
Subject: FW: Study for the Draft 2015 APR - Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Fresno
Attachments: 2016 - 09-01 - League Review of the Draft 2015 APR for Fresno County.pdf

From: radleyreep@netzero.net [<mailto:radleyreep@netzero.net>]
Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2016 11:52 AM
To: District4; White, Steven
Cc: Pinedo, Patricia; District5 (Office of Supervisor Debbie Poochigian); District 1; District2; Kettler, William; Motta, Chris; Khorsand, Mohammad; Rousseau, Jean
Subject: Study for the Draft 2015 APR - Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Fresno

September 8, 2016

Dear Mr. Mendez, and Mr. White,

The League of Women Voters of Fresno has prepared a study guide for the review of the County's Draft 2015 Annual Progress Report (APR) on the implementation of the General Plan. That study guide is attached.

CC'd were each member of the Board of Supervisors, CAO Jean Rousseau and Planners Will Kettler, Chris Motta and Mohammad Khorsand. The League asks that you forward a copy to each member of the Planning Commission.

The League will provide two hard copies of the report to the County – one to each of you.

It is the League's understanding that final approval of the Draft 2015 APR will go before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, September 13, 2016. Please enter the attached Study Guide into the record for that hearing.

Should you wish to discuss the contents of the study guide with the League, please do not hesitate to contact any of these League members:

League President Nyla Zender
Natural Resources Committee Member Mary Savala
Natural Resources Committee Member Radley Reep

Thank you,

Radley Reep

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Review of the Draft Fresno County General Plan Annual Progress Report for 2015

A Study Guide Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Fresno

September 1, 2016

Dear Residents of Fresno County,

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors is responsible for implementing our County's General Plan.

That Plan assigns hundreds of responsibilities to various County departments – everything from protecting the environment to ensuring an adequate water supply throughout the county; everything from enhancing agricultural productivity to improving employment opportunities for all county residents.

Because the State Legislature believes that effective planning is essential to the well-being of California residents, it requires each county to prepare an annual report describing the progress made in implementing its general plan.

This report is called an Annual Progress Report or **APR**.

In support of its mission to encourage the informed participation of citizens in government, the League of Women Voters of Fresno decided to review the Fresno County APR for calendar year 2015 for the purpose of reporting the degree to which the County has been able to successfully implement its General Plan.

In conducting a review of the APR for 2015, the League performed two studies – one study to see how well the County is achieving its General Plan goals and a second study to see how well the County is executing each of its 121 General Plan implementation programs.

The League is saddened to report that the two studies show conclusively that the 2015 APR does not demonstrate that the County is achieving its General Plan goals or successfully executing its General Plan implementation programs. In fact, the League discovered that the County is able to demonstrate successful implementation of less than half of its General Plan programs.

The League hopes this review of the 2015 APR will serve as a resource document for years to come. The review contains a copy of every Fresno County goal and implementation program. It also contains critical citations from various Fresno County APRs, past and present, chronicling the activities the County has undertaken to implement its General Plan.

Notably, the review provides an explanation of how the 2000 General Plan is designed to function and why its implementation is so important to the well-being of all county residents.

Should you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact the League.

Sincerely,



Nyla Zender, President
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Review of the Draft Fresno County General Plan Annual Progress Report for 2015

A Study Guide Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Fresno

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1.0 Introduction

The League of Women Voters of Fresno (**League**) offers this review of the *Draft Fresno County Annual Progress Report (APR)* for calendar year 2015.

What is an APR? An APR is an annual self-evaluation prepared by a county or city to determine how well it has been able to implement its general plan during the previous year. In some ways, an APR is analogous to an annual report prepared by a business entity.

According to the Office of Planning and Research in Sacramento, each APR should examine reasonable and practical ways to implement a general plan so that the plan serves as an effective guide for (1) orderly growth and development, (2) the preservation and conservation of open-space and natural resources and (3) the efficient expenditure of public funds related to the subjects addressed in the general plan. California law requires that an APR be submitted to the State each year by April 1. Fresno County missed that deadline last spring, so its 2015 APR is now 5 months past due.

The 2015 APR is important because it provides an opportunity for County residents and the Board of Supervisors to gauge how well Fresno County was able to implement its General Plan during 2015 and to consider the resources and activities that will be needed to improve implementation in the future.

This review begins with a set of findings (page 3). The findings indicate (1) that the County has been unable to adequately implement its General Plan and (2) that the 2015 APR is inadequate to the task of reporting that deficiency. As such, the 2015 APR is an inadequate reporting tool. To be of utility, the APR must be properly focused and complete.

The review contains on page 4 an easy-to-understand explanation of the content and function of general plans and APRs. This is followed

on pages 5 and 6 by an explanation of how the implementation programs in the Fresno County General Plan are designed to function.

(Note: This review does not address Fresno County's Housing Element. Unlike other Elements of the General Plan, the Housing Element has its own statutory requirements for review and update. Its current format is quite different from other Elements in the General Plan, having no implementation programs per se.)

A complete list of the 121 General Plan implementation programs under review is presented on pages 7 – 15.

This review also contains a brief history of the County's preparation of earlier APRs. Given that the General Plan was adopted in 2000 and that APRs are prepared annually, it's natural to expect that the APR under current review would be the County's 15th APR, but it's not. It's the County's third APR. This is because the County prepared its first APR in 2002 and did not prepare another until 2013. That second APR encompassed two years of reporting – 2013 and 2014 together. So the 2015 APR is the County's third report.

The League's analysis of the Draft 2015 APR is found on pages 16 – 26. League recommendations are found on page 27.

Appendix A contains a copy of the 46 goals articulated in the General Plan (excluding those from the Housing Element). The League used this data to gauge how well the County has been able to achieve its General Plan goals.

Appendix B contains excerpts from both the 2001/2002 APR and the Draft 2015 APR. These excerpts address how well the County has been able to implement its General Plan programs. The League used this data to gauge the degree to which the County has been able to demonstrate successful implementation of its General Plan programs.

2.0 Findings

In arriving at its findings, the League thoroughly examined both the Fresno County General Plan Policy Document and the County's Draft Annual Progress Report (APR) for calendar year 2015. The League also consulted the Office of Planning and Research publication entitled *General Plan Annual Progress Report Guidance 2016* (April 2016) and understands that the principal focus of the APR is the collection of activities undertaken by the County to implement its General Plan programs during calendar year 2015.

After careful review and fact checking, the League arrived at the findings presented below. Regrettably, the findings are distressing.

They indicate that the County's draft 2015 APR is insufficient as an informational document. The APR does not demonstrate that the County made satisfactory progress either toward achieving General Plan goals or in implementing its General Plan programs during 2015.

That being the case, the League strongly recommends that the Draft 2015 APR be revised so as to provide the Board of Supervisors with a more complete and accurate picture of the County's ability/inability to execute its General Plan goals and programs. The League is mystified by the APR's failure to demonstrate progress and questions whether this deficiency is truly due to the County's failure to make progress or whether the 2015 APR failed in its responsibility to report what progress was made.

Findings

1. The Draft 2015 APR fails to adequately address whether progress was made toward achieving General Plan goals during 2015.

The APR refers to only 7 of the County's 46 General Plan goals, and the County activities cited in the APR do not directly reference any particular goals.

2. The Draft 2015 APR fails to adequately address whether General Plan Programs were successfully implemented during 2015.

Although the APR presents "facts" related to each of the implementation programs, it does not assess whether the County has been able to implement those programs in accordance with directives contained in the General Plan.

3. The Draft 2015 APR fails to provide a complete and accurate review of the overall administration of the General Plan.

The APR does not provide information sufficient to help the Board of Supervisors evaluate the effectiveness of the General Plan as a tool to guide orderly growth and development, conserve natural resources and protect the environment.

4. The Draft 2015 APR fails to investigate what is needed in the way of resources to fully implement the General Plan.

Although previous APRs attribute delays in implementing the General Plan to the County's failure to allocate sufficient funds for that purpose, the 2015 APR fails to provide any information that might enable the Board to address that deficiency.

5. County practices have been inconsistent with General Plan direction.

With regard to the implementation of General Plan programs, the APR reveals a pattern of extensive alteration of the program directives within the General Plan without the obligatory amendment of the Plan by the Board of Supervisors.

3.0 Statutory Requirements

State law requires each county to have a general plan and to prepare annual reports assessing its implementation.

California Government Code §65300 decrees that “...*the legislative body of each county...shall adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the county...*,” and §65302 requires that, as a minimum, every general plan shall be organized into Elements that address land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise and safety. The Fresno County General Plan Policy Document contains these required Elements plus two additional Elements: an Economic Development Element and a Public Facilities and Services Element.

California Government Code §65400(a) requires that by April 1 of each year, each county shall submit to the Office of Planning and Research an annual report that includes “*the status of the [general] plan and progress in its implementation.*”

4.0 Some Misunderstandings about General Plans

While most people appreciate the importance of everyday planning (the use of schedules, blueprints, agendas, and the like), they often fail to appreciate the value of civic planning. Evidence for this can be seen in the relatively few numbers of residents who participate in the drafting of long-term general plans for the physical development of their counties and cities. This is disappointing because what people fail to realize is that their personal safety, health, mobility – and even their employment – are closely tied to their communities’ social agreements on how land is used.

It’s important to dispel three myths about general plans: (1) that they are only “guides” to development, and are, therefore, unenforceable; (2) that they are not specific enough to be meaningful; and (3) that

they get nothing done, being only a collection of policies designed to place limitations on development.

Nothing could be further from the truth – especially here in Fresno County. General plans are not labeled “general” because they are applied “as a general rule,” meaning, mostly but not all of the time. They are called “general” because they are applied “universally” across an entire jurisdiction. The California Supreme Court has called the general plan a “*constitution for future development.*” As such, general plans are applicable all of the time and everywhere within a particular jurisdiction.

The Fresno County General Plan is surprisingly specific, although people will always debate the meaning of the wording within it. For example, General Plan Policy PF-D.7 reads, “*The County shall require preparation of sewer master plans for wastewater treatment facilities for areas experiencing urban growth.*” But what does it mean to be “*experiencing urban growth?*” Debates over word meaning are ubiquitous and are not an automatic sign of non-specificity.

And finally, even though people may view a general plan as being simply a collection of rules that place limitations or boundaries on development, that’s not the case here in Fresno County. The Fresno County General Plan is an action plan that includes a collection of 121 all-important County tasks designed to enhance residents’ quality of life. And even though County officials may choose not to engage in these tasks, that is not the fault of the General Plan.

General plans afford residents the opportunity to create a vision for their communities, to resolve social problems, to prioritize civic projects and to evolve in harmony with their natural environment. General plans are primarily land use plans, and land use planning profoundly affects all aspects of people’s lives.

5.0 The 2000 General Plan Policy Document

Fresno County's General Plan Policy Document was adopted by the Board of Supervisors October 3, 2000.

And just what is the principal function of that document? Well, the Fresno County General Plan defines its primary role this way:

“Protector of prime agricultural lands, open space, recreational opportunities, and environmental quality; and the coordinator of countywide efforts to promote economic development.”

That's pretty much everything! The Plan is centered on a number of themes, including *economic development, agricultural land protection, urban-centered growth, efficient and functional land use patterns* and an *enhanced quality of life*.

A key component of the 2000 General Plan was the creation of a new Economic Development Element whose purpose was to pioneer an economic strategy for improving the lives of county residents. The expectation was that by 2020 Fresno County would become a center for a wide variety of high value-added agricultural farming operations.

This, along with job growth in emerging non-agriculture industrial clusters, such as information technology and fabricated metal components manufacturing, would provide Fresno County residents with greater employment opportunities. A higher rate of employment in better paying jobs would increase consumer spending and decrease the cost of services for the unemployed. The resultant increase in revenues for the public sector and the mitigation of negative impacts associated with economic growth would result in an impressive quality of life for all county residents.

Now, admittedly, that vision seems overly optimistic. Still, it's one yardstick by which to gauge whether the County has been able to successfully implement its Plan.

The General Plan Policy Document contains many policies and programs. How many? Excluding the Housing Element from the count, the Policy Document contains a total of 604 policies and 121 implementation programs.

Nearly all of these 604 policies are expressed as courses of action or principles of action, and they usually begin with the words *“The County shall....”* For example, Policy LU-H.9 reads,

“The County shall coordinate with cities and adjacent counties to address regional planning and growth issues.”

The County's 121 implementation programs, when taken together, are a set of planned tasks or actions aimed at carrying out – or implementing – these 604 policies. For example, the program designed to carry out the policy cited above is Implementation Program LU-H.B, which reads,

“County Staff shall meet regularly with cities and adjacent counties to address planning and growth issues of common interest and concern. Staff shall report annually on cooperative planning efforts of the previous year and the planned schedule of meetings with local jurisdictions to address regional planning issues in the upcoming year.”

All 121 implementation programs contain the word *“shall,”* which is considered an unequivocal directive.

You will notice that the implementation program cited above names the party responsible for carrying out the action, in this case, County staff. This naming of responsible parties is true for every implementation program. The General Plan names 12 different parties responsible for implementing all 121 General Plan programs. They are shown in the chart on the next page. Because some implementation programs are overseen by multiple parties, there are actually more “responsibilities” than there are programs. There are a total of 170 assignments of responsibility for the 121 programs.

Who is Responsible for Implementing General Plan Programs?

According to the General Plan, 12 parties are responsible for implementing the County's 121 programs. They are listed in the chart below.

You will notice that the bulk of the responsibilities fall to the Department of Public Works and Planning. That Department has 103 (or just over 60%) of the 170 shared responsibilities. Looked at another way, that Department has complete or partial responsibility for implementing 103 (or 85%) of the 121 implementation programs in the General Plan.

And although the Board of Supervisors is ultimately responsible for the success of every program, the Board is listed as having only 28 (or roughly 16%) of the total number of responsibilities. Consider Implementation Program ED-A.A, which reads, "The County shall create an economic development staff position(s) in the County Administrative Office and the Planning & Resource Management Department to serve as liaison/facilitator and support for the economic development implementation program and the Action Team." Only the Board of Supervisors has the authority to create such a staff position, and that's why this responsibility is listed as a "Board" responsibility alone.

	Economic Development Element						Total for Each Responsible Party	Percentage of the Total Responsibility
	Agriculture and Land Use Element		Transportation and Circulation Element		Public Facilities and Services Element			
					Open Space and Conservation Element	Health and Safety Element		
Board of Supervisors	12	11	2	3			28	16.47
Department of Public Works and Planning	6	21	19	17	21	25	103	60.59
County Administrative Office	8			4	2		14	8.24
Planning Commission		1					1	0.59
Agricultural Department	1	3					4	2.35
Workforce Development Board	1						1	0.59
Community Health Department				1			1	0.59
Surveyor's Office				2			2	1.18
Sheriff's Department				1		1	2	1.18
Fire Department				1		1	2	1.18
Department of Employment and Temporary Assistance	7						7	4.12
Office of Emergency Services						5	5	2.94
Total Number of Responsibilities for Each Element	35	36	21	29	27	22	170	100.02

6.0 List of the 121 Implementation Programs

Overview

On the following eight pages are charts containing the complete list of the General Plan's 121 implementation programs.

These programs are to be reviewed annually in an APR. Program LU-H.D declares,

"The Planning Commission shall review the General Plan annually, focusing principally on actions undertaken in the previous year to carry out the implementation programs of the plan. The Planning Commission's report to the Board of Supervisors shall include, as the Commission deems appropriate, recommendations for amendments to the General Plan. This review shall also be used to satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code 21081.6 for a mitigation monitoring program."

In creating the chart of 121 implementation programs, the League has taken the liberty to shorten the wording of each program – to reduce each task to a single line of text. The main verb in each task has been highlighted in bold print in order to focus attention on the action to be undertaken. Some programs contain two tasks. For example, the implementation program cited in the previous paragraph (LU-H.D) describes two principal tasks. In the interest of brevity, the League has shortened the description of the program to read as follows:

Review the 2000 General Plan annually, focusing principally on actions undertaken to carry out General Plan implementation programs.

Recommend (as appropriate) amendments to the 2000 General Plan.

The County has given each implementation program a 4-letter identification label. The first two letters identify the General Plan

Element where the program appears. For example, Implementation Program LU-H.D is part of the Agriculture and Land Use Element. The "LU" stands for "Land Use." The third letter in the identification label – "H" – identifies the particular goal to which the program applies. Because "H" is the 8th letter in the alphabet, Program LU-H.D serves the 8th goal listed in the Agriculture and Land Use Element. Goal LU-H is supported by several implementation programs: LU-H.A through LU-H. F. Implementation Program LU-H.D is the 4th program in that list, since "D" is the 4th letter of the alphabet.

To sum up: For Program LU-H.D, "LU" stands for the Agriculture and Land Use Element; "H" for the 8th goal in that Element and "D" for the 4th program under that goal.

In addition to shortening the wording of each program, the League has taken the liberty to assign a number to each program. This numbering system makes it easy to locate and discuss individual implementation programs. For example, Implementation Program LU-H.D has been assigned the number 40 because it's the 40th implementation program in the General Plan Policy Document.

And lastly, the 2000 General Plan assigns each implementation program a particular timeframe. For example, Implementation Program LU-H.D – the annual review of the General Plan – has been given an "annual" timeframe. Other implementation programs have been assigned particular target years. For example, the General Plan assigns fiscal year 2002/2003 for the implementation of Program LU-C.A – the update of the Kings River Regional Plan. (As you may know, that plan has not been updated, and that's a problem, for while the General Plan contains language allowing a certain amount of wiggle room timewise, there is no provision in the General Plan that allows the County to forego implementation altogether.)

The League encourages county residents to learn the importance of these programs. Their successful implementation protects natural resources, enhances the environment and expands economic opportunities throughout the county.

**List of the 121 Fresno County General Plan Implementation Programs under Review
(As Adopted by Fresno County Board of Supervisors October 3, 2000)**

18 PROGRAMS IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT			
No.	ID No.	Task	Timeframe
1	ED-A.A	Create a staff position to facilitate and support economic development and an Action Team	00-01
2	ED-A.B	Create, support and staff an Action Team to coordinate countywide economic development	00-01
3	ED-A.C	Retain an independent institution to evaluate success in achieving the County's Economic Development Strategy	2005, 2010, 2015
4	ED-A.D	Develop (<u>in cooperation with cities</u>) criteria to determine the best locations for new value-added agricultural facilities	01-04
5	ED-A.E	Establish guidelines to analyze the economic impacts in staff reports of all discretionary actions	00-01
6	ED-A.F	Contract with the Fresno Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to develop marketing programs for county produce	Ongoing
7	ED-A.G	Determine (<u>in cooperation with agencies</u>) if capital deficiencies exist for farmers shifting to production modes creating higher employment Access (<u>in cooperation with agencies</u>) additional funds or redirect existing funds (if capital deficiencies are found to exist)	02-04
8	ED-B.A	Convene a group of service providers to assess the current state of and future need for state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure	02-04
9	ED-B.B	Coordinate an initiative to deliver a comprehensive package of technological assistance to local businesses to improve their productivity	02-04
10	ED-B.C	Convene a roundtable of financial institutions to determine funding needs for agricultural businesses locating or expanding in the county	02-03
11	ED-B.D	Initiate a planning process to identify additional recreational opportunities in the coast range foothills – or elsewhere in the county	01-02
12	ED-B.E	Evaluate the marketing programs of the Visitor and Convention Bureau Provide funding assistance to attract business travel to the county	01-02
13	ED-C.A	Join with the Workforce Development Board, community colleges and others to develop a countywide workforce preparation system	Ongoing
14	ED-C.B	Develop a skills inventory for the CalWORKS labor pool for use by new and existing businesses seeking employees	01-02
15	ED-C.C	Improve tracking systems for employment and retention of CalWORKS recipients	00-01
16	ED-C.D	Assist the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and others agencies to assess the work readiness of CalWORKS recipients	Ongoing
17	ED-C.E	Plan and fund (<u>in collaboration with various educational institutions and agencies</u>) a variety of job placement services	Ongoing
18	ED-C.F	Identify (as initiated via the CalWORKS Job Creation Investment fund) work skills needed for industry clusters targeted for expansion	Ongoing

24 PROGRAMS IN THE AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Task	Timeframe
19	LU-A.A	Review and amend the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to ensure consistency with policies and standards in the 2000 General Plan	00-02
20	LU-A.B	Evaluate minimum parcel sizes necessary to sustain agricultural productivity Amend (<u>as appropriate</u>) the Zoning Ordinance according to the results of the evaluation	03-04
21	LU-A.C	Develop and implement design guidelines for buffers between new non-agricultural uses and agricultural uses in agricultural areas	03-04
22	LU-A.D	Review and assess the effectiveness of agricultural land preservation programs in furthering the County's agricultural goals and policies	Ongoing
23	LU-A.E	Implement the County's Right-to-Farm Ordinance Provide information about the Ordinance to the real estate industry to raise public awareness of the County's right-to-farm policies	Ongoing
24	LU-A.F	Develop and implement (<u>in cooperation with agencies</u>) a public outreach program to raise awareness of ag land conservation incentives	Ongoing
25	LU-A.G	Pursue grant funds to assist farmers and ranchers interested in obtaining ag land conservation easements	Ongoing
26	LU-A.H	Develop a program establishing criteria to prioritize funding for ag land conservation easements	02-03
27	LU-A.I	Assess the approaches used by the LESA system (1981) and Tulare County (1975) to determine ag land values Determine the potential of developing a similar process of ranking the value of ag land in Fresno County Establish (If appropriate) an agricultural quality scale system to assist the County with regard to the conversion of ag land to other uses	03-04
28	LU-A.J	Maintain an inventory of lot size exceptions granted by discretionary permit for agricultural areas (Information on lot size exceptions shall be included in the annual General Plan review.)	Annually
29	LU-B.A	Maintain an inventory of lot size exceptions granted by discretionary permit for Westside rangelands (Information on lot size exceptions shall be included in the annual General Plan review.)	Annually
30	LU-C.A	Update and maintain the Kings River Regional Plan to guide County decision making concerning land use and environmental quality	02-03
31	LU-C.B	Work with San Joaquin River agencies and interested organizations to implement the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan	Ongoing
32	LU-D.A	Revise the Zoning Ordinance to implement changes in the 2000 General Plan that apply to the Westside Freeway Corridor	01-02
33	LU-F.A	Work with the cities of Clovis and Fresno (and other cities) to adopt incentives that will lead to compact urban and infill development	Ongoing
34	LU-F.B	Review the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance to incorporate new policies for transit-oriented development	01-02
35	LU-G.A	Review and revise (<u>as appropriate</u>) the Zoning Ordinance to facilitate density increases for unincorporated urban communities	01-02
36	LU-G.B	Review annexation proposals submitted to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Protest annexations that are inconsistent with either the 2000 General Plan or applicable community plan	As needed

37	LU-H.A	Prepare and adopt a Friant-Millerton Regional Plan consistent with the directives of Policy LU-H.8	02-03
38	LU-H.B	Meet with cities and adjacent counties to address planning and growth issues Report annually on cooperative planning efforts of the previous year along with a calendar of scheduled meetings for the following year	Ongoing
39	LU-H.C	Prepare and adopt guidelines for updating regional and community plans to ensure consistency with the 2000 General Plan	02-03
40	LU-H.D	Review the 2000 General Plan annually, focusing principally on actions undertaken to carry out General Plan implementation programs Recommend (<u>as appropriate</u>) amendments to the 2000 General Plan (This review shall satisfy the state requirement to monitor implementation of the mitigation measures for the 2000 General Plan.)	Annually
41	LU-H.E	Conduct a major review of the 2000 General Plan, including the Policy Document and the Background Report, every five years Revise (<u>as necessary</u>) the 2000 General Plan	2005, 2010, 2015
42	LU-H.F	Review and amend (as necessary) the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map to reflect new policies and standards in the 2000 General Plan	02-04

19 PROGRAMS IN THE TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Task	Timeframe
43	TR-A.A	Prepare and adopt a priority list of street and highway improvements for the Road Improvement Program (RIP) <i>(The Road Improvement Program shall be included in the annual General Plan review.)</i>	2005, 2010, 2015
44	TR-A.B	Consider adoption of a traffic impact fee ordinance to achieve adopted levels of service outside city spheres of influence (SOIs)	01-02
45	TR-A.C	Identify and pursue new funding sources for transportation improvements	Ongoing
46	TR-A.D	Coordinate the County's transportation planning with the Fresno COG and various agencies and jurisdictions	Ongoing
47	TR-A.E	Update and maintain Improvement Standards for County development improvements, including private roads dedicated to public use	Ongoing
48	TR-B.A	Work with the Fresno COG and transit providers to review and update the County's short-range transit plans	2005, 2010, 2015
49	TR-B.B	Encourage transit providers and the Fresno COG to prepare, adopt and implement a long-range strategic transit master plan	Ongoing
50	TR-B.C	Work with the Fresno COG and FCRTA to identify and pursue funding for transit	Ongoing
51	TR-B.D	Work with the Fresno COG and other agencies to identify right-of-way needs within designated transit corridors	Ongoing
52	TR-B.E	Work with the cities to prepare and adopt land use and design standards for designated urban transit corridors to promote transit use	01-02
53	TR-B.F	Work with Caltrans and other agencies to determine the need for (and location of) additional or expanded park-and-ride facilities	Ongoing
54	TR-D.A	Work with the Fresno COG and other agencies to update the Regional Bikeways Plan to ensure consistency with the Circulation Diagram	00-01
55	TR-D.B	Encourage implementation and use of bikeways through use of Transportation Development Act Article III bicycle and pedestrian funds identify and pursue new sources of bikeway funding	Ongoing
56	TR-D.C	Require sufficient pavement width and road right-of-way width for bikeways associated with new development	Ongoing
57	TR-D.D	Use Caltrans bikeway design standards for Class I, II and III bicycle facilities	Ongoing
58	TR-D.E	Work with other agencies to link bicycle use with other modes of transportation	Ongoing
59	TR-E.A	Work with other agencies to plan line-designated railroad corridors to preserve important railroad rights-of-way for future rail expansion	Ongoing
60	TR-E.B	Use appropriate zoning in designated rail corridors to ensure preservation of rail facilities for future rail use	Ongoing
61	TR-E.C	Participate on the Fresno COG Rail Committee to support improvement, development and expansion of rail service	Ongoing

18 PROGRAMS IN THE PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Task	Timeframe
62	PF-A.A	Ensure that infrastructure plans or area facility plans are prepared for any new or updated community plans or specific plans	Annually
63	PF-B.A	Prepare and adopt a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for designing and constructing County facilities	01-02
64	PF-B.B	Develop and adopt fee ordinances for new development to pay for new capital facilities and expanded services	01-03
65	PF-C.A	Develop and apply a process to resolve water supply problems within the county	01-02
66	PF-C.B	Develop and adopt a well construction / deconstruction ordinance Identify the location of abandoned wells to ensure that abandoned wells are properly destroyed	02-03
67	PF-C.C	Prepare or cause to be prepared water master plans for water delivery systems for areas undergoing urban growth	As needed
68	PF-C.D	Develop and implement a tiered water pricing structure for county service areas (CSAs) and waterworks districts	02-03
69	PF-C.E	Establish water demand standards to serve as a basis for determining adequate water supplies for new developments	01-02
70	PF-C.F	Establish a review and/or regulatory process for proposed surface water transfers out of the county and for replacement by groundwater	00-01
71	PF-C.G	Develop, review and update a list of water conservation technologies, methods and practices to maximize the beneficial use of water	01-02
72	PF-D.A	Prepare or cause to be prepared sewer master plans for areas experiencing urban growth	As needed
73	PF-E.A	Work with responsible flood control agencies to adopt regulations that satisfy state and federal stormwater quality programs	Ongoing
74	PF-F.A	Require onsite recycle collection areas for all new commercial, industrial and multi-family residential uses	01-02
75	PF-G.A	Prepare and adopt a master plan to identify locations for sheriff substations and community offices Evaluate the locations of sheriff substations and community offices during the update of unincorporated community plans	As needed
76	PF-H.A	Require a Fire Protection Master Plan or needed fire protection facilities for all discretionary development	As needed
77	PF-H.B	Work with the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection and other agencies to maximize the efficient use of fire protection resources	Ongoing
78	PF-I.A	Coordinate with school districts the updating of regional, community and specific plans to identify the need for additional school facilities	Ongoing
79	PF-I.B	Coordinate with library districts the updating of regional, community and specific plans to identify the need for additional library facilities	Ongoing

25 PROGRAMS IN THE OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Task	Timeframe
80	OS-A.A	Develop, implement and maintain a water sustainability plan	01-02 / Ongoing
81	OS-A.B	Establish and maintain a centralized water resource database that includes a water budget and a groundwater recharge inventory	01-02 / Ongoing
82	OS-A.C	Develop, implement and maintain a groundwater monitoring program (Information from the groundwater monitoring program shall be included in the annual General Plan review.)	01-02 / Ongoing
83	OS-A.D	Develop, implement and maintain land use plans to preserve lands suitable for groundwater recharge	02-03
84	OS-B.A	Evaluate (in consultation with the Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection) the Forest Practice Rules Propose (if necessary) to the Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection "Special Forest Practice Rules" for Fresno County	03-04
85	OS-B.B	Encourage the Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection to complete an inventory of old growth forests on private timberlands	03-04
86	OS-B.C	Encourage the U.S. Forest Service and the Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify potential impacts on old growth forests	03-04
87	OS-B.D	Request the Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection to include education materials on forest management in its Timber Harvest Notices	03-04
88	OS-D.A	Work with public agencies and organizations to acquire (for themselves) critical habitat not preserved through usual regulatory processes	Ongoing
89	OS-D.B	Adopt an ordinance for riparian protection zones identifying allowable activities and mitigation techniques in those zones	02-03
90	OS-E.A	Compile and maintain inventories of ecologically significant resource areas to be used in the evaluation of development projects	Ongoing
91	OS-E.B	Maintain maps of habitat for important fish and game species to be used in the evaluation of development projects	Ongoing
92	OS-F.A	Prepare and maintain a list of state and federal rare, threatened and endangered plant species	every two years
93	OS-F.B	Provide the Fresno County Oak Management Guidelines to landowners located in oak woodland habitat	Ongoing
94	OS-G.A	Review the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District's <i>Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts</i> Adopt procedures for performing air quality impact analysis and for preparing air quality mitigation measures	02-03
95	OS-G.B	Adopt a package of programs to reduce the County's work-related vehicular trips	02-03
96	OS-G.C	Amend the Subdivision Grading Ordinance and Grading Standards to address dust control measures for new construction	02-03
97	OS-H.A	Work with local, state and federal agencies to complete a comprehensive inventory of recreational facilities in the county Work with local, state and federal agencies to identify other areas suitable for park acquisition Consider preparation of a County park and recreation master plan to provide a policy framework for independent use by such agencies	01-03
98	OS-H.B	Consider (for new development) contracting with existing agencies or forming CSAs to acquire and operate open space amenities	Ongoing
99	OS-I.A	Prepare a Recreational Trails Master Plan for a countywide trail system that identifies appropriate corridors and trail design	02-03

100	OS-I.B	Investigate the potential of various land use controls for reserving areas for trails	02-03
101	OS-I.C	Enact an ordinance to limit the use of trails by motorized vehicles	01-02
102	OS-J.A	Prepare and enact an ordinance to protect and preserve significant archaeological, historical and geological resources	02-03
103	OS-L.A	Establish (in cooperation with Fresno COG and the Assoc. for the Beautification of Highway 99) a landscape master plan for Highway 99	03-04
104	OS-L.B	Work with Caltrans to apply for scenic highway designations and adopt scenic corridor protection programs for eligible highway segments	03-04

17 PROGRAMS IN THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Task	Timeframe
105	HS-A.A	Maintain agreements with local, state and federal agencies to provide coordinated disaster response	Ongoing
106	HS-A.B	Monitor and evaluate County emergency planning, operations and training capabilities	Ongoing
107	HS-A.C	Evaluate County-owned safety and emergency management facilities and systems to assess susceptibility to flood and seismic damage	Ongoing
108	HS-A.D	Inform the general public of emergency and disaster response procedures	Ongoing
109	HS-B.A	Review the design of all new buildings and structures to assure compliance with state and local regulations and standards	Ongoing
110	HS-C.A	Participate in the Federal Flood Insurance Program Maintain and update (as necessary) flood hazard maps and floodplain data Determine if proposed projects lie within the 100-year floodplain	Ongoing
111	HS-C.B	Implement and enforce the County's Floodplain Management Ordinance	Ongoing
112	HS-C.C	Develop and review dam failure evacuation plans Provide the public with information on dam failure preparedness	Ongoing
113	HS-D.A	Review new information published by the Cal. Div. of Mines and Geology to update maps and the General Plan Background Report	Ongoing
114	HS-D.B	Inventory unreinforced masonry structures used for human occupancy Evaluate such structures for seismic safety Implement (if necessary) a program to mitigate potential hazards	02-04
115	HS-D.C	Develop a public awareness program to aid in the identification of unreinforced masonry structures	02-03
116	HS-E.A	Refer projects in the Airport Review Area to the Fresno Co. Airport Land Use Comm. to determine consistency with the 2000 General Plan	Ongoing
117	HS-F.A	Review discretionary uses which involve the use of hazardous materials or generate hazardous wastes	Ongoing
118	HS-F.B	Investigate funding alternatives for site acquisition, development and operation for a permanent household waste facility	01-02
119	HS-F.C	Review plans to mitigate soil or groundwater contamination for redevelopment or infill projects	Ongoing
120	HS-G.A	Amend and enforce (as necessary) the Fresno County Noise Ordinance consistent with policies and standards in the 2000 General Plan	01-02
121	HS-G.B	Develop a noise control program that includes an ordinance defining acceptable noise levels and enforcement and abatement procedures Develop a public information program to inform county residents of the impact of noise on their lives	01-02

7.0 Prior Annual Progress Reports

APR for October 3, 2000 through Fiscal Year 2001/2002

California Government Code §65400(a) requires the County to submit to the Office of Planning and Research by April 1 of each year an annual report assessing “*progress*” made in implementing its General Plan. So, upon completion of the first fiscal year under the 2000 Plan, which ended June 30, 2002, the County submitted its first APR – labeled “2001/2002” to the Office of Planning and Research.

