



DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS and PLANNING

THE 2023 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 19, 2024**

GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT



State law requires that all cities and counties submit an Annual Progress Report (APR) to their legislative bodies, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) by April 1st of each year detailing the status of their General Plan and progress in its implementation.

APR REPORTING FORMAT



- Guidance provided by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to assist local governments with APR preparation does not mandate a format for the APR other than Housing Element reporting, which is dictated by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).
- Reporting on activities related to the Housing Element, including the County's progress in addressing its share of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), has been prepared in the format prescribed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for the 2023 reporting period.

NOTEWORTHY PLANNING ACTIVITIES 2023



Community Involvement, 6th Cycle Housing Element Update and General Plan Review and Zoning Ordinance Update Progress

- Held over 20 General Plan and Housing Element community meetings at various locations throughout the County
- Utilized technology to expand the access to various meetings and facilitate community involvement
- Drafted and submitted on December 12th, 2023, Fresno County's 6th Cycle Housing Element to Housing and Community Development (HCD).
- Finalize and adopted a Guidance Document for updating Community Plans and adopted a Prioritization List for updating the Counties' 10 Unincorporated Community Plans.
- Began the process of updating the Biola and the Del Rey Community Plans

NOTEWORTHY PLANNING ACTIVITIES 2023



Investment in Unincorporated Communities

- The County applied for various grants and was awarded over \$20,000,000.00. The applications include:
 - Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ):
 - ✦ Fowler Ave Shoulder Widening: \$3,433,521 (Laton)
 - ✦ Elkhorn Ave Shoulder Widening: \$2,362,543
 - State Funds
 - ✦ Street and Sidewalk improvements in Cantua Creek/El Porvenir: \$2,000,000
 - ✦ Street and Sidewalk improvements in Tranquillity: \$3,000,000
 - Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)
 - ✦ Preliminary engineering for a left turn signal at Central and Chestnut Avenue (Malaga): \$131,000
 - Safe Streets for All (SS4A)
 - ✦ Upgrade existing Local Road Safety Plan and improve road and pedestrian safety in disadvantaged communities: \$300,000
- The County awarded \$400,000 in ARPA funds to make improvements at the Raisin City Park.
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District awarded \$1,000,000 grant to Tree Fresno to plant trees in South Central Fresno, Malaga, and Calwa.

NOTEWORTHY PLANNING ACTIVITIES 2023



Removing Barriers to Specialized Housing

- Conducting a feasibility study on creating an affordable housing trust fund.
- Designed and completed 9 Accessory Dwelling Unit preapproved building plans available for free to County residents.
- Began designing 2 Duplex, 2 Triplex, and 2 Fourplex, preapproved building plans that will be completed and made available for free to County residents in 2024
- The Housing Authority completed construction of rehabilitation project of 60 farmworker housing units in the City of Mendota. (\$2,050,000 awarded)
- Provided technical assistance to California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) to apply for funds to facilitate the purchase of the existing Shady Lakes mobile home park to ensure long-term housing affordability for those residents.
- The County provided over \$2,500,000 in award letters to fund two affordable housing developments in partner cities.

PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING AND ACTION



Hearing:

- The Planning Commission considered the 2023 APR at a public hearing held on February 8, 2024.
- A member of the public submitted a letter to the Commission dated February 8, 2024, asserting that the 2023 APR does not comply with State law and the County General Plan, the 2023 APR should include reporting on 2000 General Plan EIR mitigation monitoring, and the 2023 APR presents an inaccurate assessment of General Plan compliance. The member of the public reiterated these statements to the Commission during public testimony, expanded on discussions regarding ways to revise the 2023 APR to more explicitly disclose and explain inactivity in the implementation of the General Plan, and requested that Department staff implement these changes and return a revised 2023 APR to the Commission for further consideration.
- Department staff explained to the Commission how the 2000 General Plan EIR is self-mitigating, that the APR provides a synopsis of activities that occurred during the past year, there are General Plan programs that have not been implemented due to changes in State legislation, and some of the General Plan programs may be revised or superseded by new General Plan programs being developed for the General Plan Review and Zoning Ordinance Update.
- The Commission discussed the use of the word “ongoing” as a descriptor for General Plan program status and recommended that the Board of Supervisors consider directing Department staff to revise the 2023 APR to clearly state whether activity occurred for a program rather than stating “ongoing”.

Action:

- Following staff’s presentation, public testimony, and deliberation, the Planning Commission voted four to one (three Commissioners absent) to approve a resolution recommending that your Board accept the 2023 APR, noting that the Planning Commission recommends that the comments from the public and the Commission be relayed to the Board and that the APR be revised to clearly state whether activity occurred for a program rather than stating “ongoing” as the status descriptor.

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR ACTION



Recommended Motion:

- Accept the 2023 APR and authorize staff to submit the 2023 APR to State agencies; and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution documenting the Board's action.



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