plan Annual Review**

Growth Activity (Development). A summary of the types of development that have occurred in the City of Sacramento in the prior year will be provided in the annual report, along with an assessment of how well the General Plan has fostered desired development and economic growth. Data that will be provided to gauge growth include the following: affordable housing, square feet of commercial, development in Growth Opportunity Areas, residential units, new jobs, and taxes generated. Also important in gauging the General Plan's success is data on how the environmental impact report has facilitated development.

Implementation Program. The update will include a "progress report" on the General Plan's implementation program. This will provide the opportunity to highlight progress made by all the departments and partnering agencies. Also, barriers to progress can be identified and addressed.

The implementation program was created to be flexible and responsive to the City's priorities and availability of resources. The annual review will help determine if the implementation program needs to be updated to better reflect the economic environment and civic interests of the reporting year.

General Plan Amendments. Amendments made in the prior year will be assessed as a whole. This assessment will provide an understanding of how the accumulation of several amendments can impact the level of success in realizing the goals of the General Plan. This is an important effort, because the impact of individual amendments many not be easily understood at the time they are made.

Livability Index (Index). The Livability Index was developed to measure the General Plan's success over time in achieving the Plan's vision to become the most livable city in the nation. Livability is largely dependent on the sustainability of the City. The Index consists of fourteen indicators that address the three "E's" of sustainability: environment, economy, and equity. Data collected on these indicators will provide a picture of how "livable" the City is and how the General Plan has contributed to the progress made towards becoming the most livable city in the nation.

More information on the Livability Index is provided in Attachment 2, immediately following this page, and a draft of the Index is provided in Attachment 3.

2030 General Plan Livability Index

The Livability Index was developed concurrently with the 2030 General Plan’s goals, policies, and implementation program. Input from the City Council and the General Plan Advisory Committee contributed to this effort. It includes the following fourteen indicators that together reflect the various dimensions of “livability” as framed by the General Plan’s Vision and Guiding Principles, themes, goals, policies, and programs:

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|---|--|
| 1. City Profile | 8. Housing Affordability and Diversity |
| 2. Urban Forest | 9. Mobility and Transportation Choices |
| 3. Economic Diversity and Business Innovation | 10. Public Safety |
| 4. Vibrant Central City | 11. Energy and Waste |
| 5. Infill Development and Redevelopment | 12. Sustainability |
| 6. Historic Preservation | 13. Equity |
| 7. Complete Neighborhoods | 14. Civic Engagement and Government Services |

Each indicator is comprised of a series of sub-indicators to more fully encompass the complexity of each indicator. Attachment 2 provides a list of the Indicators and associated data points.

The first indicator establishes basic statistics (e.g., population, diversity, median income, cost of living, unemployment rate). This profile information will be used to set the context for current conditions. The City profile will be compared to the national, state, and regional profiles to provide a more complete perspective of the economic, social, and political backdrop to the City.

The remaining indicators measure Sacramento’s overall progress in 13 key areas, reflecting the major themes in the 2030 General Plan.

Criteria for Indicators

A long list of potential indicators was assessed for inclusion in the Livability Index. Consistent with other successful indicator programs, the following criteria were used to screen the potential indicators and select the proposed set of indicators:

- Aligns with the General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles;
- Can be easily understood and communicated;

- Is available from a reliable source of objective information;
- Is available for different geographic areas (e.g., community plan area, city, and/or region);
- Collected annually or at other regular intervals;
- Is relatively inexpensive to collect and report;
- Indicates an output rather than an input; and
- Allows for comparison to other jurisdictions, or is a commonly reported measure.

Relationship between the Livability Index and the 2030 General Plan

The indicators in the Livability Index are aligned with the General Plan’s Vision and Guiding Principles, and the type of data needed to track the indicator trends is based on the Plan’s goals and policies.