In 2013, a decade later, the League assessed the merits of that first APR in a report titled *Proposed 2013 Review and Revision of the Fresno County 2000 General Plan – A Study Guide Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Fresno*. The League found the APR to be quite accurate in its evaluation of the implementation of General Plan programs. But that APR was not all good news. The APR revealed some early difficulties with the implementation of the General Plan. Data from the 2001/2002 APR indicated that by the end of June 2002, only half of the County’s General Plan programs had been timely implemented, a third partially so and a fifth not at all. The 2001/2002 APR explained that this “*lack of progress*” was “*principally due to the allocation of resources associated with funding and/or staffing.*”

Then in 2003, for reasons unknown to the League, the County ceased preparing annual reports, despite the statutory requirement to prepare them. For the next 10 years, the County prepared no reports documenting its ability to implement the General Plan.

APR for Calendar Years 2013 and 2014

In 2013, the League pressed the County to resume the preparation of APRs. Two years later, on March 24, 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved its second APR, a single report covering calendar years 2013 and 2014. The County’s second APR was a profound disappointment, for although it did report on activities undertaken by the County, the APR did not evaluate whether there was a nexus between those

activities and the implementation of the General Plan, and, unlike the first APR from 2001/2002, it failed to individually assess the programs specifically designed to implement the General Plan.

8.0 Review of the 2015 Annual Progress Report

In conducting its review of the Draft 2015 APR, the League performed two studies: one to assess whether the APR demonstrated that the County had made progress in achieving its General Plan goals during 2015 and a second to determine if the County had been able to successfully implement its General Plan programs during that same time period.

The 2015 APR is the County’s third APR. In form and content, it’s quite like the second 2013/2014 APR, but in one respect, it’s very different. And it’s this difference that has afforded the League the opportunity to conduct a long-awaited analysis – a comparison of the County’s ability to implement the General Plan then and now (2002 vs 2015). This analysis is possible because the 2001/2002 APR and the 2015 APR both contain individual assessments for each one of the County’s 121 implementation programs. Given these two sets of data, the League was able to analyze the relative effectiveness of the two APRs in describing progress made in the implementation of each of these programs. The data for this comparative analysis are housed in **Appendix B** beginning on page 69. The analysis and the accompanying results are found on pages 18 – 22.

The League was also able to analyze how well the Draft 2015 APR describes progress made in achieving General Plan goals. The data for this analysis are housed in **Appendix A**, beginning on page 28. The analysis and the accompanying results are found on page 17.

Importantly, what these two studies show is that the County has not been able to demonstrate through its APRs that it’s able to achieve its General Plan goals or implement its General Plan programs. What is not so well-known is whether the problem is the result of poor implementation or poor reporting – or both.

9.0 Review Results

First of Two Studies: Progress toward Achieving General Plan Goals

What's the relationship between the County's 46 General Plan goals and its 121 implementation programs? It's a simple association, really. Goals are attained through program implementation. That being so, it's sensible to conduct an evaluation of General Plan programs in light of the goals they are designed to achieve.

But that's easier said than done. A significant problem is the fact that General Plan goals are not assembled together in any one place. They are located in various sections of the General Plan Policy Document. In order to perform an adequate review of the County's ability to achieve its General Plan goals, the League first found it necessary to gather those goals into a single location. The result was the creation of **Appendix A**, which houses a verbatim collection of the County's 46 General Plan goals.

Appendix A also includes other essential information:

- Excerpts from the General Plan Policy Document justifying the need for each goal
- Excerpts from the Draft 2015 APR describing planning activities during 2015 in support of these goals
- Similar excerpts from the 2013/14 APR, which were included in **Appendix A** to provide a more robust recent history of activities reported to implement the General Plan.

Based on the analysis of the information in **Appendix A**, the League reached the inescapable conclusion that the Draft 2015 APR does not address progress made in achieving General Plan goals. (It must be noted here that the same holds true for the 2013/2014 APR.)

A case in point is the set of County activities described in the 2013/2014 and 2015 APRs for the Agriculture and Land Use Element.

The County's eight General Plan goals for that Element are summarized below and reproduced in full in **Appendix A** on pages 33 – 37. The complete report of activities undertaken by the County during 2013/2014 and 2015 in support of that Element are reproduced in **Appendix A** on pages 38 and 39.

The goals in the County's Agriculture and Land Use Element are....

- The long-term conservation of productive and potentially productive agricultural lands
- The preservation of the unique character of the Westside Rangelands
- The preservation of the environmental and aesthetic qualities of riverine environments
- The protection of the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater resources
- The conservation and enhancement of natural wildlife habitat
- The promotion of continued agricultural uses along Interstate 5
- The encouragement of mixed-use pedestrian and transit-oriented development
- The establishment of development standards for residential, commercial, and industrial development in urbanizing areas

Do the activities described in the 2013/2014 APR and Draft 2015 APR advance these eight goals? No, they do not. The APRs focus on but two activities: a private study on the potential for increased recreational development northeast of Fresno and a joint meeting between Madera and Fresno Counties that included a 30-minute presentation on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

A fundamental flaw in the Draft 2015 APR, and in the 2013/2014 APR as well, is the failure to show a nexus between reported planning activities and General Plan goals. A second flaw is the failure to identify activities in support of each and every goal.

Second of Two Studies: Implementing General Plan Programs

The second of the League's studies evaluated the implementation of the County's 121 General Plan programs. California Government Code §65400(a) requires every county to prepare Annual Progress Reports (APRs) on the implementation of their general plans.

When the Fresno County General Plan was adopted in 2000, the County placed a requirement in its General Plan – through the adoption of Implementation Program LU-H.D – that all Fresno County APRs would focus “principally on actions undertaken in the previous year to carry out the implementation programs of the plan....”

And why did the County do that?

The need to focus on implementation programs came out of an environmental assessment prepared in 2000 for the General Plan. When the General Plan was adopted that year, the accompanying EIR found that development under the Plan would likely cause several significant and unavoidable adverse impacts, among them impacts to transportation infrastructure, biological resources, air quality and water resources. To lessen these impacts, the County adopted a set of mitigation measures, 293 of which were incorporated into the General Plan as General Plan “policies.”

An example is Policy PF-C.5, which reads, *“The County shall develop a County water budget to determine long-term needs and to determine whether existing and planned water resource enhancements will meet the county’s needs over the twenty (20) year General Plan horizon.”*

This mitigation measure was thought necessary because analysis in the EIR (2000 EIR: p. 4.8-25) determined that *“development under the Draft General Plan could result in the demand for water exceeding available supply, resulting in overdraft conditions and potential adverse effects on groundwater recharge potential.”* The EIR specifically identified Policy PF-C.5 as a mitigation measure to lessen this adverse impact (2000 EIR: p. 4.8-30). To implement that policy,

the County developed General Plan Program PF-C-A, which reads, *“The County shall develop a process for resolution of water supply problems and apply the process when areas of need are identified.”*

With the adoption of this and the other 120 programs in the 2000 General Plan, the County was able to claim that, environmentally speaking, the General Plan would be *“self-mitigating.”* Environmental mitigation would be assured because the County would have no other recourse under the law but to implement its General Plan programs.

In the course of reviewing the Draft 2015 APR, the League asked itself this question: Does the Draft 2015 APR demonstrate successful implementation of the programs described in the General Plan, for if it does not, then there is room to argue that the County may be responsible for environmental harm.

As a preliminary step to answering that question, the League took a look at a representative set of ten implementation programs: the first five programs in the Economic Development Element (Programs ED-A.A through ED-A.E) and the first five programs in the Agriculture and Land Use Element (Programs LU-A.A through LU-A.E).

What the League discovered was disturbing. According to information in the draft 2015 APR for these ten implementation programs, the County either failed to implement the programs or failed to implement them in a manner prescribed by the General Plan.

The charts on the next two pages contain the following information for each of these ten programs:

1. A summary of the program task, as directed by the General Plan
2. A summary* of what the County self-reported in the Draft 2015
3. A League comment on the County's reporting.

* The full text from the Draft 2015 APR on the implementation of each of the ten programs is found in **Appendix B** on pages 70 – 72 and on pages 78 – 80.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST FIVE PROGRAMS from the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Source	Statements
1	ED-A.A	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	Create a staff position to facilitate and support economic development and an Action Team The County contracted with EDC (Economic Development Corporation) to implement Economic Development Element programs. <i>This staff position no longer exists, although the County did create the position immediately upon adoption of the 2000 General Plan.</i>
2	ED-A.B	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	Create, support and staff an Action Team to coordinate countywide economic development The County has contracted with EDC to coordinate countywide economic developments. <i>There is no Action Team.</i>
3	ED-A.C	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	Retain an independent institution to evaluate success in achieving the county's economic strategy (every five years) The County has contracted with EDC to help the County regularly update its Economic Development Strategy. <i>There is no evidence that there has been "independent" evaluation of the success of the County's Economic Development Strategy.</i>
4	ED-A.D	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	Develop (<u>in cooperation with cities</u>) criteria to determine the best locations for new value-added agricultural facilities This program has been implemented. Policy LU-A.3 allows for the establishment of value added processing facilities. <i>This program has not been implemented. No "criteria" have been developed to determine the best locations for such facilities.</i>
5	ED-A.E	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	Establish guidelines to analyze the economic impacts in staff reports of all discretionary actions The CAO has indicated that this analysis is not needed and so it is no longer included as a section in agenda items. <i>Guidelines were established and implemented. The CAO did not have the authority to contravene this requirement of the General Plan.</i>

As indicated above, after 2000, the County departed from the requirements of the General Plan and contracted with EDC to oversee the implementation of the County's Economic Development Strategy and General Plan programs in the County's Economic Development Element.

In similar fashion, at the some point after 2000, the County decided not to implement programs such as Program OS-E-B (County standards for the protection of fish and game species), Program OS-F.A (County mapping of rare or endangered plant species) and Program OS-G.A (County procedures for performing air quality impact analyses), reasoning that state and federal agencies had greater expertise in these fields.

These decisions were counter to the requirements of the General Plan and should only have been put into effect after environmental review and with the requisite amendment of the General Plan. There are many other instances of this type of departure from the requirements of the General Plan. Such changes contravened the directives of the General Plan and may have been made without public knowledge.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST FIVE PROGRAMS from the AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE ELEMENT

No.	ID No.	Source	Statements
19	LU-A.A	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	Review and amend the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to ensure consistency with policies and standards in the 2000 General Plan The County is working on a comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update that is scheduled to be adopted in 2017. <i>There is no evidence that the County comprehensively reviewed the Zoning Ordinance for conformity with the 2000 General Plan.</i>
20	LU-A.B	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	Evaluate minimum parcel sizes necessary to sustain agricultural productivity and amend (as appropriate) the Zoning Ordinance Policy LU-A.6 states that the County shall maintain 20 acres as the minimum permitted parcel size in areas designated Agriculture. <i>The County has not evaluated the minimum parcel sizes necessary to sustain agricultural productivity on prime farmland.</i>
21	LU-A.C	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	Develop and implement design guidelines for buffers between new non-agricultural uses and agricultural uses in agricultural areas The County requires buffers for certain land uses with the potential to hinder agricultural uses. <i>The County has not developed "guidelines" for buffers between non-agricultural uses and agricultural uses for use countywide.</i>
22	LU-A.D	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	Review and assess the effectiveness of ag land preservation programs in furthering the County's agricultural goals and policies The County actively reviews Williamson Act contracts for conformity with the State and County requirements. <i>The APR does not demonstrate that the County has assessed the "effectiveness" of various agricultural land preservation programs.</i>
23	LU-A.E	2000 General Plan From the 2015 APR League	Implement the County's Right-to-Farm Ordinance by providing information to the real estate industry to raise public awareness County staff utilizes the Right-to-Farm Ordinance notification process on many types of discretionary land use permits. <i>The APR does not demonstrate that the County has engaged the real estate industry to raise public awareness about this ordinance.</i>

The comments in the Draft 2015 APR for the programs listed above are indicative of comments throughout the Draft 2015 APR. While such comments may be factual, they are often not on point. They do not address program implementation or prescribed timeframes. They do, however, give the impression that the County has been successfully implementing programs in conformity with General Plan requirements.

A case in point is Program LU-A.B (second row above), which requires the County to evaluate the minimum parcel sizes necessary to maintain agricultural productivity in the county. The Draft 2015 APR reports that General Plan Policy LU-A.6 requires the County to maintain 20 acres as the minimum permitted parcel size in areas designated Agriculture. (See page 78 in **Appendix B** for the actual wording.) While true, the comment does not address whether the County has performed the required evaluation. Actually, it's very doubtful that it has. Policy LU-A.6 was adopted in 2000, and the 2001/2002 APR reported that Program LU-A.B was to be implemented during fiscal year 2003-2004. So the 20-acre minimum stipulated in Policy LU-A.6 from 2000 cannot be the result of an evaluation that was to be done during fiscal year 2003-2004.

As the next step in its second study, the League compared the tasks described in all 121 implementation programs against the report of their implementation in the Draft 2015 APR. This comparison generated statistical information about the accuracy and focus of the Draft 2015 APR.

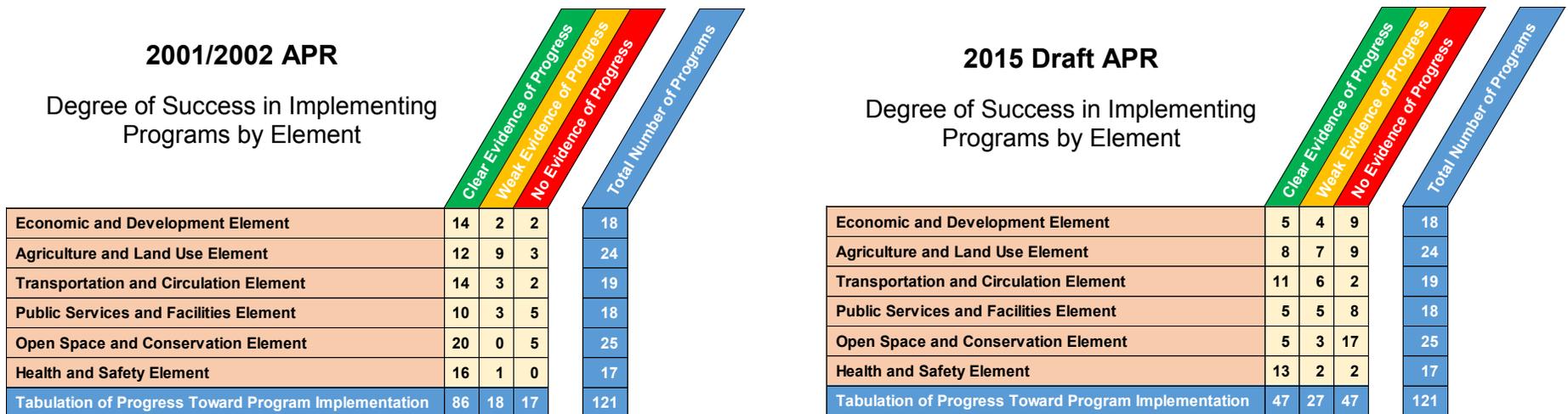
To facilitate this part of the study, the League created **Appendix B**, which includes the following data:

1. The exact wording of each of the 121 implementation programs from the 2000 General Plan
2. The exact wording from the County's first APR (2001/2002) as to how well the County was able to implement each program during 2001/2002
3. The exact wording from the Draft 2015 APR as to how well the County was able to implement each program during 2015.

A method was developed to record the success of implementation. After careful review, the League tagged each program with one of three colors.

- Green if the APR clearly demonstrated that expected progress had been made
Green if the program had been successfully completed or if the program was to be initiated in a future year
- Orange if the APR demonstrated partial attainment of expected progress
- Red if the APR reported no expected progress
Red if the APR failed to focus its attention on the program task(s) as described in the General Plan Policy Document

Once each implementation program had been tagged with a color, it was possible to develop tables illustrating the relative success of program implementation during both 2001/2002 and 2015. The tables are shown below. They show that the County was having fairly good success implementing programs for all six Elements during 2001/2002 but much less success during 2015. For example, with regard to the Open Space and Conservation Element, the 2001/2002 APR demonstrated that 20 of 25 programs were being successfully implemented. In 2015, that number had fallen to 5 of 25. With regard to the overall success of program implementation, the data showed that successful implementation had fallen by nearly half between 2001/2002 and 2015. In 2001/2002, the County reported that it had good success implementing 86 of its 121 programs (71%), but for 2015, the County demonstrated successful implementation of only 47 of 121 programs (39%).



The two bar graphs at the right illustrate the same data in terms of percent. For example, the top green bar in the first graph shows that in 2001/2002, the County was able to successfully implement 14 of 18 (78%) of the programs in its Economic Development Element.

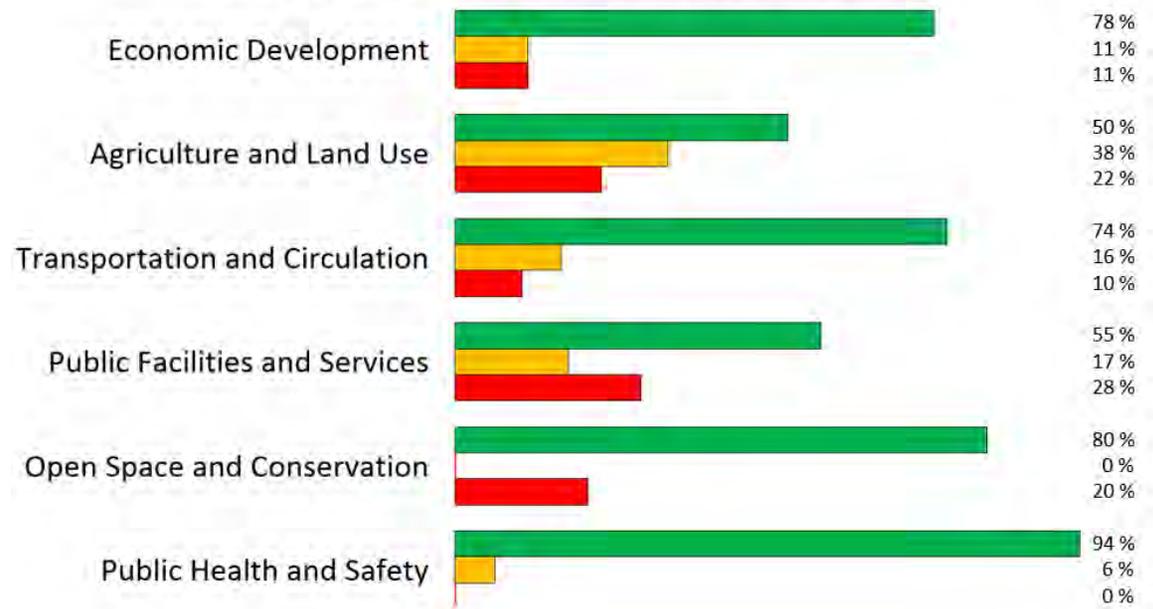
The greatest change in the rate of success from 2001/2002 to 2015 was a drop of 60 points (80% to 20%) for the Open Space and Conservation Element.

A claim could be made that the declining rate in the successful implementation of these General Plan programs is simply an aberration, that over the years County staff has found alternative implementation procedures that are just as effective as the ones prescribed in the General Plan.

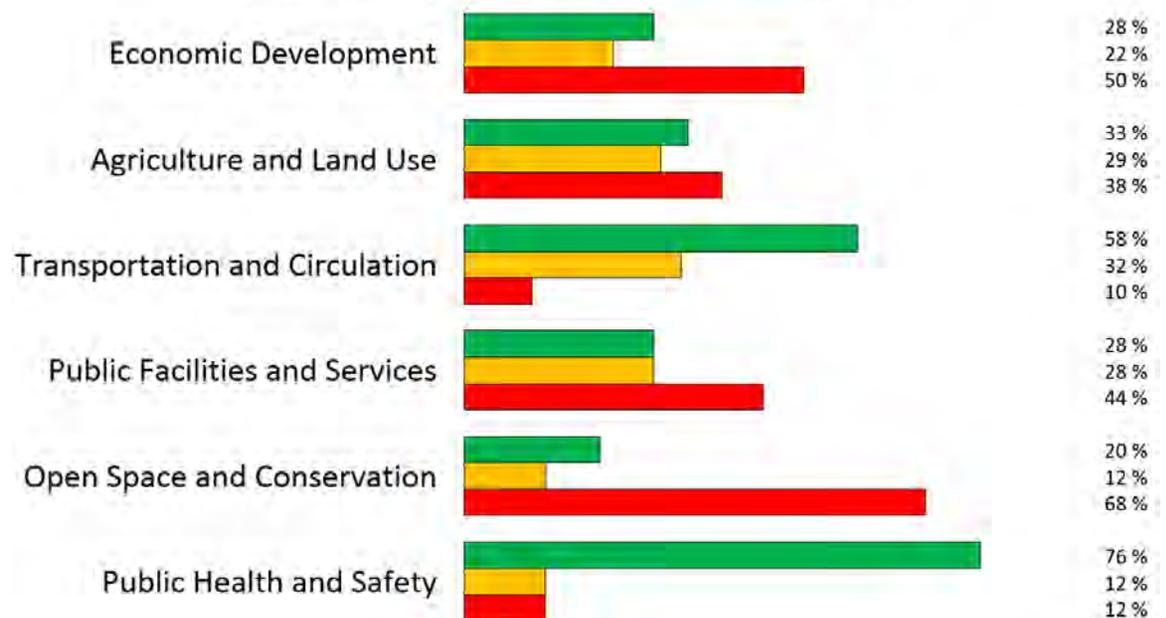
The League’s response to such a claim would be that the County’s General Plan programs were designed specifically to implement certain General Plan policies, and that if at some point County staff had felt that the text of the General Plan should have been amended to change the way the General Plan was implemented, then the Board of Supervisors should have held hearings to determine whether those changes would have been equally effective in implementing those same policies. It’s important to remember that comfortable fixes are not always proper or legal. County staff cannot make major changes to General Plan programs without first getting approval from the Board of Supervisors in the form of General Plan amendments.

The chart on the following page illustrates the difference in the content of the County’s first APR (2001/2002) and its third APR (2015).

Progress Reported in the 2001/2002 APR



Progress Reported in the Draft 2015 APR



COMPARISON OF THE CONTENTS OF THE 2001/2002 AND DRAFT 2015 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS

CONTENT	2001/2002 APR	Draft 2015 APR
General Plan Vision Statement and List of General Plan Themes	✓	✓
General Plan Policy Document		
Presentation of General Plan Goals	Complete	Partial
Report on Planning Activities Related to Each General Plan Element	-	✓
Report on the Status of Each Implementation Program	✓	✓
Lists		
General Plan Amendments Adopted during the Reporting Period of the APR	-	✓
Variances Granted for Changes in Lot Size	✓	✓
Collaborative County Projects, Programs and Partnerships	✓	-
Activities of the County's Economic Development Action Team	✓	-
Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors		
Amendments to the Text of the General Plan	✓	-
Adjustments to the Timeframes for the Implementation of General Plan Programs	✓	
Prioritization, Ranking and Rating for the Update of Regional, Community and Specific Plans	✓	-
The Incorporation of an Indicators Program into County Planning	✓	-
Guidelines for the Format and Content of Regional, Community and Specific Plans	✓	-
Updates		
Population Estimates for Cities in Fresno County	✓	-
Fresno County Median Income and Housing Affordability	✓	-
Acreage under Agricultural Contracts (Williamson Act)	✓	-
Continuing Work on the First (2005) Review and Revision of the General Plan		
Continuing Work on the Update of the Zoning Ordinance	-	✓

10.0 Recommendations

Reflection: A Lesson in Subjunctive History

Subjunctive history is the pondering of the ‘what if’s’ of history. What if certain events in the past had been different? How might they have changed history?

For example, what if the Hessian commander (reading German) had translated the message (written In English) stating that General Washington was about to cross the Delaware River? And what if the keys to the locker that contained the binoculars that iceberg spotters where to have used on the Titanic had not been left back at the dock?

Questions such as these remind us of the importance of due diligence, and by calling attention to what might have happened, they alert us to the consequences of what did happen. And even though subjunctive history is only imagined, it has a powerful ability to inform.

In bringing this review of the Draft 2015 APR to a close, the League poses this question: What would the state of the General Plan be today and how might our lives be different if the County had prepared APRs between the years 2003 and 2013 and if the County had searched for and found the resources needed to fully implement General Plan programs and achieve the its goals?

Below is an imaginary statement that could have been delivered by a member of the Board of Supervisors the day the Board approved the County’s first APR in the spring of 2003. Imagine how our county might be different today had this or a similar statement been made.

“Board, I’d like to express a concern I have. Although we’re only two years into the Plan, I see some major difficulties on the horizon. I spent last week going through the entire Policy Document, as well as the Planning Commission’s annual report,

and now, for the first time, I have a true picture of just how much work lies ahead for us.

Our new General Plan demands a lot from this Board. It spells out dozens of tasks, some of which will take thousands of man-hours and tens of thousands of dollars to complete. I don’t know about you, but I’m feeling a bit overwhelmed.

In case you’re not aware, according to our new Plan, we need to amend about a dozen ordinances, create a half dozen new ones and develop a number of plans that deal with everything from measuring the effectiveness of our ag conservation programs to assessing our ability to sustain current levels of water use in this county. It’s a long to-do list, and it’s hard to know where to start.

To give you a really good picture of what I’m talking about, I’d like to take a minute or two to mention just a few of these requirements. Our General Plan mandates that we give serious consideration to developing a parks and recreation master plan for the entire county and that we work with state and federal agencies to identify suitable locations for new parks. We are also to make sure that water and sewer master plans are prepared for areas of the county that are experiencing urban growth. There are requirements to develop a Friant-Millerton Regional Plan before more development occurs in that area and a requirement to update the Kings River Regional Plan so that we can make better planning decisions for that area. Not only that, but over the next 20 years we’re required to meet regularly with our cities and neighboring counties to address planning and growth issues and to report annually the planning efforts of the previous year and present a calendar of scheduled meetings for the following year. Quite frankly, I

didn't realize that our General Plan had that much specificity.

With regard to the County's ag industry, the General Plan directs us to convene a roundtable of financial institutions to determine the funding needs of ag interests that are either expanding or locating to our County, and to work with various agencies to determine if capital deficiencies exist for ag operations that are capable of changing their modes of operation to create better employment opportunities for residents. If deficiencies are found, we're supposed to help find funding for those operations. With regard to seasonally employed ag workers, the General Plan directs us to work with our cities to develop criteria for the location of new value-added ag facilities so that workers can have year-round employment. And to better protect ag interests, we are also directed to develop guidelines for buffers between new non-ag uses and existing ag uses and to evaluate the minimum parcel sizes needed to sustain the range of ag activities we have in this county.

And there's a lot more. In an effort to improve business productivity generally, we're required by the Plan to convene a group of service providers who can help us assess what's needed both now and in the future in the way of state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure so that we can then provide local businesses with technological assistance.

And finally, with respect to resources, there are, as expected, a number of requirements regarding the protection of listed species, including the preparation of an ordinance identifying riparian protection zones. And because air quality is such a concern, the General Plan also directs us to review

the Air District's air quality guidelines so that we can create our own procedures for analyzing air quality impacts and preparing mitigation measures.

But by far the most daunting of these tasks are those associated with water conservation. The General Plan requires us to develop a process to resolve water supply problems in the county. As part of that effort, we are also required to develop and implement a water sustainability plan and a centralized water resource database that includes a county water budget and an inventory of properties that can serve as groundwater recharge basins. And finally, we're required to develop and oversee a groundwater monitoring program.

Now I know this is a lot to digest, but someone's going to have to address these and the hundred other mandates I didn't even mention. These requirements are clearly spelled out in the Plan, and they're not going to go away.

The reason I brought this up today is because I think we need to be real about this, and I don't think there's any way we're going to get these things done in the time allotted – if at all. So, I'd like to make a couple of suggestions and then hear what you have to say. First, I suggest we do as the Planning Commission recommended in its annual report and adjust the timeframes in the General Plan, and second, I strongly suggest that we ask staff to research what's needed over the long haul in the way of staff time and dollars to fully implement the Plan. I don't want to spend a lot of time on this if nothing is going to come of it.

There. I've said my piece. I'm thinking that some of you probably have similar concerns."

That fictional statement was never delivered, of course, but it does serve a purpose. It focuses attention on significant concerns that should have been raised early on in the implementation of the General Plan, and it highlights much of the work that remains to be done even today.

In drafting the 2001/2002 APR, the Planning Commission observed that some of the implementation timeframes incorporated into the General Plan were unworkable and should be changed. On page V-3, the 2001/2002 APR reads,

“While progress has been made for most of the programs there are some programs where progress has not been made within the timeframe set out in the particular implementation program. The lack of progress is principally due to the allocation of resources associated with funding and/or staffing. These programs are listed below for review and determination of a course of action/revision for the coming fiscal year. Recommended changes will require amendment of the General Plan....”

