



Report to
PRESERVATION COMMISSION
City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671
www.CityofSacramento.org

STAFF REPORT
November 7, 2007

Members of the Preservation Commission:

Subject: Draft 2030 General Plan Goals and Policies - Historic and Cultural Resources Element

Location/Council District: City-wide

Recommendation: Review and Comment

Contact: Erik deKok, Senior Planner, 808-2022

Summary: Staff is coming to the Preservation Commission for feedback on the latest iteration of the Preservation and Cultural Resources Element of the draft 2030 General Plan.

Background Information:

In 2004, the City Council initiated the creation of the 2030 General Plan which will replace the existing 1988 General Plan. In November of 2005, the City Council adopted the Vision and Guiding Principles (summary provided in Attachment I) in which the vision affirmed "Sacramento will be the most livable City in America". The community participated in the development of the Vision and Guiding Principles by attending focus group interviews and/or one or more of the 13 town hall forums held throughout the city in 2005. The 25 member General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC), City staff, and the City's leadership and commissions also played a key role.

In June of 2007, Council accepted the recommended Preferred Land Use Alternative which was also developed through significant community outreach, including an additional 14 town forums in 2006 and guidance from the GPAC and City Commissions. A summary of this outreach is provided in the document, "Destination: Livability" (Attachment 2).

Staff had presented the Draft Preferred Land Use Alternative to the Preservation Commission on May 2nd and June 6th of 2007. Prior to these meetings, the Preservation Commission held two workshops in April of 2007 to recommend updates to the Preservation Element amended into the 1988 General Plan in the year 2000.

Goals and Policies

After the Council's acceptance of the Preferred Land Use Alternative, the General Plan's goals and policies were developed with input from several sources including the following:

- *The Technical Background Report* – Details the existing conditions within the City and is used as the foundation document for the development of subsequent planning policies and programs. The Technical Background Report was accepted by the Council in November of 2005.
- *The Vision and Guiding Principles* – Captures the City's key values and aspirations of the future. The vision, "Sacramento will be the most livable City in America", is tied to the Vision and Guiding Principles. In summary, these principles include: 1) a vibrant downtown and town centers; 2) energized commercial corridors; 3) expanded transportation choices; 4) safe and livable neighborhoods; and 5) sustainable development.
- *Planning Issues Report* – Conveys key issues that are based on input from several sources including the community, GPAC, and City leadership. The issues include smart growth, sustainability and livability, affordable housing, mixed-use/higher density development with a focus on infill, economic development, level of service for roadways, service standards for public facilities, alternative transportation modes, public safety, air quality, open space, natural resource protection, General Plan implementation, and streamlined permit processing.
- *City Leadership Workshop* – Provides insight to citywide and neighborhood specific issues and provided input necessary for the development of a Preferred Land Use Alternative. Key challenges identified during this workshop include infrastructure financing, regional consensus on smart growth, traffic and congestion, and protection and enhancement of neighborhood character.
- *Preferred Land Use Alternative* – Serves as the basis of policies that address new development by providing desired features such as flexible/mixed use, urban development standards, a mix of densities, a streamlined permitting process, and the identification of urban form and design.
- *Community Outreach* – Guides staff in developing policies that reflect the City's diverse communities' vision, values, desired development and the services that accompany growth. Outreach included over 2,300 participants in 27 town forums and participation by numerous community groups. Also, four additional Open Houses were provided in September and October of this year.
- *General Plan Advisory Committee* – Provides comments on the City's General Plan Update and assists city staff in ensuring full community participation during the update process. The Advisory Committee plays a valuable role in ensuring that information about the General Plan Update reaches the entire community and that all voices are heard. The Committee is comprised of twenty-five members, eight of whom are nominated by Council members.

Staff also used the feedback received from the prior visits to the Preservation Commission and its workshops to develop the draft goals and policies of the Historic and Cultural Resources Element of the 2030 General Plan. All of the draft goals and policies have also been vetted with the City Departments' Directors and staff.

There have been several inputs and iterations of the Historic and Cultural Resources Element. They include the following:

- The 1988 General Plan's Preservation Element, adopted in year 2000 (Attachment 3)
- Recommended Goals and Policies from the Preservation Commission's spring workshops (Attachment 4)
- Draft Historic and Cultural Resources Element, Development Services Department's Revisions, August 2007 (Attachment 5)
- Draft Historic and Cultural Resources Element, Consultant team's revision, dated September 4, 2007 (Attachment 6)

The final version, which staff is presenting to the Preservation Commission today, is currently being revised by the consultant team for the final draft of the goals and policies. This can be seen in Attachment 7.

The Preservation Commission's proposed goals that were generated from the spring workshops included "Goal C" which states:

"Complete and maintain a City-wide survey and inventory of historic and cultural resources."

Staff determined this proposed goal and the related policies are more appropriate in the implementation section of the General Plan which will be developed in February and March of 2008.

Next Steps

On December 4, 2007, staff will go to the City Council and recommend the Council accept the citywide goals and policies and direct staff to proceed with the environmental review of the General Plan. The public review draft of the General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be available in the spring of 2008 and the Final Plan and Final EIR in the fall of 2008. During the months of February and March of 2008, staff will be developing graphics to accompany the text and an implementation plan that will outline how to achieve the goals set forth in the General Plan, including recommendations for changes to the City Code, ordinances and guidelines that provide specific direction on how the City will develop over time.

Environmental Considerations: Review and discussion regarding draft goals and policies is not considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 21065 of CEQA and CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 (b)(4)). Staff anticipates releasing the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan in the spring of 2008.

Policy Considerations: The proposed goals and policies are consistent with both the City's overall Strategic Plan goal and the General Plan Vision of becoming "the most livable city in America". They are also consistent with the Smart Growth Principles adopted by Council in 2001, the Preferred Blueprint adopted for the region by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) in 2004, and the Vision and Guiding Principles adopted by the Council in 2005.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Erik deKok
Senior Planner

Approved and recommended by: _____
Thomas S. Pace
Long Range Planning Manager

Table of Contents:

Report pg. 1

Attachments

1. Vision and Guiding Principles pg. 5
2. Destination: Livability pg. 6
3. The 1988 General Plan's Preservation Element,
adopted in year 2000 pg. 24
4. Recommended Goals and Policies from the
Preservation Commission's spring workshops pg. 28
5. Development Services Department's Revisions,
August 2007 pg. 34
6. Consultant's revision, dated September 4, 2007 pg. 36
7. Staff's recent revision, submitted to Consultants
on October 30, 2007 pg. 42