The trends identified in the Livability Index are largely determined by the success of the Plan’s Implementation Program. If trends indicate the city is not heading in the desired direction, or are not getting to this destination in an acceptable timeframe, staff will revisit the Implementation Program to determine if it should be modified to achieve greater success in realizing the General Plan’s vision. The Index will be also be used in the 5-year update of the General Plan.

Community Involvement

One of the more important features of the Livability Index is its usefulness in keeping the public engaged in the implementation of the 2030 General Plan. Staff intends to post the results on the website, offer hardcopy summaries, and provide public outreach on the annual report. The Index will be used as a tool to educate the community on issues affecting their neighborhood, and assist in providing information to the public on how to 1) participate in addressing these issues; 2) inform staff about those issues that are most important to them; and 3) provide suggestions on how to resolve problems and celebrate successes.

Next Steps

The Livability Index will initially require additional time to develop the foundation for future assessments of the indicators. Near-term tasks include the following:

- editing data points based on feedback from data subject experts
- identifying desired trends and goals
- confirming data sources, availability of data

- developing a manual with detailed recording of data to ensure consistent data collection throughout the years
- identifying resource/data gaps
- developing a format for communicating information

2030 General Plan Livability Index

I. City Profile

The City Profile indicator sets the context for current conditions in Sacramento. Along with the data points listed below, it should include maps that show community plan areas, city limits, and location within the region.

1. Total Population
2. Physical Area of City limits
3. Diversity: Percent population by ethnicity/race
4. Density: Number of people per square mile
5. Unemployment Rate
6. Income: Median and average per capita income
7. Cost of Living

II. Urban Forest

Sacramento is known as the "city of trees." The urban forest is one of our most prized assets, and a healthy canopy improves quality of life, air quality, community character, and urban heat island effect. The data points for this indicator measure the health of the tree canopy, canopy coverage, number of trees, and number of trees planted per year. The Sacramento Tree Foundation is one of the primary stewards of the urban forest in Sacramento, with the goal of doubling the regional tree canopy. Analysis of this indicator could also include an assessment of funding for tree maintenance and tree planting, and the role that public-private partnerships play in maintaining the urban forest.

8. Percentage cover tree canopy
9. Number of trees in Sacramento; number of trees planted per year
10. Percentage of trees with excellent, good, fair, or poor health
11. Miles of improved public access along Sacramento and American Rivers

III. Economic Diversity and Business Innovation

A diverse economy is the mainstay of a vibrant city; business innovation ensures that a city will keep growing and stay at the cutting edge of technology. The data points for this indicator track existing jobs/housing balance, and measure growth in targeted industry sectors like medical/life sciences and clean/green tech. The data points for this indicator also track number of startups and percentage of minority- and women-owned businesses. Analysis of this indicator could also include a discussion of the role Sacramento plays as a regional leader, the role of entrepreneurs in the local economy,

and the role of minorities and women in business. Optional data points might include: educational attainment and the impact on workforce readiness and corporate recruitment; business license data; number of certified sustainable businesses; and diversity in corporate leadership.

12. City Bond Rating

13. Jobs/Housing Balance

14. Educational Attainment: percentage of population by highest level of education (high school, college, masters, PhD)

15. Growth in selected industry sectors: medical/life science, telecommunications, food processing and agriculture, diversified manufacturing, financial services, information technology, and clean/green technology

16. Number of startups/new businesses by type

17. Number of minority- and women-owned businesses

IV. Vibrant Central City

The Central City, bounded by highways and two rivers, is the geographical core of Sacramento. Within the Central City there are traditional neighborhoods, commercial corridors, and the Central Business District (CBD), home to California's state capitol. The data points for this indicator measure the ability to live and work in the Central City, the contributions to City revenue from hotels, restaurants, and properties, and how much fun residents and visitors are having at downtown's attractions and events. Analysis of this indicator could include the changes in number of residential units in the CBD; the impact of the Railyards project and other developments; and the role of Second Saturday as a cultural and economic generator.