The Planning Commission specifically recommended changing the timeframes for six programs. But did that happen? It’s difficult to know for sure. On June 10, 2003, the Board of Supervisors approved the Commission’s recommendation to change these timeframes, but the version of the General Plan Policy Document on the County’s website today still contains the original timeframes from the time of the adoption of the General Plan in 2000.

Did the Board of Supervisors implement the Commission’s 2001/2002 recommendation to adopt an “*indicators*” program to assist the County with future assessments of General Plan implementation? On page III-3 of the 2001/2002 APR there is this statement:

“In an effort to promote the use of indicators in the annual report the Sustainability Committee (Committee) of the League of Women Voters has initiated a ‘pilot project’ to develop a set of indicators for two elements of the General Plan under the themes

of economic development and agricultural land protection. The Committee is researching the data sources for the compilation of readily available information from primary sources that can be tracked over a period of time. It is anticipated that the results of this ‘pilot project’ will be provided to the County staff for its work on the next annual report.”

But there was no “*next annual report*,” and although the Board of Supervisors approved the use of an indicators program at its August 26, 2003 Board meeting and directed its staff to “*return to the Board with [an] implementation plan on the indicators for use on a regular basis...*,” an indicators program was never established by the County. (Note: The County is currently considering the adoption of new General Plan Policy LU-H.C, which would read, “*The County shall develop an Indicators Program that monitors the success of the County in achieving the goals of the General Plan....*” That change in the General Plan could take place as early as 2017.)

Generally speaking, the 2001/2002 APR was optimistic with respect to the implementation of General Plan programs and the preparation of future annual progress reports. Page V-1 of that report reads,

“The County is making progress in the implementation of the General Plan as adopted in October 2000. The status on implementation programs in Section IV is most indicative of the accomplished work.”

So why did the County then abandon its legal obligation to prepare further annual progress reports, and why did the County subsequently fail to implement many of its General Plan programs?

The League cannot answer these questions, but it is pleased to report that in 2013 the County resumed the preparation of APRs. The League believes that what is needed now is a solid commitment from the Board of Supervisors to fully implement its General Plan. The first step in that effort is the preparation of a 2015 APR that provides an accurate review of the County’s ability to do just that.

League Recommendations

This review of the Draft 2015 APR by the League of Women Voters of Fresno demonstrates conclusively that the APR fails to adequately assess the degree to which the County has been able to make progress in achieving its General Plan goals and in implementing its General Plan programs. For example, the Draft 2015 APR's discussion of activities associated with the implementation of the County's Agriculture and Land Use Element does not demonstrate a nexus between those activities and the General Plan goals designed to conserve agricultural lands, preserve riverine environments and protect the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater resources.

Equally flawed is the analysis of the County's ability to implement General Plan programs. The League has determined that the Draft 2015 APR demonstrates satisfactory progress in the implementation of only 47 of the County's 121 programs (39%). This compares unfavorably with the success demonstrated in the 2001/2002 APR, where adequate progress was shown for 86 (71%) of the County's General Plan programs.

Recommendation #1:

The League recommends that County staff redraft the 2015 APR so that it provides the Board of Supervisors with a complete and reliable picture of progress made during 2015 to achieve General Plan goals and implement General Plan programs. If it turns out that the amended report shows virtually no progress made during 2015, that's acceptable as long as the analysis is accurate.

Here is an example of the type of correction that's needed. With regard to Program PF-C.A, which reads, "*The County shall develop a process for resolution of water supply problems and apply the process when areas of need are identified,*" rather than report, as was done in the Draft 2015 APR, that the County requires water supply evaluations for "new" discretionary projects and is currently working

to implement the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), it would be much more appropriate to report, if accurate, that the County has not taken any steps to develop a process to resolve existing water supply problems in the county.

Recommendation #2

Because the 2001/2002 APR and the 2013/2014 APRs both state that the inability to implement General Plan programs is the result of the insufficient allocation of funds, the League recommends that the County take immediate steps to research what it will take in the way of staff resources and funding to fully implement the General Plan, keeping in mind that 85% of the General Plan's 121 program are managed through the Department of Public Works and Planning.

Other Considerations

The League is concerned that the County's failure to implement its General Plan could have legal repercussions. The County, for example, may have difficulty defending its inaction to implement Program PF-C.A in the case of a county resident whose water supply problem has been exacerbated by the County's failure to implement the program designed to alleviate that problem. Furthermore, it is the League's understanding that a court has the general authority to impose various remedies, including the issuance of injunctions that limit project approvals, should the court determine that a general plan is inadequate. A court could declare the County's General Plan legally deficient upon a finding that (1) the County is either unable to implement or has decided not to implement General Plan programs specifically designed to mitigate previously identified adverse environmental impacts and (2) the lack of implementation has, in fact, resulted in harm to the environment.

This concludes the League's review of the County's Draft 2015 APR.

Appendix A

Achieving General Plan Goals

Appendix A contains the following data:

1. The complete text from the General Plan describing the goals within each General Plan Element
2. The complete text from the 2013/2014 Annual Progress Report describing government activities related to each General Plan Element
3. The complete text from the Draft 2015 Annual Progress Report describing government activities related to each General Plan Element

2000 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

TAKEN FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

During the second half of the 20th Century, Fresno County's economy has been driven by agriculture and residential development. For most of this period, Fresno County has had the largest agricultural output of any county in the United States. Despite this success, Fresno County's unemployment rate has remained among the highest in California and the county's average wage levels have been low.

To address these chronic problems, Fresno County is taking a leadership role in promoting economic development. The long- and short-term objective of the County is to work with cities, the private sector, and other organizations to create good jobs at a faster rate than population growth to bring Fresno County in line with the rest of California in terms of employment rates and wage levels.

The Economic Development Element is divided into three sections: Job Creation, Economic Base Diversification, and Labor Force Preparedness.

A. JOB CREATION

Numerous agencies are involved in economic development in Fresno County, including County departments, the cities, and a variety of regional planning, marketing, and workforce training organizations. Fresno County's Economic Development Strategy seeks to change the pace and direction of business and employment growth in the county. For this effort, strong leadership and regional partnering and coordination are needed.

The first step in expanding the county's job base is to strengthen the county's historical economic base of agriculture. Technological and marketing advances have opened up new global markets for American produce and Fresno County has an opportunity to expand its markets. It is essential for the county's agricultural economy to remain at the cutting edge in crop selection and growing practices. At the same time, shifts in cropping patterns can have very positive impacts for employment opportunities.

Shifts in consumer preferences and technological advances in food processing have created many new economic opportunities in agriculture. Combined with emerging international markets, the volume demand can support a scale of production well beyond the crop levels produced in Fresno County. Therefore, value-added food processing can become a much stronger industrial sector in the county, creating an increased number of well-paying jobs.

Policies in this section address economic development planning and management, agricultural productivity, and high-value-added agriculture. Related policies are included in Section LU-A, Agriculture; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; and Section LU-G, Incorporated City, City Fringe Area, and Unincorporated Community Development.

Goal ED-A JOB CREATION

To increase job creation through regional leadership, agricultural productivity and development of high-value-added processing firm.

B. ECONOMIC BASE DIVERSIFICATION

In order to improve economic stability, accelerate the pace of job growth, and maintain the quality of life for residents in the county, it is important to diversify the job base in the county. Opportunities for diversification exist both in old and in new industrial sectors. Industries such as metal fabrication and machinery that have emerged from the county's historical agricultural economy are now heavily engaged in production of a wide range of components for the consumer economy. Newer business opportunities in areas such as information technology have also gained a foothold in the county and should be nurtured and expanded into cornerstones of the future regional economy.

Every year, Fresno County hosts millions of visitors, more than half of which come to recreate. As the county's economy diversifies, demand for business travel will increase, with the need to develop more and better accommodations, amenities, and services. Similarly, the county's location as a gateway to Yosemite and the other Sierra attractions creates the opportunity for recreational and resort development in the foothills that can have a very beneficial impact on the local economy.

Policies in this section address information technology, non-agricultural industry, and recreation and tourism. Related policies are included in Section TR-E, Rail Transportation; Section TR-F, Air Transportation; Section OS-H, Parks and Recreation; Section OS-J, Historical, Cultural, and Geological Resources; Section OS-K, Scenic Resources; Section OS-L, Scenic Roadways; and Section PF-J, Utilities.

Goal ED-B ECONOMIC BASE DIVERSIFICATION

To diversify the economic base of Fresno County through the expansion of non-agricultural industry clusters and through the development and expansion of recreation and visitor-serving attractions and accommodations.

C. LABOR FORCE PREPAREDNESS

The new jobs created over the next 20 years through implementation of the Economic Development Strategy will not benefit the current and future labor force of the county if its members are not qualified to secure and retain the jobs created. Training and education must be expanded to build a base of skills that would be attractive to firms locating in the area or seeking to expand. A quality work force is a top-ranking requirement for selecting a site according to site location professionals. Employers will be increasingly interested in employees that can be trained to a higher skill level. Therefore, the efforts to meet this need must address employment opportunities across all ages and skill levels.

Policies in this section seek to improve labor force preparedness for the local work force. Related policies are included in Section ED-A, Job Creation; Section LU-B, Economic Base Diversification; and Section PF-I, School and Library Facilities.

Goal ED-C LABOR FORCE PREPAREDNESS

To improve labor force preparedness by providing the local workforce with the skills needed to meet the requirements of an increasingly diverse business sector in the 21st century global economy.

PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING ECONOMIC GOALS

Complete Text from the 2013/2014 Annual Progress Report

Although Fresno County has been one of the larger agricultural commodity producers in the United States, the County's unemployment rate has remained among the highest in California and the County's average wage levels have been low.

To address these chronic problems, Fresno County has taken a leadership role in promoting economic development. The long- and short-term objective of the County is to work with cities, the private sector, and other organizations to create good jobs at a faster rate than population growth to bring Fresno County in line with the rest of California in terms of employment rates and wage levels.

The Economic Development Element is divided into three sections: Job Creation, Economic Base Diversification, and Labor Force Preparedness.

The first step in expanding the County's job base is to strengthen the County's historical economic base of agriculture. It is essential for the County's agricultural economy to remain at the cutting edge in crop selection and growing practices. At the same time, shifts in cropping patterns can have very positive impacts for employment opportunities.

In order to improve economic stability, accelerate the pace of job growth, and maintain the quality of life for residents in the County, it is important to diversify the job base in the County.

Opportunities for diversification exist both in old and in new industrial sectors. Newer business opportunities in areas such as information technology have also gained a foothold in the County and should be nurtured and expanded into cornerstones of the future regional economy.

Training and education must be expanded to build a base of skills that would be attractive to firms locating in the area or seeking to expand. A quality work force is a top-ranking requirement for selecting a site according to site location professionals. Employers will be increasingly interested in employees that can be trained to a higher skill level. Therefore, the efforts to meet this need must address employment opportunities across all ages and skill levels.

In August 2011, the County entered into a contract with the Economic Development Corporation for implementation of the policies of the Economic Development Element of the General Plan. The contract is renewed annually.

Rapid Response Processing Program

On September 10, 2013 the Board of Supervisors approved the Rapid Response Processing Program. In 2014, as part of this program, additional staff was added to assist with processing and workload. The primary function of the program is to actively seek out potential job creating business applicants in need of assistance with land use/building permit processes. By actively seeking and assisting/facilitating these applicants, it is surmised that additional employment opportunities will result. The priority of the Program is given to new businesses, or expansion of existing businesses that result in the creation of at least 20 new full-time jobs, either directly by applicant or indirectly in support of businesses. Rapid response staff will all assist with other possible job growth applications in need of processing to maintain application processing timelines.

Complete Text from the 2015 Draft Annual Progress Report

The Economic Development Element is divided into three sections: Job Creation, Economic Base Diversification, and Labor Force Preparedness.

The first step in expanding the County's job base is to strengthen the County's historical economic base of agriculture. It is essential for the County's agricultural economy to remain at the cutting edge in crop selection and growing practices. At the same time, shifts in cropping patterns can have very positive impacts for employment opportunities.

In order to improve economic stability, accelerate the pace of job growth, and maintain the quality of life for residents in the County, it is important to diversify the job base in the County. Opportunities for diversification exist both in old and in new industrial sectors.

Newer business opportunities in areas such as information technology have also gained a foothold in the County and should be nurtured and expanded into cornerstones of the future regional economy.

Training and education must be expanded to build a base of skills that would be attractive to firms locating in the area or seeking to expand. A quality work force is a top-ranking requirement for selecting a site according to site location professionals. Employers will be increasingly interested in employees that can be trained to a higher skill level. Therefore, the efforts to meet this need must address employment opportunities across all ages and skill levels.

Since 2011, the County has contracted with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) for implementation of the policies of the Economic Development Element of the General Plan. The contract is reviewed annually. Most recently (2015) the County tasked EDC to continue marketing employment-ready CalWORKs participants to local businesses, manage and improve the Ready2Hire jobs matching website, identify and coordinate training courses for CalWORKs participants for anticipated industry employment needs, and attract businesses to expand or relocate to Fresno County.

In 2015, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) worked with business that required relocation due to the High Speed Rail (HSR) project. The Department of Public Works and Planning has utilized its Rapid Response Process to process land use entitlement applications for businesses affected by the High Speed Rail (HSR) project expeditiously. In 2015, the County and EDC worked with the High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) for reimbursement of the cost of land use entitlements to relocate businesses affected by the HSR project in Fresno County. The Public Works and Planning Department has processed some land use entitlement projects involving relocation of businesses affected by HSR for which the cost of processing land use entitlements have been reimbursed by the Authority.

2000 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

TAKEN FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Agriculture and Land Use Element is divided into two major parts. The first major part describes the County's Land Use Diagram, the land use designations that appear on the diagram, and related development standards. The second major part sets out goals, policies, and implementation programs organized under four main headings: Resource Lands, Rural Development, Urban Development, and Administration.

A. AGRICULTURE

Since the early 1950s, Fresno County has been the leading agricultural county in the United States in the value of farm products. Since most of the county's highly productive agricultural soils could be easily developed by urban, rural residential, and other non-agricultural uses, careful land use decision-making is essential to minimizing the conversion of productive agricultural land. This land use conversion diminishes Fresno County's agricultural production capacity and economic viability and detrimentally impacts surrounding agricultural operations to the extent that further losses in production may occur.

As the introduction to the Economic Development Element states, the first step in expanding the county's job base is to strengthen the county's historical economic base of agriculture. It is essential for the county's agricultural economy to reduce the conversion of productive agricultural land. Policies in this section seek to sustain agriculture by protecting agricultural activities from incompatible land uses, promoting agricultural land preservation programs, developing programs to preserve or maintain soil conditions or improve soil productivity, facilitating agricultural production by supplying adequate land for support services, and controlling expansion of non-agricultural development onto productive agricultural lands. Related policies are included in Section ED-A, Job Creation; Section LU-B, Westside Rangelands; and Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery.

Goal LU-A. AGRICULTURE

To promote the long-term conservation of productive and potentially productive agricultural lands and to accommodate agricultural-support services and agriculturally-related activities that support the viability of agriculture and further the County's economic development goals.

B. WESTSIDE RANGELANDS

The western rangelands of Fresno County's coastal foothills possess unique physiographic features and are relatively isolated from major population concentrations. This area is sensitive to human activity and is best suited for continuation of open space uses that protect important watershed areas, decrease flood hazards, and prevent loss of wildlife habitat, grazing land, and other desirable open space uses. At the same time, various non-intensive uses are suitable for this land including grazing and other agricultural operations, mining, oil and gas development, and various recreational activities such as hiking, hunting, and rock hounding.

Policies in this section seek to preserve rangelands by maintaining their open space character, minimizing grading and erosion, maintaining grazing and agricultural operations, accommodating mineral resource recovery, and protecting biological resources from development. Related policies are included in Section LU-A, Agriculture and Section OS-E, Fish and Wildlife Habitat.

Goal LU-B. WESTSIDE RANGELANDS

To preserve the unique character of the Westside Rangelands, which includes distinctive geologic and topographic landforms, watersheds, important agricultural activities, and significant biological resources, while accommodating agriculture, grazing, recreation, resource recovery, and other limited uses that recognize the sensitive character of the area.

C. RIVER INFLUENCE AREAS

The San Joaquin and the Kings River valleys have unique features such as topography, wildlife, vegetation, micro-climate, and openness that make them attractive for multiple uses including agriculture, sand and gravel mining, recreation, and homesite development. These river valleys at the same time are subject to natural constraints to development such as periodic flooding and soils with a high water table and poor filtration capacity for domestic sewage.

Policies in this section seek to preserve and enhance the county's river influence areas by avoiding adverse impacts from development and encouraging environmentally-friendly recreational and agricultural activities. Related policies are included in Section LU-A, Agriculture; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section OS-A, Water Resources; Section OS-C, Mineral Resources; Section OS-E, Fish and Wildlife Habitat; Section OSI, Recreational Trails; and Section OS-K, Scenic Resources.

Goal LU-C. RIVER INFLUENCE AREAS

To preserve and enhance the value of the river environment as a multiple use, open space resource; maintain the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the area; protect the quality and quantity of the surface and groundwater resources; provide for long term preservation of productive agricultural land; conserve and enhance natural wildlife habitat; and maintain the flood-carrying capacity of the channel at a level equal to the one (1) percent flood event (100-year flood).

D. WESTSIDE FREEWAY CORRIDOR

The Westside Freeway (Interstate Route 5), constructed between 1965 and 1972, is a major travel corridor between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Because protecting the freeway as a major traffic artery is of paramount interest to the public, development along this corridor must be carefully planned.

In 1963, the California State Legislature adopted the Westside Freeway Park and Development Act, requiring each local jurisdiction traversed by Interstate 5 to prepare development policies for the interchange areas. In response to this legislation, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted the General Plan for Land Use-Westside Freeway as a long-range guide for land use along the freeway and around its interchanges.

Policies in this section identify major and minor interchange areas where travel-related commercial and agriculture-related development is deemed appropriate, define the appropriate uses for these interchange areas, and seek to protect the rest of the corridor for agricultural operations. Related policies are included in Section LU-A, Agriculture; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; and Section TR-A, Streets and Highways.

Goal LU-D. WESTSIDE FREEWAY CORRIDOR

To promote continued agricultural uses along Interstate 5, protect scenic views along the freeway, promote the safe and efficient use of the freeway as a traffic carrier, discourage the establishment of incompatible and hazardous uses along the freeway, and provide for attractive, coordinated development of commercial and service uses that cater specifically to highway travelers, and of agriculture-related uses at key interchanges along Interstate 5.

E. NON-AGRICULTURAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The vast majority of Fresno County's rural area is designated for agricultural, rangeland, or open space uses. However, the General Plan designates land for four types of rural development that are primarily residential in character: Rural Residential, Foothill Rural Residential, Rural Settlement Areas, and Planned Rural Communities.

This plan, however, restricts the designation of additional areas for such development because there is already a large inventory of vacant rural residential lots, additional rural residential development is not needed to accommodate projected unincorporated growth, and rural residential development has environmental and service impacts that can and should be avoided.

Rural Settlement Areas, which consist of small unincorporated residential settlements surrounded by agriculture and other open space uses, have experienced little growth since their early founding. Substantial population growth in these areas is not anticipated in the future. Planned Rural Community is an intermediate land use designation that provides for a density of development that is higher than that of the Rural Residential but still significantly lower than the General Plan's urban designations. This designation has been applied to a single location (Quail Lake Estates Specific Plan). This General Plan prohibits the designation of any additional land as Planned Rural Community for the same reasons cited above. These restrictive land use policies retain land use planning options for future generations.

Policies in this section provide for appropriate development in rural areas by directing development away from productive and potentially productive agricultural areas, limiting expansion of existing designated rural residential areas, and minimizing the environmental and service impacts of continued development within areas already designated for rural development. Related policies are included in Section LU-A, Agriculture; Section LU-B, Westside Rangeland; Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery; and Section PF-D, Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal.

Goal LU-E. NON-AGRICULTURAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT

To provide for the continued development of areas already designated for nonagricultural rural-residential development in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts and public infrastructure and service costs while restricting designation of new areas for such development.

F. URBAN DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

The fundamental policy directive of this General Plan is to direct intensive development to cities, unincorporated communities, and other areas where public facilities and infrastructure are available (see page 8, Agricultural Land Protection Vision Statement). The County has a direct role in shaping the character of urban development as it continues to manage growth in the existing unincorporated communities and specific plan areas. At the same time, the County seeks to support and encourage the cities in their land use planning efforts to ensure that a quality living environment is provided for all existing and future residents of the county.

This section addresses development patterns in urban and urbanizing areas. The policies in this section have two main purposes. The first is to encourage pedestrian- and transit-oriented development and infill of vacant or under-utilized urban land. These policies seek to create well designed, mixed-use, higher-density developments in which jobs, commercial activities, and amenities are located along transit corridors and closer to residential areas to encourage pedestrian and transit access. The second purpose of this section is to establish development guidelines and standards for urban residential, commercial, and industrial development. Related polices are included in Section TR-B, Transit, Section TR-D, Bicycle Facilities, Section PF-I, School and Library Facilities; Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery, Section LU-D, Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal.

Goal LU-F. URBAN DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

To encourage mixed-use pedestrian and transit-oriented development and to establish development standards for residential, commercial, and industrial development in urban and urbanizing areas.

G. INCORPORATED CITY, CITY FRINGE AREA, AND UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Each incorporated city in the county and its unincorporated urban fringe functions as a single community requiring an extensive system of urban services. The most efficient method to provide required urban services at the lowest cost to the taxpayers is to concentrate urban development within cities, thus avoiding duplication of services and discouraging the formation of special purpose districts. In addition, there are a number of unincorporated communities in Fresno County that have a substantial urban population and exist as separate, distinct communities surrounded by agriculture or other open space uses. These communities have problems similar to those of cities in that urban growth depends on the provision of adequate services. Improved land use planning is required to maintain compact urban boundaries, minimize intrusion of urban development into productive agricultural areas, and create the optimum situation for provision of services. The challenge of addressing these planning issues has historically been greatest in the urban fringe areas surrounding the cities of Fresno and Clovis, the two largest cities in Fresno County.

Policies in this section seek to encourage coordination and consistency with the County and the cities regarding all land use matters, encourage growth within the cities, and ensure that development in unincorporated areas has adequate water and sewer services. Related sections include Section LU-A, Agriculture; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery; and Section PF-D, Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal.

Goal LU-G. INCORPORATED CITY, CITY FRINGE AREA, AND UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

To direct urban development within city spheres of influence to existing incorporated cities and to ensure that all development in city fringe areas is well planned and adequately served by necessary public facilities and infrastructure and furthers countywide economic development goals.

H. GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

There are several types of development, structures, and activities including mobilehome development, home occupations, second dwellings, and planned development that the County authorizes throughout the unincorporated area according to specific zoning provisions. Policies in this section provide the overall framework for the regulation of these types of development and uses.

The Fresno County General Plan must be monitored and maintained regularly if the County is to achieve the goals of the plan. At the same time, the plan must be implemented systematically through further planning efforts, a wide range of programs and ordinances, and day-to-day decisions. Policies in this section provide direction for these follow-up efforts.

Policies in this section address mobilehomes, home occupations, second unit dwellings, Planned Developments, the proposed Friant-Millerton Regional Plan, guidelines for updating the General Plan, and review of the countywide General Plan. Related sections include Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns and Section LU-G, Incorporated City, City Fringe Area, and Unincorporated Development.

Goal LU-H. GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

To provide for mobilehome development, home occupations, second dwellings, and planned development in appropriate locations under specified conditions and to provide for the effective and systematic implementation of the General Plan.

PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE GOALS

2013/2014 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (FINAL)

The core concept for the County's Agriculture and Land Use Element is the "Urban-Centered Growth" to direct urban-type developments to cities and unincorporated communities where existing or planned infrastructure and services can support that growth, thus preserving the County's scarce and valuable agricultural resources. Central to this land use concept for unincorporated Fresno County is a development pattern that balances the land requirements of residential growth with those of commerce, agriculture, recreation, and wildlife habitats.

The Land Use Element provides maps, goals, and policies that guide decision-makers, planners, property owners, developers, and the general public as to how to accommodate future development in an efficient and sustainable manner that is compatible with the character of unincorporated communities and the protection of valuable and sensitive natural resources.

During 2013 and 2014, the County continued to adhere to General Plan policies for preservation of agricultural resources by directing growth to cities and unincorporated communities where the services are available or are planned to accommodate urban-type developments. The primary activities associated with implementation of the Land Use Policies are noted below:

Friant Corridor Land Use Feasibility Study

The purpose of the Friant Corridor Feasibility Study is to identify and assess opportunities and constraints (both physical and economic) for possible land use changes and development activities within the corridor area relating to recreation, resource and cultural awareness, conservation, tourism, and supportive commercial uses. The Corridor Study area is comprised of lands outside of any city Sphere of Influence and is situated on the east and the west sides of Friant Road between the City of Fresno and the unincorporated community of Friant. On May 21, 2013, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to begin the process of initiating discussions with all relevant parties to determine financial and/or study participation. The first of three public workshops regarding initiating the Feasibility Study for the Friant Corridor was held on August 1, 2014.

Joint Meeting between Madera and Fresno Counties

Efforts that began in 2014 culminated into a January 27, 2015 joint meeting between the Madera County Board of Supervisors and the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

Topics discussed at the joint meeting included development and land use vision in the Rio Mesa area and Friant Corridor, Fresno County/Madera County Highway 41 Origin-Destination Study, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.

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The core concept for the County's Agriculture and Land Use Element is the "Urban-Centered Growth" to direct urban-type developments to cities and unincorporated communities where existing infrastructure and services can support that growth, thus preserving the County's valuable

agricultural resources. Central to this land use concept for unincorporated Fresno County is a development pattern that balances the land requirements of residential growth with those of commerce, agriculture, recreation, and wildlife resources.

The Land Use Element provides maps, goals, and policies that guide decision-makers, planners, property owners, developers, and the general public as to how to accommodate future development in an efficient and sustainable manner that is compatible with the character of unincorporated communities and the protection of valuable and sensitive natural resources.

During 2015, the County continued to implement General Plan policies relating to preservation of agricultural resources by directing growth to cities, in the form of annexation referrals, and unincorporated communities by processing land use entitlements. The primary activities associated with implementation of the Land Use Policies are noted below:

Friant Corridor Land Use Feasibility Study

The purpose of the Friant Corridor Feasibility Study was to identify and assess opportunities and constraints (both physical and economic) for possible land use changes and development activities within the corridor area relating to recreation, resource and cultural awareness, conservation, tourism, and supportive commercial uses. The Corridor Study area is comprised of lands outside of any city Sphere of Influence and covers land on the east and the west sides of Friant Road between the City of Fresno and the unincorporated community of Friant. On May 21, 2013, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to begin the process of initiating discussions with all relevant parties to determine financial and/or study participation.

The first of two public workshops regarding initiating the Feasibility Study for the Friant Corridor was held on August 1, 2014. A second public workshop was held on August 3, 2015. A public review draft of the Study was released in June of 2015, and based on comments received, a revised public review draft was released in October of 2015. Staff also made two presentations to the San Joaquin River Conservancy Board regarding the Study: one in September of 2014 and a second in October of 2015. The Study was presented to the Fresno County Planning Commission on November 19, 2015 and the vote was 6 to 1 to recommend that the Board of Supervisors reject the Study. On May 10, 2016 the Board of Supervisors considered the study and chose to set the study aside.

Regional Cooperation between Fresno County and Surrounding Jurisdictions

Efforts that began in 2014 resulted in a January 27, 2015 joint meeting between the Madera County Board of Supervisors and the Fresno County Board of Supervisors in Madera County. Topics discussed at the joint meeting included development and land use vision in the Rio Mesa area and Friant Corridor, Fresno County/Madera County Highway 41 Origin-Destination Study, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA).

On June 22, 2015 a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and representatives of all 15 incorporated cities within the County was held at the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG). Topics discussed included SGMA, Marijuana Ordinances, land use and preservation and special districts.

On November 17, 2015 a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the representatives from the Cities of Clovis, Fowler, Fresno and Sanger was held at the Fresno COG. Topics discussed included industrial parks, spheres of influence and SGMA.

2000 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

TAKEN FROM THE TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Transportation and Circulation Element provides the framework for Fresno County decisions concerning the countywide transportation system, which includes various transportation modes and related facilities. It also provides for coordination with the cities and unincorporated communities within the county, with the Regional Transportation Plan adopted by the Council of Fresno County Governments, and with State and Federal agencies that fund and manage transportation facilities within the county. The Transportation and Circulation Element reflects the urban and rural nature of Fresno County. The element establishes standards that guide the development of the transportation system, and management of access to the highway system by new development, throughout the unincorporated areas of the county.

The element is divided into two major parts. The first major part describes the County's Circulation Diagram and functional roadway classification system. The second major part sets out goals, policies and implementation programs organized into six sections: Streets and Highways; Transit; Transportation System Management; Bicycle Facilities; Rail Transportation; and Air Transportation.

A. STREETS AND HIGHWAYS

The Fresno County Circulation System is a street and highway plan designed to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods to and within the county and to ensure safe and continuous access to land. Using the State freeways and highways and the County's system of highways as its basic framework, the County Circulation System brings together the circulation plans of the cities and unincorporated communities within the county into a unified, functionally integrated, countywide system that is correlated with the Land Use Element of the General Plan.

Policies in this section seek to create a unified, coordinated, and cost-efficient countywide street and highway system by maintaining and rehabilitating existing roads, maintaining an acceptable level of service (LOS), coordinating improvements with other local jurisdictions, maintaining adequate funding, and providing multi-modal uses where appropriate along street and highway corridors. Related policies are included in Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Development; and Section HS-G, Noise.

Goal TR-A. STREETS AND HIGHWAYS

To plan and provide a unified, coordinated, and cost-efficient countywide street and highway system that ensures the safe, orderly, and efficient movement of people and goods.

B. TRANSIT

Transit systems—both buses and rail—provide alternatives to automobile use and are especially important for those who cannot or do not drive. As Fresno County grows, the potential for transit use and the need for transit will increase. The General Plan supports expansion of the existing transit system, especially in connection with new development.

Policies in this section seek to develop a safe and efficient mass transit system by promoting transit services within urban corridors of dense population and employment, addressing user needs (i.e, seniors, minority, handicapped), developing convenient transfers between transportation systems, and ensuring adequate funding for the system. Related policies are included in Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; Section HS-G, Noise; and Section OS-G, Air Quality.

Goal TR-B. TRANSIT

To promote a safe and efficient mass transit system that provides service to residents without access to automobiles and, in urban areas, helps to reduce congestion, improves the environment, and provides viable non-automotive means of transportation.

C. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

Fresno County has a relatively complex highway transportation system, serving cars, heavy trucks, agricultural and commercial vehicles, buses, transit, bicycles, and pedestrian traffic. Coordinating these many forms of transportation is critical to achieving maximum road efficiency and minimizing costly road expansion or construction.

Policies in this section seek to reduce travel demand on the county's roadway system and maximize the operating efficiency of transportation facilities. The intent is to reduce vehicle emissions and reduce the needed investment in new or expanded facilities. In rural areas, transportation management can sometimes be better addressed through development location and access management rather than conventional systems management. Related policies are included in Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; Section TR-A, Streets and Highways; and Section OS-G, Air Quality.

Goal TR-C. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

To reduce travel demand on the County's roadway system and maximize the operating efficiency of transportation facilities so as to reduce the quantity of motor vehicle emissions and reduce the amount of investment required in new or expanded facilities.

D. BICYCLE FACILITIES

The bicycle has steadily been gaining in acceptance and importance in recent years as a means of recreation, transportation, and healthful exercise. The extent of this increase is reflected in the dramatic rise of bicycle sales. This use of the bicycle by a growing segment of the public has generated an interest in the need for adequate facilities for cyclists.

Policies in this section seek to provide a safe, continuous, and easily accessible bikeway system that connects cities to other communities, to major facilities, and to recreational areas and regional parks; these policies also strive to establish bikeways along existing recreational bicycling routes, to encourage safety-oriented design, to link bikeways to other modes of transportation, and to provide adequate funding. Related policies are included in Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; and Section OS-I, Recreational Trails.

Goal TR-D. BICYCLE FACILITIES

To plan and provide a safe, continuous, and easily accessible bikeway system that facilitates the use of the bicycle as a viable alternative transportation mode and as a form of recreation and exercise.

E. RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Rail transportation has played an important historical role in the development of the county. Currently, the County's role in rail transportation is limited primarily to land use regulation through the Zoning Ordinance. Federal and State agencies have primary jurisdiction over rail facilities and operations.

Policies in this section seek to provide a safe, efficient, and environmentally-sound rail system by supporting improvements to at-grade crossings, protecting and supporting acquisition of railroad rights-of-way, and developing multi-modal stations that link rail with other transportation modes. Related policies are included in Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; and Section HS-G, Noise.

Goal TR-E. RAIL TRANSPORTATION

To plan for a safe, efficient, and environmentally-sound rail system to meet the needs of all Fresno County residents, industry, commerce, and agriculture.

F. AIR TRANSPORTATION

Air transportation plays a key role in the movement of goods and people not only to locations outside of the county but also between locations within the county. Currently, the County's role in air transportation is strictly limited to land use regulation through the Zoning Ordinance. State and Federal agencies have primary jurisdiction over airport facilities and operations.

Policies in this section seek to promote the maintenance and improvement of general and commercial aviation facilities by avoiding potential land use conflicts between airports and surrounding urban uses and supporting the local Airport Land Use Commission. Related policies are included in Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; and Section HS-G, Noise.

Goal TR-F. AIR TRANSPORTATION

To promote the maintenance and improvement of general and commercial aviation facilities within the parameters of compatible surrounding land uses

PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION GOALS

2013/2014 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (FINAL)

The Transportation and Circulation Element describes the County's transportation network and establishes goals and policies that address the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, and management of the transportation network. The Transportation and Circulation Element reflects the urban and rural nature of Fresno County. The Element establishes standards that guide the development of the transportation system, and management of access to the highway system by new development throughout the unincorporated areas of the County.

The Element is divided into two major parts. The first major part describes the County's Circulation Diagram and functional roadway classification system. The second major part sets out goals, policies and implementation programs organized into six sections: Streets and Highways; Transit; Transportation System Management; Bicycle Facilities; Rail Transportation; and Air Transportation.

During 2013 and 2014, the County continued to implement planning efforts to facilitate a safe and multi-modal road network. Major accomplishments associated with implementing the policies of the Transportation and Circulation Chapter include:

Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan (Amendment)

The Fresno County Regional Bicycle Master Plan was originally adopted by the Board of Supervisors in February 2012. The County Planning Commission, in August 2013, based on a recommendation by staff, recommended that the Board of Supervisors revise the Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan. The revisions included revising Figure 6 to clearly depict standards for the Class I Bike Path, adding the Lost Lake Pedestrian Nature Trail and the Fancher Creek Bridle Trail, revising Figure 9 and adding Figures 9A and 9B to illustrate the County's conceptual recreation trails, adding Figure 10 to depict standards for Recreational/Hiking/Pedestrian/Equestrian Trails and Off-Road Cyclists, updating Table V to include Class II bicycle lanes projects completed from 2005-2012, and updating Table VII to include the Lost Lake Pedestrian Nature Trail and the Fancher Creek Bridle Trail.

On September 24, 2013, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors approved revisions to the Fresno County Regional Bicycle Master Plan.

The Lost Lake Pedestrian Nature Trail and Fancher Creek Bridle Trail will be included in the next scheduled update of the Transportation and Circulation and Open Space and Conservation Elements of the October 2000 Fresno County General Plan.

Fresno County Road Improvement Program

On June 3, 2014 the Board of Supervisors considered the Approval of the Fresno County Road Improvement Program (RIP) and Declaration of Projects. The RIP is a multi-year maintenance and construction programming plan and reflects the County's efforts to protect and improve the public investment in the County road system and to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and commodities. The RIP identifies maintenance funding levels and specific projects expected to be delivered within a defined time frame. The funding in the RIP reflects current and projected budgets and the RIP also identifies, but does not fund, a number of recommended projects that are necessary for an improved County

road and bridge system. These prospective projects were described in a series of appendices to the RIP. In 2014 the RIP considered the following projects: bridge replacement/repair, road reconstruction projects, traffic signals, congestion mitigation air quality projects, and pavement repair.

The RIP is intended to be a guide to the Board of Supervisors' road priorities and the Department's road program development, as well as for the Administrative Office, businesses, economic development community, utility companies, and the public at large. It should be viewed as a living document that will be adjusted over time to match revenues, and to allow the Board to respond to unforeseen needs or revenues.

At its June 2014 Hearing, the Board acted unanimously to approve the RIP as recommended by staff.

2015 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (DRAFT)

The Transportation and Circulation Element describes the County's transportation network and establishes goals and policies that address the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, and management of the transportation network. The Transportation and Circulation Element reflects the urban and rural nature of Fresno County. The Element establishes standards that guide the development of the transportation system and management of access to the highway system by new development throughout the unincorporated areas of the County.

The Element is divided into two major parts. The first major part describes the County's Circulation Diagram and functional roadway classification system. The second major part sets out goals, policies and implementation programs organized into six sections: Streets and Highways; Transit; Transportation System Management; Bicycle Facilities; Rail Transportation; and Air Transportation.

During 2015, the County continued to implement planning efforts to facilitate a safe and multi-modal road network. Major activities associated with the Transportation and Circulation Element are included below:

Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan

In 2009 the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan (Plan) was created through the coordinated efforts of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG), the Fresno Cycling Club, the City of Fresno Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), various government and non-profit agencies, and citizens interested in improving the bicycling environment in Fresno County. Without the sustained efforts of these organizations and citizens, the continuing improvements to the cycling environment throughout the County would not be realized. The Plan is one component of the continued effort towards making bicycling an integral part of Fresno County daily life. The Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011 and most recently amended September 24, 2013.

During 2015, the construction of one bicycle lane project was completed. The project was a cooperative endeavor between the City of Fresno and the County, and resulted in the construction of bicycle lanes on Cedar Avenue from McKinley Avenue to Clinton Avenue. The County's portion of the project was funded from the County's Measure "C" Extension Local Transportation Funds for Bicycle Facilities. Cedar Avenue is designated as a Class II bicycle facility in the City Bike Master Plan and in the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreation Trails Master Plan.

The design of the Fancher Creek Bridle Trail Project commenced. The project, once completed, will provide an improved 1.3-mile-long equestrian/pedestrian trail within the Sunnyside neighborhood, located within a County island within the City of Fresno. The County worked

extensively with various stakeholders including Tree Fresno and the Sunnyside Property Owners Association to establish parameters for the design of the trail, and the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew cleared the existing easement to enable the site to be surveyed. The Project is funded with Measure "C" funds for the construction of urban trails.

Fresno County Road Improvement Program

On April 7, 2015 the Board of Supervisors approved the Fresno County Road Improvement Program (RIP) and Declaration of Projects. The RIP is a multi-year maintenance and construction programming plan and reflects the County's efforts to protect and improve the public investment in the County road system and to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and commodities. The RIP identifies maintenance funding levels and specific projects expected to be delivered within a defined time frame. The funding in the RIP reflects current and projected budgets and the RIP also identifies, but does not fund, a number of recommended projects that are necessary for an improved County road and bridge system. These prospective projects are described in a series of appendices to the RIP. The types of projects in the RIP include bridge replacement/repair, road reconstruction, traffic signals, shoulder widening, and pavement repair.

The RIP is intended to be a guide to the Board of Supervisors' road priorities and the Department's road program development, as well as for the Administrative Office, businesses, economic development community, utility companies, and the public at large. It should be viewed as a living document that will be adjusted over time to match revenues, and to allow the Board to respond to unforeseen needs or revenues.

Roads/Bridges

In 2015, construction was completed on several federally-funded projects including bridge preventative maintenance of 17 bridges, two shoulder-widening projects on Lassen Avenue and Belmont Avenue, a traffic signal on Belmont and Helm Avenues, a safety striping project on mountain roads, as well as two locally-funded pavement resurfacing projects.

2000 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Fresno County development is dependent on a complex network of public facilities and services. Each type of service has a unique set of constraints and issues and must adapt to growth and change differently. The General Plan sets out policies and implementation programs to respond to this variety of issues and constraints. Since the major themes of the General Plan include directing urban growth to existing communities, limiting the intrusion of development onto productive agricultural land, and limiting the spread of rural residential development, demand for public facilities and services will be controlled.

The Public Facilities and Services Element is organized accordingly into ten sections: General Public Facilities and Services; Funding; Water Supply and Delivery; Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal; Storm Drainage and Flood Control; Landfills, Transfer Stations, and Solid Waste Processing Facilities; Law Enforcement; Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services; School and Library Facilities; and Utilities.

A. GENERAL PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Modern development requires a wide range of publicly-provided facilities and services, such as water, wastewater disposal, storm drainage, and garbage collection. The General Plan seeks to provide for the logical and efficient extension of these services as new development occurs.

Policies in this section seek to ensure public facilities and services are available in a timely fashion to serve new development. Related policies are included in Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; LU-G, Incorporated City, Fringe Area and Unincorporated Community Development; Section PF-B, Funding; Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery; Section PF-D, Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal; and PF-E, Storm Drainage and Flood Control.

Goal PF-A. GENERAL PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

To ensure the timely development of public facilities and to maintain an adequate level of service to meet the needs of existing and future development.

B. FUNDING

In the past, Federal and State grants paid for many improvements and expansions of public facilities, but this type of funding has dwindled in recent years. Generally, expansion of facilities or the development of new facilities is the responsibility of the private developer. Public entities are responsible for operation and maintenance of such facilities in accordance with all State, Federal and local laws. Residents and property owners within the service area are responsible for the costs of operation and maintenance of public facilities and services which are usually collected as assessments, charges, and fees for service. The occasional need to upgrade or replace capital facilities may be funded by service fees, surcharge fees, assessments, grants, loans, bonds or other financial instruments.

Policies in this section seek to ensure that new development pays its fair share of the cost of new facilities; that there are adequate funding sources for new facilities and services; and that public financing is equitable, financially feasible, and consistent with County guidelines, policies, and existing fee programs. The policies also seek to ensure that public facilities are constructed in accordance with an approved public facilities plan and in accordance with approved standards of the County or special district. Related policies are included in Section LU-E, Non- Agricultural Rural Development; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; and Section LU-G, Incorporated City, City Fringe Area, and Unincorporated Community Development.

Goal PF-B. FUNDING

To ensure that adopted facility and service standards are achieved and maintained through the use of equitable funding methods.

C. WATER SUPPLY AND DELIVERY

Water supply and delivery is one of the most critical issues for Fresno County and is essential to the environment, economy, and quality of life in Fresno County. Readily available groundwater and the development of facilities for the storage and conveyance of surface water have allowed Fresno County to grow and prosper as the nation's premier agricultural region. Fresno County's agriculture and its many dependent businesses are sustained by an affordable and reliable water supply made possible through conjunctive use of groundwater and stored surface water. In addition, the ready availability of high quality groundwater allows most residents, municipalities, and industries within Fresno County to meet their water supply needs without expensive delivery and treatment infrastructure.

However, there are a number of factors affecting the county's existing water resources. Throughout much of the county, groundwater is in a state of overdraft. In some county areas, contamination from natural or manmade sources has reduced groundwater quality such that its use requires treatment. Increased contamination of surface water sources is also an emerging concern. There are also concerns regarding the import and export of surface water that could affect long-term supplies. Finally, there is the increase in water demand that will accompany the county's anticipated growth.

Policies in this section seek to ensure an adequate water supply for both domestic and agricultural users by providing necessary facility improvements, ensuring water availability, and utilizing water conservation measures. Related policies are included in Section OS-A, Water Resources; Section PF-B, Funding; and Section PF-E, Storm Drainage and Flood Control.

Goal PF-C. WATER SUPPLY AND DELIVERY

To ensure the availability of an adequate and safe water supply for domestic and agricultural consumption.

D. WASTEWATER COLLECTION, TREATMENT, AND DISPOSAL

Cities and special districts own and operate numerous wastewater collection systems throughout the county. Residents in rural areas that are not served by centralized systems use on-site septic systems. Industries are required to provide treatment or pre-treatment of their wastewater and obtain separate discharge permits from the Central Valley California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). Many unincorporated communities have elected to form special districts to provide sewage collection and wastewater treatment, as well as other services. Approximately 30 of these districts provide wastewater services. The County owns and operates ten wastewater treatment facilities on behalf of water works districts and county service areas.

Fresno County's Mandatory Sewer Connection Ordinance requires connection to public sewer systems where they are available, precluding the issuance of permits for installation of individual on-site septic systems in such cases. In areas where public systems become available where they did not previously exist, structures served by individual septic systems must be connected to the public system within three years, or sooner if the existing facilities pose a health risk.

Policies in this section seek to ensure the safe disposal of wastewater by promoting efficient water use and reduced wastewater system demand in centralized systems and by ensuring safe development, operation, and maintenance of on-site septic systems. Related policies are included in Section OS-A, Water Resources, and Section PF-B, Funding.

Goal PF-D. WASTEWATER COLLECTION, TREATMENT, AND DISPOSAL

To ensure adequate wastewater collection and treatment and the safe disposal of wastewater.

E. STORM DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL

Flooding is a natural occurrence in the Central Valley because it is the drainage basin for thousands of watershed acres of Sierra Nevada and Coast Range foothills and mountains. Flooding in Fresno County occurs primarily along the Kings River in the central-eastern portion of the county and some sections of the San Joaquin River and along many of the foothill streams along the east and west sides of the valley.

The valley floor of Fresno County has many challenges concerning storm drainage and flood control due to its mountain watersheds and the flat topography of the central valley floor. During the winter and spring months, river and stream systems in Fresno County swell with heavy rainfall and snow melt runoff. Diverting and retaining this water for groundwater replenishment is crucial for not only public safety but maintaining an adequate water supply for domestic and agricultural uses.

Policies in this section seek to ensure safe, efficient, and environmentally-sound means to drain stormwater and provide flood control by providing necessary facility improvements, ensuring adequate funding, providing a means to detain/retain runoff, and ensuring the facilities meet State environmental regulations. Related policies are included in Section HS-C, Flood Hazards; Section OS-A, Water Resources; and Section PF-B, Funding.

Goal PF-E. STORM DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL

To provide efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally-sound storm drainage and flood control facilities that protect both life and property and to divert and retain stormwater runoff for groundwater replenishment.

F. LANDFILLS, TRANSFER STATIONS, AND SOLID WASTE PROCESSING FACILITIES

The siting of solid waste facilities in the United States has become increasingly difficult in recent years. Proper siting of solid waste facilities such as landfills, transfer and processing stations, and resource recovery facilities is crucial to ensure protection of the environment and to meet the increasingly stringent legislative requirements for such facilities.

Fresno County operates two active solid waste disposal facilities or landfills: the American Avenue Landfill and the Coalinga Landfill. These landfills have a service area of 6,000 square miles. Portions of the unincorporated areas of the county also use the Clovis Landfill and the Orange Avenue

Landfill. Only a small portion of the unincorporated county's solid waste is taken to these facilities, as the Clovis Landfill serves mainly the city of Clovis, and the Orange Avenue Landfill serves mainly the city of Fresno.

Policies in this section reaffirm and incorporate the goals and policies of the County Integrated Waste Management Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed between the Cities of Fresno and Clovis and the County of Fresno, which address solid waste disposal and facilities. Related policies are included in Section HS-F, Hazardous Materials.

Goal PF-F. LANDFILLS, TRANSFER STATIONS, AND SOLID WASTE PROCESSING FACILITIES

To ensure the safe and efficient disposal or recycling of solid waste generated in the county in an effort to protect the public health and safety.

G. LAW ENFORCEMENT

When unincorporated communities develop and other development occurs in the county, consideration must be given to the adequacy of law enforcement facilities and services. Development normally occurs over a long period of time and involves many developers.

Policies in this section seek to ensure the prompt and efficient provision of law enforcement service by providing that adequate staffing, facilities, and funding are available in new development areas. Related policies are included in Section PF-B, Funding, and Section TR-A, Streets and Highways.

Goal PF-G. LAW ENFORCEMENT

To protect life and property by deterring crime and ensuring the prompt and efficient provision of law enforcement service and facility needs to meet the growing demand for police services associated with an increasing population.

H. FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

When unincorporated areas develop, consideration must be given to the adequacy of fire protection and emergency medical facilities and services. Development normally occurs over a long period of time and involves many developers. It is, therefore, essential that policies be developed whereby new development can share the cost of providing needed fire protection and emergency medical facilities.

Policies in this section seek to ensure the prompt and efficient provision of fire and emergency medical facility and service needs, ensure adequate funding is available in new development areas, and protect the life and property of residents of and visitors to Fresno County. Related policies are included in Section HS-A, Emergency Management and Response; Section HS-B, Fire Hazards; Section PF-B, Funding; Section LU-G, Incorporated City, City Fringe Area, and Unincorporated Community Development; and Section TR-A, Streets and Highways.

Goal PF-H. FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

To ensure the prompt and efficient provision of fire and emergency medical facility and service needs, to protect residents of and visitors to Fresno County from injury and loss of life, and to protect property from fire.

I. SCHOOL AND LIBRARY FACILITIES

New residential development has the potential for increasing enrollment and overcrowding existing school facilities. In fact, 2020 population projections estimate an additional 344,000 new persons in the county which would likely add 77,800 students and create a demand for 101 new schools (74 elementary schools, 13 middle schools, and 14 high schools). Since funds for the construction of new schools are scarce, one of the county's biggest challenges is to ensure that new residential developments that have the potential for causing overcrowding to existing schools, not be constructed unless adequate public school facilities are available or will be available to meet the needs of the proposed development. In addition, new residential growth will bring demand for new or expanded library facilities in the county.

Policies in this section seek to provide safe access to schools, maintain acceptable levels of service, and ensure adequate funding for new school and library facilities. Related policies are included in Section PF-B, Funding.

Goal PF-I. SCHOOL AND LIBRARY FACILITIES

To provide for the educational needs of Fresno County and provide libraries for the educational, recreational, and literary needs of Fresno County residents.

J. UTILITIES

Within the county, there are several private companies that provide electrical, gas, and telephone services. Mutual support among the County and these companies is essential to the efficient provision of existing services and to ensure that new service needs such as telecommunications are met.

Policies in this section seek to facilitate the efficient provision of necessary services and facilities and to minimize the impacts of utilities on surrounding land uses. Related policies are included in Section PF-B, Funding.

Goal PF-J. UTILITIES

To provide efficient and cost-effective utilities that serve the existing and future needs of people in the unincorporated areas of the county.

PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES GOALS

2013/2014 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (FINAL)

Fresno County development is dependent on a complex network of public facilities and services. Each type of service has a unique set of constraints and issues and must adapt to growth and change differently. The General Plan sets out policies and implementation programs to respond to this variety of issues and constraints. Since the major themes of the General Plan include directing urban growth to existing communities, limiting the intrusion of development onto productive agricultural land, and limiting the spread of rural residential development, demand for public facilities and services will be controlled.

The Public Facilities and Services Element is organized accordingly into ten sections: General Public Facilities and Services; Funding; Water Supply and Delivery; Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal; Storm Drainage and Flood Control; Landfills, Transfer Stations, and Solid Waste Processing Facilities; Law Enforcement; Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services; School and Library Facilities; and Utilities. Major development in 2013 and 2014 related to this Element include:

Continuing Suspension of Public Facilities Impact Fees

On October 8, 2013, the Board of Supervisors considered potential options to the County's Public Facilities Impact Fee Ordinance and Schedule of Fees and associated Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and any other actions related to the previously collected, unspent fees, and budgetary impacts resulting from those actions.

The potential options included: 1) Continue the temporary suspension of collecting Public Facilities Impact (PFI) Fees through November 9, 2015, as approved by the Board on June 19, 2012; 2) Engage a consultant to prepare an updated PFI Fee Report and direct staff to prepare an associated CIP; 3) Engage with the consultant to study and prepare a report to reduce the number of categories and areas they serve; and, 4) Adopt an ordinance repealing the PFI and adopt a resolution to terminate the associated CIP and refund resulting funds to the current property owners of record.

On February 2, 2015, the Board of Supervisors conducted a second public hearing to consider an amendment to repeal the Public Facilities Impact Fees Ordinance in its entirety. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board decided to continue suspension of the impact fees and directed Staff to return to the Board in two years.

Mello Roos

On December 9, 2014 the Board of Supervisors considered information presented by staff regarding the process, cost, and timelines associated with Board direction to discontinue the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services for new development in unincorporated areas of the County. This followed an October 28, 2014 action in which the Board directed staff to return with the process, timeline, and costs necessary to implement amending the County's General Plan to address Policies PF-G.2 and PF-G.4, dissolve existing community facility districts, remove conditions of approval/mitigation measures on existing approved subdivision maps, and rescind Board

Resolution No. 11-018 relating to Statement of Goals and Policies for the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services.

The action would include a General Plan Amendment to address Policies PF-G.2 and PF-G.4, the elimination of Mello-Roos conditions for existing approved tentative tract maps that currently have the requirement to annex to the Countywide CFD as a condition of approval or mitigation measure, the elimination of existing Board Policy regarding the Use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 for Police Protection Services, and the dissolution of existing Community Facility Districts for Police Protection Services.

At the December Board Hearing staff was directed to incorporate the dissolution of the Mello-Roos community facilities act of 1982 to finance police protection services into the General Plan discussion process.

2015 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (DRAFT)

Fresno County development is dependent on a complex network of public facilities and services. Each type of service has a unique set of constraints and issues and must adapt to growth and change differently. The General Plan sets out policies and implementation programs to respond to this variety of issues and constraints. Since the major themes of the General Plan include directing urban growth to existing communities, limiting the intrusion of development onto productive agricultural land, and limiting the spread of rural residential development, demand for public facilities and services will be controlled.

The Public Facilities and Services Element is organized accordingly into ten sections: General Public Facilities and Services; Funding; Water Supply and Delivery; Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal; Storm Drainage and Flood Control; Landfills, Transfer Stations, and Solid Waste Processing Facilities; Law Enforcement; Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services; School and Library Facilities; and Utilities. Major activities in 2015 related to this Element are noted below:

Continuing Suspension of Public Facilities Impact Fees

On October 8, 2013, the Board of Supervisors considered potential options to the County's Public Facilities Impact Fee Ordinance and Schedule of Fees and associated Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and any other actions related to the previously collected unspent fees, and budgetary impacts resulting from those actions.

The potential options included: 1) Continue the temporary suspension of collecting Public Facilities Impact (PFI) Fees through November 9, 2015, as approved by the Board on June 19, 2012; 2) Engage a consultant to prepare an updated PFI Fee Report and direct staff to prepare an associated CIP; 3) Engage with the consultant to study and prepare a report to reduce the number of categories and areas they serve; and 4) Adopt an ordinance repealing the PFI and adopt a resolution to terminate the associated CIP, and refund resulting funds to the current property owners of record.

On May 19, 2015, the Board of Supervisors conducted a second public hearing to consider an amendment to repeal the Public Facilities Impact Fees Ordinance in its entirety. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board decided to continue suspension of the impact fees to November 9, 2017 and directed Staff to return to the Board with a workshop on the County's Facility Impact Fees and provide options for the Board to consider.

Mello Roos

On December 9, 2014 the Board of Supervisors considered information presented by staff regarding the process, cost, and timelines associated with Board direction to discontinue the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services for new development in unincorporated areas of the County. This followed an October 28, 2014 action in which the Board directed staff to return with the process, timeline, and costs necessary to implement amending the County's General Plan to address Policies PF-G.2 and PF-G.4, dissolve existing community facility districts (CFDs), remove conditions of approval/mitigation measures on existing approved subdivision maps, and rescind Board Resolution No. 11-018 relating to Statement of Goals and Policies for the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services.

The action would include a General Plan Amendment to address Policies PF-G.2 and PF-G.4, the elimination of Mello-Roos conditions for existing approved tentative tract maps that currently have the requirement to annex to the Countywide CFO as a condition of approval or mitigation measure, the elimination of existing Board Policy regarding the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 for Police Protection Services, and the dissolution of existing CFDs for Police Protection Services.

At the December Board Hearing staff was directed to incorporate the dissolution of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services into the General Plan discussion process.

The Sheriff-Coroner took the Mello-Roos item back to the Board on June 16, 2015. The Board received the Sheriff-Coroner's presentation, approved maintaining the FY 2014-15 appropriations limits for the County's Mello-Roos CFDs for enhanced police protection services in FY 2015-16 and requested further analysis and information on the enhanced services provided. On July 14, 2015 the Board received the Sheriff-Coroner's presentation and approved the County's Mello-Roos CFD's FY 2015-2016 appropriations. No action was taken regarding discontinuing the use of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services for new development in unincorporated areas of the County.

On May 24, 2016 the Board directed staff to incorporate the dissolution of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to finance police protection services into the General Plan discussion process.

2000 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

TAKEN FROM THE OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Open Space and Conservation Element is concerned with protecting and preserving natural resources, preserving open space areas, managing the production of commodity resources, protecting and enhancing cultural resources, and providing recreational opportunities.

The Open Space and Conservation Element sets out goals, policies, and implementation measures under three main headings: Productive Resources, Natural Resources, and Recreation and Cultural Resources. Productive Resources encompasses three sections: Water Resources; Forest Resources; and Mineral Resources. Natural Resources encompasses four sections: Wetland and Riparian Areas; Fish and Wildlife Habitat; Vegetation; and Air Quality. Finally, Recreation and Cultural Resources encompasses five sections: Parks and Recreation; Recreational Trails; Historic; Cultural; and Geologic Resources; Scenic Resources; and Scenic Roadways.

A. WATER RESOURCES

Fresno County is large and geographically diverse. The mountainous eastern region of the county receives up to 70 inches of precipitation annually, mostly in snowfall. Many small mountain lakes and streams in this region are tributaries to the San Joaquin and Kings Rivers which flow into the Central Valley. The valley and western portions of the county, by contrast, are extremely arid, with less than 10 inches of annual rainfall. Groundwater conditions and quality vary widely across the county.

There are a number of factors affecting the county's existing water resources. Throughout much of the county, groundwater is in a state of overdraft. In some county areas, contamination from natural or manmade sources has reduced groundwater quality such that its use requires treatment. Supplies of imported surface water have been reduced due to changing regulations, and there is growing pressure to allow long-term transfers of water out of the county. Finally, there is the increase in water demand that will accompany the county's anticipated growth.

Policies in this section seek to protect and enhance the surface water and groundwater resources in the county. The policies address broad water planning issues, groundwater recharge, the relationship of land use decisions to water issues, and water quality problems. Related policies are included in Section HS-C, Flood Hazards; Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery; Section PF-E, Storm Drainage and Flood Control; Section OS-D, Wetland and Riparian Areas; and Section LU-C, River Influence Areas. Other relevant policies are included in the Kings River Regional Plan.

Goal OS-A. WATER RESOURCES

To protect and enhance the water quality and quantity in Fresno County's streams, creeks, and groundwater basins.

B. FOREST RESOURCES

Almost all of the lands available for timber production in Fresno County lie within the southern part of the Sierra National Forest and the northern portion of the Sequoia National Forest. Timber from these areas is the only long-term supply for the local wood product industry. The challenge to Fresno County is to maintain current timber production operations without jeopardizing one of its most valuable natural assets—its forests.

Policies in this section seek to protect forestry resources by encouraging productive use of forest land, carefully managing the forest ecosystem, protecting forest resources, discouraging the development of land uses that conflict with timberland management, and encouraging participation in the Timberland Production Zone program. Related policies are included in Section OS-E, Fish and Wildlife Habitat, and Section OS-F, Vegetation.

Goal OS-B. FOREST RESOURCES

To maintain healthy, sustainable forests in Fresno County, conserve forest resources, enhance the quality and diversity of forest ecosystems, reduce conflicts between forestry and other uses, encourage a sustained yield of forest products, protect and conserve lands identified as suitable for commercial timber production within the county, and conserve forest lands that have other resource values including recreation, grazing, watershed, and wildlife habitats.

C. MINERAL RESOURCES

Fresno County has been a leading producer of minerals because of the abundance and wide variety of mineral resources that are present in the county. Extracted resources include aggregate products (sand and gravel), fossil fuels (oil and coal), metals (chromite, copper, gold, mercury, and tungsten), and other minerals used in construction or industrial applications (asbestos, high-grade clay, diatomite, granite, gypsum, and limestone). Aggregate and petroleum are the county's most significant extractive resources and play an important role in maintaining the county's overall economy.

Policies in this section intend to preserve the future availability of its mineral resources. In addition, policies in this section seek to promote the orderly extraction of mineral resources while minimizing the impact of these activities on surrounding land uses and the natural environment. Related policies are included in Section LU-C, River Influence Areas. Other relevant policies are included in the Kings River Regional Plan.

Goal OS-C. MINERAL RESOURCES

To conserve areas identified as containing significant mineral deposits and oil and gas resources for potential future use, while promoting the reasonable, safe, and orderly operation of mining and extraction activities within areas designated for such use, where environmental, aesthetic, and adjacent land use compatibility impacts can be adequately mitigated.

D. WETLAND AND RIPARIAN AREAS

The rivers and streams that flow from the Sierra Nevada mountains historically meandered through broad floodplains in the San Joaquin Valley. Because of urbanization and agriculture, these broad floodplains have been restricted to narrower belts along the rivers and streams or otherwise modified for flood control. Within this modified landscape, remaining riparian habitat is of great value to resident and migratory animal species as it provides corridors and linkages to and from the biotic regions of the county. The numerous essential habitat elements provided by the remaining riparian/riverine corridors in Fresno County make them perhaps the most significant contributor to wildlife habitat throughout the county.

The San Joaquin Valley area of Fresno County still contains large wetlands and wildlife refuge areas, while the foothills east of the city of Fresno contain vernal pools. These areas support many specialized plant and animal species.

Policies in this section seek to protect riparian and wetland habitats in the county while allowing compatible uses where appropriate. Related policies are included in Section LU-C, River Influence Areas; Section OS-A, Water Resources; Section OS-E, Fish and Wildlife Habitat; and Section OS-F, Vegetation.

Goal OS-D. WETLAND AND RIPARIAN AREAS

To conserve the function and values of wetland communities and related riparian areas throughout Fresno County while allowing compatible uses where appropriate. Protection of these resource functions will positively affect aesthetics, water quality, floodplain management, ecological function, and recreation/tourism.

E. FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Fresno County is unique among California counties in the range of habitats that it encompasses. The County cuts an east/west cross-section across central California that includes the spine of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the Central Valley, and a small portion of the inner Coast Range. Fresno County's different regions can be described in terms of 29 distinct habitat types based on the composition and structure of vegetation found in each area. Within these habitats, there is a close relationship between natural vegetation and wildlife. The disruption of natural vegetation areas alters the food chain upon which many animals are dependent. The preservation of natural vegetation areas is, therefore, key abundance and well-being of many wildlife species.