18. Number of jobs and number of housing units

19. Affordability of rental housing for average worker (i.e., income needed by occupation)

20. Total annual revenue including: property tax, hotel tax (TOT), eating and drinking establishments tax, sales tax, and other revenue tax

21. Total annual attendance at major arts and cultural venues: Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento Theater Company, Sacramento Ballet, Memorial Auditorium, Convention Center, Railroad Museum, Farmers Markets, Second Saturday Art Walk, and Friday Night Concerts in the Park

V. Infill Development and Redevelopment

The 2030 General Plan promotes infill development and specifies certain locations (i.e., redevelopment areas, opportunity areas) that should be priorities for infill projects. The data points for this indicator measure overall trends in development and fine-grained trends in redevelopment areas, "shovel ready" sites, and opportunity areas. Analysis of this indicator could include highlighting major planning projects in opportunity areas, or major infill developments (e.g., Curtis Village, Railyards).

22. Number of residential units and sq. ft. of other buildings (e.g., commercial, industrial, mixed-use) produced per year; vacant land by type
23. Redevelopment Areas: total dollars of investment in redevelopment areas; total tax revenue; number of building permits (housing vs. other)
24. Infill: Number of certified "shovel ready" sites; and number of certified "shovel ready" sites under development

VI. Historic Preservation

The General Plan promotes preservation of existing neighborhoods and historic districts. Data points might be displayed in a simple table that tracks building activity, code violations, and property values in historic districts.

25. Number of building permits by type (i.e., renovations, new construction) in historic districts
26. Median property value of structures within historic districts
27. Percentage of historic properties with Housing and Building cases (code violations)

VII. Complete Neighborhoods

Sacramento has a wide diversity of neighborhoods, each with a different character often defined by a public amenity like a park, school, or even a landmark building. A complete neighborhood is one where all residents have access to amenities and resources. As the city grows, the General Plan promotes equitable distribution of public transit, parks, shopping, childcare centers, farmers markets, and restaurants. Analysis of this measure might focus on one specific neighborhood or community plan area that appears to be deficient, and highlight some of the City's efforts at revitalization and steps towards making it a complete neighborhood. Analysis could also highlight quality of parks, user levels, and funding sources.

28. Percentage owner-occupied units
29. Overall residential density within ½ mile of LRT stations and bus stops on major corridors
30. Number of acres of parkland per 1,000 population; and total acres added each year
31. Number of neighborhoods with 6 or more amenities (e.g., schools, banks, grocery stores, shopping, offices, hospital, library, restaurants, parks)
32. Child care capacity: number of licensed child care facilities in a CP per 1,000 residents
33. Number of certified farmers markets

VIII. Housing Affordability and Diversity

Housing affordability and diversity are essential elements of a livable city. The ability to rent or own a loft, apartment, townhome, or single-family home is a strong determinant of whether someone will stay in a community. The data points for this indicator measure the percentage of residents that can afford a median-priced house, the need for and availability of affordable housing, and the extent of foreclosures. Analysis of this measure might focus on the role of workforce housing, and the impact of the housing market on the local economy. An optional data point is geographic distribution of affordable housing throughout the city.

- 34. Percentage of households that can purchase the median-priced home
- 35. Number of households (e.g., special needs, low- income) that spend more than 30 percent of income on rent
- 36. Production/loss of affordable housing units by type (e.g., inclusionary housing)
- 37. Number of foreclosure sales

IV. Mobility and Transportation Choices

Mobility and transportation choices will become increasingly important policy and planning issues as population, traffic congestion, and fuel prices continue to rise. The data points for this indicator measure the changing patterns of mobility as residents switch transportation modes. Analysis of these measures might include impacts of increasing gas prices and fuel efficiency constraints on goods movement, and access to jobs. While data points like VMT and Mode Split are calculated on a 3- to 5-year basis, these are important data points to collect and track to inform policy decisions and climate change/emissions models. Analysis of this measure can include a discussion of funding for public transit, bicycle safety, and the impact of rising fuel costs on travel patterns. Analysis could also include a discussion of VMT for new development versus existing, and Level of Service (LOS) on key road segments.