Policies in this section seek to protect natural areas and to preserve the diversity of habitat in the county. Related policies are included in Section OS-A, Water Resources; Section OS-B, Forest Resources; Section OS-D, Wetland and Riparian Areas; Section OS-F, Vegetation; and Section LU-C, River Influence Areas.

Goal OS-E. FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

To help protect, restore, and enhance habitats in Fresno County that support fish and wildlife species so that populations are maintained at viable levels.

F. VEGETATION

Beyond providing habitat for wildlife as addressed in the two previous sections, Fresno County's native vegetation such as oak woodlands must be managed to maintain its diversity and health for ecological as well as aesthetic reasons.

Policies in this section seek to protect native vegetation resources primarily on private land within the county. Related policies are included in Section OS-A, Water Resources; Section OS-B, Forest Resources; Section OS-D, Wetland and Riparian Areas; Section OS-E, Fish and Wildlife Habitat; and Section LU-C, River Influence Areas.

Goal OS-F. VEGETATION

To preserve and protect the valuable vegetation resources of Fresno County.

G. AIR QUALITY

Air quality in Fresno County is a key element in defining the quality of life for county residents. Air pollution adversely affects human health, degrades the natural and built environments, causes agricultural losses, and changes the earth's climate. Air quality is a global problem that must be addressed by all levels of government.

The linkages between land use patterns, transportation systems, and air quality are the primary means for local governments to address air quality issues. The main method of local control over air quality in Fresno County is the reduction of the number of vehicular miles traveled (VMT) and resulting vehicular emissions. Thus, Fresno's air quality strategy focuses on ways to reduce air pollutants by promoting compact efficient development patterns that support transit use, walking, and bicycling as alternatives to single occupant vehicle use. This type of land use based strategy, however, poses a challenge for a county such as Fresno whose jurisdiction is primarily rural. The primary role for Fresno County in this strategy is to direct development to population centers; to encourage jobs-housing balance; to avoid proliferation of scattered low-density residential development projects; and to minimize further parcelization and designation of land for rural-residential development.

Policies and implementation programs addressing air quality that are directly related to land use and transportation issues are included in the Land Use Element and the Transportation and Circulation Element as, as described below.

Land Use Related Air Quality Policies (Land Use Element)

The land use related air quality policies address four objectives:

- a. To keep growth in existing development areas;
- b. To encourage compact development;
- c. To encourage mixed-use development; and
- d. To encourage pedestrian and transit-oriented development in urban areas.

Transportation Related Air Quality Policies (Transportation and Circulation Element)

The main air quality-related transportation strategy is to make transportation infrastructure improvements that will reduce motor vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled and encourage an increase in the share of non-automobile trips. Policies addressing this strategy are included in the Transportation and Circulation Element. These policies address the following aims:

- a. To plan for a multi-modal transportation system that meets community mobility needs, improves air quality, and shifts travel away from single-occupant automobiles to less polluting transportation modes such as transit, carpools, bicycling, and walking;
- b. To ensure that transportation plans, programs, and projects will not impair efforts to meet air quality standards;
- c. To ensure that the design of streets, sidewalks, and bike paths/routes within new development encourages walking and biking;
- d. To ensure that the design of streets is compatible with present and future transit needs;
- e. To plan an extensive system of bikeways and pedestrian paths in urban areas to encourage bicycle and pedestrian trips that replace vehicular trips;

- f. To plan for future transit needs in the region which may include light rail, commuter rail, or expanded bus service, as appropriate; and
- g. To facilitate rural transit, paratransit, and carpooling to provide a range of transportation options from the small rural communities to the major cities in the county.

Policies in this section address assessing and mitigating air quality impacts; coordination and cooperation with local jurisdictions on regional air quality issues; employer-based trip reduction programs; establishment of congestion management and transportation control measures; and reduction of toxic and hazardous emissions, particulate matter, and fugitive dust. Related policies are included in Section TR-A, Streets and Highways; Section TR-B, Transit; Section TR-C, Transportation System Management; Section TR-D, Bicycle Facilities; and Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns.

Goal OS-G. AIR QUALITY

To improve air quality and minimize the adverse effects of air pollution in Fresno County.

H. PARKS AND RECREATION

Fresno County has a wide variety of recreational resources. The county contains regional parks, State and national parks, national forests, wilderness areas, and other resources. The primary responsibility for development and maintenance of the County park system lies with the County's General Services Department.

Policies in this section seek to enhance recreational opportunities in the county by encouraging the further development of public and private recreation lands, and requiring development to help fund additional parks and recreation facilities. Related policies are included in Section LUC, River Influence Areas; Section OS-I, Recreational Trails; and Section OS-K, Scenic Resources.

Goal OS-H. PARKS AND RECREATION

To designate land for and promote the development and expansion of public and private recreational facilities to serve the needs of residents and visitors.

I. RECREATIONAL TRAILS

While many Fresno County communities have bikeways that provide both local and regional service, pedestrian and recreational (including bicycling, equestrian, and hiking) facilities are more localized and do not form a contiguous regional system. Recreational trails are trails designed primarily for the recreational use of bicyclists, pedestrians, or equestrians, or any combination thereof. They are intended to be primarily off-street facilities, although some recreational trails designed for bicycle use only may be on-street bikeways.

Policies in this section seek to enhance recreational opportunities in the county by encouraging the development of a countywide trail system. Related policies are included in Section TR-D, Bicycle Facilities, and OS-C, Mineral Resources.

Goal OS-I. RECREATIONAL TRAILS

To develop a system of hiking, riding, and bicycling trails and paths suitable for active recreation and transportation and circulation.

J. HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Fresno County's history includes at least five indigenous Native American tribes and Spanish, Mexican, and American colonization. There are many archeological and historic sites and a large stock of historically significant buildings and landmarks in the county. The county also contains several unique geological features and geological resources of bygone eras.

Policies in this section seek to preserve the historical, archeological, paleontological, geological, and cultural resources of the county through development review, acquisition, encouragement of easements, coordination with other agencies and groups, and other methods.

Goal OS-J. HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

To identify, protect, and enhance Fresno County's important historical, archeological, paleontological, geological, and cultural sites and their contributing environment.

K. SCENIC RESOURCES

Fresno County encompasses a diverse landscape ranging from fine cultivated farmlands of the valley and foothill grasslands to high mountain peaks. The scenic qualities of the area are an important component of the quality of life in the county. Scenic resources also play an important role in the economic development of the region, including the expansion of tourism-based industries, and the locational decisions of businesses.

Policies in this section are intended to protect the scenic resources of the county and ensure that development enhances those resources through the identification of important scenic resources, development review, acquisition, encouragement of easements, coordination with other agencies and groups, and other methods. Related policies are included in OS-H, Parks and Recreation.

Goal OS-K. SCENIC RESOURCES

To conserve, protect, and maintain the scenic quality of Fresno County and discourage development that degrades areas of scenic quality.

L. SCENIC ROADWAYS

The retention of existing scenic qualities along roadways is an important part of the County's efforts to enhance the quality of life in the county. The County has a major responsibility for developing and maintaining a circulation system that facilitates the safe and efficient movement of goods and people. Concern for the maintenance of environmental quality and scenic resources also requires that emphasis be placed on the preservation and enhancement of visual amenities along roadways.

Policies in this section are intended to protect the scenic resources along roadways of the county by identifying, developing, and maintaining of scenic amenities along roads and highways in the county and ensuring that development enhances those resources. Related policies are included in Section TR-A, Streets and Highways, and Section OS-K, Scenic Resources.

Goal OS-L. SCENIC ROADWAYS

To conserve, protect, and maintain the scenic quality of land and landscape adjacent to scenic roads in Fresno County.

2013/2014 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (FINAL)

The Open Space and Conservation Element is concerned with protecting and preserving natural resources, preserving open space areas, managing the production of commodity resources, protecting and enhancing cultural resources, and providing recreational opportunities. The Open Space and Conservation Element sets out goals, policies, and implementation measures under three main headings: Productive Resources, Natural Resources, and Recreation and Cultural Resources. Productive Resources encompasses three sections: Water Resources; Forest Resources; and Mineral Resources. Natural Resources encompasses four sections: Wetland and Riparian Areas; Fish and Wildlife Habitat; Vegetation; and Air Quality. Finally, Recreation and Cultural Resources encompasses five sections: Parks and Recreation; Recreational Trails; Historic; Cultural; and Geologic Resources; Scenic Resources; and Scenic Roadways.

The primary focus of the Open Space and Conservation Element is to provide direction for future growth and development with respect to the conservation, management, and utilization of natural and cultural resources; the protection and preservation of open space; and the provision of parks and recreational resources. This Element establishes goals, policies, and programs that value and protect natural resources to ensure they are available for the future. During 2013 and 2014, Fresno County continued implementing policies of the Open Space and Conservation Element. Major accomplishments to implement this Element during 2013 and 2014 are as follows:

Conservation Easements for Grand Island Farms and Cactus Corner

On March 25, 2014, the Board of Supervisors considered a request from Sequoia Riverlands Trust to adopt a resolution in support of the purchase of two Agricultural Conservation Easements totaling 309 acres of land to be purchased by a Grant from the State Department of Conservation's Farmland Conservancy Program for the purpose of conserving agricultural land resources in perpetuity. The two easements consisted of 132 acres of land owned by Grand Island Farms and 177 acres owned by Cactus Corner Farms.

The Board determined the subject parcels meet the eligibility criteria as listed in the Public Resources Code 10251 and adopted a resolution supporting the filing of an application for funding from the California Farmland Conservancy Program for purchase of the Agricultural Conservation Easements by the Sequoia Riverlands Trust and the continued agricultural use in compliance with Federal, State and local laws and ordinances which apply in general to the farming operations in Fresno County.

State Official Scenic Highway Designation for Segments of State Route 180

On November 12, 2013, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors submitted a Letter of Intent to Caltrans for designation of certain segments of State Route (SR) 180 as Scenic Highway and provided direction to staff to continue collaborative efforts with the Sierra Gateway Trust, Inc. (Gateway Trust) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in pursuit of a State Official Scenic Highway designation for segments of SR180. Staffs of the three agencies worked together to complete the proposed Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program in support of a State Official Scenic Highway designation status for approximately 60.7 miles of the eastern segments of SR 180.

On February 10, 2015, the Board adopted a resolution approving the Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program prepared for the eastern segments of SR 180 from Trimmer Springs Road to the Tulare County line and from the Kings Canyon National Park boundary north of General Grant Grove to the Kings Canyon National Park boundary near Cedar Grove, and authorized submittal of the Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program to Caltrans in pursuit of obtaining a State Official Scenic Highway designation for the above-described segments of SR 180.

2015 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (DRAFT)

The Open Space and Conservation Element is concerned with protecting and preserving natural resources, preserving open space areas, managing the production of commodity resources, protecting and enhancing cultural resources, and providing recreational opportunities. The Open Space and Conservation Element sets out goals, policies, and implementation measures under three main headings: Productive Resources, Natural Resources, and Recreation and Cultural Resources. Productive Resources encompasses three sections: Water Resources; Forest Resources; and Mineral Resources. Natural Resources encompasses four sections: Wetland and Riparian Areas; Fish and Wildlife Habitat; Vegetation; and Air Quality. Finally, Recreation and Cultural Resources encompasses five sections: Parks and Recreation; Recreational Trails; Historic, Cultural, and Geologic Resources; Scenic Resources; and Scenic Roadways.

The primary focus of the Open Space and Conservation Element is to provide direction for future growth and development with respect to the conservation, management, and utilization of natural and cultural resources; the protection and preservation of open space; and the provision of parks and recreational resources. This Element establishes goals, policies, and programs that value and protect natural resources to ensure they are available for the future. During the 2015 calendar year, Fresno County continued implementing policies of the Open Space and Conservation Element. Major activities related to this Element during 2015 are as follows:

Conservation Easements for Cactus Corner

On July 14, 2015, the Board of Supervisors considered a request from Sequoia Riverlands Trust to adopt a resolution in support of the purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement on 56.39 acres of land to be purchased by a Grant from the State Department of Conservation's Farmland Conservancy Program for the purpose of conserving agricultural land resources in perpetuity. The easement consisted of land owned by Cactus Corner Farms.

The Board determined the subject parcels met the eligibility criteria as listed in Public Resources Code 10251 and adopted a resolution, subject to conditions, supporting the filing of an application for funding from the California Farmland Conservancy Program for purchase of the Agricultural Conservation Easement by the Sequoia Riverlands Trust, and the continued agricultural use in compliance with Federal, State and local laws and ordinances which apply in general to the farming operations in Fresno County.

State Official Scenic Highway Designation for Segments of State Route 180

On November 12, 2013, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors submitted a Letter of Intent to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for designation of certain segments of State Route (SR) 180 that traverses Fresno County as an official Scenic Highway and provided direction to staff to continue collaborative efforts with the Sierra Gateway Trust, Inc. (Gateway Trust) and Caltrans in pursuit of a State Official Scenic Highway designation for two segments of SR 180. Staff from the three agencies worked together to prepare the Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program which is required by Caltrans for nominating a State Highway for an Official Scenic Highway designation. The

segments of SR 180 nominated to be included in Caltrans' Scenic Highway program consisted of approximately 60.7 miles of the eastern segments of SR 180.

On February 10, 2015, the Board adopted a resolution approving the Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program prepared for the eastern two segments of SR 180: 1) from Alta Main Canal near Minkler to near the General Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park (post miles 78.6/110.8), and 2) from General Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park to Kings Canyon National Park boundary near Cedar Grove (post miles 112.1/137.9). The Board authorized submittal of the Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program to Caltrans in pursuit of obtaining a State Official Scenic Highway designation for the above-described segments of SR 180.

On October 15, 2015 the Director of Caltrans approved the official State Scenic Highway Designation for the segments of SR 180 described above. Granting this designation established the first Officially-Designated Scenic Highway in Caltrans District 6.

2000 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

TAKEN FROM THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Planning for growth and development requires the consideration of a wide range of public safety issues. Safety hazards are naturally induced, such as seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, and wildland fire hazards. Some hazards are the result of natural hazards that are exacerbated by human activity and alteration of the natural environment, such as dam failure, urban fires, and development in sensitive areas such as floodplains or areas subject to erosion and landslides. Finally, some hazards are manmade, including airport crash hazards, hazardous materials, and crime. In addition to safety issues related to hazardous conditions, the planning process should account for other issues related to community health and safety, such as noise exposure.

Many of the health and safety risks associated with development can be avoided through locational decisions made at the planning stages of development, while others may be lessened through the use of mitigation measures in the planning and land use regulation process. This element outlines Fresno County's strategy for ensuring the maintenance of a healthy and safe physical environment.

The Health and Safety Element is divided into seven sections: Emergency Management and Response; Fire Hazards; Flood Hazards; Seismic and Geological Hazards; Airport Hazards; Hazardous Materials; and Noise.

A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE

Although Fresno County seeks to minimize hazards and reduce safety risks, in the event of an emergency, quick and effective response is vital. The County's Emergency Response Program is designed to respond to a wide range of emergency situations.

Policies in this section seek to create an effective emergency response and management system for Fresno County through periodic evaluation of the Emergency Response Program, by ensuring that vital public infrastructure is designed to remain operational during and after a major disaster event, by siting critical emergency response facilities as far from potential disaster impact areas as is practical, and through continuing public education and outreach on emergency preparedness and disaster response programs. Related policies are included in Section PF-H, Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

Goal HS-A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE

To protect public health and safety by preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the effects of natural or technological disasters.

B. FIRE HAZARDS

Structural and wildland fire hazards can threaten life and property in Fresno County. Wildland fires resulting from either natural or manmade causes occur in forests, brush, grasslands, fallow agricultural areas, and vacant lots. Such fires are capable of causing widespread damage to Fresno County's valuable range and forest lands, in addition to threatening the lives and personal property of persons residing in wildfire-prone areas.

Wildfires can also exacerbate air quality problems, particularly during the summer months when ambient air quality is already low. Structural fires generally result from manmade causes and can easily spread through densely settled urban areas, causing large-scale loss of personal property, personal injury, and, occasionally, fatalities.

Policies in this section are designed to ensure that new development is constructed to minimize potential fire hazards, minimize the risk of fire in already developed areas, and to provide public education concerning fire prevention. Related policies are included in Section PF-H, Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

Goal HS-B. FIRE HAZARDS

To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, and damage to property and natural resources resulting from fire hazards.

C. FLOOD HAZARDS

Flooding is a natural occurrence in the Central Valley because it is the drainage basin for thousands of watershed acres of Sierra Nevada and Coast Range foothills and mountains. Flooding in Fresno County occurs primarily along the Kings River in the central-eastern portion of the county, some sections of the San Joaquin River, and many of the foothill streams along the east and west sides of the valley. A variety of mechanisms are currently employed to reduce flood damage in flood prone areas, including flood control reservoirs, levee systems, and watershed treatment.

Policies in this section are designed to minimize flood hazards by restricting development in flood prone areas, requiring development that does occur in floodplains to be designed to avoid flood damage, and through public education about flood hazards. Related policies are included in Section PF-E, Storm Drainage and Flood Control, and Section LU-C, River Influence Areas.

Goal HS-C. FLOOD HAZARDS

To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, and damage resulting from flood hazards.

D. SEISMIC AND GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS

There are a number of active and potentially-active faults within and adjacent to Fresno County. Although most of Fresno County is situated within an area of relatively low seismic activity by comparison to other areas of the state, the faults and fault systems that lie along the eastern and western boundaries of the county, as well as other regional faults, have the potential to produce high-magnitude earthquakes throughout the county. The principle earthquake hazard is groundshaking. Older buildings constructed before building codes were established and newer buildings constructed before earthquake-resistant provisions were included in the building codes are the most likely to be damaged during an earthquake. Other geologic hazards in Fresno County include landslides, subsidence, expansive soils and erosion, and volcanic hazards.

Policies in this section seek to ensure that new buildings and facilities are designed to withstand seismic and geologic hazards.

Goal HS-D. SEISMIC AND GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS

To minimize the loss of life, injury, and property damage due to seismic and geologic hazards.

E. AIRPORT HAZARDS

Airport safety hazards include hazards posed to aircraft and hazards posed by aircraft to people and property on the ground. With proper land use planning, aircraft safety risks can be reduced, primarily by avoiding incompatible land uses.

Policies in this section are designed to minimize public exposure to risks associated with airport operations and to minimize the siting of land uses near airports that might interfere with airport operations. Related policies are included in Section HS-F, Hazardous Materials, and Section HS-G, Noise.

Goal HS-E. AIRPORT HAZARDS

To minimize the exposure of the public to high noise levels and safety hazards through land use controls and policies for property in the vicinity of airports; and to limit urban encroachment around airports in order to preserve the safety of flight operations and the continued viability of airport facilities.

F. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous waste handlers and generators in Fresno County include industries, businesses, public and private institutions, and households. The transport, storage, use, and disposal of toxic or hazardous materials poses potential safety hazards in the event of unintentional exposure, leak, fire, or accident.

Policies in this section are designed to ensure that development projects minimize public risks associated with both intended and unintended exposure to hazardous materials and wastes. Related policies are included in Section HS-A, Emergency Management and Response.

Goal HS-F. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, serious illness, and damage to property resulting from the use, transport, treatment, and disposal of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes.

G. NOISE

Noise is subjectively defined as unwanted sound. Noise can result from many sources, including traffic on freeways and other roads, railroad operations, aircraft, and industrial activities. Exposure to excessive noise is often cited as a health problem, primarily in terms of its contribution to undue stress and annoyance. The Background Report includes an analysis of major noise sources in the county and noise contours along major traffic corridors.

Policies in this section set noise standards and seek to protect noise-sensitive uses from excessive noise either through noise-reducing project design features or by allowing noise sensitive land uses to only locate in areas with ambient noise levels below specific thresholds. Related policies are included in Section LU-D, Westside Freeway Corridor, and Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns.

Goal HS-G. NOISE

To protect residential and other noise-sensitive uses from exposure to harmful or annoying noise levels; to identify maximum acceptable noise levels compatible with various land use designations; and to develop a policy framework necessary to achieve and maintain a healthful noise environment.

PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING HEALTH AND SAFETY GOALS

2013/2014 FINAL ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Planning for growth and development requires the consideration of a wide range of public safety issues. Safety hazards are naturally induced, such as seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, and wild land fire hazards. Some hazards are the result of natural hazards that are exacerbated by human activity and alteration of the natural environment, such as dam failure, urban fires, and development in sensitive areas such as floodplains or areas subject to erosion and landslides. Finally, some hazards are manmade, including airport crash hazards, hazardous materials, and crime. In addition to safety issues related to hazardous conditions, the planning process should account for other issues related to community health and safety, such as noise exposure.

Many of the health and safety risks associated with development can be avoided through locational decisions made at the planning stages of development, while others may be lessened through the use of Mitigation Measures in the planning and land use regulation process. This Element outlines Fresno County's strategy for ensuring the maintenance of a healthy and safe physical environment. The Health and Safety Element is divided into seven sections: Emergency Management and Response; Fire Hazards; Flood Hazards; Seismic and Geological Hazards; Airport Hazards; Hazardous Materials; and Noise. The Development Services Division (DSD) of the Department of Public Works and Planning continues to implement regulations in accordance with the goals and policies of the Safety Element when processing discretionary project applications. DSD continues to enforce County Noise Compatibility Guidelines to determine the compatibility of land uses when evaluating proposed development projects. Also, DSD implements Noise Standards that require sound attenuation for structures indicated as "conditionally acceptable" structures under the compatibility guidelines.

Participation in the preparation of the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)

DSD staff participated in preparation of Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as a member of the COG's RTP Round Table that was assembled by the Fresno Council of Governments (COG) to assist the agency in preparation of their 2014 RTP and the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) which is required as part of the RTP according to Senate Bill 375.

On November 15, 2013, the Board of Supervisors received a presentation regarding Senate Bill 375, Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 and its impact on the RTP including preparation of a Sustainable Communities Strategy for Fresno County, the Housing Element of the General Plan and growth in Fresno County regions. The Agenda Item consisted of four scenarios (A through D) which were developed by COG's staff under the guidance of the RTP Roundtable and the Coalition of Community Based Organizations. After presentation and consideration of all four scenarios, the Board of Supervisors recommended Scenario "B" as the preferred development scenario for preparation of the Sustainable Committee Strategy for the Fresno County Region. The Fresno County's SCS was accepted by the California Air Resources on January 29, 2015.

2015 DRAFT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Planning for growth and development requires the consideration of a wide range of public safety issues. Safety hazards are naturally induced, such as seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, and wildland fire hazards. Some hazards are the result of natural hazards that are exacerbated by human activity and alteration of the natural environment, such as dam failure, urban fires, and development in sensitive areas such as floodplains or areas subject to erosion and landslides. Finally, some hazards are manmade, including airport crash hazards, hazardous materials, and crime. In addition to safety issues related to hazardous conditions, the planning process should account for other issues related to community health and safety, such as noise exposure.

Many of the health and safety risks associated with development can be avoided through locational decisions made at the planning stages of development, while others may be lessened through the use of Mitigation Measures in the planning and land use regulation process. This Element outlines Fresno County's strategy for ensuring the maintenance of a healthy and safe physical environment. The Health and Safety Element is divided into seven sections: Emergency Management and Response; Fire Hazards; Flood Hazards; Seismic and Geological Hazards; Airport Hazards; Hazardous Materials; and Noise. The Development Services Division (DSD) of the Department of Public Works and Planning along with the Department of Public Health continue to review development applications for consistency with the goals and policies of the Safety Element and require mitigation measures when necessary when processing discretionary project applications.

Appendix B

Implementing General Plan Programs

Appendix B contains the following data:

1. The exact wording of each of the 121 implementation programs from the 2000 General Plan
2. The exact wording from the County's first APR (2001/2002) as to how well the County was able to implement each program during 2001/2002
3. The exact wording from the Draft 2015 APR as to how well the County was able to implement each program during 2005.

The wording from each of the two APRs has been assigned a color to signify how well the County was able to demonstrate successful implementation.

-  Green if the APR clearly demonstrated that expected progress had been made
Green if the program had been successfully completed or if the program was to be initiated in a future year
-  Orange if the APR demonstrated partial attainment of expected progress
-  Red if the APR reported no expected progress
Red if the APR failed to focus its attention on the program task(s) described in the General Plan Policy Document

COUNTY COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

DIRECTIVE IN THE 2000 GENERAL PLAN

STATUS NOTED IN THE 2001/2002 APR

STATUS NOTED IN THE DRAFT 2015 APR



plan

1 PROGRAM ED-A.A

<p>The County shall create an economic development staff position(s) in the County Administrative Office and the Planning & Resource Management Department to serve as liaison/facilitator and support for the economic development implementation program and the Action Team.</p>	<p>Designations Completed and Work Ongoing -- On April 23, 2002, the Board of Supervisors was designated as the Economic Development Action Team to implement the Economic Development Element of the County General Plan. The Board also created the position of Assistant County Administrative Officer for Economic Development. Additionally, the Community Development Division's Economic Development program staff collaborate and coordinate activities with the new Assistant CAO as well as cities, communities, economic development agencies and other partners to implement the Economic Development Strategy and Element.</p>	<p>On August 9, 2011, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors entered into a contract with the Economic Development Corporation which among other things is responsible for implementation of the Economic Development Element programs.</p>
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2 PROGRAM ED-A.B

<p>The County shall create, support, and staff an Action Team to coordinate countywide economic development.</p>	<p>The Board of Supervisors, as the Economic Development Action Team has initiated and continued to support several regional economic development projects/initiatives of countywide significance. Refer to Appendix B Part I b for a listing of those projects.</p>	<p>The County's Developments Services Division works with the Economic Development Corporation serving Fresno County to coordinate countywide economic developments.</p>
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3 PROGRAM ED-A.C

<p>The County shall retain an independent and qualified institution to conduct an evaluation at least every five (5) years of success in achieving the goals and targets of the Economic Development Strategy.</p>	<p>Future year.</p>	<p>On August 9, 2011, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors entered into a contract with the Economic Development Corporation which among other things is responsible for implementation of the Economic Development Element programs. The Economic Development Corporation regularly works to update the County's Economic Development Strategy.</p>
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4 PROGRAM ED-A.D

<p>The County, working in cooperation with the cities, shall develop criteria for the location in the unincorporated areas of value-added agricultural processing facilities that are compatible with an agricultural setting. Such criteria shall take into account the service requirements of facilities for processing agricultural products and the capability and capacity of the cities to provide the services required.</p>	<p>Work will be occurring in FY 02-03.</p>	<p>This program has been implemented. The General Plan Policy LU-A.3 allows for the establishment of value added processing facilities in areas designated Agriculture through approval of a discretionary permit subject to established criteria which includes analysis of service requirements for facilities and the capability and capacity of surrounding areas to provide the services required.</p>
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5 PROGRAM ED-A.E

<p>The County shall establish guidelines for the analysis of the economic impacts in staff reports of all discretionary decisions by the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and other County decision-making bodies.</p>	<p>Currently, agenda items presented to the Board of Supervisors relating to economic development projects contain the appropriate economic analysis. In light of current limitations on staffing resources, County staff is in the process of reevaluating this requirement and preparing a policy recommendation that would define the type of agenda items where this economic analysis would be required. The emphasis would be on requiring this type of</p>	<p>Prior direction from the CAO has indicated that this analysis is not needed and the analysis is no longer included as a section of agenda items.</p>
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	analysis on projects that have a significant impact on the local economy.		
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6 PROGRAM ED-A.F

The County shall contract with the Fresno EDC to develop marketing programs for Fresno County produce.	<p>The EDC has developed several marketing efforts for Fresno County produce as follows: 1) Food Processing Cluster* formation, 2) Water Cluster* formation, 3) Skill Set Analysis and Labor Study, 4) EDC Branding with the use of produce in graphics and giveaways, 5) Site Visit thank you gifts and promotional mailings.</p> <p>*Clusters are defined as collections of competing and collaborating companies networked into horizontal and vertical relationships, involving strong common buyer-supplier linkages.</p>		As previously mentioned, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is the contracting agency for implementing policies of the Economic Development Element of the General Plan. EDC has developed several marketing efforts for Fresno County produce.
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7 PROGRAM ED-A.G

The County shall determine, in cooperation with existing agencies, if capital deficiencies exist for farmers with the capital costs of shifting production modes to crops that create higher employment levels. If such deficiencies are identified, the County, in partnership with existing agencies, shall work to access additional funds or redirect existing funds.	Progress has been stalled due to the very weak agricultural economy and State business climate. Lending institutions are not investing in California agriculture at the present time.		The EDC that is under contract with the County will identify if capital deficiencies exist for farmers with capital costs of shifting production nodes for crops that create higher employment levels.
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8 PROGRAM ED-B.A

The County shall convene a group of the existing service providers to assess the current state of telecommunications infrastructure, the needs for the future, and the role of the County and other agencies in	In July 2002 the Board of Supervisors created the Fresno Regional e-Government Taskforce to develop a plan for utilizing electronic information technology to improve the delivery of governmental services and to		In July 2002 the Fresno Regional e-Government Taskforce was created to develop a plan for utilizing electronic information technology to improve the delivery of governmental services and to
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<p>facilitating implementation of services demanded by high technology firms.</p>	<p>expand the opportunity for economic development. A draft cooperative agreement and a draft Fresno e-Government Strategic Plan is currently being circulated between cities in Fresno County and the Council of Fresno County Governments.</p>	<p>expand the opportunity for economic development. The group was instrumental in improving sharing between the County and the Cities of Fresno and collaboration and data Clovis. In January 2010, regular meetings were suspended due to lack of funding.</p>
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9 PROGRAM ED-B.B

<p>The County shall coordinate an initiative to deliver a comprehensive package of technical assistance regarding available technology to local businesses to improve their productivity and make this assistance available as an incentive for business prospects.</p>	<p>Ongoing -- Community Development Division staff has partnered with the Rapid Response Program (RRP) of the Greater Fresno Chamber of Commerce, which provides technical assistance to new and existing business to improve their productivity. The RRP is one of the implementation partners identified in the Economic Development Strategy. Activity has thus far been focused on the I-5 Business Development Corridor and the Orange Cove and Parlier Renewal Community areas.</p>	<p>EDC works to enhance the stability and growth of Fresno County's existing companies by connecting them with specific resources, information and services with the primary objectives to assist businesses with expansions, survive economic difficulties, and make them more competitive in the wider marketplace.</p>
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10 PROGRAM ED-B.C

<p>The County shall convene a roundtable of major financial institutions, venture capital firms, and business finance agencies, such as the California Public Employees Retirement System (CALPERS), to determine the need for improving access to capital for non-agricultural businesses seeking to locate or expand in Fresno County.</p>	<p>Refer to Appendix B, Part II</p>	<p>EDC, through its Business Expansion, Attraction, and Retention (BEAR) Action Network program, works with businesses seeking to locate or expand in Fresno County and works to assist with financing and microloan programs.</p>
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11 PROGRAM ED-B.D

<p>The County shall initiate a planning process to identify additional recreation opportunities in the coast range foothills and other areas where “gateway opportunities” exist.</p>	<p>The Fresno County Tourism Committee has initiated meetings on the Westside to begin to identify potential recreational opportunities in the area near Coalinga.</p>	<p>The County recently participated in the Friant Corridor Feasibility Study to identify opportunities and constraints for possible land use changes and development activities related to recreation, resource and cultural awareness, conservation, tourism, and supportive commercial uses. On May 10, 2016 the Board of Supervisors considered the study and chose to set the study aside.</p>
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12 PROGRAM ED-B.E

<p>The County shall regularly evaluate the marketing programs of the Visitor and Convention Bureau and provide funding assistance as appropriate to support effective marketing programs that attract business travel to the county.</p>	<p>In progress --The Community Development Division and CAO staff are working with the Fresno County Tourism Committee, the County's tourism consultant, and community leaders to finalize the Master Plan for Tourism, which includes plans for funding and for realignment of the Convention & Visitor's Bureau to enhance tourism marketing and opportunities that will attract business and recreational travel to Fresno County. The final plan is to be presented to Board of Supervisors in October 2002, with implementation already in progress. As a condition for the provision of an annual contribution provided by the Board of Supervisors to finance the promotion of tourism, each year the Fresno Convention and Visitors Bureau is required under contract to provide a report of promotion activities implemented by the Bureau and the results obtained through those promotions.</p>	<p>The County has contracted with the Fresno Economic Development Corporation to work with the Visitor and Convention Bureau to develop and implement effective marketing programs that attract business and travel to the county.</p>
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13 PROGRAM ED-C.A

<p>The County shall join with the Workforce Development Board, community colleges, and others to develop a countywide workforce preparation system.</p>	<p>E&TA [Fresno County Department of Employment and Temporary Assistance] is one of 11 partners in Workforce Connection, the local one-stop center under the Workforce Investment Act, which consolidated employment and training activities. E&TA has staff co-located at 6 sites throughout the County and the E&TA Director is a member of the Workforce Investment Board. Other partners include Adult Schools, Community Colleges, government agencies and community based organizations.</p>	<p>Fresno County is an active participant on the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board which serves to mobilize and integrate all private and public partners to effectively educate, train and place individuals with the necessary resources and skills to fulfill employer needs in the County.</p>
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14 PROGRAM ED-C.B

<p>The County shall develop a skills inventory on the CalWORKS labor pool for local expansion and new businesses seeking employees.</p>	<p>E&TA partnered with the Employment Development Department to develop skill sets for positions in local industries. This was used as the basis for a coded skills inventory using the automated Welfare Employment Preparedness Index. This system can be queried and sorted by specific skills and can produce a list of clients meeting given criteria.</p>	<p>A skills inventory was developed for positions in local industries. This was used as the basis for a coded skills inventory using the automated Welfare Employment Preparedness Index. The system can be queried and sorted by specific skills to produce a list of clients meeting given criteria.</p>
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15 PROGRAM ED-C.C

<p>The County shall improve tracking systems for employment and retention for CalWORKS recipients.</p>	<p>E&TA uses an automated system developed for use by counties throughout the State to record employment information, including retention information for 30, 60 and 90 day intervals. The system produces a report used for additional follow-up.</p>	<p>The Department of Social Services uses an automated system developed for use by counties throughout the State to record employment information.</p>
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16 PROGRAM ED-C.D

<p>The County shall continue efforts to assist the Fresno EDC, placement agencies, and businesses [to] assess the availability and work readiness of CalWORKS recipients for employment opportunities.</p>	<p>E&TA engages in a number of activities to assess our client's job readiness, including contracting with an employment agency for employment appraisals, conducting job fairs and recruitment fairs, business functions, and partnering with EDC to match employer recruiting with CalWORKS applicants.</p>	<p>The County Department of Social Services through the CalWORKS program provides services such as job clubs, job fairs, participant assessments, adult basic education and vocational training. The County is also an active participant on the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board which serves to mobilize and integrate all private and public partners to effectively educate, train and place individuals with the necessary resources and skills to fulfill employer needs.</p>
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17 PROGRAM ED-C.E

<p>The County shall continue its collaborative planning and funding efforts with agencies such as the County Office of Education, State EDD, local school districts, post-secondary educational institutions, training agencies, and the cities. Such efforts may include education management services, employment placement services, relocation and retention programs, youth employment programs, jobs clubs, and neighborhood jobs services.</p>	<p>E&TA continues to fund the Fresno County Office of Education for management services to provide supplemental funding to local Adult Schools. In addition, Adult Schools receive funding for Job Clubs; EDD staff is co-located to provide CalJOBS assistance, job announcements and Community Service certifications.</p>	<p>The County Department of Social Services through the CalWORKS program provides services such as job clubs, job fairs, participant assessments, adult basic education and vocational training. The County is also an active participant on the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board which serves to mobilize and integrate all private and public partners to effectively educate, train and place individuals with the necessary resources and skills to fulfill employer needs.</p>
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18 PROGRAM ED-C.F

<p>The County shall continue, on an ongoing basis, efforts initiated through the CalWORKS Job Creation Investment Fund to identify the skills required by the clusters and industries targeted for expansion, attraction, and new enterprise development.</p>	<p>E&TA partnered with the Employment Development Department to develop skill sets for positions in local industries. This was used as the basis for a coded skills inventory using the automated Welfare Employment Preparedness Index. This system can be queried and sorted by specific skills and can produce a list of</p>	<p>The Fresno County Workforce Investment Board, the Employment Development Department and the Economic Development Corporation assist Fresno employers in meeting their labor needs by delivering outplacement, recruitment and training services.</p>
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	clients meeting given criteria. E&TA works closely with EDC to connect qualified clients with targeted industries for attraction and expansion.			
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COUNTY COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE ELEMENT

DIRECTIVE IN THE 2000 GENERAL PLAN

STATUS NOTED IN THE 2001/2002 APR

STATUS NOTED IN THE DRAFT 2015 APR



19 PROGRAM LU-A.A

<p>The County shall review and amend its Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to ensure consistency with policies and standards of this section.</p>	<p>Sections 816 and 817 of the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance have been amended to implement General Plan Policies establishing limitations regarding exception provisions for creation of homesite parcels and limitations regarding the number of residences permitted on each parcel. Staff will undertake evaluation of applicable Subdivision Ordinance provisions and recommend modifications accordingly.</p>	<p>The County actively reviews and updates its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance to ensure consistency with the policies of the General Plan. The County completed a text amendment in 2015 to update its Zoning Ordinance to comply with requirements of state law as part of the 4th-Cycle Housing Element update. The County is also actively working on a comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update scheduled to be presented to decision-makers in 2017.</p>
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20 PROGRAM LU-A.B

<p>The County shall evaluate minimum parcel sizes necessary for sustained agricultural productivity on land designated for agriculture throughout the county, and, as appropriate, amend the Zoning Ordinance according to the results of that analysis.</p>	<p>FUTURE YEAR - Proposals to eliminate Williamson Act subvention funding have prompted evaluation of minimum parcel sizes necessary for sustained agricultural productivity, which could result in amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.</p>	<p>Policy LU-A.6 states that the County shall maintain twenty (20) acres as the minimum permitted parcel size in areas designated Agriculture, except as provided in Policies LU-A.9, LU-A.10 and LU-A.11. The County may require parcel sizes larger than twenty (20) acres based on zoning, local agricultural conditions, and to help ensure the viability of agricultural operations.</p>
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21 PROGRAM LU-A.C

<p>The County shall develop and implement guidelines for design and maintenance of buffers to be required when new non-</p>	<p>Future Year Program. Currently, discretionary applications in the agricultural areas are reviewed for compatibility with</p>	<p>The County requires buffers for certain land uses with the potential to hinder agricultural uses. For discretionary land use proposals</p>
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<p>agricultural uses are approved in agricultural areas. Buffer design and maintenance guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Buffers shall be physically and biologically designed to avoid conflicts between agriculture and non-agricultural uses. b. Buffers shall be located on the parcel for which a permit is sought and shall protect the maximum amount of farmable land. c. Buffers generally shall consist of a physical separation between agricultural and non-agricultural uses. The appropriate width shall be determined on a site-by-site basis taking into account the type of existing agricultural uses, the nature of the proposed development, the natural features of the site, and any other factors that affect the specific situation. d. Appropriate types of land uses for buffers include compatible agriculture, open space and recreational uses such as parks and golf courses, industrial uses, and cemeteries. e. The County may condition its approval of a project on the ongoing maintenance of buffers. f. A homeowners association or other appropriate entity shall be required to maintain buffers to control litter, fire hazards, pests, and other maintenance problems. g. Buffer restrictions may be removed if agricultural uses on all adjacent parcels have permanently ceased. 	<p>adjacent land uses. Conditions requiring setbacks, landscaping, etc. are recommended on projects as applicable.</p>	<p>including tentative tract maps, buffers are taken into consideration as part of project conditions. This has also been applied to utility-scale photovoltaic solar facilities with a general policy of 50 feet between panels or structures and surrounding agricultural properties.</p>
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22 PROGRAM LU-A.D

<p>The County shall periodically review agricultural land preservation programs and assess their effectiveness in furthering the County's agricultural goals and policies.</p>	<p>Reviews carried out in FY 00-01 and 01-02. The first review focused on the Farmland Security Zone program and inclusion of grazing land; subsequent reviews have focused on potential effects of the State budget proposal to remove subvention funds.</p>	<p>The Department of Public Works and Planning actively reviews the Williamson Act Program including proactively reviewing (auditing) contracts for conformity with the State and County requirements and processing non-renewals for those contracts that do not meet the eligibility to remain in the Williamson Act Program. Staff also communicates with the State Department of Conservation on petitions for cancellations of contract and the County continues to utilize the Agricultural Land Conservation Committee to review cancellation petitions and forwards the Committee's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.</p>
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23 PROGRAM LU-A.E

<p>The County shall continue to implement the County's Right-to-Farm Ordinance, and will provide information to the local real estate industry to help make the public aware of the right-to-farm provisions in their area.</p>	<p>Copies of "Right to Farm" ordinances have been obtained from all counties and are being reviewed. Identification of participants in an ordinance improvement committee is commencing.</p>	<p>County staff utilizes the Right-to-Farm Ordinance notification process on many types of discretionary land use permits to insure that applicants or future property owners are aware of ongoing agricultural activities within the vicinity of discretionary projects. Further, County staff actively communicates with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office on discretionary projects proposed in agricultural areas and seeks comments from that Department.</p>
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24 PROGRAM LU-A.F

<p>The County, in cooperation with UC Cooperative Extension, resource conservation districts, and other industry agencies, shall develop and implement a public outreach program to inform</p>	<p>The Agricultural Department attends Fresno County Farm Bureau meetings and Agricultural Roundtable meeting and discusses Williamson Act contracts and land conservation programs. The</p>	<p>The Board of Supervisors has adopted Resolutions of Support for land owners who wish to place their land under conservation easement. In 2015, the Board adopted one Resolution to place a 56-acre parcel in a</p>
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<p>agriculturists and the public of the advantages of participation in land trust agreements, conservation easements, dedication incentives, Williamson Act contracts, Farmland Security Act contracts, and the Agricultural Land Stewardship Program Fund.</p>	<p>Department of Public Works and Planning updates program-mailing materials each year in conjunction with the annual acceptance of applications for participation in the County's Agricultural Land Conservation Program. Outreach to the Farm Bureau and rural community newspapers is conducted at that time. Throughout the year staff make referrals to the Department of Conservation and farmland trust organizations to promote participation in the County's program.</p>	<p>conservation easement and in 2014 the Board adopted two Resolutions to place a total of 309 acres in a conservation easement.</p>
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25 PROGRAM LU-A.G

<p>The County shall actively pursue grant funds under provisions of the Agricultural Land Stewardship Program Act of 1995, to assist interested farmers and ranchers in obtaining funds for conservation easements.</p>	<p>County efforts to date have included support findings for four applications for conservation easements funded through the American Farmland Trust and the Cattlemen's Association.</p>	<p>The Board of Supervisors has adopted Resolutions of Support for land owners who wish to place their land under conservation easement. In 2015, the Board adopted one Resolution to place a 56-acre parcel in a conservation easement and in 2014 the Board adopted two Resolutions to place a total of 309 acres in a conservation easement. The Resolutions adopted by the Board in 2014 and 2015 were in support of obtaining grants from the Department of Conservation for placing certain parcels under conservation easement.</p>
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26 PROGRAM LU-A.H

<p>The County shall develop a program establishing criteria to prioritize funding for agricultural conservation easements.</p>	<p>The County is now using the State's criteria for its review of proposals for conservation easements. Additional criteria would most effectively be created at such time as the County may administer funding programs.</p>	<p>The County uses the State's criteria in its review of proposals for support of landowners' requests for a Resolution of Support to obtain grants to place agricultural land under conservation easements.</p>
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27 PROGRAM LU-A.I

<p>The County shall assess the approaches to determining agricultural land values in the 1981 Farmland Protection Policy Act land evaluation and site assessment (LESA) system, and the Tulare County Rural Valley Lands Plan, 1975 amendment, to determine the potential for developing a similar process for identifying and ranking the value of agricultural land in Fresno County. If appropriate, the County shall establish an agricultural quality scale system to assist the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors in agricultural land use conversion decisions.</p>	<p>Future fiscal year activity</p>	<p>The County has not yet assessed utilizing an agricultural quality scale system similar to LESA to establish a threshold as part of evaluation of converting agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. However, the impacts of projects on ag land are analyzed for projects that may have a potential impact on conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses as part of the environmental assessment of discretionary projects.</p>
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28 PROGRAM LU-A.J

<p>The County shall maintain an inventory of lot size exceptions granted by discretionary permit. This inventory, including number of exceptions, size of the lots, and their location, shall be presented to the Board of Supervisors during the annual review of the General Plan.</p>	<p>The Current Planning Unit presently maintains this information. Since the adoption of the General Plan Update in October 2000, there have been seven applications heard by a decision making body to allow exceptions to the required parcel size in the areas designated Agriculture. Of these applications, six have been approved. This number does not include those applications filed and approved which qualified under the homesite exception provisions of the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.</p>	<p>During 2015 seven lot size exceptions were granted through provisions outlined in Policy LU-A.9. In addition, five lot size exceptions, specific to agricultural zoning, were granted through variance applications approved by the decision-making bodies. A list of the exceptions granted is included on Page 19 of the 2015 General Plan Annual Progress Report.</p>
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29 PROGRAM LU-B.A

<p>The County shall maintain an inventory of lot size exceptions granted by discretionary permit. This inventory, including numbers of exceptions, size of the lots, and their location shall be presented to the Board of</p>	<p>The Current Planning Unit presently maintains this information. Since the adoption of the General Plan Update in October 2000, there has been one application heard by a decision making</p>	<p>During 2015 seven lot size exceptions were granted through provisions outlined in Policy LU-A.9. In addition, five lot size exceptions, specific to agricultural zoning, were granted through variance applications approved by</p>
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Supervisors during the annual review of the General Plan.	body to allow exceptions to the required parcel size in the areas designated Westside Rangeland. This application was approved. This number does not include those applications filed and approved which qualified under the homesite exception provisions of the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.	the decision-making bodies. A list of the exceptions granted is included on Page 19 of the 2015 General Plan Annual Progress Report.
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30 PROGRAM LU-C.A

The County will update and maintain the Kings River Regional Plan to guide County decision-making concerning land use and environmental quality within the Kings River influence area.	No activity to date on the updating of the Kings River Regional Plan. A prioritization plan will be presented to the Board in conjunction with the 2002 Annual Report.	Due to budgetary constraints and timing of other plan updates, implementation of this program has been delayed. Some renewed interest in updating the plan has arisen with public interest in surface mining projects on the Kings River.
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31 PROGRAM LU-C.B

The County shall work with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, San Joaquin River Conservancy, City of Fresno, and other interested agencies and organizations to implement the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan.	The Current Planning Unit currently routes projects to the river groups when located in/adjacent to these areas. Staff also discusses with applicants the implications of developing in the River Overlay area at the pre-application stage. In addition to this staff of the Department of Public Works and Planning attend meetings of the San Joaquin River Conservancy to be current on parkway activities.	The Recompile San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan was approved and adopted by the San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board on July 20, 2000. The San Joaquin River Conservancy started the process of updating the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan in June of 2013 that includes an update of policies and planned facilities, and the preparation of a Master EIR. The County has been participating as a member of the Interagency Project Development Committee. The County also regularly coordinates with the interested agencies/stakeholders with regard to project reviews to discuss and minimize possible project impacts to river resources.
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32 PROGRAM LU-D.A

<p>The County shall revise its Zoning Ordinance to implement the revised provisions of this section concerning the Westside Freeway Corridor.</p>	<p>The Zoning Ordinance has been amended to establish the process for designation of major and minor interchanges along the Westside Freeway Corridor. Since the General Plan update, the Board has designated a minor interchange at Lassen Avenue and I-5. Ongoing work relates to expansion of the permitted uses to include value added agriculture and potential application of an overlay zone.</p>	<p>Revisions to the County Zoning Ordinance were approved March 27, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors to implement the revised provisions of this section concerning the Westside Freeway Corridor with approval of Amendment to Text (AT) No. 337 and subsequently amended with AT No. 352 in 2004. Therefore, this program has been implemented.</p>
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33 PROGRAM LU-F.A

<p>The County shall work with the Cities of Clovis and Fresno and other cities as appropriate to adopt incentives and disincentives that will lead to compact urban development and infill of vacant and underutilized land.</p>	<p>Negotiations on the new Tax Sharing Agreement with the City of Fresno included evaluation of new growth areas for the City and incentives for development and infill of vacant and underutilized land. A new Tax Sharing Agreement was executed with the City of Clovis in June 2002. The MOU update with the City of Clovis created incentives and disincentives which direct growth to the cities. Two examples are the application of city development fees to unincorporated sites proposed for development and the stipulation of a percentage of development that must occur before development proceeds in other areas. Agreements with other cities will be renegotiated as they become due for renewal. Other work on this implementation program to date has included participation on the technical committees for the City of Fresno General Plan Update and the City of Clovis Southeast Urban Center Specific Plan. Other work will be carried out in conjunction with the updating of community plans.</p>	<p>The County partnered with twelve of the fifteen cities within Fresno County, including the City of Clovis, to create a multi-jurisdictional Housing Element that includes incentives and disincentives that encourage compact urban development. The MOUs between the County and the cities provide a check and balance system to ensure that development of annexed land is imminent. Also, the cost of providing urban services to suburbs is a disincentive that has motivated several cities to pursue infill development over annexation of new territory. County staff continues to refer to General Plan policies that direct intensive urban growth to the cities (and unincorporated communities) and reviews relevant policies when processing discretionary land use permits.</p>
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34 PROGRAM LU-F.B

<p>The County shall review its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance to incorporate amendments that will implement the policies for pedestrian and transit-oriented development.</p>	<p>The implementation of this policy will require the adoption of new ordinances and modification of the existing Zoning Ordinance. The comprehensive update of the Zoning Ordinance was not included in the FY02-03 budget.</p>	<p>The County has reviewed the Zoning Ordinance and has initiated an Ordinance Update. On October 13, 2015, the Board of Supervisors considered and approved the scope of work prepared for the General Plan Five-Year Review, Zoning Ordinance Update and the associated Environmental Impact Report. The updated Zoning Ordinance will include provisions for mixed uses and pedestrian and transit-oriented developments.</p>
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35 PROGRAM LU-G.A

<p>The County shall review and revise, as appropriate, its Zoning Ordinance to facilitate moderate increases in density of housing in unincorporated urban communities.</p>	<p>To be reviewed under the Community and Regional Plan updates, and the comprehensive update of the Zoning Ordinance.</p>	<p>The County is in the process of reviewing the General Plan Policy document and updating its Zoning Ordinance. As part of the revision and update process the allowable density in the R2, R2-A, R3, R3-A, R4, C4 and RP Zone Districts is proposed to be increased to 20 units per acre. The update is expected to be completed in 2017 and to be presented before decision-makers.</p>
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36 PROGRAM LU-G.B

<p>The County shall review all annexation proposals submitted to the Local Agency Formation Commission and prepare a recommendation to LAFCO for each proposal. The County shall formally protest when the annexation is inconsistent with city's adopted general plan or with the County's General Plan or applicable community plan.</p>	<p>The County reviews annexation proposals under provisions of the adopted Memoranda of Understanding and through the LAFCo process. To date all proposed annexations have been within the adopted spheres of influence and have been consistent with the applicable city general plans. The process relies on the annexation's consistency with the cities adopted general plans since County-</p>	<p>The Department of Public Works and Planning reviews annexation proposals submitted by LAFCo to ensure consistency of the proposals with the City and County General Plans and the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and each City. A consistency determination letter is provided for each annexation proposal found to be consistent. During 2015 the County reviewed 14 annexation proposals submitted by LAFCo.</p>
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	adopted community plans of the incorporated cities have not been updated.		
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37 PROGRAM LU-H.A

The County shall prepare and adopt a regional plan for the Friant-Millerton area consistent with the directives of Policy LU-H.8.	Work has not progressed on the new regional plan. A priority list will be reviewed with the Planning Commission in conjunction with the Annual Report and then submitted to the Board of Supervisors for its direction to staff.		This program has been suspended pending additional Board direction.
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38 PROGRAM LU-H.B

County Staff shall meet regularly with cities and adjacent counties to address planning and growth issues of common interest and concern. Staff shall report annually on cooperative planning efforts of the previous year and the planned schedule of meetings with local jurisdictions to address regional planning issues in the upcoming year.	Work since the adoption of the General Plan Update has been focused on MOUs with Clovis and Fresno. Preparation of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan by COG involved all the cities in the technical committee. That plan was adopted in September 2001.		<p>Efforts that began in 2014 culminated into a January 27, 2015 joint meeting between the Madera County Board of Supervisors and the Fresno County Board of Supervisors at the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG). Topics discussed at the joint meeting included development and land use vision in the Rio Mesa area and Friant Corridor, Fresno County/Madera County Highway 41 Origin-Destination Study, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA).</p> <p>On June 22, 2015 a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and representatives of all 15 incorporated cities within the County was held at the Fresno COG. Topics discussed included SGMA, Marijuana Ordinances, land use and preservation and special districts.</p> <p>On November 17, 2015 a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the representatives from the cities of Clovis, Fowler, Fresno and Sanger was held at the Fresno COG. Topics discussed included</p>
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industrial parks, spheres of influence and SGMA.

39 PROGRAM LU-H.C

The County shall prepare and adopt minimum format and content guidelines for the preparation of updated and new Regional, community, and specific plans to ensure consistency with the countywide General Plan.

The draft format and content guidelines have been prepared and will be presented in conjunction with the Annual Report.

The County has prepared a format and guideline for updating existing plans and preparing new regional and community plans.

40 PROGRAM LU-H.D

The Planning Commission shall review the General Plan annually, focusing principally on actions undertaken in the previous year to carry out the implementation programs of the plan. The Planning Commission's report to the Board of Supervisors shall include, as the Commission deems appropriate, recommendations for amendments to the General Plan. This review shall also be used to satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code 21081.6 for a mitigation monitoring program.

Staff is preparing the Annual Report for review by the Planning Commission and acceptance by the Board pursuant to this implementation program.

The Public Works and Planning Department presented the 2014 General Plan Annual Progress Report to the Planning Commission on February 26, 2015 and to the Board on March 24, 2015. The preparation of this Annual Report which focuses principally on actions undertaken during 2015 to carry out the implementation programs of the General Plan meets the requirements of this program and is being presented to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

41 PROGRAM LU-H.E

The County shall conduct a major review of the General Plan, including General Plan Policy Document and Background Report, every five years and revise it as deemed necessary.

Future year activity.

The County initiated the General Plan review in 2006 and has been working on this effort since that time. On September 22, 2015 the Board of Supervisors accepted the scope of work and authorized the Chairman to execute a Consultant Agreement with the consulting firm of Mintier-Harnish to provide planning and environmental consulting services for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the

42 PROGRAM LU-H.F

The County shall comprehensively review and amend as necessary the Zoning Ordinance text and Zoning Map to reflect new policies and standards included in the General Plan during the 2000 update.

Portions of the Zoning Ordinance have been amended to address parcel size exceptions and density standard, consistent with the 2000 update. Additional amendments will be processed in future years, as necessary, to implement General Plan Policies.

The Zoning Ordinance has been amended to incorporate the policies of the 2000 General Plan Update. The County initiated the Zoning Ordinance Update in 2006 and has been working on this effort since that time. On September 22, 2015 the Board of Supervisors accepted the scope of work and authorized the Chairman to execute a Consultant Agreement with the consulting firm of Mintier-Harnish to provide planning and environmental consulting services for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan Five-Year Review and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update.

COUNTY COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION ELEMENT

DIRECTIVE IN THE 2000 GENERAL PLAN

STATUS NOTED IN THE 2001/2002 APR

STATUS NOTED IN THE DRAFT 2015 APR



43 PROGRAM TR-A.A

<p>The County shall prepare and adopt a priority list of street and highway improvements for the Road Improvement Program (RIP) based on a horizon of at least seven (7) years. The Board of Supervisors shall update the RIP every five (5) years, or more frequently as recommended by the responsible departments. The RIP shall program maintenance and rehabilitation, reconstruction, capacity, operational, safety improvements, and specific plan lines on a prioritized basis. The RIP shall be coordinated with the five (5) year major review of the General Plan and shall be included in the annual General Plan review.</p>	<p>Staff is working on development of an update to the 1997-2004 Road Improvement Program. Funding changes are being evaluated. Completion was delayed due to budget constraints and vacant positions. A draft Road Improvement Program update is expected to be ready for Board consideration in January 2003.</p>	<p>On April 7, 2015 the County Board of Supervisors approved the Fresno County Road Improvement Program (RIP). The RIP identified anticipated revenues and defined the areas of road program emphasis as well as specific planned projects over a five-year period.</p>
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44 PROGRAM TR-A.B

<p>The County shall consider adopting a traffic impact fee ordinance for areas outside the spheres of influence of cities in the county. The traffic fees should be designed to achieve the adopted LOS and preserve structural integrity based on a twenty (20) year time horizon. The traffic mitigation fees should be updated at least every five years, or concurrently with the approval of any significant modification of the land use allocation used to develop the fees. The County shall require new development within</p>	<p>Current traffic mitigation practices continue on a site and project-specific basis. A report identifying the basic requirements for a regional fee program has been provided to the Board for its consideration. The County is also a supporting partner in a Council of Fresno County Governments' application for a 2001/02 State Partnership Planning grant, to evaluate freeway and interchange needs in the greater Fresno-Clovis-Madera metropolitan areas. This study will provide baseline information needed to develop a</p>	<p>A traffic impact fee has been adopted by the Board of Supervisors. However, on February 2, 2015, the Board of Supervisors conducted a second public hearing to consider an amendment to repeal the Public Facilities Impact Fees Ordinance in its entirety. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board decided to continue suspension of the impact fees and directed Staff to return to the Board in two years.</p>
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the spheres of influence of cities in the county to pay the traffic impact fees of those cities.	multi-jurisdictional regional impact fee nexus study for State highway improvements.		
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45 PROGRAM TR-A.C

The County shall continue to identify and pursue appropriate new funding sources for transportation improvements. Grant funds from regional, State, and Federal agencies should be pursued and utilized when compatible with the General Plan policies and long-term local funding capabilities.	The Staff continually monitors sources of funding for applicability for the County.		The County continues to pursue funding for transportation improvements through the Fresno Council of Governments.
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46 PROGRAM TR-A.D

The County shall coordinate its transportation planning with the Council of Fresno County Governments, Caltrans, cities within the county, and adjacent jurisdictions.	Public Works and Planning staff participate in the following: COFCG Transportation Technical Committee; COFCG Model Steering Committee "COFCG Regional Transportation Plan Steering Committee "COFCG TEA-221 Steering Committee, COFCG Regional Trails Plan Steering Committee; COFCG East-West Corridor Steering Committee; COFCG Freight Advisory Committee; Fresno Area Regional Collaborative Land Use/Transportation Committee; Caltrans Project Development Teams for the SR 180 west extension. SR 180 east, and SR 43; Fresno County Transportation Authority Technical Advisory Committee; Manning Avenue Transportation Corridor of Economic Significance Technical Support Committee; San Joaquin River Conservancy Interagency Project Development Team, and the Golden State Corridor Coalition.		During 2015, the County continued coordinating its transportation planning with Fresno COG, Caltrans, Cities and adjacent jurisdictions.
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47 PROGRAM TR-A.E

<p>The County shall update and maintain the Improvement Standards for other County development improvements, including private roads dedicated to public use.</p>	<p>Staff is drafting revised improvement standards to update the 1966 document. It is anticipated a draft document will be circulated in fiscal year '02-'03. In the interim, staff is analyzing alternative construction materials and practices on a case by case basis.</p>	<p>The County implements this program/policy on a continuous basis. The County is currently undergoing a comprehensive update of the County Improvement Standards.</p>
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48 PROGRAM TR-B.A

<p>The County shall work with the Council of Fresno County Governments (COFCG) and transit providers in the county to periodically review and update the short-range transit plans in the county at least as often as required by State law.</p>	<p>The Short-Range Transit Plan for the Fresno-Clovis Urbanized Area was adopted by the COFCG in 2001. The Short-Range Transit Plan for the Rural Area (outside of the FCMA) was adopted by the COFCG in June 2002. Implementation Program has been completed. Next update in FY 06-07.</p>	<p>The County implements this policy on a continuous basis. The Short-Range Transit Plan for the Rural Fresno County Area 2016-2020 was adopted by Fresno COG on June 25, 2015.</p>
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49 PROGRAM TR-B.B

<p>The County shall encourage transit providers and the COFCG to prepare, adopt, and implement a long-range strategic transit master plan for the County or subareas of the county. The master plan shall review the transit corridors in this Policy Document and designate a set of transit corridors so that appropriate planning can be concentrated on these corridors. The plan(s) shall be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.</p>	<p>An update to the Fresno Area Express Transit Long Range Master Plan was completed and accepted by the COFCG in June 2002. The Long Range Master Plan is based on anticipated land uses as designated in the (draft) Fresno 2002 General Plan.</p>	<p>The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area Public Transportation Strategic Service Evaluation project was completed by Fresno COG on May 28, 2014. Fresno COG continues to prepare, adopt, and implement long-range strategic transit master plans for the County or sub-areas of the County.</p>
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50 PROGRAM TR-B.C

<p>Through its representation on the COFCG Board and the FCRTA (a joint powers agency), the County shall work with these</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Fresno County continues to work with Fresno COG to identify and pursue funding for transit.</p>
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agencies to identify and pursue funding for transit.			
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51 PROGRAM TR-B.D

The County shall work with the COFCG and other agencies to identify right-of-way needs within designated transit corridors and to acquire needed rights-of-way, including abandoned rights-of-way and track structures.	Preservation of existing transportation corridors designated for potential mass transit use will be evaluated and pursued cooperatively with other agencies as opportunities arise.		Fresno County continues to work with Fresno COG to identify right-of-way needs within designated transit corridors and to acquire needed rights-of-way, including abandoned rights-of-way and track structures.
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52 PROGRAM TR-B.E

The County shall work with the cities in the county to prepare and adopt land use and design standards for areas within designated urban transit corridors to promote transit accessibility and use.	There has been no activity to date. This can best be reviewed in conjunction with community plan updates in the FCMA unless otherwise directed by the Board.		In 2011, Fresno COG prepared the Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS). The PTIS makes recommendations for investments, the timing of those investments, and funding sources augmenting Measure C sales tax revenue to pay for them. In addition, the PTIS makes policy recommendations that will be important to be adopted by City- and County-elected officials and implemented by planning department and public works administrators in order to shape future growth in such a way that it supports the transit investments. Fresno County continues to work with Fresno COG to promote transit accessibility and use.
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53 PROGRAM TR-B.F

The County shall work with Caltrans and other agencies to determine the need for additional or expanded park-and-ride lots and to identify additional sites for such lots.	Caltrans is the primary provider of Park and Ride lots on State highways. The San Joaquin River Conservancy is developing the Friant Cove river access park project, at the northwest corner of Millerton Road and North Fork Road, that includes a Park and		Caltrans is the primary provider of Park and Ride lots on State highways. Fresno County continues to work with Caltrans and Fresno COG to determine the need for additional or
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	<p>Ride lot (the project is in the environmental analysis phase). The Park and Ride component derived from a separately funded Fresno County Park and Ride project Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality grant for a Friant Park and Ride, which was later transferred to the Conservancy for consolidation into their larger recreational project, to better utilize available public parking space through shared uses. The County will continue to work with Caltrans and COFCG through its transportation planning processes to identify regional needs for Park and Ride lots, and work with appropriate agencies on appropriate location and funding.</p>		<p>expanded park-and-ride lots and to identify additional sites for such lots.</p>
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54 PROGRAM TR-D.A

<p>The County shall work with the Council of Fresno County Governments, Caltrans, and cities within the county to update the Regional Bikeways Plan to ensure consistency with the Circulation Diagram and Standards section.</p>	<p>Completed. The Regional Bikeways Plan was updated as part of the Regional Transportation Plan, adopted by the COFCG on November 29, 2001. The Regional Bikeways Plan is consistent with the County's Rural Bikeways Plan (figure TR-2).</p>		<p>The Regional Bikeways Plan was updated as part of the non-motorized section of the Regional Transportation Plan that was last updated by Fresno COG on June 26, 2014. The Regional Bikeways Plan is consistent with the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.</p>
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55 PROGRAM TR-D.B

<p>The County shall encourage implementation and use of bikeways by use of transportation Development Act Article III bicycle and pedestrian funds to implement and maintain bikeways or bike trails. The County shall continue to identify and pursue appropriate new funding sources for bikeway implementation. Grant funds from regional, State, and Federal agencies should be</p>	<p>Ongoing. County staff is developing a draft Bicycle Transportation Plan, to meet eligibility requirements for competitive State Bicycle Lane Account funds. The Plan is expected to be presented to the Board in 2003.</p>		<p>The County continues to encourage implementation and use of bikeways by implementing the goals and policies in the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.</p>
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<p>pursued and utilized when compatible with the General Plan policies and long-term local funding capabilities.</p>			
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56 PROGRAM TR-D.C

<p>The County shall require that sufficient pavement width for bikeways shown on the Regional Bikeway Plan be constructed in conjunction with road construction projects, and that adequate right-of-way and/or pavement width for bicycle facilities be included in frontage improvements required of new development. Implementation through signing and striping is an operational decision, and may not coincide with initial construction.</p>	<p>Conditions of approval on development projects require the provision of street right-of-way widths in accordance with General Plan policies and standards. Where applicable, improvements include the provision of bikeway signing and striping. On County-maintained roadways, signing and striping of bikeways is maintained by Department of Public Works and Planning field personnel.</p>		<p>The County requires sufficient pavement width for bikeways shown on the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.</p>
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57 PROGRAM TR-D.D

<p>The County shall use California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) bikeway design standards as guidelines for construction of Class I, II, III bicycle facilities.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Caltrans standard bikeways have been planned for Friant Road and Academy Avenue projects.</p>		<p>The Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011 specifies California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) bikeway design standards as guidelines for the construction of Class I, II, and III bicycle facilities.</p>
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58 PROGRAM TR-D.E

<p>The County shall work with other agencies to provide facilities that help link bicycles to other modes, including provision of bike racks or space on buses and parking or lockers for bicycles at transportation terminals.</p>	<p>Both Fresno Area Express (FAX) and the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, which provide County-reimbursed transit services to unincorporated area residents, outfit buses with bicycle racks. Ongoing.</p>		<p>The Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011 provides information on facilities that help link bicycle riders to other modes, including the provision of bike racks</p>
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or space on buses and parking or lockers for bicycles at transportation terminals.