- 38. Mode split for work and non-work trips
- 39. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and VMT per capita
- 40. Regional Transit: ridership on public transit by type; service miles by type; new miles added
- 41. Miles of Class I and Class II bike lanes; and miles per 1,000 population

X. Public Safety

Public safety includes protection from crime, accidents, and natural disasters. The data points for this indicator measure a broad range of hazards and City efforts to mitigate their impacts. Analysis of this measure can include regional flooding hazards, gang activity and its impact on neighborhood safety, and how technology is helping police and fire departments respond faster to emergencies.

- 42. Number of crimes per 1,000 residents reported under Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report (UCR) by type

- 43. Number of total collisions by type (i.e., pedestrian, bicycle, auto)
- 44. Average response times for police and fire
- 45. Public education in disaster preparedness: Total number of citizens who have participated in Neighborhood Emergency training and City-Sponsored disaster preparedness training/per 100,000
- 46. Percentage of city area without 100-year flood protection; 200-year flood protection

XI. Energy and Waste

The 2030 General Plan promotes energy efficiency for all users including residential, industrial, commercial, and government. Energy consumption and waste production are two key measures for monitoring contributions to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change.

- 47. Residential electricity and natural gas consumption per capita and overall
- 48. Non-residential electricity and natural gas per sq. ft. and overall
- 49. Percentage of citywide energy use from renewable and more efficient sources; number of rooftop PV installations and amount of installed capacity
- 50. Percentage of solid waste from residential and non-residential uses diverted from landfills and into recycling programs; solid waste generated per capita
- 51. Recycling volume by type (e.g., green, hazardous, electronic (e-waste), other) and user (e.g., single-family, multi-family, commercial)

XII. Carbon Footprint

Sacramento's Sustainability Master Plan (adopted December 2007) and the 2030 General Plan include goals, policies, and targets for achieving greater sustainability for the city. The data points for this indicator measure contributions to GHG emissions and air pollution and track progress with metrics such as carbon footprint. Analysis of this measure will require coordination with California Air Resources Board (CARB) and California Energy Commission (CEC) as AB 32 (Global Warming Solutions Act) is implemented. Each of the data points for this indicator are being calculated by other organizations. Data analysis should be conducted based on frequency of the data. Optional data points include GHG emissions and percentage of environmentally-preferred purchases.

- 52. Carbon dioxide emissions for SACOG region; City operations; and citywide (total and per capita); compared to 1990 carbon dioxide emissions
- 53. Carbon footprint for City operations
- 54. Percentage of new construction that is LEED (or other) certified
- 55. Number of days the Region exceeds Federal and State 8-hour air quality standards.

XIII. Equity

Equal access to services, facilities, and opportunities is one of the goals of the 2030 General Plan. The data points for this indicator measure burdens of unemployment, poverty, education, and homelessness as experienced by certain segments of the city's population. Analysis of this measure could focus on environmental justice programs or other actions that the City is taking to ensure equity for all residents. Optional data points include teen pregnancy rates and number of people served through human-service agencies by type.

56. Number of residents below poverty level

57. High-school graduation rates; percentage of local high school graduates who completed all courses required for admission to UC and CSU systems

58. Number of homeless persons

59. Number of subsidized school lunches

XIV. Civic Engagement and Government Service

Civic Engagement, although hard to measure directly, can be assessed through data like voter turnout and volunteerism. Government Services is also difficult to quantify, but the Sacramento City Council uses service dollars per resident to gauge the amount of investment that is being made on a per person basis.

60. City service dollar spent per resident (expenditure per capita)

61. Voter turnout in local elections as percentage of total eligible

62. Public library cardholders as percentage of total population

63. Number of volunteer hours per year