59 PROGRAM TR-E.A

The County shall work with other agencies to plan line-designated railroad corridors to facilitate the preservation of important railroad rights-of-way for future rail expansion or other appropriate transportation facilities.

No action in this review period. Preservation of at-risk rail corridors for transportation purposes will be evaluated and pursued cooperatively with other agencies as opportunities arise.

The County continues to work with other agencies including the California High Speed Rail Authority for rail expansion to facilitate the railroad rights-of-way for railroads and other transportation facilities.

60 PROGRAM TR-E.B

The County shall use appropriate zoning in designated rail corridors to ensure preservation of rail facilities for future local rail use.

The only related activity during the reporting period has been that the groundwork for the Golden State Corridor study was initiated and railroad representatives will be included in the process toward development of a specific plan for the area west of the Union Pacific mainline.

The County continues to use appropriate zoning classifications in designated rail corridors.

61 PROGRAM TR-E.C

The County shall participate in the Council of Fresno County Governments Rail Committee to support improvement, development, and expansion of rail service in Fresno County.

Ongoing. The Board of Supervisors provides elected official representation on the COG Rail Committee and the San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee. In addition, Public Works and Planning staff attend and/or monitor rail issues of the above committees, the [Fresno] Mayor's Consolidation Task Force, the High Speed Rail Authority, Fresno Area Residents for Rail Consolidation, and participated on the Steering Committee for the Fresno Rail Consolidation Study Update, completed in 2001.

The Fresno COG Rail Committee was dissolved in 2012 when the San Joaquin Valley Joint Powers Authority (SJVJPA) was formed. A Board of Supervisors member represents Fresno County by participating in the SJVJPA.

COUNTY COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE PUBLIC FACILITIES ELEMENT

DIRECTIVE IN THE 2000 GENERAL PLAN

STATUS NOTED IN THE 2001/2002 APR

STATUS NOTED IN THE DRAFT 2015 APR



62 PROGRAM PF-A.A

<p>The County shall ensure that infrastructure plans or area facilities plans are prepared in conjunction with any new or expanded community or specific plans and are reviewed and updated as needed. Such plans shall contain phasing and facility improvement time lines.</p>	<p>An analysis of infrastructure improvements and requirements is performed for all development projects. Where specific plan amendments or updates are required, analysis is performed on the adequacy of existing master plans, and master plan updates and implementation schedules are required when applicable.</p>	<p>Where specific plan amendments or updates are required as part of a proposed development project, analysis is performed on the adequacy of existing plans to ensure adequacy of infrastructure to accommodate the proposed development.</p>
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63 PROGRAM PF-B.A

<p>The County shall prepare and adopt a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for designing and constructing County facilities. Roadways shall be included in the separate Roadway Improvement Plan (RIP). The CIP should be updated at least every five (5) years, or concurrently with the approval of any significant amendments to the General Plan.</p>	<p>The County's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan for County facilities was approved by the Board of Supervisors in November 2000 and has been modified on several occasions since then to include updates of facilities and financing plans. Currently, County staff from the General Services Department and the County Administrative Office is crafting a Facilities Master Plan that will be used to develop a new Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan for County facilities. All infrastructure-related planning for development in the unincorporated areas of the County is managed through the Public Works and Planning Department. The County's Road Improvement Program is under review and will be revised by January 2003.</p>	<p>The CIP was last updated in 2006. However, updates of the CIP have been suspended by the Board with the suspension of impact fees until November 9, 2017 based on Board action which occurred February 2, 2015.</p>
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64 PROGRAM PF-B.B

<p>The County shall develop and adopt ordinances specifying acceptable methods for new development to pay for new capital facilities and expanded services. Possible mechanisms include development fees, assessment districts, land/facility dedications, county service areas, and community facilities districts.</p>	<p>Work on this program will appropriately proceed after the Facilities Master Plan and new Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan are adopted.</p>	<p>On October 8, 2013, the Board of Supervisors considered potential options to the County's Public Facilities Impact Fee Ordinance and Schedule of Fees and associated Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and any other actions related to the previously collected, unspent fees, and budgetary impacts resulting from those actions. The potential options included: 1) Continue the temporary suspension of collecting Public Facilities Impact (PFI) Fees through November 9, 2015, as approved by the Board on June 19, 2012; 2) Engage a consultant to prepare an updated PFI Fee Report and direct staff to prepare an associated CIP; 3) Engage with the consultant to study and prepare a report to reduce the number of categories and areas they serve; and, 4) Adopt an ordinance repealing the PFI Fees and adopt a resolution to terminate the associated CIP and refund fees collected to the property owners of record. On February 2, 2015, the Board of Supervisors conducted a second public hearing to consider an amendment to repeal the Public Facilities Impact Fees Ordinance in its entirety. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board decided to continue suspension of the impact fees until November 9, 2017 and directed Staff to return to the Board in two years.</p>
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65 PROGRAM PF-C.A

<p>The County shall develop a process for resolution of water supply problems and apply the process when areas of need are identified.</p>	<p>No Progress. This program will not likely be addressed for two to three years. Recommend the timeframe be changed to FY 05-06.</p>	<p>The Water Geology Section of the Department of Public Works and Planning reviews all discretionary permits and provides recommendation for requirements and mitigation measures as necessary. The</p>
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		<p>County, prior to consideration of any discretionary project related to land use, requires a water supply evaluation as outlined in General Plan Policy PF-C.17. In addition, the County is currently working to implement the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) which will further address the resolution of water supply problems. In 2015, six SGMA working group meetings were held, which were co-chaired by members of the Board of Supervisors. The working group is also comprised of key County and Irrigation District staff and includes representation from other interested and affected Communities.</p>
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66 PROGRAM PF-C.B

<p>The County shall adopt a well construction and destruction ordinance that will include among other requirements the mapping of location information on abandoned wells in the County GIS database and which includes a procedure for ensuring that abandoned wells are properly destroyed.</p>	<p>The Department has acquired the field instrumentation for obtaining the coordinates that will be used to plot the water well sites on a geographical map. As the coordinates for each well are obtained, they are being logged into our water well database.</p> <p>The existing Fresno County Ordinance chapters addressing well construction and destruction will be evaluated and updated as necessary to address new procedures and fees recently adopted by the Board.</p>	<p>The County Environmental Health Division has developed a procedure to ensure the abandoned wells are properly destroyed.</p>
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67 PROGRAM PF-C.C

<p>The County shall prepare or cause to be prepared water master plans for water delivery systems for areas undergoing urban growth. The County shall have approved such plans prior to implementation.</p>	<p>Updates of water master plans and implementation schedules are required for areas experiencing urban-type growth. Development Engineering is responsible for infrastructure plans. Areas of concern that</p>	<p>Updates of water master plans and implementation schedules are required for areas experiencing urban-type growth. Millerton Specific Plan area, Shaver Lake area and Friant Specific Plan area have</p>
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	<p>are currently being explored include the Millerton New Town area and Shaver Lake area, which have previously approved plans. The Water, Geology and Natural Resources Section is responsible for area wide water plans. No progress has been made in the development of these plans.</p>	<p>approved plans. As an example, in 2010, a Water Supply Assessment was completed for the Millerton Specific Plan as part of the approval process for Tentative Tract Map No. 5430.</p>
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68 PROGRAM PF-C.D

<p>The County shall develop and implement a tiered water pricing structure for County Service Areas and Waterworks Districts.</p>	<p>Tiered water rate structures have been implemented through CSA actions in recent developments as a means of encouraging water conservation, especially in water deficient areas. Developers are required to submit a tiered water rate structure, which is prepared by an engineer, for new subdivisions. The County is currently selecting a consultant to recommend tiered water pricing for CSAs 34 and 49. This program is an ongoing practice.</p>	<p>Tiered water rate structures have been implemented in recent developments. Due to recent drought conditions, CSA and WWD water rate structures are being modified to a flat rate (operational costs) plus a consumption rate (cost of water). Tiered consumption rates are being utilized in CSAs and WWDs where the supply or treatment of water is limited. All new developments are required to provide water rate structures prepared by an engineer and comprised of a flat rate and consumption rate.</p>
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69 PROGRAM PF-C.E

<p>The County shall establish water demand standards based on types and sizes of uses to serve as a basis for determining the adequacy of a proposed water supply for new development.</p>	<p>Water demand standard is part of County Improvement Standards currently under revision and review. Coordination and compliance with State Department of Health Services Drinking Water Division standards have been instituted in areas where the County's standards have been reduced, e.g. in the Shaver Lake area.</p>	<p>Although specific standards have not been established, water supply and proposed water use are evaluated on a per-project basis by Public Works and Planning staff to determine adequate water supply. Further, in regards to landscaping, the County is implementing the State required Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) which applies to both residential and commercial projects. MWELo was part of the Governor's Drought Executive Order of April 1, 2015. The revised ordinance was approved on July 15, 2015.</p>
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70 PROGRAM PF-C.F

<p>The County shall establish a review and/or regulatory process for proposed transfers of surface water to areas outside of the county and for substitution of groundwater for transferred surface water.</p>	<p>Completed in 2000 with the adoption of the Groundwater Transfer Ordinance.</p>	<p>This program has been implemented with the adoption of the Groundwater Transfer Ordinance.</p>
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71 PROGRAM PF-C.G

<p>The County shall develop a list of water conservation technologies, methods, and practices that maximize the beneficial use of water resources. The County shall review and update the list periodically to eliminate practices that no longer prove beneficial and add new technologies that become available.</p>	<p>Development of a list of water conservation technologies, methods and practices planned for FY 02-03.</p>	<p>The County enforces the State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance as a means to promote the values and benefits of landscapes while recognizing the need to invest water and other resources as efficiently as possible, to establish a structure for planning, designing, installing maintaining and managing water efficient landscapes in new and rehabilitated projects, to establish provisions for water management practices and water waste prevention for established landscapes, and to use water efficiently without waste by setting a Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA) as an upper limit for water use and reduce water use to the lowest practical amount. These standards are enforced for any residential, commercial, or industrial projects that require a permit, plan check or design review and that have a 500 square-foot or more landscaping area.</p>
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72 PROGRAM PF-D.A

<p>The County shall prepare or cause to be prepared a sewer master plan for wastewater treatment facilities for areas experiencing urban growth. The County shall</p>	<p>Development Engineering updates of sewer master plans and implementation schedules are required for areas experiencing urban-type growth. Areas of concern that are currently being explored include the Millerton New Town area and</p>	<p>Areas that experience urban growth are required to prepare a sewer master plan or update the current master plan. The Public Works and Planning Department is responsible for implementing the policies</p>
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<p>have approved such plans prior to implementation.</p>	<p>Shaver Lake area, which have previously approved plans. The Resources Division is responsible for implementing the policies and implementation programs in the plan. This program is implemented as needed.</p>	<p>and implementation programs in the plan. This program is implemented as needed.</p>
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73 PROGRAM PF-E.A

<p>The County shall work with responsible flood control agencies to pursue adoption of appropriate regulations and programs as necessary and appropriate to implement required actions under State and Federal stormwater quality programs.</p>	<p>Requirements for setbacks, easements, and/or covenants are imposed on entitlement projects to preserve natural stream areas. Some minor small streams are permitted for relocation through coordination with the Department of Fish and Game and the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. Staff is consulting with applicable agencies to formulate checklists and pertinent requirements. The Water, Geology and Natural Resources Section assists Development Engineering in this Program. Development Engineering and the Design Division work with the FMFCD and other agencies on NPDES permits.</p>	<p>The County coordinates with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) who is the Lead Agency for the Municipal Storm Water Permit held by FMFCD, the cities of Fresno and Clovis, Fresno County, and California State University Fresno. The County also requires development to file storm water permits with the State Water Resources Control Board when the project meets the minimum threshold for permitting.</p>
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74 PROGRAM PF-F.A

<p>The County shall require new commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential uses to provide adequate areas on-site to accommodate the collection and storage of recyclable materials.</p>	<p>Resources Division staff review and comment on Initial Studies/Environmental Assessments and, when appropriate, provide comments recommending that new commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential uses provide adequate areas on site for the collection and storage of recyclable materials. This program is an ongoing practice.</p>	<p>Public Works and Planning staff review and comment on Initial Studies/Environmental Assessments and, when appropriate, provide comments recommending that new commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential uses provide adequate areas on site for the collection and storage of recyclable materials. The County implemented a mandatory hauler program in the mid-2000s to mandate refuse and recycling collection for all unincorporated areas.</p>
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75 PROGRAM PF-G.A

<p>The County shall prepare and adopt a master plan to identify locations for sheriff substations and community offices. The County should further evaluate these locations in the regional and unincorporated community plan updates.</p>	<p>Within the past calendar year the Sheriff's Department has completed and put into operation substations in the rural communities of Squaw Valley and Auberry. These substations not only provide facilities and office space for Deputies assigned to this area but also a convenient location for both formal and informal community contact.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Department continues to pursue the relocation of its Area 2 substation from Clovis and Shields to the Temperance and Belmont area. This project would provide a more centralized location for the citizens served in this part of the county. It would also provide space for equipment, property and evidence storage. If the right location is acquired, additional facilities could be relocated to provide for the department's future training facilities needs.</p> <p>Regional and community plan updates will have input from the Sheriff's Department under the Public Facilities section.</p>	<p>Sheriff's Department has established substations in unincorporated County areas to be able to provide faster response to service calls. Although no master plan has been prepared, when Community Plans are updated, a location is identified for a Sheriff's substation. Further, the Sheriff's Department actively works with Public Works and Planning staff on land use matters pertinent to their facilities.</p> <p>As an example, during the Laton Community Plan Update, Public Works and Planning Department staff worked with Sheriff's Department staff to identify a potential location for a future Sheriff's substation.</p>
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76 PROGRAM PF-H.A

<p>If a Fire Protection Master Plan has not been prepared for the area and the County Director of Planning & Resource Management Department determines that additional fire protection facilities are needed, the County shall not approve discretionary development until such time as a Master Plan has been adopted or other facilities acceptable to the Director are provided, with appeal rights as provided by</p>	<p>The Current Planning Unit routes all projects to the appropriate fire district for review and comment. The District then identifies appropriate fire protection measures to accommodate the project.</p> <p>Upon consultation with the District, Staff will include the conditions for each project.</p>	<p>The Public Works and Planning staff routes all projects to the appropriate fire district for review and comment. The District then identifies appropriate fire protection measures to accommodate the project. Upon consultation with the District, Staff will include the conditions for each project.</p>
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<p>County Ordinance. The Fire Protection Master Plan must contain the following information: identification of water supply; delineation of the service area boundary; designation of an appropriate fire protection entity; determination of structural, equipment, and personnel needs and costs; and a financing plan based on shared benefit.</p>			
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77 PROGRAM PF-H.B

<p>The County shall work with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, local fire protection agencies, and city fire departments to maximize the use of resources to develop functional and/or operational consolidations and Standardization of services and to maximize the efficient use of fire protection resources.</p>	<p>Fresno County initiated a study of countywide fire protection services during July 2002 with a final report due in January 2003. The study includes participation by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, local fire protection agencies, and city fire departments and will recommend methods to maximize the efficient use of fire protection resources.</p>		<p>The County works cooperatively with the California Department of Forestry and Cal Fire on various land use and permit matters. The County contracts with the California Department of Forestry/Cal Fire for the Amador Plan during the non-fire season to provide additional protection.</p>
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78 PROGRAM PF-I.A

<p>The County shall coordinate the updating of regional, community, and specific plans necessitated by the general plan with applicable school districts to identify the need for and potential location of new or expanded school facilities.</p>	<p>This program will be a part of the planned update of each regional, community and specific plan, under service characteristic studies and in the preparation of the public facilities and services section of each plan.</p>		<p>The County involves the respective school district in the update of each regional, community and specific plan to identify the need for and potential location of new or expansion of existing facilities. Further, through the General Plan Conformity (GPC) findings process, potential school site acquisitions are evaluated for consistency with the General Plan. This is required per Public Resources Code 21151 .2 and Government Code 65402. No GPC requests were processed for school sites in 2015.</p>
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79 PROGRAM PF-I.B

<p>The County shall coordinate the updating of regional, community, and specific plans necessitated by the general plan with applicable library districts and library interest groups to identify the need for and potential location of new or expanded library facilities.</p>	<p>This program will be a part of the planned update of each regional, community and specific plan, under service characteristic studies and in the preparation of the public facilities and services section of each plan.</p>	<p>The County involves library administration in the update of each regional, community and specific plan to identify the need for and potential location of new or expansion of existing facilities.</p>
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COUNTY COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT

DIRECTIVE IN THE 2000 GENERAL PLAN

STATUS NOTED IN THE 2001/2002 APR

STATUS NOTED IN THE DRAFT 2015 APR



80 PROGRAM OS-A.A

<p>The County shall develop, implement and maintain a water sustainability plan.</p>	<p>The Water, Geology and Natural Resources Section is gathering data for development of a water sustainability plan.</p>	<p>In June 2006 the County adopted a Fresno Area Regional Groundwater Management Plan. Also with the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, local agencies within the Kings, Westside, and Delta Mendota basins in the County will be required to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies that will in turn create Groundwater Sustainability Plans. The plans are required to be adopted by January 31, 2020.</p>
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81 PROGRAM OS-A.B

<p>The County shall establish and maintain a centralized water resource database for surface and groundwater that includes the water budget, groundwater monitoring data, and the groundwater recharge site inventory.</p>	<p>The Water, Geology and Natural Resources Section is gathering data for the database.</p>	<p>Water budget development and maintenance will be required through the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in areas with aquifers identified as being in a condition of critical overdraft. The County has completed a study through the AB 303 Local Groundwater Assistance Grant funding, to identify potential recharge sites northeast of the City of Fresno and City of Clovis. As development occurs, the County will use this information to attempt to preserve those areas identified as prime recharge.</p>
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82 PROGRAM OS-A.C

<p>The County shall develop, implement and maintain a groundwater monitoring program. Information from this program shall be provided to the Board of Supervisors during the annual General Plan review.</p>	<p>The Water, Geology and Natural Resources Section is gathering data for a groundwater monitoring program.</p>		<p>Groundwater monitoring and reporting will be a key component of the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. By January 31, 2020, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within the County will be required to adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for implementation.</p>
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83 PROGRAM OS-A.D

<p>The County shall develop, implement, and maintain land use plans to preserve for recharge purpose those lands identified as suitable for groundwater recharge in the water resource database inventory.</p>	<p>No progress, propose to delay Program activity to FY 03-04</p>		<p>The County has completed a study through the AB 303 Local Groundwater Assistance Grant funding to identify potential recharge sites northeast of the City of Fresno and City of Clovis. As development occurs, the County will use this information in efforts to preserve those areas identified as prime recharge.</p>
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84 PROGRAM OS-B.A

<p>The County, in consultation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, shall conduct a careful evaluation of the Forest Practice Rules with regard to: clearcutting and other forest management practices with potential visual impacts; use of prescribed burning; protection of biological, soil, and water resources; and protection of old growth forest in Fresno County. If the Forest Practice Rules are determined to be inadequate, a compilation of Special Forest Practice Rules for Fresno County shall be proposed to the Board of Forestry to address those inadequacies.</p>	<p>Future FY</p>		<p>The Department of Forestry and Fire Protections enforcement authority granted under the Forest Practice Act and Rules is only applicable when conversion of land from a use other than growing a commercial crop of trees, or commercialization of forest products occurs and is only applicable on private land. Forested stands within Fresno County that may be characterized as "Old Growth" may exist in extremely limited acreages and most likely exist exclusively on national forest land.</p>
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85 PROGRAM OS-B.B

<p>The County shall encourage the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to complete an inventory of existing and residual stands of ancient and old growth forest on private timberlands in Fresno County. The results of this inventory shall be incorporated into the County's biological resources database for use in future land use planning decisions.</p>	<p>Future FY</p>	<p>The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has no mandate or authority to enter private timber lands unless enforcement of the Forest Practice Act and rules have been triggered.</p> <p>Forested stands within Fresno County that may be characterized as "Old Growth" may exist in extremely limited acreages and most likely exist exclusively on national forest land.</p>
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86 PROGRAM OS-B.C

<p>The County shall encourage the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify potential impacts on, and the need for preservation of, old growth forest in Fresno County.</p>	<p>Future FY</p>	<p>The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is required by law to identify potential impacts to a wide variety of natural and cultural resources when engaging in a discretionary project that warrants compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).</p> <p>Forested stands within Fresno County that may be characterized as "Old Growth" may exist in extremely limited acreages and most likely exist exclusively on national forest land.</p>
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87 PROGRAM OS-B.D

<p>The County shall formally request that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection include educational materials for residents in its Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber. Such materials should include information concerning the Forest Practice Act, Forest Practice Rules, and Department</p>	<p>Future FY</p>	<p>A "Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber" (NOI) is a specific requirement of the Forest Practice Act and Rules and is required for a wide variety of timber harvest documents. A modification of the NOI would require rule change by the Board of Forestry (BOF).</p>
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of Forestry and Fire Protection Timber Harvest Plan review process.			
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88 PROGRAM OS-D.A

<p>The County shall work toward the acquisition by public agencies or private non-profit conservation organizations of creek corridors, wetlands, and areas rich in wildlife or of a fragile ecological nature as public open space where such areas cannot be effectively preserved through the regulatory process. Such protection may take the form of fee acquisition or protective easements and may be carried out in cooperation with other local, State, and Federal agencies and private entities. Acquisition shall include provisions for maintenance and management in perpetuity.</p>	<p>No activity during the review period. The preservation of vernal pools in the Millerton New Town Area consistent with the mitigation measures of the project and provision for on-going monitoring through CSA 34 is anticipated in fiscal year 02-03.</p>		<p>The County continues to coordinate with the San Joaquin River Conservancy for projects in the vicinity of their resources. Further, through discretionary land use permits, the County will review requests by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for offsetting habitats, consider mitigation and review and formal proposal for mitigation banking to CDFW.</p>
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89 PROGRAM OS-D.B

<p>The County shall adopt an ordinance for riparian protection zones identifying allowable activities in riparian protection zones and allowable mitigation techniques.</p>	<p>No progress to date. Implementation planned for FY 03-04.</p>		<p>Due to budgetary constraints, a specific ordinance has not been adopted. The County continues to coordinate with resource agencies for projects located within sensitive habitat and applies policies for those proposals within river influence areas.</p>
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90 PROGRAM OS-E.A

<p>The County shall compile inventories of ecologically significant resource areas, including unique natural areas, wetlands, riparian areas, and habitats for special-status plants and animals from existing data sources. The inventories shall be presented when area plans, specific plans, or other project development proposals are</p>	<p>The Environmental Analysis Unit of the Development Services Division is compiling, reviewing and updating in-house data. The Unit is also working with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to determine the data they routinely review when a project is submitted to them for</p>		<p>Development projects that may have a potential impact on wetlands, riparian areas and habitats for special-status plants and animals are referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and United States Fish and Wildlife Service for review and comments. Recommended mitigation measures proposed by these agencies will</p>
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<p>considered by the County. The classification system shall be based on the California Wildlife Habitats Relationships (WHR) system and shall identify appropriate buffer zones around the identified resource areas in order to account for periodic, seasonal, or ecological changes. The maps shall be revised on a regular basis to reflect the availability of new information from other agencies, changes in definition, or any other changes.</p>	<p>review and what information Fresno County needs to develop to cooperatively facilitate project review.</p> <p>Significant resources areas will be addressed in plan updates under the discussion of characteristics of the plan area.</p>	<p>be considered during the environmental review of development projects.</p>
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91 PROGRAM OS-E.B

<p>The County shall maintain current maps that indicate the extent of significant habitat for important fish and game species, as these maps are made available by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The relative importance of these game species shall be determined by the County, in consultation with CDFG, based on relevant ecological, recreational, and economic considerations. These maps shall be used by the <i>Fresno</i> County to evaluate proposed area plans, specific plans, and any other project development proposals to determine the compatibility of development with maintenance and enhancement of important fish and game species.</p>	<p>The Environmental Analysis Unit is compiling, reviewing and updating in-house data. The Unit is working with US Fish and Wildlife Service and CDFG to determine the data they routinely review when a project is submitted to them for review and what information Fresno County needs to develop to cooperatively facilitate project review.</p>	<p>The County refers development projects to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for review and comment as to any potential impact on sensitive species of plants or animals. County staff also has access to State-maintained software which provides updated maps containing biological data in an electronic mapping database (Rare Final 5, etc.).</p>
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92 PROGRAM OS-F.A

<p>The County shall prepare and maintain an updated list of State and Federal rare, threatened, and endangered plant species known or suspected to occur in the county. The following other uncommon or special-status species which occur or may occur in the County should also be included on the</p>	<p>The Environmental Analysis Unit is compiling, reviewing and updating in-house data. The Unit is working with California Native Plant Society and CDFG to verify existence and to review listings of Plant species included in the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and</p>	<p>The County refers development projects to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for review and comment as to any potential impact on sensitive species of plants or animals. County staff also has access to State-maintained software which provides</p>
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<p>list: 1) plant species included in the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California; and 2) species of special concern as designated by California Department of Fish and Game. In addition to updating the list as new information becomes available, the list should be reviewed and amended at least once every two years.</p>	<p>Endangered Vascular Plants of California and listings of species of special concern as designated by the CDFG. The Unit will research procedures other agencies utilize for identifying and preserving rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that may be adversely affected by development projects and provisions for incorporating a biological resources evaluation into the environmental review process.</p>	<p>updated maps containing sensitive species of plants and animal data in an electronic mapping database (Rare Final 5, etc.).</p>
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93 PROGRAM OS-F.B

<p>The County shall make the Fresno County Oak Management Guidelines and other educational resources available to landowners located in oak woodland habitat.</p>	<p>Work on a brochure is anticipated to be initiated in this Fiscal Year 02-03. The boundaries of the oak woodland habitat area have yet to be established, when they are, the handout will be completed and distributed with every permit that is issued within these areas.</p>	<p>The boundaries of the oak woodland habitat area have yet to be established; when they are, a handout will be prepared and distributed with every permit that is issued within these areas. Individual projects in oak woodland areas are evaluated for buffering or tree preservation requirements depending on the sensitivity of the habitat and relative health of tree growth as indicated by independent studies provided by project applicants. Further, Policy OS-F .11 which contains the County's Oak Woodlands Management Guidelines is considered.</p>
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94 PROGRAM OS-G.A

<p>The County shall review the Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts published by the SJVUAPCD and adopt procedures for performing air quality impact analysis and mitigation measures with any modifications deemed appropriate.</p>	<p>The Environmental Analysis Unit is working with the SJVUAPCD to review existing standard methods or procedures for determining and mitigating project air quality impacts and possible revisions, as necessary, for use in environmental documents.</p>	<p>The County refers development projects to the SJVAPCD for review and comment on potential air quality impacts and requires development projects to comply with SJVAPCD rules to mitigate any impact on air quality. For Discretionary projects, County staff will review SJVAPCD comments and require district requirements as warranted</p>
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(i.e., indirect source review, etc.) as part of the CEQA review process.

95 PROGRAM OS-G.B

The County shall adopt a package of programs to reduce its employees' work-related vehicular trips.

The County has begun to use video conferencing for both inter-County and intra-county meetings, with the resultant reduction in employee work-related vehicular trips. The County is also in the planning and development stages of countywide e-government programs that will impact the number of vehicular trips required to conduct business.

The County commonly promotes and utilizes telephone conference calling in lieu of physical meetings so as to minimize travel-related impacts. The County has begun to use video conferencing for both inter-County and intra-County meetings, with the resultant reduction in employee work-related vehicular trips. The County is also in the planning and development stages of Countywide e-government programs that will impact the number of vehicular trips required to conduct business. Additionally, given the increasing quality of current aerial photos and the available historical imagery which allows comparative analysis, County staff can in some instances use aerial information rather than conducting field visits.

The County encourages employee participation in Fresno COG's car and van pool program.

96 PROGRAM OS-G.C

The County shall amend its Subdivision and Grading Ordinances and Development Standards to address dust control measures for new development, access roads, and parking areas.

Staff is drafting revised improvement standards to update the 1966 document. It is anticipated a draft document will be circulated in fiscal year '02-'03. In the interim, fugitive dust control measures are included as conditions of approval or mitigation measures as applicable for the specific entitlement project. Compliance is monitored through periodic inspection.

All development projects must comply with the SJVAPCD regulations for dust control and project conditions or mitigation for discretionary land use permits may require additional levels of dust control.

97 PROGRAM OS-H.A

<p>The County shall work with local, State, and Federal agencies to complete a comprehensive inventory of all parks and recreation areas and services in the county and to identify other areas suitable for park acquisition and development as funds permit. The County shall consider preparation of a County park and recreation master plan to provide a policy framework for independent implementation by the cooperating agencies.</p>	<p>At the present time, funds are not available for the necessary consultant services to prepare a comprehensive Parks Master Plan, to include surveys of all existing regional facilities.</p> <p>Due to uncertain fiscal constraints, it is unknown when such funds will become available.</p>	<p>Funds have not been available to prepare a comprehensive inventory of all parks and recreation areas and to identify other areas suitable for park acquisition and development.</p>
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98 PROGRAM OS-H.B

<p>As new development occurs, the County shall consider contracting with existing entities or forming county service areas (CSAs) that have the authority to receive dedications or grants of land or funds, plus the ability to charge fees for acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks, open space, and riding, hiking, and bicycle trails.</p>	<p>Current Planning considers the need for an entity to hold and maintain parkland, open space, and trails as a part of the project review. The Resources Division considers these service needs when a CSA is being formed or expanded.</p>	<p>Public Works and Planning staff considers the need for an entity to hold and maintain parkland, open space, and trails as a part of the project review. The Department considers these service needs when a CSA is being formed or expanded. It should be noted that due to limitations of the Proposition 218 process, which allows residents within a CSA to vote on or consider discontinuation of service, the use of CSAs for Services beyond basic services (i.e., sewer and water) can become problematic and has limited the use of CSAs in more recent developments.</p>
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99 PROGRAM OS-I.A

<p>The County shall prepare a Recreational Trails Master Plan for a countywide trail system that identifies appropriate corridors and the design of the trails in the corridors based on the criteria listed in the policies of this section. The Recreational Trail Corridor Map (Figure OS-1) and Conceptual</p>	<p>At the County's request, the Council of Fresno County Governments has funded an update of the Regional Trails Plan in the 2002/2003 fiscal year. The COFCG has initiated creation of the Project Development Team and meetings are expected to begin in October 2002. Public</p>	<p>This program has been implemented; the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan was adopted by Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.</p>
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Recreational Trail List shall be used as a starting point for the master plan process.	Works and Planning staff will participate in the Project Development Team. The Plan is expected to be completed in the 2002/03 fiscal year.		
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100 PROGRAM OS-I.B

The County shall investigate the potential of various land use controls for reserving areas for trails such as the acquisition of easements, open space and floodplain zoning, and subdivision control.	No action.		This program has been implemented. It is included in the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.
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101 PROGRAM OS-I.C

The County shall enact an ordinance to prohibit the use of recreational trails by all motorized vehicles except maintenance vehicles, regulate users on multiple purpose paths, and protect the interests of property adjacent to trails.	No action.		This program has been implemented. It is included in the Fresno County Regional Bicycle and Recreational Trails Master Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011. The County uses the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) approved sign R44A on Class I bike paths.
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102 PROGRAM OS-J.A

The County shall adopt and implement an ordinance to protect and preserve significant archaeological, historical, and geological resources. The ordinance shall provide for implementation of applicable development conditions, open space easements, tax incentives, related code revisions and other measures as needed.	The Environmental Analysis Unit is discussing with State Historic Preservation Officer, the Fresno County Historical Landmarks and Records Advisory Commission and the Fresno County Historical Society the feasibility and possible format and content of a Fresno County ordinance to protect and preserve significant archaeological, historical, and geological resources in Fresno County. The Water, Geology and Natural Resources Section will assist the Environmental Analysis Unit relative to geologic resources.		Development projects are referred to the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Fresno County Historical Landmarks and Records Advisory Commission and the Fresno County Historical Society for potential impact on significant archeological and historical and geological resources. However, no ordinance has been developed.
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103 PROGRAM OS-L.A

<p>The County, in cooperation with the Council of Fresno County Governments and the Association for the Beautification of Highway 99, shall participate in establishing a landscape master plan and design guidelines for the Highway 99 corridor. The plan and guidelines shall unify the design features of the Highway 99 corridor while recognizing the individuality of each community.</p>	<p>The landscape master plan has been developed and adopted by the Association for the Beautification of Highway 99 and its member agencies. Draft design guidelines for the Highway 99 corridor have been approved by the Association and are being reviewed by the member agencies. The existence of the master plan was instrumental in the allocation of Caltrans funding of a Highway 99 beautification pilot project. The master plan is also being considered as the County and the Cities of Fowler, Kingsburg and Selma pursue joint planning along the Golden State Corridor.</p>	<p>This program has been implemented via adoption of Amendment to Text (AT) No. 361 on July 8, 2008, and has been incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance.</p>
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104 PROGRAM OS-L.B

<p>The County shall work with the California Department of Transportation to apply for scenic highway designation for the State highway segments eligible for such designation, and take necessary steps for approval, including adoption of scenic corridor protection programs for eligible segments.</p>	<p>Future FY.</p>	<p>County staff collaborated with the Sierra Gateway Trust, Inc. and Caltrans in pursuit of a State Official Scenic Highway designation for segments of SR 180. Staff of the County and Caltrans with the Sierra Gateway Trust have worked together to complete the proposed Visual Assessment and Corridor Protection Program in support of a State Official Scenic Highway designation status for approximately 60.7 miles of the eastern segments of SR 180. On October 15, 2015, the Caltrans Director approved designation of the two sections of eastern SR 180 from the Alta Main Canal near Minkler to near the General Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park, and the General Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park to Kings Canyon National Park boundary near Cedar Grove as a State Scenic Highway.</p>
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COUNTY COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT

DIRECTIVE IN THE 2000 GENERAL PLAN

STATUS NOTED IN THE 2001/2002 APR

STATUS NOTED IN THE DRAFT 2015 APR



105 PROGRAM HS-A.A

<p>The County shall maintain agreements with other local, State, and Federal agencies to provide coordinated disaster response.</p>	<p>The County, through its County OES, has been participating in ongoing meetings. County OES has been participating in ongoing meetings including the quarterly Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committee (MARAC), the biannual Region V FBI/OES Counter Terrorism Preparedness Committee, and the annual flood preparedness conference for the purpose of ensuring understanding and multi-agency response coordination in disasters. County OES is also a participant in the development of the federally funded Metropolitan Medical Response System in cooperation with the City of Fresno, and administered by the US Public Health Service. County OES is assisting the Dept. of Community Health, Environmental Health System's Emergency Response Team in the updating and revision of the County's Hazardous Materials Incident Response plan to include response to weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p>County OES continues to operate and coordinate with other agencies under the principles of the State's Standardized Emergency Mgmt. System (SEMS) and the State's Master Mutual Aid Agreement as adopted by the State and the Board of Supervisors.</p>	<p>On November 14, 1995, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted the State's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), established the geographic area of the County of Fresno as the Fresno County Operational Area, and designated Fresno County as the Operational Area Lead Agency. In the County's role as the Operational Area lead agency, County OES maintains ongoing communication with local government agencies (County Departments, Incorporated Cities, Special Districts, and Public School Districts), as well as many State and Federal agencies and nonprofit organizations to maintain and enhance the communities capability to respond to and recover from disasters.</p>
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	<p>During the upcoming year, County OES intends to review and update the Fresno County Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan.</p> <p>The Department of Public Works and Planning will compile and maintain an active list of, and develop agreements with, area contractors and equipment suppliers having key, specific equipment which would prove beneficial to a disaster response and post disaster debris clearing effort.</p> <p>Additionally, the Department of Public Works and Planning will seek to institute mutual aid agreements with other key agencies (local, State and Federal) to facilitate funding and implementation of the necessary disaster response and post disaster clearing efforts. As these documents are developed and finalized through County Counsel and any ancillary County Departments they will be brought before the Board of Supervisors for approval.</p>	
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106 PROGRAM HS-A.B

<p>The County shall continue to monitor and periodically evaluate County emergency planning, operations, and training capabilities.</p>	<p>OES has been involved in the review, update and development of several aspects of emergency planning, operations and response. OES has worked with Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, Environmental Health, Public Health, Public Works and Agriculture, to evaluate the County's vulnerability, capabilities and needs related to responding to a terrorist act. OES routinely participates in planning and training activities regarding emergency communications, terrorism preparedness, mass care and shelter, disaster mitigation,</p>	<p>The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) implements this program on an ongoing basis. OES is located within the Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division and coordinates planning, preparedness, response and recovery efforts for disasters occurring within the unincorporated areas of Fresno County. Fresno County OES coordinates the development and maintenance of the Fresno County Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan, which is updated periodically.</p>
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	<p>and flood preparedness. OES regularly receives and distributes a variety of planning documents and training opportunity announcements concerning disaster preparedness, mitigation, assistance and emergency management.</p> <p>OES is working with other agencies to update and enhance the County's Hazardous Materials Incident Response Plan and the Metropolitan Medical Response System Plan. OES is also facilitating the development of a public health preparedness plan to enhance the County's capacity to respond to bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health threats.</p> <p>During the upcoming year, OES will continue to participate in local, regional and State planning, preparedness and training activities.</p>	
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107 PROGRAM HS-A.C

<p>The County shall continue to periodically evaluate County-owned safety and emergency management facilities and public utility systems for susceptibility to damage due to flood inundation or seismic or geologic hazards and implement corrective actions should problems be identified.</p>	<p>OES has purchased portable generation equipment to provide temporary electrical power to essential County services in the event commercial electrical power is lost due to floods, seismic events, or other emergency conditions.</p> <p>During the upcoming year, OES will continue to take steps to ensure and enhance the flexibility of Emergency Operation Center capabilities in the event the primary EOC becomes inaccessible due to disaster events.</p> <p>The Maintenance and Operations Division of the Department of Public Works and</p>	<p>The County Department of Internal Services will evaluate County facilities in conjunction with concerns raised by the occupying department. Facility issues or damage resulting from events are inspected with the assistance of Risk Management staff and qualified consultants or sub-consultants. Modifications, improvements or construction of new structures to replace existing facilities are also evaluated with the assistance of staff from the Department of Public Works and Planning (Capital Projects Division). A more comprehensive inventory of existing facilities is targeted as budgeting and staffing permit.</p>
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	<p>Planning continues to evaluate its Road Maintenance Area Yards for susceptibility to damage from the noted natural hazards. Any deficiencies that may be identified that would impact the use of these facilities in an emergency will be noted and corrective actions identified.</p>		
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108 PROGRAM HS-A.D

<p>The County shall continue to conduct programs to inform the general public of emergency preparedness and disaster response procedures.</p>	<p>In the 2001 calendar year, OES conducted a broad-scale radio and television public information campaign to inform the public about general emergency preparedness including power outages and energy conservation. OES along with County Adult Protective Services, American Red Cross, California Department of Forestry and the Sierra National Forest worked with interested residents in the Pinehurst/Shaver Lake area to develop an updated plan for evacuation and sheltering during wild land fires. OES provides current disaster information and links to emergency planning and preparedness resources to the general public through the Human Services System web site. OES has provided press releases, press conferences, media interviews, and participated in public forums to provide information to the public on local terrorism preparedness.</p> <p>During the upcoming year OES plans to continue to seek out appropriate opportunities to provide the public with information related to general emergency preparedness as well as disaster specific information.</p>		<p>The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) implements this program on an ongoing basis. The County OES maintains contact and emergency information on the County's website. The Fresno County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan provides additional details regarding County hazards and responses to mitigate damage or injury. In addition, the Public is also encouraged to obtain family and business preparedness information at websites maintained by The American Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).</p>
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109 PROGRAM HS-B.A

<p>The County shall review the design of all buildings and structures to ensure they are designed and constructed to State and local regulations and standards as part of the building permit plan check process.</p>	<p>The recent adoption of Fresno County Ordinance Code Title 15 included adoption of the California State Building Codes. The requirement from these codes provides the minimum standards for life safety in construction. These requirements are enforced by the Development Services Division through the plan check and building inspection processes.</p>	<p>The Department of Public Works and Planning continues to review all proposed development to ensure it is designed and constructed to State and local regulations as part of the building permit and plan check process.</p>
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110 PROGRAM HS-C.A

<p>The County shall continue to participate in the Federal Flood Insurance Program. The County shall maintain flood hazard maps and other relevant floodplain data and shall revise or update this information as new information becomes available. In the County's review of applications for building permits and discretionary permits and proposals for capital improvement projects, the County shall determine whether the proposed project is within the 100-year floodplain based on these maps.</p>	<p>The Development Engineering Section of the Maintenance & Operations Division maintains the most current FEMA flood hazard maps and updates the information as necessary or as new data/maps are released by FEMA. All submitted projects are reviewed for conformance to floodplain requirements and encroachment through an engineering review and grading permit review. The Division provides updated copies of the FEMA flood hazard maps to the local engineering community, developers and other public. This program continues to be ongoing in conformance with General Plan requirements. In the recent adoption of Title 15, the County updated its Ordinance Code to comply with the current FEMA/ISO requirements for construction within the designated flood areas. All building permits are reviewed by the Development Services Division to verify that construction conforms to these standards.</p>	<p>The Department of Public Work and Planning maintains the most current FEMA flood hazard maps and updates the information as necessary or as new data/maps are released by FEMA. All submitted projects are reviewed to determine proximity to the 100-year floodplain during the grading permit process.</p>
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111 PROGRAM HS-C.B

<p>The County shall continue to implement and enforce its Floodplain Management Ordinance.</p>	<p>The Development Engineering Section of the Maintenance & Operations Division enforces the Floodplain Management Ordinance through the review of all submitted projects for conformance to floodplain requirements and encroachment. An engineering review through the grading permit process or other land use submittals determines conformance with the Floodplain Ordinance. This program continues to be ongoing in conformance with the General Plan. During the plan check process the Development Services Division reviews projects to determine inclusion in the flood prone areas and the conditions to be applied to proposed construction. The inspection process verifies construction compliance with the determined conditions.</p>	<p>The Department of Public Works and Planning reviews all submitted projects for conformance with floodplain requirements through the grading permit process.</p>
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112 PROGRAM HS-C.C

<p>The County shall continue to develop and review relevant dam failure evacuation plans and continue to provide public information on dam failure preparedness.</p>	<p>OES has reviewed and discussed the draft Fresno County Operational Area Dam Failure Evacuation Plan Element with several agencies and discussed ideas for future inclusion in the plan.</p> <p>During the upcoming year, OES will renew work toward the completion of the draft Fresno County Operational Area Dam Failure Evacuation Plan Element. Staff from the Maintenance & Operations Division of the Department of Public Works and Planning participates in the County's Emergency Services plan in cooperation with the County Office of Emergency Services. Work has been completed for the dam failure evacuation plan for Friant Dam</p>	<p>There are 23 dams within Fresno County that pose a significant risk to people and/or property. The Fresno County Office of Emergency Services has developed dam failure evacuation plans for each of these 23 dams. The Fresno County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (2009) Section 4.2.9 evaluates dam failure in Fresno County. According to this document, there were 14 dam failures between 1976 and 1983, but all were earthen dams on private property. Although there remains a risk of dam failure in Fresno County, there have not been any failures of major dams.</p>
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	and public preparedness. The next plan to be prepared will be for the Pine Flat Dam. This program continues to be ongoing in conformance with the General Plan.		
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113 PROGRAM HS-D.A

The County shall regularly review readily available information published by the California Division of Mines and Geology and other agencies and use the information to update County maps and the General Plan Background Report.	On-going. The Water, Geology, and Natural Resources Unit regularly reviews the State Mines and Geology website as well as industry newsletters and journals to remain current. No mapping changes were required during this review period.		The County reviews material published by the California Division of Mines and Geology and updates the maps and the General Plan Background Report as necessary. Further, County staff actively engages with and discusses proposed mining projects with State Mining and Geology Board staff.
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114 PROGRAM HS-D.B

The County shall inventory unreinforced masonry structures, including emergency facilities and other critical facilities constructed prior to 1948, used for human occupancy (excluding single-family residential structures), and evaluate the facilities for seismic safety. If found below acceptable standards, the County shall implement a program to mitigate potential hazards.	Upon further research it was found that a survey was conducted in 1991 to identify all unreinforced masonry building in the unincorporated areas of Fresno County. The survey did not identify any building in this category, therefore, no implementation program has been developed to mitigate potential hazards in unreinforced masonry building within the unincorporated areas.		A survey was conducted in 1991 to identify all unreinforced masonry buildings in the unincorporated areas of Fresno County. The survey did not identify any building to be below acceptable standards. Since unreinforced masonry buildings are not allowed within the unincorporated areas, this program will be deleted as part of the ongoing General Plan Review process.
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115 PROGRAM HS-D.C

The County shall develop a public awareness program to aid in the identification and mitigation of unreinforced masonry structures.	Since no unreinforced masonry buildings have been located within the unincorporated areas of the County a public awareness program has been not been developed.		Because no unreinforced masonry buildings have been located within the unincorporated areas of the County, a public awareness program has not been developed.
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116 PROGRAM HS-E.A

<p>The County shall refer to the Fresno County Airport Land Use Commission for review projects within the Airport Review Area requiring amendments of general, community and specific plans, airport master plans, rezoning applications, zoning ordinance text amendments, and building code amendments for consistency with the appropriate Airport Land Use Policy Plan.</p>	<p>All applicable plan amendments and rezonings continue to be referred to the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) for evaluation of consistency with the appropriate Airport Land Use Policy Plan. Recommendations of the ALUC are incorporated into staff's evaluation and forwarded to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on those discretionary applications subject to ALUC review.</p>	<p>All applicable land use applications are referred to the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) that is administered by Fresno COG for evaluation of consistency with the appropriate Airport Land Use Policy Plan. Recommendations of the ALUC are incorporated into staff's evaluation and forwarded to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.</p>
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117 PROGRAM HS-F.A

<p>The County shall review discretionary uses which involve use of hazardous materials or generate hazardous wastes in regulated quantities.</p>	<p>Applications for Site Plan Reviews for all new multi-family residential, commercial and industrial projects are routed to the Health Department for comment, and conditions of approval are incorporated into the Site Plan Review approval letter.</p> <p>The County conducted an assessment of the facilities that would be regulated under Policy HS-F.2. Businesses regulated and inspected for hazardous materials handling and hazardous waste generation were evaluated for their numbers and size.</p> <p>County staff conducted numerous area surveys to calculate the number of businesses affected under this policy. A time task analysis was created to estimate the amount of staff time needed to properly implement the programs. The FY 02-03 budget provided for addition staff positions to address the increased demand in services.</p> <p>The County is continuing a program of industry education explaining the</p>	<p>The County Department of Public Health continues to review discretionary uses that generate hazardous materials. The Department of Public Works and Planning routes discretionary permit applications to the Health Department for review and comment. Any proposed project that may generate hazardous material will be required to comply with the recommended conditions or mitigation measures.</p>
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	implementation of the program. As land use projects from various County and City planning departments are reviewed, new businesses that will be regulated are identified and advised of their regulatory oversight.	
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118 PROGRAM HS-F.B

The County shall investigate funding alternatives for site acquisition, development, and operation for a permanent household waste facility.	The Resources Division has secured a \$300,000 grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board for the siting of a permanent household hazardous waste collection facility. Work on acquiring the site and developing the facility is ongoing.	On March 14, 2013 the County received Planning Commission approval to permit the establishment of a 15,000 square-foot household hazardous waste facility at the American Avenue Landfill. This Facility has since been constructed and is operational.
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119 PROGRAM HS-F.C

The County shall review the plans to mitigate soil or groundwater contamination for redevelopment or infill projects.	<p>The County has continued with the implementation of the Contaminated Site Oversight Program for the remediation of contaminated properties due to the use of underground storage tanks. Additionally, the County has also continued to coordinate with appropriate State and Federal agencies for those sites which have contaminated the ground water. These activities are planned to continue into the upcoming year.</p> <p>During the upcoming year, the County will be assessing the draft Response Action Regulations developed for the remediation of contamination from activities other than underground storage tanks. The contamination may be due to the illegal manufacturing of narcotics, hazardous waste spills or hazardous materials releases.</p>	Development projects are referred to Environmental Health for review and comments. If the subject site is identified as a contaminated site, Environmental Health recommends mitigation measures to address soil or groundwater contamination. Further, as part of the environmental review process, staff has the ability to access State and Federal databases for contaminated sites and can apply appropriate mitigation to discretionary land use projects via comments from State, Federal or local agencies.
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	<p>Development Services assists in avoidance of future problems by verifying the required horizontal separation between onsite sewage disposal system and the source of the domestic water supply through the plan check and inspection processes. The proper construction of disposal system also protects the underground water table by verifying the required vertical separation between the disposal field and the water table.</p>	
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120 PROGRAM HS-G.A

<p>The County shall amend and enforce the Fresno County Noise Ordinance as necessary consistent with the policies and standards within this element.</p>	<p>An amendment to the County’s Noise Ordinance, proposed by County Counsel, was approved by the Board of Supervisors. This amendment clarified that property owners are liable for violations of the noise ordinance occurring on their property. The amendment further defined “any person” to include an owner of a property, whether through the owner or the owner’s agent, lessee, sublessor, sublessee or occupant. The County’s intent is to hold landlords liable for knowing violations of the Noise Ordinance by their tenants.</p> <p>The County’s Noise Ordinance will be further evaluated to determine if additional amendments will be necessary to be consistent with the current Noise Element of the General Plan.</p> <p>The noise ordinance was addressed in the adoption of Title 15. A map identifying the noise impact areas in the vicinity of the Fresno Yosemite International Airport has been created and Development Services applies the requirements of Title 15 through the plan check and inspection processes.</p>	<p>The County Environmental Health Division will continue to enforce the Fresno County Noise Ordinance and amend its policies as necessary. Discretionary land use permits which may generate excessive noise levels are often required to complete a noise analysis, and proposals within designated noise areas of airports are evaluated or limited to avoid conflicts with General Plan noise standards.</p>
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121 PROGRAM HS-G.B

<p>The County shall develop an effective noise control program that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. An ordinance (1) defining acceptable noise levels based on land use, (2) setting forth monitoring methodology and determination of violations, (3) defining exemptions and variance procedures, and (4) delineating enforcement and abatement procedures; andb. A public information program to inform county residents of the impact of noise on their lives.	<p>An ordinance as described in item #1 is currently in place. During the past eighteen months, the County has received six complaints relative to noise in the unincorporated area which were addressed by the Environmental Health System. Of those six, two were invalid, one was withdrawn, two were valid and abated, and one is currently being addressed by this Department.</p> <p>Additionally, all land use projects are evaluated for potential noise impacts and appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated as necessary.</p> <p>During the upcoming year, the Environmental Health System intends to work with the Department of Public Works and Planning to update the HSS website to include information relative to community noise.</p> <p>The acceptable noise levels referenced in A1 were addressed in the adoption of Title 15. A map identifying the noise impact areas has yet to be created in the County's GIS system so that applicability determinations can be made during the plan check process. Once applicability has been made, Development Services will apply the requirements of Title 15 through the plan check and inspection processes.</p>	<p>All land use projects are evaluated for potential noise impacts as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated as necessary. As stated in response to HS-G.A above, staff coordinates with the Health Department regarding discretionary land use permits, and additional evaluation may be required for excessive noise generating uses. However, a noise control program that addresses all components of this implementation Program has not been developed.</p>
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FRESNO
1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno 93710 559-226-8683

Item # 12
9-13-16

September 13, 2016

Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2220 Tulare Street - 6th Floor
Fresno CA 93721

Re: Agenda Item #12 – General Plan Annual Progress Report (APR) on the Implementation of the Fresno County General Plan during Calendar Year 2015

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

In support of its mission to encourage the informed participation of citizens in government, the League of Women Voters of Fresno (League) reviewed the Fresno County Annual Progress Report – or APR – for calendar year 2015 for the purpose of reporting the degree to which the County has been able to successfully implement its General Plan.

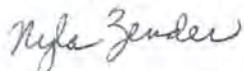
In conducting that review, the League performed two studies – one study to determine how well the County is achieving its General Plan goals and a second study to determine how well the County is executing each of the 121 General Plan implementation programs in six of its General Plan elements.

The League is saddened to report that the two studies show conclusively that the 2015 APR does not demonstrate that the County is achieving its General Plan goals or successfully executing its General Plan implementation programs in accordance with directives found in the General Plan. In fact, the League discovered that the County is able to demonstrate successful implementation of less than half of its General Plan programs. It concerns the League that the Draft 2015 APR gives the mistaken impression that the County is successfully implementing its General Plan.

Therefore, the League requests that Board Members direct County staff to redraft the 2015 APR to provide a complete and accurate picture of the degree to which County activities during 2015 helped to achieve General Plan goals. The APR must also be redrafted to show the degree to which the County is adhering to directives in the General Plan with regard to the execution of its many implementation programs. And finally, the APR must include an assessment of the County resources needed to fully implement the General Plan.

The League is untroubled that as a result of these necessary changes, the County will submit an APR to the Office of Planning and Research that's well past its due date. In fact, the League encourages the County to take the time necessary to hold workshops or further public hearings on the implementation of the General Plan as part of this corrective action.

Thank you,



Nyla Zender, President
League of Women Voters of Fresno

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FRESNO
1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno 93710 559-226-8683

September 13, 2016

Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2220 Tulare Street - 6th Floor
Fresno CA 93721

Re: Agenda Item #12 – General Plan Annual Progress Report (**APR**) on the Implementation of the Fresno County General Plan during Calendar Year 2015

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The League Study Guide reveals that the Draft 2015 APR fails to show progress in the achievement of the County's 46 General Plan goals.

For example, with regard to the Public Facilities and Services Element, the goals of which include adequate funding of public facilities to maintain acceptable levels of service for existing and future development, the 2015 APR reported only two County activities: a Board decision to incorporate into the discussion of the revision of the General Plan the dissolution of Mello-Roos funding to finance police protection for new development and a Board decision to suspend the collection of development impact fees to mitigate adverse impacts caused by new development. It appears to the League that these two County actions may actually lessen the County's ability to achieve its goals. Indeed, it may surprise Board Members to learn that in suspending development impact fees, the County may have violated General Plan Policy PF-B.1, which mandates that *"the County shall require that new development pays its fair share of the cost of developing new facilities and services and upgrading existing public facilities and services..."*

Likewise, with regard to the County's Open Space and Conservation goals, which are to develop parklands and recreational trails, to safeguard scenic vistas, cultural sites, riparian areas, wildlife habitat, native vegetation and air quality, and to conserve and protect mineral, forest and water resources, the 2015 APR listed only two County activities in support of these many goals – a Board resolution supporting the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement and a collaborative effort with Caltrans and the Sierra Gateway Trust to acquire scenic designation for a portion of Highway 180. Are we to assume, then, that the County made no effort in 2015 to achieve goals related to the conservation and protection of sensitive habitats, air quality and water resources?

Therefore, in the absence of sufficient information in the Draft 2015 APR to show progress made in achieving some of the County's most important General Plan's goals, the League respectfully requests that Board Members direct County staff to redraft the 2015 APR to provide as full and accurate picture of the degree to which County activities during 2015 helped to achieve the goals of the General Plan.

Thank you.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FRESNO
1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno 93710 559-226-8683

September 13, 2016

Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2220 Tulare Street - 6th Floor
Fresno CA 93721

Re: Agenda Item #12 – General Plan Annual Progress Report (**APR**) on the Implementation of the Fresno County General Plan during Calendar Year 2015

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The League Study Guide reveals that, on the whole, the Draft 2015 APR fails to candidly disclose the degree to which General Plan programs are being implemented in accordance with directives prescribed in the General Plan.

There are many instances where county residents can't be sure from a reading of the Draft 2015 APR whether programs are being implemented or not. For example, Program ED-A.C requires an independent and qualified institution to conduct an evaluation at least every five years of the County's success in achieving the goals and targets of its Economic Development Strategy, but because the Draft 2015 APR does not state whether an evaluation is being done or has ever been done, there is no way to know if that particular program is being implemented or not.

The same holds true for implementation of Programs OS-A.A and OS-A.C, which require the County to develop plans and processes for the resolution of water supply problems in the county. In reference to these programs, the APR states that the County is responding to a new state regulation on groundwater management, which, of course, does not address the question as to whether the County's programs are being implemented.

Sometimes the APR provides clues sufficient for a well-informed reader to figure things out. For example, because Program OS-E.B requires the County to maintain maps showing the location of sensitive habitat for important species for use in evaluating development projects and because the APR reports that the County has chosen to refer such projects to U.S. and state agencies for review, we can deduce that the County has decided to sidestep the program described in the General Plan – although the APR does not say as much in so many words.

It's imperative that the Draft 2015 APR state clearly whether implementation programs are or are not being implemented in accordance with directives in the General Plan. Therefore, the League respectfully requests that Board Members direct County staff to redraft the 2015 APR to clearly state whether General Plan programs are being successfully implemented in the manner prescribed by the General Plan, and if they are not, to clearly state the net effect of following alternative procedures.

Thank you.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FRESNO
1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno 93710 559-226-8683

September 13, 2016

Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2220 Tulare Street - 6th Floor
Fresno CA 93721

Re: Agenda Item #12 – General Plan Annual Progress Report (**APR**) on the Implementation of the Fresno County General Plan during Calendar Year 2015

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The League Study Guide reveals that the Draft 2015 APR contains misinformation and fails to include essential information on the resources needed to fully implement the General Plan.

The misinformation is simply misstatements of fact. For example, on pages 15 and 16 of the Draft 2015 APR, there is list of General Plan programs that are reported to have been “*implemented*,” in other words “*completed*,” as explained by planner Mohammad Khorsand at the July 21, 2016 hearing before the Planning Commission. However, several of these programs are not completed: among them, LU-A.B – the evaluation of minimum parcel sizes necessary for sustained agricultural productivity throughout the county; LU-C.B – the County effort to help implement the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan, which is an ongoing project; LU-F.B – the incorporation of General Plan policies for pedestrian and transit-oriented development into the Zoning Ordinance; and OS-G.A – the adoption of County procedures for performing air quality impact analyses. Importantly, while the Draft 2015 APR indicates a delay in implementing only 7% (8 of 121) of the County’s implementation programs, the League’s review of the Draft 2015 APR shows weak to no evidence for the implementation of 61% (74 of 121) of those programs.

Another matter of concern is the County’s inability to adequately fund the implementation of the General Plan. Previous APRs addressed this problem. The APRs prepared for fiscal year 2001/2002 and for calendar years 2013 & 2014 both stated that the inability to fully implement the General Plan was due to an insufficient allocation of funds. Because the Draft 2015 APR does not address this problem, it falls to county residents to say to Board Members that unless the County determines what it will need in the way of manpower and funding to implement the General Plan, there is little likelihood that it will ever be implemented, which means that the County’s General Plan goals will never be met and the County’s environmental mitigation measures, policies and programs will never be implemented.

Therefore, the League respectfully requests that Board members direct County staff to redraft the 2015 APR to correct such errors and to include in the APR an assessment of the resources needed to properly implement the General Plan.

Thank you.